FEAST OF THE ASCENSION

CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION AND SAINT AGNES
Washington, DC
MAY 16, 2021
This Sunday is our titular feast of the Ascension of Jesus. But, how are we to celebrate a feast in these difficult times? How do we set this day apart from the other days of the year?

One excellent way for us here at ASA is through music. Indeed, on this special day, there are unique musical/liturgical elements of our liturgy: one an ancient expression from the early Church, one a contemporary expression.

The first is our addition of what is known as a “Solemn Te Deum” at the end of Mass. The *Te Deum* is an ancient hymn originally attributed to St. Ambrose dating back to 387AD. It is often sung on principal feasts of the church year. The title is a shortened version of the first line: *Te Deum Laudamus*, “We Praise Thee, O God”. The hymn is creedal in nature, with a section devoted to the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and a litany taken from the Psalms. It centers around the themes of the majesty and glory of God, and the praises of the saints and angels in heaven.

Our choir will be performing this in the old liturgical practice of *alternatim*, meaning alternating choir and organ, which represents the choirs of angels in heaven, who are believed to sing this hymn without end. It is thus a dialogue between heaven and earth. Two thurifers (the altar servers with incense) will swing the thuribles (censers) in unison (and, hopefully, in large circles!), not unlike the angel with the golden censer in the Book of Revelation, Chapter VIII.

The second is a very different musical expression of this feast in two movements by French composer Olivier Messiaen: *L’Ascension*. Originally from a set of four meditations composed for orchestra, Messiaen’s work is a sonic meditation on scriptural passages surrounding the Ascension. We will experience the two most meditative ones, movement no. 1 “Majesté du Christ demandant sa gloire à son Père” and movement no. 4 “Prière du Christ montant vers son Père”.

Messiaen was one of the most influential composers and improvisers of the 20th century. He developed his own musical theory system influenced by his varied musical and life interests. A devout Catholic Christian and a synaesthetic (he saw colors from music), he weaved these aspects of his life into a musical language that seems to exist outside of time and creates completely other-worldly music. Messiaen’s expression can be almost an ecstatic glimpse of eternity.

Messiaen’s music, however, can be challenging at times, clinging to chords that might feel dissonant to our ears. You are invited to lean into this. There is a deep theological truth at which Messiaen is grasping that cannot be put into words. If you allow yourself to enter into these pieces, without judgement, they might provide a vehicle for you to contemplate more deeply Christ in the mystery of His Ascension.

**TODAY’S MASS SETTING**—*Missa Brevis*– James MacMillan (b. 1959)

**PRELUDE**—“L’Ascension: No. 1 - Majesty of Christ demanding glory of the Father” – Olivier Messiaen (1908-1992)

**INTROIT**

*Ye men of Galilee, why stand you looking into heaven? Alleluia.\nHe shall so come as you have seen him going into heaven. Alleluia.\nAll ye Nations clap hands: make jubilation to God in the voice of exultation\nGlory be…*

Music: Plainsong
Text: Acts 1:11, Psalm 46:1

*Please stand at the sound of the bell.*
**Hymn**

**Entrance Rite**

1. Hail the day that sees him rise, Alleluia!
2. There the glorious triumph waits; Alleluia!
3. See! he lifts his hands above; Alleluia!
4. Lord beyond our mortal sight, Alleluia!

Glorious to his native skies; Alleluia!
Lift your heads, eternal gates! Alleluia!
See! he shows the prints of love; Alleluia!
Raise our hearts to reach thy height, Alleluia!

Christ, a while to mortals given, Alleluia!
Wide unfold the radiant scene; Alleluia!
Hark! his gracious lips bestow, Alleluia!
There thy face unclouded see, Alleluia!

Enters now the highest heaven! Alleluia!
Take the King of glory in! Alleluia!
Blessings on his Church below, Alleluia!
Find our heaven of heavens in thee, Alleluia!

Words: Charles Wesley (1707–1788), alt.
Music: *Llanfair*, Robert Williams (1781–1821)
OPENING ACCLAMATION

Celebrant  Al - le - lu - ia. Christ is ris - en.

People    The Lord is risen indeed. Al - le - lu - ia.

COLLECT FOR PURITY

Celebrant   Almighty God,
             unto whom all hearts are open,
             all desires known,
             and from whom no secrets are hid;
             cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
             by the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit,
             that we may perfectly love thee,
             and worthily magnify thy holy Name;
             through Christ our Lord.

