Sunday 24th May

The Sunday after Ascension

**Collect:**

Risen, ascended Lord,   
as we rejoice at your triumph,   
ﬁll your Church on earth with power and compassion, that all who are estranged by sin   
may ﬁnd forgiveness and know your peace,   
to the glory of God the Father. **Amen.**

**Psalm 47:**

Clap your hands, all you peoples;  
   shout to God with loud songs of joy.   
For the Lord, the Most High, is awesome,  
   a great king over all the earth.   
He subdued peoples under us,  
   and nations under our feet.   
He chose our heritage for us,  
   the pride of Jacob whom he loves.

God has gone up with a shout,  
   the Lord with the sound of a trumpet.   
Sing praises to God, sing praises;  
   sing praises to our King, sing praises.   
For God is the king of all the earth;  
   sing praises with a psalm.

God is king over the nations;  
   God sits on his holy throne.   
The princes of the peoples gather  
   as the people of the God of Abraham.  
For the shields of the earth belong to God;  
   he is highly exalted.

**New Testament Reading:**

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.’ *(Acts of the Apostles 1:6-11)*

**Gospel:**

After Jesus had spoken these words, he looked up to heaven and said, ‘Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed.

‘I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one. (*John 17:1-11)*

**Reflection:**

from Rt. Rev James Langstaff, Bishop of Rochester:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P9CZiF8QdIk&feature=youtu.be>

**Hymn:**

Crown him with many crowns

The lamb upon his throne

Hark, how the heavenly anthem drowns

All music but its own!

Awake, my soul, and sing

Of him who died for me

And hail him as thy matchless King

Through all eternity

Crown him the Lord of peace,

Whose power a sceptre sways

From pole to pole, that wars may cease,

And all be prayer and praise:

His reign shall know no end,

And round his piercèd feet

Fair flowers of paradise extend

Their fragrance, ever sweet.