

*st mary's catholic church
greenville, south carolina*



*solemn vespers
of the
ascension of the Lord*

Throughout this celebration of Vespers, we will observe several prolonged periods of sacred silence, during which we are not simply waiting for the next thing to happen; we are, rather, waiting upon the LORD. Sacred silence is active and attentive — an invitation to deeper prayer and interior stillness.

✠ OPENING VERSE AND RESPONSE ✠

At the ringing of the bells, all stand as the procession enters the church. Upon reaching the chair the celebrant intones the opening verse, and all join in singing the response and doxology:

All make the sign of the cross.

Presiding minister: O God, ✠ come to my as - sis - tance. *Assembly:* Lord, make haste to help me.

All: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Ho - ly Spir - it:

as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ev - er. A - men.

Al - le - lu - ia.

All remain standing for the singing of the office hymn.



HAIL, THOU ONCE DESPISÈD JESUS



1. Hail, thou once de - spis - èd Je - sus! Hail, Thou Ga - li - le - an king!
2. Pas - chal Lamb, by God ap - point - ed, all our sins on Thee were laid;
3. Je - sus, hail, en - throned in glo - ry, there for - ev - er to a - bide!
4. Wor - ship, hon - or, pow'r, and bless - ing Thou are wor - thy to re - ceive;



Thou didst suf - fer to re - lease us; Thou didst free sal - va - tion bring.
by al - might - y Love a - noint - ed, Thou hast full a - tone - ment made:
All the heav'n - ly host a - dore Thee, seat - ed at Thy Fa - ther's side.
high - est prais - es, with - out ceas - ing, meet it is for us to give.



Hail, Thou a - go - niz - ing Sav - ior, bear - er of our sin and shame!
all Thy peo - ple are for - giv - en through the vir - tue of Thy blood;
There for sin - ners Thou art plead - ing; there Thou dost our place pre - pare;
Help, ye bright an - gel - ic spir - its, bring your sweet - est, nob - lest lays;



By Thy mer - it we find fa - vor; life is gi - ven through Thy name.
o - pened is the gate of hea - ven; peace is made 'twixt man and God.
ev - er for us in - ter - ced - ing, till in glo - ry we ap - pear.
help to sing our Sav - ior's mer - its; help to chant Im - man - uel's praise!



All sit. Before each psalm the organist will introduce the psalm tone, and the schola will intone the antiphon. The people and the schola will sing the psalms in alternation, and each line of the psalms should be sung without pause for punctuation. Immediately following the doxology, the people and the schola sing the antiphon together.

✻ PSALMODY ✻



Antiphon: He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the
Schola Father / alleluia.

Psalm 110.1-5, 7

Schola The Lord's revelation to my Master:
"Sit on my right:
your foes I will put beneath your feet."

People The Lord will wield from Zion
your scepter of power:
rule in the midst of all your foes.

Schola A prince from the day of your birth
on the holy mountains;
from the womb before the dawn I begot you.

People The Lord has sworn an oath he will not change.
"You are a priest for ever,
a priest like Melchizedek of old."

Schola The Master standing at your right hand
will shatter kings in the day of his great wrath.

People He shall drink from the stream by the wayside
and therefore he shall lift up his head.

All Glory to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit:
as it was in the beginning, is now,
and will be forever. Amen.

Antiphon: He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the
Schola Father / alleluia.



Antiphon: God ascends to shouts of joy, / the Lord to the blast of
Schola trumpets / alleluia.

Psalm 47

Schola All peoples, clap your hands,
cry to God with shouts of joy!
For the Lord, the Most High, we must fear,
great king over all the earth.

People He subdues peoples under us
and nations under our feet.
Our inheritance, our glory, is from him,
given to Jacob out of love.

Schola God goes up with shouts of joy;
the Lord goes up with trumpet blast.
Sing praise for God, sing praise,
sing praise to our king, sing praise.