People       AMEN

GLORIA

Gloria in excelsis Deo,
Et in terra pax hominibus bonae voluntatis.
Laudamus te, benedicimus te, adoramus te, glorificamus te,
gratias agimus tibi propter magnam gloriam tuam,
Domine Deus, Rex caelestis, Deus Pater omnipotens.
Domine Fili unigenite, Jesu Christe; Domine Deus, Agnus Dei, Filius Patris,
qui tollis peccata mundi, miserere nobis.
Quoniam tu solus Sanctus; tu solus Dominus; tu solus Altissimus, Jesu Christe;
cum Sancto Spiritu, in gloria Dei Patris. Amen.

Glory to God in the highest,
And on earth peace, good will towards men.
We praise thee, we bless thee, we worship thee, we glorify thee,
we give thanks to thee for thy great glory, O Lord God,
heavenly King, God the Father Almighty.
O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ; O Lord God,
Lamb of God, Son of the Father, that takest away the sins of
the world, have mercy upon us. Thou that takest away the
sins of the world, receive our prayer. Thou that sittest at the
right hand of God the Father, have mercy upon us.
For thou only art holy; thou only art the Lord; thou only, O
Christ, with the Holy Ghost, art most high in the glory of
God the Father. Amen.
The Lord be with you.
And with thy spirit.
Let us pray.

O God, 
the King of glory, 
who hast exalted thine only Son Jesus Christ 
with great triumph unto thy kingdom in heaven: 
We beseech thee, leave us not comfortless, 
but send to us thine Holy Spirit to comfort us, 
and exalt us unto the same place 
whither our Savior Christ is gone before; 
who liveth and reigneth 
with thee and the same Holy Spirit, 
one God, world without end. 
AMEN.

Please be seated

Liturgy of the Word

First Reading
Acts 1: 1-11

In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. 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 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 toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said, “People of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward 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.”

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.
Psalm 93—Dominus regnavit

At 8:00, the psalm is prayed responsively at the half-verse.
At 10:30, the psalm is chanted by the Choir.

The LORD is King, and hath put on glorious apparel; *
the LORD hath put on his apparel, and girded himself with strength.

He hath made the round world so sure, *
that it cannot be moved.

Ever since the world began, hath thy seat been prepared: *
thou art from everlasting.

The floods are risen, O LORD, the floods have lift up their voice; *
the floods lift up their waves.

The waves of the sea are mighty, and rage horribly; *
but yet the LORD, who dwelleth on high, is mightier.

Thy testimonies, O LORD, are very sure: *
holiness becometh thine house for ever.

Music: Anglican Chant

Second Reading
Ephesians 1:15-23

Proclaimed only at 10:30.

I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward 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.

Lector The Word of the Lord.
People Thanks be to God.
**GOSPEL**

*Luke 24: 44–53*

The Holy Gospel is the pinnacle of the Liturgy of the Word; hence, standing. Many have adopted the custom of making the sign of the cross on the forehead, lips, and heart during the announcement, whereby we ask for the Word of Our Lord to be in our minds, on our lips, and in our hearts.

**Deacon**   The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

**People**   Glory be to thee, O Lord.

Jesus said to his disciples, “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.

**Deacon**   The Gospel of the Lord.

**People**   Praise be to thee, O Christ.

**SERMON**

“Up Through the Atmosphere, Up Where the Air is Clear”

The Rev. Dominique Peridans, *Rector*
Formulated over two ecumenical councils in 325 and 381 A.D., the Nicene Creed is the summary of Christian belief, sometimes called the Symbol of the Faith. The Creed’s focus is our Lord as both fully God and fully human.

Celebrant I believe in one God,

the Father Almighty,
   maker of heaven and earth,
   and of all things visible and invisible;

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
   the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of his Father before all worlds, 
   God of God, Light of Light, 
   very God of very God, 
   begotten, not made, 
   being of one substance with the Father; 
   by whom all things were made; 
who for us all and for our salvation 
   came down from heaven, 

Genuflect
and was incarnate by the Holy Ghost 
   of the Virgin Mary, 
   and was made man;

Rise

and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate; 
   he suffered and was buried; 
and the third day he rose again 
according to the Scriptures, 
   and ascended into heaven, 
and sitteth on the right hand of the Father; 
and he shall come again, with glory, 
   to judge both the quick and the dead; 
whose kingdom shall have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Ghost 
   the Lord, and Giver of Life, 
who proceedeth from the Father and the Son; 
   who with the Father and the Son 
together is worshiped and glorified; 
   who spake by the Prophets.

