

Choral Evensong for the Feast of the Ascension

May 29, 2025

7:00 p.m.



**CHRIST CHURCH
EPISCOPAL**

THE MOTHER CHURCH OF GEORGIA
ESTABLISHED 1733





Welcome to Choral Evensong! Today's service traces its origins to the ancient monastic cycle of prayer in the Christian Church. Known as the "Daily Office," the *Book of Common Prayer* re-shaped the original six services into two: Morning Prayer and Evening Prayer, or Evensong. The texts of Evensong are drawn almost entirely from the Bible, and the service is led in large part by the choir, offering prayer and praise to God on the congregation's behalf. You are invited to pray, reflect, and join in those parts of the service which are indicated in your service bulletin.



CHRIST CHURCH EPISCOPAL
SAVANNAH

THE MOTHER CHURCH OF GEORGIA
ESTABLISHED 1733

Choral Evensong for the Feast of the Ascension

Organ Voluntary

Prelude on 'Llanfair'

McNeil Robinson (1943–2015)

Hymn at the Procession

A hymn of glory let us sing

Hymnal 218

Deo gracias

Opening Sentences

Preces

William Byrd (ca. 1543–1623)

Officiant O Lord, open thou our lips:
Choir and our mouth shall shew forth thy praise.
Officiant O God, make speed to save us:
Choir O Lord, make haste to help us.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Ghost:
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen. Praise ye the Lord.

The congregation may be seated.

Psalm 47 *Omnes gentes, plaudite*

BCP 650

Sung by the choir.

chant: John Davy (1763–1824)

- 1 Clap your hands, all you peoples; *
shout to God with a cry of joy.
- 2 For the LORD Most High is to be feared; *
he is the great King over all the earth.
- 3 He subdues the peoples under us, *
and the nations under our feet.
- 4 He chooses our inheritance for us, *
the pride of Jacob whom he loves.
- 5 God has gone up with a shout, *
the LORD with the sound of the ram's-horn.
- 6 Sing praises to God, sing praises; *
sing praises to our King, sing praises.
- 7 For God is King of all the earth; *
sing praises with all your skill.
- 8 God reigns over the nations; *
God sits upon his holy throne.
- 9 The nobles of the peoples have gathered together *
with the people of the God of Abraham.
- 10 The rulers of the earth belong to God, *
and he is highly exalted.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son *
and to the Holy Ghost:

As it was in the beginning is now and ever shall be, *
world without end. Amen.

The First Lesson

Ephesians 1:15–23

Reader A reading from The Letter 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.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Magnificat

BCP 65

from *Evening Service in C*
Sung by the choir.

Charles V. Stanford (1852–1924)

The Second Lesson

Luke 24:44–53

Reader A reading from the Book of Luke.

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.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Nunc dimittis

from *Evening Service in C*

Sung by the choir.

BCP 66

C. V. Stanford

Please stand as able.

The Apostles' Creed

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.

The Prayers

W. Byrd

Officiant The Lord be with you.
Choir and with thy spirit.
Officiant Let us pray.
Choir Lord have mercy upon us;
Christ have mercy upon us;
Lord have mercy upon us.

Officiant and People

Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed by 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,
forever and ever. Amen.

Officiant O Lord, show thy mercy upon us:
Choir And grant us thy salvation.
Officiant O Lord, save the State:
Choir and mercifully hear us when we call upon thee.
Officiant Endue thy ministers with righteousness:
Choir and make thy chosen people joyful.
Officiant O Lord, save thy people:
Choir and bless thine inheritance.
Officiant Give peace in our time, O Lord:
Choir because there is none other that fighteth for us,
but only thou, O God.

Officiant O God, make clean our hearts within us:
Choir and take not thy holy Spirit from us.

There follows a series of collects, each with a choral Amen.

The congregation may be seated.

Anthem

O clap your hands Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872–1958)

The text of this anthem is a version of Psalm 47, found on page 650 of the Book of Common Prayer.

Please stand as able.

