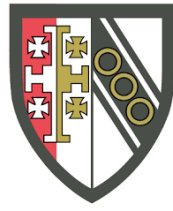


Selwyn College, Cambridge



**A Service of Prayer and Thanksgiving
For Ascension Day**

Thursday 18th May 2023

INTRODUCTION

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 loving rule, let us hear the story of his parting, and let our praises attend to him with heart and voice.

INTROIT

Haec dies

words from Psalm 118

William Byrd (1543-1623)

| | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| Haec dies quam fecit Dominus: | This is the day which the Lord hath |
| exultemus et laetemur in ea, | made: let us be glad and rejoice therein. |
| Alleluya. | Alleluia. |

PREPARATION w

O Lord, open our lips

All and our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

Your throne has been established from of old;

All you are from everlasting. Alleluia.

HYMN

Hail the day that sees him rise Alleluya!

Glorious to his native skies; Alleluya!

Christ awhile to sinners given, Alleluya!

Enters now the highest heaven! Alleluya!

There the glorious triumph waits; Alleluya!

Lift your head, eternal gates! Alleluya!

Christ hath vanquished death and sin; Alleluya!

Take the King of Glory in. Alleluya!

Lord though parted from our sight, Alleluya!

Far above yon azure height, Alleluya!

Grant our hearts may thither rise, Alleluya!

Seeking thee beyond the skies. Alleluya!

THE ASCENSION READING

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles (1.4-11)

While staying with them, Jesus 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 baptized with water, but you will be baptized 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.'

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

All **He is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

CAROL Hilariter Anonymous arr. Martin Shaw

*The whole bright world rejoices now
Hilariter, hilariter,
The birds do sing from every bough,
Alleluia, Alleluia.*

*They shout beneath the racing skies,
Hilariter, hilariter,
To him who rose that we might rise,
Alleluia, Alleluia.*

*To Father, Son and Holy Ghost,
Hilariter, hilariter,
Our God most high, our joy and boast.
Alleluia, Alleluia.*

Let us pray.

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 for ever.

All Amen.

May Christ, who has opened the kingdom of heaven,
bring us to reign with him in glory.

All Amen.

Let us bless the Lord. Alleluia, alleluia.

All Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.