SELWYN COLLEGE CHAPEL, CAMBRIDGE

Choral Eucharist for Ascension Day 2023
Thursday 18 May at 6:30pm

Ascension as depicted by Karin Jonzen (1914-1998) in bronze; photo taken in 1957
Please note that this service is being livestreamed at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nFVVUT5a5jM
THE GATHERING

ORGAN  Heut triumpieret Gottes Sohn (BWV 630) – J. S. Bach (1685-1750)

Please stand as the ministers and choir enter the chapel.

INTROIT  Hilariter! (Cheerfully!)
Anonymous German carol (1623) arr. Martin Shaw (1875-1958)

The whole bright world rejoices now, Hilariter, hilariter!
The birds do sing on every bough, Alleluia, alleluia!
Then shout beneath the racing skies, Hilariter, hilariter!
To him who rose that we might rise, Alleluia, alleluia!
Then shout beneath the racing skies, Hilariter, hilariter!
To him who rose that we might rise, Alleluia, alleluia!

THE GREETING

President  Grace, mercy and peace
from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you

All  And also with you.

President  Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,
for forty days we have been celebrating with joyful hearts
the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ,
his bursting from the tomb
and his defeat of the power of sin and death.
He appeared to his disciples many times
and told them about the kingdom of God.
Today we recall how he left this earth
and returned to his Father, ascending into heaven
to take his throne over all dominions and powers.
Trusting in his reign over all creation,
and submitting to his kingly yet loving rule,
let us hear the story of his parting.
THE ASCENSION READING

While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of the Father. ‘This’, he said, ‘is what you have heard from me; for John baptised with water, but you will be baptised with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.’ So when they had come together, they asked him, ‘Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?’ He replied, ‘It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.’ When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. While he was going and they were gazing up towards heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said, ‘Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up towards heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.’

Reader      Alleluia! Christ is risen.
All         He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

President   Seeing we have a great high priest
            who has passed through the heaven,
            Jesus the Son of God,
            let us offer him the praise worthy of his name.

GLORIA      Missa de Angelis (sung by all)
COLLECT

President    Grant, we pray, almighty God,
             that as we believe your only-begotten Son
             our Lord Jesus Christ to have ascended into the heavens,
             so we in heart and mind may also ascend,
             and with him continually dwell;
             who is alive and reigns with you,
             in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
             one God, now and forever.

All          Amen.

Please sit.
[Paul writes] I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love towards all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

Reader This is the word of the Lord.
All Thanks be to God.

Please stand

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Go and make disciples of all nations says the Lord:

remember I am with you always, * to the end of the age.
Then he said to them, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.” Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised, so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.”

Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. And they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy, and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

Reader This is the Gospel of the Lord.
All Praise to you, O Christ.
Please remain standing and turn to face East.

NICENE CREED

President    We believe in one God,
All          the Father, the Almighty,
            maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God, begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,
was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son
is worshipped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.
Please sit or kneel.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Leader  Let us join our prayers with those of our Saviour Christ, seeking the Father’s blessing and the gifts of the Spirit. Jesus Christ, great high priest, living for ever to intercede for us, pray for the Church, your broken body in the world. Lord, hear us.

All   Lord, graciously hear us.

Jesus Christ, king of righteousness, enthroned at the right hand of the majesty on high, pray for the world, and make it subject to your gentle rule. Lord, hear us.

All   Lord, graciously hear us.

Jesus Christ, Son of Man, drawing humanity into the life of God, pray for your brothers and sisters in need, distress or sorrow. Lord, hear us.

All   Lord, graciously hear us.

Jesus Christ, pioneer of our salvation, bringing us to glory through your death and resurrection, surround with your saints and angels those who have died trusting your promises. Lord, hear us.

All   Lord, graciously hear us.

Jesus Christ, Lord over all things, ascended far above the heavens and filling the universe, pray for us who receive the gifts you give us for work in your service. Lord, hear us.

All   Lord, graciously hear us.
Jesus Christ, keep the Church in the unity of the Spirit and in the bond of peace, and bring the whole created order to worship at your feet; for you are alive and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

All Amen.

All Merciful Father, accept these prayers, for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

THE LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT

Please stand.

THE PEACE

President Jesus says: ‘Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. If you love me, rejoice because I am going to the Father’. Alleluia.

The peace of the Lord be always with you. Alleluia. Alleluia.

All And also with you. Alleluia. Alleluia.

A minister invites the congregation to share a sign of Christ’s peace.
OFFERTORY HYMN (NEH 296)

During the hymn, the altar is prepared and bread and wine are placed upon it.

1
Lord, enthroned in heavenly splendour,
First-begotten from the dead,
Thou alone, our strong Defender,
Liftest up thy people’s head.
Alleluya! Alleluya!
Jesu, true and living Bread!

2
Here our humblest homage pay we;
Here in loving reverence bow;
Here for Faith’s discernment pray we,
Lest we fail to know thee now.
Alleluya! Alleluya!
Thou art here, we ask not how.

3
Paschal Lamb! thine Offering finished
Once for all when thou wast slain,
In its fullness undiminished
Shall forevermore remain.
Alleluya! Alleluya!
Cleansing souls from every stain.

4
Life-imparting heavenly Manna,
Stricken Rock, with streaming side,
Heaven and earth with loud hosanna
Worship thee, the Lamb who died.
Alleluya! Alleluya!
Risen, ascended, glorified!

music: ST HELEN – George Martin (1844-1916)
words: G. H. Bourne (1840-1925)
The President takes the bread and wine with these words:

President  
Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation: 
through your goodness we have this bread to offer, 
which earth has given and human hands have made. 
It will become for us the bread of life.

All  
Blessed be God for ever.