And I believe one holy Catholic and 
Apostolic Church; 
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins; 
and I look for the resurrection of the dead, 
   and the life of the world to come. AMEN.

Prayers of the People

A practice that originated in the late 4th century, the Cantor bids us, after we hear the Word of God proclaimed and confess our faith in God in the words of the Nicene Creed, to pray for the world and for the whole state of Christ’s Church, exercising our Baptismal Priesthood, claiming, for all in need, the salvation that Jesus gives by his life, death and resurrection. The response to each prayer intention will be chanted by the Cantor on behalf of the people.

The Deacon begins
With all our heart and with all our mind, let us pray to the Lord.
Shower your one holy Catholic Church with your abundant grace; that we all be one,

*Let us pray to the Lord*

Touch the hearts of all who hold authority in the nations of the world, that there be justice and peace on the earth,

*Let us pray to the Lord*

Bless our parish, that we welcome the immeasurable greatness of Father of Glory’s power, that our hearts ascend in Christ and that we lay down our lives in loving service,

*Let us pray to the Lord*

Have compassion on our homeless and hungry neighbors, on the widowed and orphaned, victims of prejudice, violence and the pandemic, on those who suffer from any grief or trouble, those on our prayer list, and on those we now name silently in our hearts______________________,

*Let us pray to the Lord*

Give to the departed eternal rest. Let light perpetual shine upon them,

*Let us pray to the Lord*

In the communion of the ever-blessed and glorious Virgin Mary, the holy patriarchs, prophets, apostles and martyrs, Blessed Agnes, Blessed Francis, and of all the saints, let us commend ourselves, and one another, and all our life to Christ our God,

*To Thee, O Lord our God*

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**OFFERTORY**

Ascendit Deus in jubilatione, et Dominus in voce tubae. 
Dedit dona hominibus. Alleluia. 
Dominus in caelo paravit sedem suam. Alleluia. 

*God is gone up with a merry noise, and the Lord with the sound of the trumpet. He gave gifts to men. Alleluia. The Lord hath prepared his seat in heaven. Alleluia.*

Text: Psalm 47:5; 103:19a
Music: Peter Phillips (1561–1628)

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**THE HOLY COMMUNION**

*Celebrant* 
Pray, beloved: 
that this, my sacrifice and yours, 
may be acceptable to God the Father Almighty.

*People* 
May the Lord receive this sacrifice at thy hands, 
to the praise and glory of His Name, 
both to our benefit 
and that of all His holy Church.

*Celebrant* 
AMEN.
Celebrant: The Lord be with you.
People: And with thy spirit.
Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.
People: We lift them up unto the Lord.
Celebrant: Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.
People: It is meet and right so to do.


Benedictus qui venit in nomine Domini. Hosanna in excelsis.

The Great Thanksgiving

Celebrant: Therefore, we proclaim the mystery of faith,
Celebrant and People: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Lord’s Prayer

Celebrant: And now, as our Savior Christ hath taught us, we are bold to say:

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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. AMEN.

Fracture
**INVITATION**

_Celebrant_  
Behold the Lamb of God, behold him that taketh away the sins of the world.  

_People_  
Lord, I am not worthy that thou shouldest come under my roof.  
But speak the word only and my soul shall be healed.

**AGNUS DEI**

*This chant has been sung since the 7th century. It is based upon John the Baptist’s reference to Jesus (John 1:29): “Behold the Lamb of God that taketh away the sins of the world,” which the priest just echoed in presenting the consecrated bread and wine to the congregation.*

O Lamb of God, that taketh away the sins of the world,  
**have mercy upon us.**

O Lamb of God, that taketh away the sins of the world,  
**have mercy upon us.**

O Lamb of God, that taketh away the sins of the world,  
**grant us thy peace.**

**COMMUNION**

All baptized Christians are welcome to receive Holy Communion at the Lord’s Table.

Please wait for an usher to invite you to receive Communion and process toward the Celebrant and Deacon maintaining appropriate social distance. Our Plan for Re-Gathering requires everyone to receive the Host (consecrated bread) on the outstretched right palm of the hand (supported underneath by the left palm) while standing. The Celebrant or Deacon will not place the Host on the tongue. At this time, the Common Cup of wine will not be shared.

