

Orlagh in the City

Ascension Day

May 17th 2026

World Communications Day



Welcome & Gathering

Opening Hymn: Mary Most Holy 1:40



*I will be with you wherever you go. Go now throughout the world!
I will be with you in all that you say. Go now and spread My word!*

Come, walk with me on stormy waters.
Why fear? Reach out, and I'll be there.

Your life will be transformed with power,
by living truly in My name.

And if you say: 'Yes, Lord, I love You.'
then feed My lambs and feed My sheep.

GLORIA (Chorus) Gloria, Gloria, in Excelsis Deo (x2)

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of good will. We praise you, we bless you, we adore you, we glorify you, we give you thanks for your great glory,

CHORUS.

Holy and Ascended One, radiating the glory of God in all creation, Lamb of God, source of our life and healing, look upon your people with the gift of your compassionate love.

CHORUS

Save us from all that blinds us to the radiant light of your love and goodness, as you take away the sins of our world, and bless us with the gift of your compassionate love.

CHORUS

Your radiant holiness sanctifies the entire creation. Your risen presence enriches the hope and meaning of all that exists. In union with the living Spirit, energizing all creation, we glorify your name as we sing: **CHORUS**

FIRST READING. Acts of the Apostles 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. While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of the Father.

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 seasons 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, till 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. As 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 from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you have seen him go!

The Word of the Lord.

PSALM 47 (Based on Psalms for Praying by Nan Merrill (2007))

Response: Our God ascends with joyful praise

Clap your hands, people of all nations! Acclaim the Creator with joyful songs!

Rejoice in the beauty of diversity!

Let the Love in your singing join the cosmic dance of celebration! (R)

Sing praises to the Creator, whose loving consciousness invites all people
to the co-creation of a new heaven and a new earth,
Where justice, love, and peace will reign over all. (R)

May the leaders of all nations gather as One, and unite together for love and truth.
For Earth is our home made for Love and Light;
And the Holy One reigns where Peace and Justice endure (R)



SECOND READING: Letter to the Ephesians 1:17-23

May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, give you the spirit of wisdom and of revelation, to bring you to the full knowledge of his enduring truth.. May the eyes of your heart be enlightened, so that you may see the hope awaiting you amid the glory of all the saints.

Now raised to the glory of the Father, above all principalities and powers, and above every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come. All things are to be reconciled in him, and through him. Now, as head of the Church which is his body we encounter the glorified Christ, the fullness of him who fills the entire creation. *The Word of the Lord*

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Go and teach all nations, says the Lord;

I am with you always, until the end of the world.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

GOSPEL: A Reading from the Holy Gospel according **Matthew** (28:16-20)

And the eleven disciples went into Galilee, unto the mountain where Jesus had invited them to assemble. When they saw him they fell down before him, though some hesitated.

And coming to them, Jesus spoke to them, saying: All power is given to me in heaven and on earth. Go, therefore, and teach all the nations; baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things I have spoken to you: and behold I am with you all days, even to the end of the world. *The Gospel of the Lord.*

Invitation to Lectio

INTERCESSIONS

OFFERTORY- RESPONSE

Blessed be God! Blessed be God! Blessed be God forever! **Amen!**

Blessed be God! Blessed be God! Blessed be God forever! **Amen!**

WELCOME TO THE TABLE (The Creed)

Gather around for the table is set, Welcome and take your place.

Wide is our circle with Christ at the heart, Sharing our sacred space.

CHORUS

This is the banquet open to all, Spirit to nourish life.

Here at this meal, here in this place, Gratefully we receive.



Calling forth adults the table to share, Co-celebrating as one.

The gift of each table our daily prayer

CHORUS

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER for Summer Time

1. Blessed are you, God of seasonal transformation.

Empowered by the energy of sunlight,

creation glows in the miracle of photo-synthesis.

Animals thrive, and plant life blossoms.

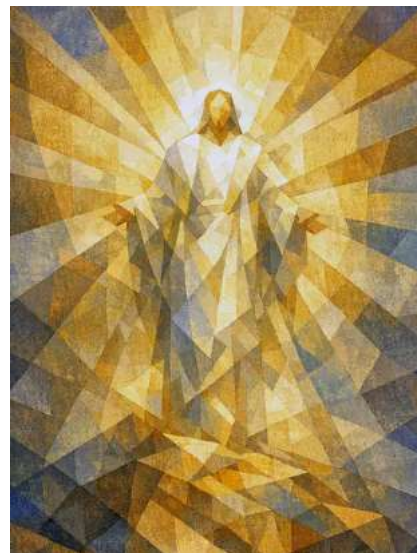
The green foliage embalms the weary soul,

and the sea waters refresh our inner being.

2. In the warmth of sunshine, every creature embraces

the ritual of play, and rejoices in the radiating abundance of life.

With gratitude in our hearts, we lift our voices to praise and thank our God,
for a creation so richly blessed and adorned:



All : *Let all that is within me cry Holy (x 2)*
Holy, Holy, Holy, is the source of our being.