People God is king of all the earth,
sing praise with all your skill.
God is king over the nations;
God reigns on his holy throne.

Schola The princes of the people are assembled
with the people of Abraham's God.
The rulers of the earth belong to God,
to God who reigns over all.

All Glory to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit:
as it was in the beginning, is now,
and will be forever. Amen.

Antiphon: God ascends to shouts of joy, / the Lord to the blast of
Schola trumpets / alleluia.



Antiphon: Now the Son of Man has been glorified / and God has been
Schola glorified in him / alleluia.

Revelation Canticle

Schola We praise you, the Lord God Almighty,
who is and who was.
You have assumed your great power,
you have begun your reign.

People The nations have raged in anger,
but then came your day of wrath
and the moment to judge the dead:
The time to reward your servants the prophets
and the holy ones who revere you,
the great and the small alike.

Schola Now have salvation and power come,
the reign of our God and the authority
of his Anointed One.
For the accuser of our brothers is cast out,
who night and day accused them before God.

People They defeated him by the blood of the Lamb
and by the word of their testimony;
love for life did not deter them from death.
So rejoice, you heavens,
and you that dwell therein!

All Glory to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit:
as it was in the beginning, is now,
and will be forever. Amen.

Antiphon: Now the Son of Man has been glorified / and God has been
Schola glorified in him / alleluia.

✠ READING ✠

1 Peter 3.18, 22

The reason why Christ died for sins once for all, the just man for the sake of the unjust, was that he might lead you to God. He was put to death insofar as fleshly existence goes, but was given life in the realm of the spirit. He went to heaven and is at God's right hand, with angelic rulers and powers subjected to him.

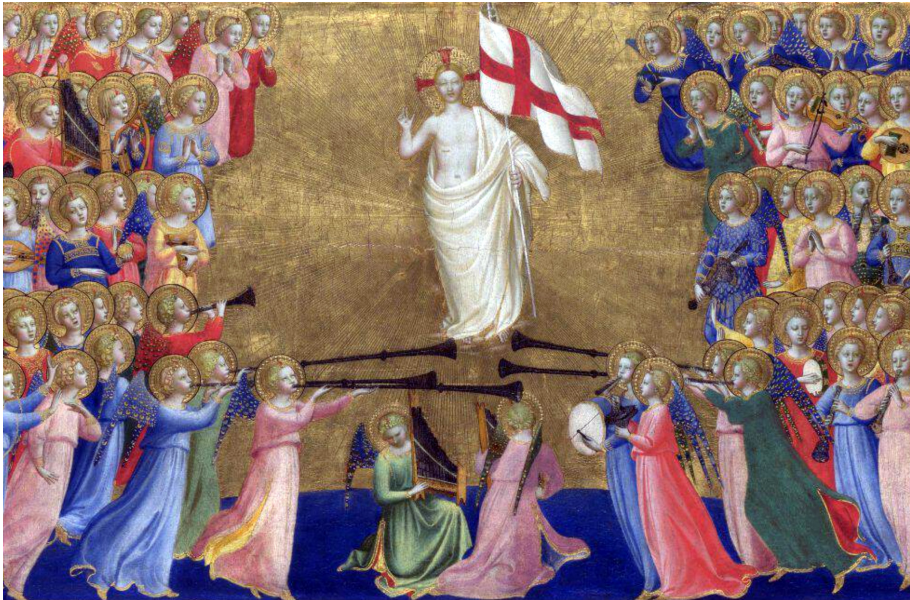
✠ ANTHEM ✠

Ascendit Deus in jubilatione

William Byrd

*Ascendit Deus in jubilatione, et
Dominus in voce tubae, alleluia.
Alleluia.*


*God has ascended in jubilation, and
our Lord in the voice of the trumpet.
Alleluia.*



RESPONSE

Schola: I am ascending to my Father and your Father, alleluia, alleluia.

