



Christ Church
Cathedral
Ottawa

Ascension Sunday | Jerusalem and the Land of the Holy One

Sunday | May 17th | 2026

10.30 am | Choral Eucharist | BAS

Mass of St. Cedd | Peter Nardone

The flowers are given to the glory of God

Welcome

Children are welcome to fully participate in the service
and activity sheets are available at the entrance to the Cathedral.
Sidespeople can provide headsets for those who need hearing assistance.

Please turn off or set mobile devices to silent mode.

*Our diocese was founded on the homeland of the Anishinaabe Algonquins.
May we dwell on this land with respect and peace.*

The Gathering of the Community

Prelude | *Processional* | *William Mathias*

Announcements

Hymn 572 | *Let there be light*

Greeting

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!

May his grace and peace be with you.

May he fill our hearts with joy.

Glory to God

Glory to God in the highest,

and peace to his people on earth. Lord God, heavenly king, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory. Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

A Prayer for Peace

O God of all justice and peace, we cry out to you in the midst of the pain and trauma of violence and fear which prevails in the Holy Land. Be with those who need you in these days of suffering; we pray for people of all faiths – Jews, Muslims, Christians, and for all people of the land. While we pray to you, O Lord, for an end to violence and the establishment of peace, we also call for you to bring justice and equity to the peoples. Guide us into your kingdom where all people are treated with dignity and honour as your children for, to all of us, you are our Heavenly Father. In Jesus' name we pray. **Amen.**

Collect of the Day

Holy God, send your promised Spirit of revelation and wisdom, so that, in the blessed freedom of hope, we may witness to the grace of forgiveness and sing with joy to the One who makes us one. **Amen.**

The Proclamation of the Word

First Reading | *Acts 1:1-11*

A reading from the book of Acts.

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, "Men 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."

Holy Word, Holy Wisdom.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm | 47

Clap your hands, all you peoples; shout to God with a cry of joy. For the Lord Most High is to be feared, the great sovereign over all the earth, who subdues the peoples under us and the nations under our feet; who chooses our inheritance for us, the pride of Jacob whom God loves. God has gone up with a shout, with the sound of the ram's-horn. Sing praises to God,

sing praises; sing praises to our sovereign, sing praises. For God is sovereign of all the earth; sing praises with all your skill. God reigns over the nations and sits upon the holy throne. The nobles of the peoples have gathered together with the people of the God of Abraham. The rulers of the earth belong to God, who is highly exalted.

Second Reading | *Ephesians 1:15-23*

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Ephesians.

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.

Holy Word, Holy Wisdom.

Thanks be to God.

Gradual | *The Lord ascendeth up on high* | *Michael Praetorius*

The Lord ascendeth up on high, The Lord hath triumphed gloriously, In power and might excelling; The grave and hell are captive led. Lo! he returns, our glorious Head, To his eternal dwelling. The heavens with joy receive their Lord, By saints, by angel hosts adored; O day of exultation! O earth, adore thy glorious King! His rising, his ascension sing With grateful adoration. Our great High Priest hath gone before, Upon his Church his grace to pour; And still his love he giveth, O may our hearts to him ascend; May all within us upward tend To him who ever liveth!

Holy Gospel | *Luke 22:44-53*

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

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

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Jesus 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 worshipped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy; and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

The Gospel of Christ.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Sermon

Hymn 635 | *Like the murmur of the dove's song*

Apostles' Creed

Let us confess the faith of our baptism, as we say,

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Prayers

Let us pray.

God of power and possibility, you broke open the tomb – now break open your Church. Bless our Primate Shane, our Metropolitan Anne, our Bishop Kathryn, all clergy and laity. Guide us to be reconcilers and visionaries, led by your Spirit.

Resurrect, renew and revive your church.

Hear our prayer.

God of resurrection and new life, you entered the hearts of Jesus' fearful friends – now enter our relationships. Where there is joy, nurture it; where there is hurt, heal it.

Resurrect, renew and revive our life together.

Hear our prayer.

God of might and mercy, you shattered the plans of those who opposed love – now transform the governance of nations. Inspire leaders toward justice and peace. Confront deception with your truth.

Resurrect, renew and revive the community of nations.

Hear our prayer.

God of healing and hope, you broke the chains of death – now enter our places of pain and grief. Bring comfort, courage, and peace to all who suffer and especially to those in the Land of the Holy One, and those whom we hold in our hearts.

Silence.

Resurrect, renew and revive our lives.

Hear our prayer.

God of Easter renewal, you meet us in every moment – now meet us in joy and sorrow. Grant us gratitude, generosity, and grace.

Resurrect, renew and revive our souls and spirits.

Hear our prayer. Amen.

The Peace

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

Offertory Hymn 247 | *Hail the day that sees him rise*



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The Celebration of the Eucharist

Prayer Over the Gifts

Eternal God, our Saviour Jesus Christ has promised to be with us until the end of time. Accept all we offer you this day, and renew us in his transfigured life; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Eternal God, Source of all being, we give you thanks and praise for your faithful love. You call us into friendship with you and one another to be your holy people, a sign of your presence in the world.

When those we trust betray us, unfailingly you remain with us. When we injure others, you confront us in your love and call us to the paths of righteousness. You stand with the weak, and those, broken and alone, whom you have always welcomed home, making the first last, and the last first.