It is our belief that, in receiving Communion under one “kind”, no less do we receive the whole Body of Christ. If you are not receiving, you are invited to come forward for a blessing (indicated by crossing your arms over your chest). After receiving Communion or a blessing, please follow the directional arrows to return to your pew.

If you have not been baptized, and find yourself drawn to Jesus Christ and life in Him, please let one of us know. We would be honored to have a conversation with you about your faith journey, or questions you may have regarding the sacrament of Baptism.

**COMMUNION**

Christ rose to heaven.  
What has He sent to us below?  

For that we all rejoice and sing.  
Christ shall be our comfort. Halleluja!

The Spirit to comfort us here,  
to comfort us poor Christians all. Halleluja!

Text:  Trad. German Carol, Christoph Soell
Music: Hugo Distler (1908–1942)
PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

_Please kneel, as you are able._

Celebrant begins  Eternal God, heavenly Father,

People  you have graciously accepted us as living members
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ,
and you have fed us with spiritual food
in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.
Send us now into the world in peace,
and grant us strength and courage
to love and serve you
with gladness and singleness of heart;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

_Please be seated._

BLESSING

_Please stand._

Celebrant  The God of peace,
who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ,
the great Shepherd of the sheep,
through the blood of the everlasting covenant,
make you perfect in every good work to do his will,
working in you that which is well-pleasing in his sight;
and the blessing of God Almighty,
the Father, the Son ☩ and the Holy Spirit,
be amongst you and remain with you always.

People  AMEN.
Deacon
Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia, Alleluia.

People
Thanks be to God. Alleluia. Alleluia.

DISMISSAL

The Deacon sends us forth to carry the mystery of God into the world.

Deacon
Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia, Alleluia.

People
Thanks be to God. Alleluia. Alleluia.

POSTLUDE—L’Ascension No. 4: Prayer of Christ (Ascending towards his Father)
**WE ARE A COMMUNITY** that expresses its love for our Lord Jesus Christ in ancient, yet timeless worship forms. We are a community that seeks to understand what it prays. We are a community that asks the Holy Spirit to teach us to love one another and the world beyond our church walls. By God’s graciousness, we are growing.

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### PARISH EXTENSIONS
101 Parish Administrator
102 Director of Music Ministry
103 Service Schedule
104 Rector’s Office
105 Priest’s Residence (Rectory)
106 Parish Hall Kitchen
107 Sacristy

### OFFICE HOURS
Tuesday-Friday 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM

### PARISH STAFF
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### LITURGICAL MINISTERS
The Rev. Dominique Peridans,  **Celebrant & Preacher**
The Rev. Mary McCue,  **Assisting Deacon**
Mr. Walter Vance,  **Thurifer**
Mr. Brian Wesoloski,  **MC/AC**
Ms. Ayla Ybarra,  **Thurifer**
Mr. John Campbell,  **Lector**

### SERVICE SCHEDULE

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<td>10:30 AM</td>
<td>Mass with Choir and Organ</td>
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### PARISH PARTICULARS

**Sunday Parking Options: (All FREE)**

- Massachusetts Avenue, unrestricted parking from 8:00 AM to 2:00 PM
- Horizon House Surface Parking Lot. Accessible from M Street, between 12th and 13th streets. The gate is attended from 10:10 AM to 10:30 AM. Access before or after this time requires calling the Horizon House security office upon arrival at **(202) 682-9398**.
- City Dental DC. Four marked spaces, accessible from the alley from 8:00 AM to 2:00 PM. Please contact the Parish Office for a required parking permit.
- One Franklin Square Garage, vehicle entrance is located at 1010 13th Street, immediately south of the Fire Station (between L & K Streets); pedestrian entrance is at 1301 K Street, NW. An usher will provide you with a required validation ticket.

**Sunday School** (Meets virtually each Sunday from 9-9:45 AM with Potomac Episcopal). To participate, please visit our website, https://www.asa-dc.org and click on the box Sunday School Information. For more information, contact Victoria Ebell at victoriaebell@comcast.net.

*Childcare has been suspended during this phase of re-gathering.*

**Sandwich Ministry** (Sundays from 12:30 PM to 2 PM)
Volunteers needed to prepare sandwiches or supply fresh fruit or cookies and help with sandwich distribution. For more information, contact Helena Mirtova at krisalarisa@hotmail.com or (703) 220-5747.