

St. Mary the Virgin Anglican Church

Seventh Sunday of Easter – May 17, 2026

Ascension

“I will not leave you desolate, says the Lord;
I will come to you.” *John 14.18*

Welcome

We are delighted that you have joined us for worship.

The Parish of St. Mary the Virgin is a member of the Diocese of British Columbia and the Anglican Church of Canada. We are an inclusive and welcoming parish: the sacraments of the church (baptism, communion and marriage) are available to all people on equal terms. Christ welcomes you, and so do we. As a parish we acknowledge with gratitude that we live, work and play on the traditional lands of the Lekwungen peoples. We commit ourselves, as a settler church and people, to continue with our First Nations hosts on the journey of truth-telling, healing, and reconciliation.

The Collection Plate has been placed at the back of the church for use as you arrive. It will be moved to the front of the church during the Offertory hymn and placed in a location where you may place your gifts as you come to receive Communion. Please also consider one of the other available means of giving regularly: electronic donations on our website via CanadaHelps, or monthly direct debit donations via the PAR (Pre-Authorized Remittance program - details are available in a brochure at the entrance, or on the website: www.stmarysoakbay.ca/donate).

Flower Dedications

If you would like to schedule a **Memorial Flower Arrangement** at the next opportunity, please contact Anne Underhill, aunderhill@stmarysoakbay.ca



10:00am Service

From the Book of Alternative Services

Minister of Welcome: Mary Lawrence Organist: Oriel Chapman
Presider & Preacher: The Rev'd Dr John Macquarrie Musicians: St. Mary Singers
Eucharistic Minister: Karen Wilson Livestream: Nathan Turner & Samantha Robbins
David Stewart

Please note that this service is being broadcast live on the Internet. By attending in person, you are acknowledging and consent to the fact that the video images of you may appear online.

*In the service order, words set in **bold italic type** are said by the congregation.*

THE COMMUNITY GATHERS BEFORE GOD

PRELUDE

Adagio from Toccata, Adagio and Fugue in C (BWV564), JS Bach

WELCOME

HYMN

Jerusalem the Golden (278)

1. Jerusalem the golden,
with milk and honey blessed,
beneath thy contemplation
sink heart and voice oppressed.
I know not, O I know not
what joys await us there,
what radiancy of glory,
what bliss beyond compare.
2. They stand, those halls of Sion,
all jubilant with song,
and bright with many an angel
and all the martyr throng.
The Prince is ever in them,
the daylight is serene,
the pastures of the blessed
are decked in glorious sheen.
3. There is the throne of David,
and there, from care released,
the shout of them that triumph,
the song of them that feast;
and they who with their leader
have conquered in the fight,
forever and forever
are clad in robes of white.
4. O sweet and blessed country,
the home of God's elect;
O dear and future vision,
that eager hearts expect:
even now by faith we see thee,
even here thy walls discern;
to thee our thoughts are kindled;
for thee our spirits yearn.

EASTER GREETING

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Let us praise our God

who has given us life and hope

by raising Jesus from the dead.

Let us rejoice, then, even in our distress.

We shall be counted worthy when Christ appears.

O God, you have claimed us as your own

and called us from our darkness into the light of your day.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Christ is risen.

The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia! Alleluia!

CENTRING STILLNESS

Silence is kept.

COLLECT OF THE DAY

O God of glory, ***your Son Jesus Christ ascended to glory at your side. Bring us together in Christ, so that all may be drawn into your bountiful dwelling where with Christ and the Spirit, you live united in love and joy. Amen.***

Revised Common Lectionary Prayers (2002) alt.

The congregation sits

THE STORY OF FAITH IS PROCLAIMED

A Statement on the Lectionary Readings

Throughout Christian history, references to “the Jews” in scripture—particularly in John and Acts—have been used to perpetuate negative stereotypes and falsely assign blame for the death of Jesus. These references gloss over significant distinctions among religious leaders, such as Pharisees, scribes, and Sadducees, and obscure the fact that Jesus and his disciples were themselves Jews. As Christians, we confess and lament the history of anti-Judaism associated with these texts. We renounce the evils of violence and discrimination against Jewish people. We strive for mutual understanding, respect, and partnership with Jewish neighbors and commit ourselves to the work of reconciliation among people of all faiths.

READING FROM THE HEBREW SCRIPTURES

Daniel 7. 9-14, Shery Armstrong

⁹As I watched,

thrones were set in place,

and an Ancient One took his throne;

his clothing was white as snow,

and the hair of his head like pure wool;
his throne was fiery flames,
and its wheels were burning fire.