President  
Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation: 
through your goodness we have this wine to offer, 
fruit of the vine and work of human hands. 
It will become for us the cup of salvation.

All  
Blessed be God for ever.

THE PREFACE

President  
It is indeed right and good, our duty and our joy, 
always and everywhere to give you thanks, 
holy Father, almighty and eternal God, 
through Jesus Christ the King of glory. 
Born of a woman, he came to the rescue of our human race. 
Dying for us, he trampled death and conquered sin. 
By the glory of his resurrection he opened the way to life eternal, 
and by his ascension, gave us the sure hope 
that where he is we may also be. 
Therefore the universe resounds with Easter joy 
and with choirs of angels we sing for ever to your praise:
SANCTUS AND BENEDICTUS (sung by the choir)
Missa Ascendens Christus in altum
T. L. de Victoria (1548-1611)

Sanctus, Sanctus, Sanctus
Dominus Deus Sabaoth.
Pleni sunt cæli et terra gloria tua:
Hosanna in excelsis.

Benedictus,
qui venit in nomine Domini:
Hosanna in excelsis.

Holy, holy, holy Lord,
Lord God of Sabaoth,
Heaven and earth are full of thy glory.
Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he
that cometh in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

Please sit or kneel.

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

President
Accept our praises, heavenly Father,
through your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ,
and as we follow his example and obey his command,
grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit
these gifts of bread and wine
may be to us his body and his blood.
Who, in the same night that he was betrayed,
took bread and gave you thanks;
he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way, after supper
he took the cup and gave you thanks;
he gave it to them, saying:
Drink this, all of you;
this is my blood of the new covenant,
which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.
Therefore, heavenly Father,
we remember his offering of himself
made once for all upon the cross;
we proclaim his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension;
we look for the coming of your kingdom,
and with this bread and this cup
we make the memorial of Christ your Son our Lord.

Deacon  In joyful confidence we proclaim:
All  Christ has died;
Christ is risen;
Christ will come again.

this our sacrifice of thanks and praise,
and as we eat and drink these holy gifts
in the presence of your divine majesty,
renew us by your Spirit,
inspire us with your love
and unite us in the body of your Son,
Jesus Christ our Lord.
Through him, and with him, and in him,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
with all who stand before you in earth and heaven,
we worship you, Father almighty,
in songs of everlasting praise:

All  Blessing and honour and glory and power
be yours for ever and ever. Amen.

THE LORD’S PRAYER

President  Rejoicing in God’s new creation let us pray
as our Redeemer has taught us.

All  Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done;
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our terrors,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.

THE FRACTION

President   Lord, we died with you on the cross.
All         Now we are raised to new life.
President   We were buried in your tomb.
All         Now we share in your resurrection.
President   Live in us, that we may live in you.

THE GIVING OF COMMUNION

President   I heard the voice of a great multitude crying, Alleluia.
The Lord our God has entered into his kingdom.
All         Blessed are those who are called to the supper of the Lamb.
            Alleluia.

PRAYER OF HUMBLE ACCESS

All         We do not presume to come to this your table,
            O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness,
            but in your manifold and great mercies.
            We are not worthy so much as
to gather up the crumbs under your table.
            But you are the same Lord
            whose nature is always to have mercy.
            Grant us therefore, gracious Lord,
            so to eat the flesh of your dear Son Jesus Christ
            and to drink his blood,
            that our sinful bodies may be made clean by his body
            and our souls washed through his most precious blood,
            and that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.
AGNUS DEI (sung by the choir)
Victoria – Missa Ascendens Christus in altum

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, miserere nobis/ dona nobis pacem.

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us/ grant us thy peace.

The president and the people receive Holy Communion. To the words of distribution, the communicant replies Amen.

The choir comes to the altar first, followed by the congregation. All Christians who have been baptised in the name of the Trinity, and who normally receive Holy Communion in their own Church, may receive the Sacrament. All are welcome to come to the front to receive a blessing. Please bring this service sheet with you to indicate your intention.

MOTET (sung by the choir during Communion)
Ascendit Deus
words: Offertory for Ascension Day (from Psalms 47 and 103)
music: Peter Philips (c1560-1628)


God is gone up with a merry noise, and the Lord with the sound of the trump. Alleluia. The Lord hath prepared his seat in heaven. Alleluia.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Please stand.

President God our Father, you have raised our humanity in Christ and have fed us with the bread of heaven: mercifully grant that, nourished with such spiritual blessings, we may set our hearts in the heavenly places; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.
Father of all, we give you thanks and praise, that when we were still far off you met us in your Son and brought us home. Dying and living, he declared your love, gave us grace, and opened the gate of glory. May we who share Christ’s body live his risen life; we who drink his cup bring life to others; we whom the Spirit lights give light to the world. Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us, so that we and all your children shall be free, and the whole earth live to praise your name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

RESPONSORY

President As we wait in silence,
All make us ready for your coming Spirit.

President As we listen to your word,
All make us ready for your coming Spirit.

President As we worship you in majesty,
All make us ready for your coming Spirit.

President As we long for your refreshing,
All make us ready for your coming Spirit.

President As we long for your renewing,
All make us ready for your coming Spirit.

President As we long for your equipping,
All make us ready for your coming Spirit.

President As we long for your empowering,
All make us ready for your coming Spirit.
BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

President
Christ our ascended King
pour upon you the abundance of his gifts
and bring you to reign with him in glory;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

All
Amen.

DISMISSAL

Deacon
Waiting expectantly for the promised Holy Spirit,
go in the peace of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia!

All
Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia!

ORGAN
Fugue in C (BWV 545) – J. S. Bach (1685-1750)
Icon of the Ascension of our Lord
Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of Edmonton, Alberta, Canada.