Intercessions and Thanksgivings

The General Thanksgiving BCP, p. 125

Officiant and People

Almighty God, Father of all mercies,
we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks
for all your goodness and loving-kindness
to us and to all whom you have made.
We bless you for our creation, preservation,
and all the blessings of this life;
but above all for your immeasurable love
in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ;
for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.
And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies,
that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise,
not only with our lips, but in our lives,
by giving up our selves to your service,
and by walking before you
in holiness and righteousness all our days;

through Jesus Christ our Lord,
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,
be honor and glory throughout all ages. Amen.

Officiant Let us bless the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

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

(Ephesians 3:20, 21)

Closing Hymn

Hymnal 214

Hail the day that sees him rise

Llanfair

Organ Voluntary

Prelude and Fugue in B major, Op. 7 Marcel Dupré (1886–1971)



Service Leaders

Choir	The St. Peter's Church Choir, Skidaway Island The Christ Church Parish Choir
Organist	George H. Fergus, <i>Director of Music, Christ Church</i>
Conductor	Julia Tucker, <i>Interim Organist & Choirmaster, St. Peter's</i>
Lectors	The Reverend Kelly Steele, <i>Rector, St. Peter's</i> The Reverend David Wantland, <i>Associate Rector, St. Peter's</i>
Officiant	The Reverend Samantha K. McKean, <i>Associate Rector</i>

This Week at Christ Church

Sunday, June 1 - The Seventh Sunday of Easter

10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist

12:00 p.m. Newcomer Docent Tour

Wednesday, June 4

12:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist and Prayers for Healing

7:30 p.m. Vanderbilt Youth Choir in Concert

Thursday, June 5

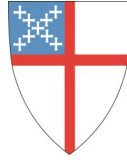
5:00 p.m. Bible Study: *Gospel of Luke*, Choir Room

Next Sunday at Christ Church

Sunday, June 8 - The Day of Pentecost

8:45 a.m. Holy Eucharist

10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist



CHRIST CHURCH EPISCOPAL

The Right Reverend Frank S. Logue, *Bishop of Georgia*

The Reverend Cathy Zappa, *Interim Rector*

The Reverend Samantha K. McKean, *Associate Rector*

The Reverend Patricia Rhoads Davis, *Deacon*

The Reverend Dr. Bertice Berry, *Deacon*

George H. Fergus, *Director of Music*

John Audette, *Director of Children and Youth Ministries*

Suzanne Phillips Smith, *Parish Administrator*

Charles L. Epps, *Sexton*

The Reverend Canon Todd D. Smelser, *Priest Associate*

The Reverend Liam G. Collins, *Priest Associate*

The Reverend Richard "Max" Maxwell, *Priest Associate*

The Reverend David C. Seyle, *United Methodist Pastor-in-Residence*

Vestry

Washington C. Dender, *Senior Warden*; Paul H. Threlkeld, *Junior Warden*;

Lindsey A. Eberle, *Clerk of the Vestry*; Stephen R. Rilee, *Treasurer*;

Catherine M. Gussler, *Assistant Treasurer for Stewardship and Finance*;

Patton Dugas; William C. Gruver;

Elizabeth L. Macfadyen; Rosemary W. Mackey;

Richard C. Nelson; Paul D. Reddick; Sarah B. Smith;

Polly C. Webster; Susan H. Wetmore

Sundays

9:15 a.m. Nursery, located on the 2nd floor of the Parish House at 18 Abercorn

10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist

The Church building is located at 28 Bull Street, Savannah, Georgia 31401

The telephone number is 912-236-2500

www.christchurchsavannah.org

Christ Church, the "Mother Church of Georgia," was founded on February 12, 1733 and is a member of the Diocese of Georgia which, in turn, is one of 110 Dioceses which composes The Episcopal Church in the United States of America and abroad. The Episcopal Church is a constituent member of the Anglican Communion, a fellowship within the One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church of those duly constituted dioceses, provinces, and regional Churches in communion with the See of Canterbury. The fellowship upholds and propagates the historic Faith and Order as set forth in the Book of Common Prayer. The current church building was constructed in 1838 and is the third one on the original site.