¹⁰ A stream of fire issued
and flowed out from his presence.

A thousand thousand served him,
and ten thousand times ten thousand stood attending him.

The court sat in judgement,
and the books were opened.

¹¹ I watched then because of the noise of the arrogant words that the horn was speaking. And as I watched, the beast was put to death, and its body destroyed and given over to be burned with fire. ¹² As for the rest of the beasts, their dominion was taken away, but their lives were prolonged for a season and a time. ¹³ As I watched in the night visions,

I saw one like a human being
coming with the clouds of heaven.

And he came to the Ancient One
and was presented before him.

¹⁴ To him was given dominion
and glory and kingship,
that all peoples, nations, and languages
should serve him.

His dominion is an everlasting dominion
that shall not pass away,
and his kingship is one
that shall never be destroyed.

Holy word, holy wisdom.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 24. 7-10



You gates, o - pen wide and high. Let the glo - rious sov - ereign en - ter.

Music by George Black, © 2000 Anglican Book Centre

Lift up your heads, O gates; lift them high, O everlasting doors;
and the One who reigns in glory shall come in.

"Who is this, who reigns in glory?"

"Our God, strong and mighty, Our God, mighty in battle." R.

Lift up your heads, O gates; lift them high, O everlasting doors;
and the One who reigns in glory shall come in.

"Who is this, who reigns in glory"

"The God of hosts it is who reigns in glory." R.

READING FROM THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES

Acts 1. 6-14, Sean Steele

⁶ So when they had come together, they asked him, 'Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?' ⁷ He replied, 'It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. ⁸ 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.' ⁹ When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. ¹⁰ While he was going and they were gazing up towards heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. ¹¹ 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.'

¹² Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a sabbath day's journey away. ¹³ When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying, Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. ¹⁴ All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL HYMN

He Came Down (368)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. He came down that we may have love;
he came down that we may have love;
he came down that we may have love.
Hallelujah forevermore.
Why did he come? <i>Repeat stanza.</i> | 2. He came down that we may have peace;
he came down that we may have peace;
he came down that we may have peace.
Hallelujah for evermore.
Why did he come? <i>Repeat stanza.</i> |
|---|---|

3. He came down that we may have joy;
he came down that we may have joy:
he came down that we may have joy.
Hallelujah for evermore.
Why did he come? *Repeat stanza.*

GOSPEL

Luke 24. 44-53

Before the Gospel is read, the reader says:

God is with you.

And also with you.

The Good News of Jesus according to Luke.

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

⁴⁴ Then 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.’ ⁴⁵ Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, ⁴⁶ 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, ⁴⁷ and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸ You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹ 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.’

⁵⁰ Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. ⁵¹ While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. ⁵² And they worshipped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy; ⁵³ and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

The Gospel of Christ.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

SERMON

ANTHEM

Ascension Hymn, John Schicht (words Russell)

We believe in one God, 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: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from 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. With the Father and the Son he is worshipped and glorified. He 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.

PRAYERS FOR OURSELVES AND THE WORLD

Sean Steele

The congregation stands, sits, or kneels.

King of kings and Lord of lords,
lift us up into your glory.

In your prayers this week remember those in need of healing and care, including Mary-Lou. In our diocese of islands and inlets pray for Anna, our Bishop; John, our Metropolitan; Chris, our National Indigenous Anglican Archbishop; and Shane, our Primate; for Abbey Church and the Emmaus Community; pray for the Diocese of Yukon and Bishop Vincent Fenga. In the Church further afield, pray for tThe Anglican Church of Papua New Guinea. Pray for the Board of the Canadian College of Performing Arts, and for the families of the Oak Bay Preschool.

PEACE

The congregation stands

The peace of the Lord be always with you. Alleluia!
And also with you. Alleluia!

Remaining in our places, we share signs of Peace with those around us.

THE SACRED MEAL IS SHARED

For safety, the Collection Plate has been placed at the back of the church for use as you arrive. It will be moved to the front of the church during the Offertory hymn and placed in a location where you may place your gifts as you come to receive Communion. Please also consider one of the other means of giving that do not require our volunteers and staff to handle cash and cheques: electronic donations on our website via CanadaHelps, or bi-weekly or monthly direct debit donations via our diocesan Electronic Collection Plate (details are available in a brochure at the entrance, or on the website: www.stmarysoakbay.ca/donate).