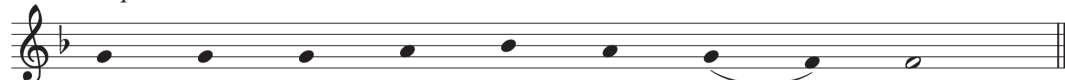
People:



I am ascending to my Father and your Father, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Schola: To my God and your God,


People:



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Schola: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,

People:



I am ascending to my Father and your Father, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



✿ CANTICLE OF MARY ✿

Magnificat

Anglican Chant in E-flat, Arlen Clarke

Antiphon: O Victor King, Lord of power and might, today you have ascended in glory above the heavens. Do not leave us orphans, but send us the Father's promised gift, the Spirit of truth, alleluia.

When Mary visited Elizabeth before their sons were born, Elizabeth proclaimed her faith in the Word made flesh, who then lived inside of His mother. Elizabeth cried out "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb." In response, Mary sang of her confidence in God's love and providential plan for each of us, and this hymn of praise is known as the "Magnificat" from its first word in the Latin text. As the schola sings this canticle all make the Sign of the Cross at the beginning of the text (Luke 1.46-55) which in the Revised Standard Version is rendered:

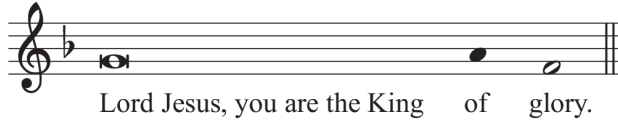
✙ My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
for he has regarded the low estate of his handmaiden.
For behold, henceforth all generations will call me blessed;
for he who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name.
And his mercy is on those who fear him from generation to generation.
He has shown strength with his arm,
He has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts,
he has put down the mighty from their thrones, and exalted those of low degree.
He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent empty away.
He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy,
As he spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his posterity forever.

Antiphon: O Victor King, Lord of power and might, today you have ascended in glory above the heavens. Do not leave us orphans, but send us the Father's promised gift, the Spirit of truth, alleluia.



✠ INTERCESSIONS ✠

The celebrant introduces the intercessions, and after each petition all respond:



Celebrant In joy of spirit let us acclaim Christ, who sits at the right hand of the Father:

All *Lord Jesus, you are the King of glory.*

Celebrant King of glory, you took with you our frail humanity to be glorified in heaven; remove the sins of the world, and restore us to the innocence which was ours before the Fall.

All *Lord Jesus, you are the King of glory.*

Celebrant You came down from heaven on a pilgrimage of love, grant that we may take the same path to your presence.

All *Lord Jesus, you are the King of glory.*

Celebrant You promised to draw all things to yourself, do not allow any one of us to be separated from your body.

All *Lord Jesus, you are the King of glory.*

Celebrant Where you have gone before us in glory, may we follow you in mind and heart.

All *Lord Jesus, you are the King of glory.*

Celebrant True God, we await your coming as our judge, may we see the vision of your glory and your mercy in company with all the dead.

All *Lord Jesus, you are the King of glory.*

Gathering our prayers and praises into one, let us offer the prayer Christ himself taught us:

✠ OUR FATHER ✠

Pa - ter no - ster, qui es in cae - lis: san - cti - fi - cé - tur
no - men tu - um; ad - vé - ni - at re - gnum tu - um;
fi - at vo - lún - tas tu - a, si - cut in cae - lo, et in ter - ra.
Pa - nem no - strum co - ti - di - á - num da no - bis hó - di - e;
et di - mít - te no - bis dé - bi - ta no - stra, si - cut et nos di -
mít - ti - mus de - bi - tó - ri - bus no - stris; et ne nos in -
dú - cas in ten - ta - ti - ó - nem; sed lí - be - ra nos a ma - lo.

Concluding Prayer

Blessing and Dismissal



Page one: Tissot. *The Ascension*. (19th century).

Page seven: Fra Angelico. *Christ Glorified in the Court of Heaven*. (c. 1420).