Therefore we raise our voices with angels and archangels, forever praising you: *Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.*

Blessed are you, O Holy One: when Hagar was driven into the wilderness you followed her and gave her hope. When Joseph was sold into bondage, you turned malice to your people's good. When you called Israel out of slavery, you brought them through the wilderness into the promised land. When your people were taken into exile, you wept with them by the river of Babylon and carried them home.

Restore us, O God, let your face shine!

At the right time you sent your Anointed One to stand with the poor, the outcast, and the oppressed. Jesus touched lepers, and the sick, and healed them.

He accepted water from a woman of Samaria and offered her the water of new life. Christ knew the desolation of the cross and opened the way for all humanity into the redemption of your reconciling love.

On the night he was betrayed, Jesus, at supper with his friends, took bread, gave you thanks, broke the bread, gave it to them, and said, "Take and eat: this is my body which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "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. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Loving and Holy One, recalling Christ's death and resurrection, we offer you these gifts, longing for the bread of tomorrow and the wine of the age to come. Therefore we proclaim our hope.

Dying you destroyed our death, rising you restored our life. Lord Jesus, come in glory.

Pour out your Spirit on these gifts that through them you may sustain us in our hunger for your peace. We hold before you all whose lives are marked by suffering, our sisters, brothers and siblings. When we are broken and cast aside, embrace us in your love.

Restore us, O God, let your face shine!

Through Christ, with Christ, and in Christ in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory are yours, O Source of all life, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father,

in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and for ever. Amen.

Breaking of the Bread

Lord, we died with you on the cross.

Now we are raised to new life.

We were buried in your tomb.

Now we share in your resurrection.

Live in us, that we may live in you.

The gifts of God for the People of God.

Thanks be to God.

Agnus Dei

Communion

All are welcome to come to the altar rail. If you wish prayers for healing before receiving Communion, please carry an Order of Service with you; to receive a blessing, cross your hands over your chest; for a gluten-free wafer, hold out one hand; for a regular wafer, hold out two hands. Please do not dip the bread in the wine.

Motet | *Peace between nations* | *Christopher Wiggins*

Peace between nations, peace between races. Peace between neighbours in love of the King of Life. Peace between sister and brother, peace between wife and husband. Peace between parents and children, the peace of Christ above all peace. Peace between brothers, peace between sisters. Peace between lovers in love of the King of Life.

The Sending of the Community

Prayer after Communion

Eternal Giver of love and power, your Son Jesus Christ has sent us into all the world to preach the gospel of his kingdom. Confirm us in this mission, and help us to live the good news we proclaim; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Glory to God,

whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine. Glory to God from generation to generation, in the Church and in Christ Jesus, for ever and ever. Amen.

Blessing and Dismissal

May the grace of Jesus Christ our risen Lord, the love of God who raised him from the dead, and the power of the Holy Spirit who fills the world with new life, bless and keep you, this day and always. **Amen.**

Go forth in the name of the risen Christ. Alleluia!

Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

Hymn 245 | *O Lord most high, eternal king*

Postlude | *Præludium in C (BWV 545)* | *J.S. Bach*

Celebrant | The Venerable Michelle Staples

Preacher | The Right Reverend Peter Coffin

Readers | Judith O'Rourke | Shawn Wenuk

Intercessor | Daniel Jerusalemiec

Duty Warden | Rob Mann

Organist | Nick Veltmeyer

Director | James Calkin

Sung by | Voces Cathedrae

A Prayer for Peace from the Diocese of Jerusalem. Collect: *Revised Common Lectionary Prayers* (2002) alt. Liturgy: *The Book of Alternative Services* ©1985, *The Psalter of The Book of Alternative Services Emended for Contemporary Liturgical Use* ©2016, *Supplementary Eucharistic Prayer #2* © 2001 by the General Synod of the Anglican Church of Canada. Readings: *New Revised Standard Version Bible (NRSV)* Anglicized Edition, ©1989, 1995, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America.

Readings Next Sunday | May 24th

The Feast of Pentecost

Acts 2:1-21; Psalm 104:25-35, 37; 1 Corinthians 12:3b-13; John 20:19-23

Christ Church Cathedral Ottawa

Anishinaabe aking ate awaso kikinawadjichigan | A place of prayer on Algonquin territory
The Anglican Cathedral in the Nation's Capital
Cathedral of the Canadian Forces Anglican Military Ordinariate

414 Sparks Street, Ottawa, Ontario K1R 0B2

613.236.9149 | info@ottawacathedral.ca | www.ottawacathedral.ca | @ottawacathedral

Bishop of Ottawa | The Right Reverend Kathryn Otley

Dean of Ottawa and Rector | The Very Reverend Beth Bretzlaff (ext. 161)

Vicar | The Reverend Canon Douglas Richards (ext. 191)

Deacon Residentiary | The Reverend Dr. Jarrett Carty

Honorary Assistants | The Reverend Joan Riding | The Reverend Victoria Scott |

LCol (ret'd) The Venerable Michelle Staples | Lt (N) The Reverend Katherine Walker

Lay Readers | Daniel Jerusalemiec | Ted Livingstone

Director of Music and Organist | James Calkin (ext. 201)

Associate Director of Music | Andrew McAnerney (ext. 121)

Music Associate | Nick Veltmeyer

Church Wardens | Katherine Spencer-Ross | Stephen Giles

Director of Operations and Development | Nicholas Galambos (ext. 171)