OFFERTORY

Hail the Day that Sees Him Rise (247)

1. Hail the day that sees him rise, alleluia!
to his throne above the skies; alleluia!
Christ, the Lamb for sinners given, alleluia!
enters now the highest heaven! Alleluia!
2. There for him high triumph waits; alleluia!
lift your heads, eternal gates; alleluia!
he hath conquered death and sin; alleluia!
take the King of glory in. Alleluia!
3. Highest heaven its Lord receives, alleluia!
yet he loves the earth he leaves; alleluia!
though returning to his throne, alleluia!
still he calls the world his own. Alleluia!
4. See! He lifts his hands above, alleluia!
See! He shows the prints of love; alleluia!
Hark! His gracious lips bestow alleluia!
blessings on his church below. Alleluia!
5. Still for us he intercedes; alleluia!
his prevailing death he pleads, alleluia!
near himself prepares our place, alleluia!
he the first-fruits of our race. Alleluia!
6. Lord, though parted from our sight, alleluia!
far above the starry height, alleluia!
grant our hearts may thither rise, alleluia!
seeking thee above the skies, Alleluia!

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Blessed be God, by whose grace creation is renewed, by whose love heaven is opened,
by whose mercy we offer our sacrifice of praise.

Blessed be God for ever. Amen.

THE CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST

*The Church of England, Eucharistic Prayer A
with Preface M1 for Easter*

The congregation remains standing, as they are able

The Lord is 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.

The prayer continues until:

while angels and archangels and the powers of all creation
sing for ever the hymn of your glory:

(735)

***Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might
Heaven and earth are full, full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.***

The prayer continues until:

...and with this bread and this cup we make the memorial of Christ your Son our Lord.

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

The prayer continues until:

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:

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

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us:

***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.***

Silence is held

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Every time we eat this bread and drink this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

The gifts of God, for the People of God.
Thanks be to God.

THE COMMUNION

All are invited to receive Communion.

The sacrament will be offered in both kinds (bread and the common cup) but be assured that in the Anglican Church of Canada it has always been our tradition that receiving only one of the elements is considered full Communion. Gluten-free wafers for communion are available. Please request it from the person who is distributing the bread.

If you do not wish to receive Communion, you are also welcome to come forward to receive a blessing. This is signified by folding your hands across your chest as you approach the presider.

COMMUNION MUSIC

Lord, Enthroned in Heavenly Splendour (84)

1. Lord, enthroned in heavenly splendour,
first begotten from the dead,
thou alone, our strong defender,
liftest up thy people's head.
Alleluia,
Jesus, 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.
Alleluia,
thou art here, we ask not how.
3. Though the lowliest form doth veil thee
as of old in Bethlehem,
here as there thine angels hail thee,
branch and flower of Jesse's stem.
Alleluia,
we in worship join with them.
4. Paschal Lamb, thine offering, finished
once for all when thou wast slain,
in its fullness undiminished
shall forevermore remain,
Alleluia,
cleansing souls from every stain.
5. Life-imparting heavenly Manna,
stricken Rock with streaming side,
heaven and earth with loud hosanna
worship thee, the Lamb who died,
Alleluia,
risen, ascended, glorified!

WE ARE SENT INTO THE WORLD

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

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. **Amen.**

COMMUNITY NOTES

GLORY TO GOD

The congregation stands

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

HYMN

For the Healing of the Nations (576)

1. For the healing of the nations,
God, we pray with one accord;
for a just and equal sharing
of the things that earth affords.
To a life of love in action
help us rise and pledge our word.
2. Lead us, Father, into freedom;
from despair your world release,
that, redeemed from war and hatred,
all may come and go in peace.
Show us how through care and goodness
fear will die and hope increase.
3. All that kills abundant living,
let it from the earth be banned:
pride of status, race, or schooling,
dogmas that obscure your plan.
In our common quest for justice,
may we hallow life's brief span.
4. You, Creator God, have written
your great name on humankind;
for our growing in your likeness,
bring the life of Christ to mind;
that by our response and service
earth its destiny may find.

DISMISSAL

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Go forth in the name of the risen Christ.

Thanks be to God.

Alleluia! Alleluia!

POSTLUDE

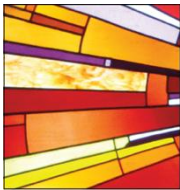
Komm, heiliger Geist, Herre Gott, Dietrich Buxtehude

The musical postlude is a part of worship, extending the beauty of holiness so that the congregation can remember and give thanks for our encounter with God's Word as it has been experienced this day. You are invited to use this time for reflection, remaining seated.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday May 23 @ 7:00pm - Bruce Vogt & Friends Concert

Sunday May 24 @ 4:00pm - Jazz Evensong – featuring the Bian Tate Trio



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