1. God of the Summer-time, bringing to maturity all that grows and flourishes,
we acclaim your creative energy in the empowering Spirit,
who calls and sustains everything in being.

2. We rejoice in all that flowers and blooms,
in the scented aroma of garden and parkland,
in the canopy of foliage that covers the trees,
in the playfulness of animal, bird and human.
We cherish the freedom to dance and rejoice, as we behold
the Spirit's exuberant birthing in nature's unfolding.

First Invocation (Hand outstretched)

ALL: That same Spirit endows our table with the luscious gifts of creation,
bread from the grain, wine from the grape, symbols that evoke for us
the empowering grace of our loving and nurturing God,
as they become for us the Body and Blood of Jesus our Saviour.

CO-CELEBRANTS:

We recall the night on which Jesus gathered the disciples round the table of nourishing hope, during which the bread is broken, and along with the cup, is offered to all with these words:

Take this all of you and eat and drink; This is my body which will be given up for you.

And likewise with the cup of libation, poured out in a spirit of solidarity and prophetic hope.
Jesus offered the cup to the disciples and said:

Take this all of you and drink from it; This is the cup of my life-blood, the cup of the new and everlasting covenant.
In prophetic solidarity it is poured out for you and for all.
Sustain one another in the power of sacred memory.

Eucharistic Acclamation: Let all that is within me cry Blessed (x 2)
Blessed, Blessed, Blessed is the source of our being.



1. Childhood memories inundate our experience of Summer, the joy and freedom creation offers to all.
Reassured by what we hold gratefully in our hearts, we look forward in hope, knowing that every promise
will be fulfilled, as you sustain us along the journey of life.

Second Invocation. (Hand to near shoulder)

ALL: May we journey as one people on the pilgrim route of life,
blessed with the guidance and grace of your empowering Spirit,
who guides our footsteps, illuminates our way,
and enriches our lives with the abundant fruits of Summer-time .

2. In the fellowship of our faith, we cherish all that has nurtured and sustained us.
In loving gratitude, we hold in our hearts the living, and all who have gone before us,
the ancestors whose supportive memory still calls us to work for justice, love, and peace, as we seek to build
together a world, where Summer abundance
will be known to all God's creatures.

The Doxology.

ALL: In gratitude and hope we make this prayer, in the name of the one who is our Creator, Liberator, and Holy Spirit, blessing and empowering our every effort, this day and forever. Amen

COMMUNION HYMN-REFLECTION (based on a hymn by Shirley Erena Murray)
“Peace be with you”

Locked away in fear and silence
We were waiting through our pain
Suddenly You stood among us
Risen Christ alive again.

*R. Peace be with you, peace forever,
Your love heals our deepest ache.
Peace be with you, risen Saviour,
Let us live the peace You make.*

Prayer for the Road Ahead
Brendan Kennelly Poem ‘Begin’

Begin again to the summoning birds
to the sight of the light at the window,
begin to the roar of morning traffic
all along Pembroke Road.
Every beginning is a promise
born in light and dying in dark
determination and exaltation of springtime
flowering the way to work.

Begin to the pageant of queuing girls
the arrogant loneliness of swans in the canal
bridges linking the past and future
old friends passing though with us still.

In each trial, every sorrow,
When the night feels far too long.
You are near with hope tomorrow
Turning fear into a song.

Refrain

Begin to the loneliness that cannot end
since it perhaps is what makes us begin,
begin to wonder at unknown faces
at crying birds in the sudden rain
at branches stark in the willing sunlight
at seagulls foraging for bread
at couples sharing a sunny secret
alone together while making good.

Though we live in a world that dreams of ending
that always seems about to give in
something that will not acknowledge conclusion
insists that we forever **begin**.

Closing Hymn: There Is A Place (Liam Lawton)



There's a time for remembering, a time to recall
The trials and the triumphs, the fears and the falls.
There's a time to be grateful for the moments so blest:
The jewels of our memory where love is our guest.

There is gold that is gleaming in a past we once knew:
In our tears and our laughter, 'twas love brought us through.
There's a road we have travelled where sunlight has kissed,
That carries us onwards when loved ones are missed.

CHORUS: There is treasure in our fields. There is treasure in our skies.
There is treasure in our dreaming from the soul to the eye;
For wherever we gather in the light of God's grace,
And for all whom we remember, there will ever be a place.

There's a promise of God that is written in the stars
For all who may travel, no matter how far.
God will be your companion, each journey you make
In the shadow of loved ones, to lighten your way. CHORUS

In the quiet of the evening, at the close of the day,
We will rest on the journey. To the Lord we shall pray.
May we thank God for blessings, for the moments we've shared.
As we seek for tomorrow, our God will be there. CHORUS

In each trial, every sorrow,
When the night feels far too long.
You are near with hope tomorrow
Turning fear into a song.

Refrain

