

St Simon  
Zelotes  


**ASCENSION DAY SERVICE ONLINE**

**Sunday 17 May 2026**

**10am**

St Simon Zelotes Church  
Milner Street  
London SW3 2QF

Tel. 020 7589 8999

[www.stsimonzelotes.com](http://www.stsimonzelotes.com)

## Introit

*Coelos ascendit hodie*

Today Jesus Christ, the King of Glory, ascended to heaven, hallelujah!  
He reigns over heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father, hallelujah!

Now all the psalms of David have been fulfilled, hallelujah!  
Now the Lord sits with the Lord on the throne of God in great triumph, hallelujah!  
Let us praise the Lord and praise the Holy Trinity and give thanks to the Lord,  
Hallelujah! Amen.

Charles V. Stanford. CCLI Licence No. 1891688

*Please stand for the first hymn*

## Hymn

*Hail the day that sees him rise*

(Children in Year 6 and under leave for Sunday School and Crèche during this hymn)

1 Hail the day that sees him rise, *alleluia!*  
to his throne above the skies; *alleluia!*  
Christ the lamb for sinners giv'n, *alleluia!*  
enters now the highest heav'n! *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 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!*

4 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!*

Charles Wesley (1707-1788), Thomas Cotterill (177901823) and others  
CCLI Licence No. 1891688

## Welcome

### Opening Prayers

#### Collect for Ascension Day

**All:** Almighty God, we believe that your only begotten Son ascended into heaven: grant that in our hearts and minds we may also ascend there and dwell continually with him, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

#### Collect for Sunday after Ascension

O God, the King of glory, who exalted your only Son Jesus Christ with great triumph to your kingdom in heaven, do not leave us desolate, but send your Holy Spirit to strengthen and exalt us to the place where our Saviour Christ has gone before, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever. Amen.

### Lord's Prayer

**All:** Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be 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, the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

### First reading: Genesis 14:18-24

<sup>18</sup> Then Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine. He was priest of God Most High, <sup>19</sup> and he blessed Abram, saying,

‘Blessed be Abram by God Most High,  
Creator of heaven and earth.

<sup>20</sup> And praise be to God Most High,  
who delivered your enemies into your hand.’

Then Abram gave him a tenth of everything.

<sup>21</sup> The king of Sodom said to Abram, ‘Give me the people and keep the goods for yourself.’

<sup>22</sup> But Abram said to the king of Sodom, ‘With raised hand I have sworn an oath to the LORD, God Most High, Creator of heaven and earth, <sup>23</sup> that I will accept nothing belonging to you, not even a thread or the strap of a sandal, so that you will never be able to say, “I made Abram rich.”’

<sup>24</sup> I will accept nothing but what my men have eaten and the share that belongs to the men who went with me – to Aner, Eshkol and Mamre. Let them have their share.’

God has ascended amid shouts of joy.

**He is greatly exalted.**

### **Choir**

*Lift up your heads*

Lift up your heads, O ye gates, and be ye lift up, ye everlasting doors: and the King of glory shall come in. Who is the King of glory? The Lord strong and mighty, the Lord mighty in battle. Lift up your heads, O ye gates, and be ye lift up, ye everlasting doors: and the King of glory shall come in. Who is the King of glory? The Lord of hosts, he is the King of glory.

Words: Psalm 24:7-10. Music: G.F. Handel. CCLI Licence No. 1891688

### **Second reading: Psalm 110:1-7**

<sup>1</sup> The Lord says to my lord:

‘Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet.’

<sup>2</sup> The Lord will extend your mighty sceptre from Zion, saying,  
‘Rule in the midst of your enemies!’

<sup>3</sup> Your troops will be willing on your day of battle.  
Arrayed in holy splendour, your young men will come to you  
like dew from the morning’s womb.

<sup>4</sup> The Lord has sworn and will not change his mind:  
‘You are a priest for ever, in the order of Melchizedek.’

<sup>5</sup> The Lord is at your right hand; he will crush kings on the day of his wrath.

<sup>6</sup> He will judge nations, heaping up the dead and crushing the rulers of the whole earth.

<sup>7</sup> He will drink from a brook along the way; and so he will lift his head high.

God has ascended amid shouts of joy.

**He is greatly exalted.**

## Hymn

### *Alleluia, sing to Jesus*

(Youth group leave during this hymn)

1 Alleluia, sing to Jesus,  
his the sceptre, his the throne;  
alleluia, his the triumph,  
his the victory alone:  
hark the songs of peaceful Sion  
thunder like a mighty flood:  
Jesus, out of ev'ry nation,  
hath redeemed us by his blood.

2 Alleluia, not as orphans  
are we left in sorrow now;  
alleluia, he is near us,  
faith believes, not questions how;  
though the cloud from sight received him  
when the forty days were o'er,  
shall our hearts forget his promise,  
'I am with you evermore'?

3 Alleluia, bread of angels,  
thou on earth our food, our stay;  
alleluia, here the sinful  
flee to thee from day to day;  
intercessor, friend of sinners,  
earth's redeemer, plead for me,  
where the songs of all the sinless  
sweep across the crystal sea.

William Chatterton Dix (1837-1898); CCLI Licence No. 1891688.

### Third reading: Luke 24:44-53

<sup>44</sup> He said to them, 'This is what I told you while I was still with you: everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms.'

<sup>45</sup> Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. <sup>46</sup> He told them, 'This is what is written: the Messiah will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, <sup>47</sup> and repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. <sup>48</sup> You are witnesses of these things. <sup>49</sup> I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.'

<sup>50</sup> When he had led them out to the vicinity of Bethany, he lifted up his hands and blessed them. <sup>51</sup> While he was blessing them, he left them and was taken up into heaven. <sup>52</sup> Then they worshipped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy. <sup>53</sup> And they stayed continually at the temple, praising God.

God has ascended amid shouts of joy.

**He is greatly exalted.**

#### Choir

*God is gone up*

God is gone up with a triumphant shout:  
The Lord with sounding trumpets' melodies:  
Sing Praise, sing Praise, sing Praise, sing Praises out,  
Unto our King sing praise seraphicwise!  
Lift up your Heads, ye lasting Doors, they sing,  
And let the King of Glory enter in.

Methinks I see Heaven's sparkling courtiers fly,  
In flakes of Glory down him to attend,  
And hear Heart-cramping notes of Melody  
Surround his Chariot as it did ascend;  
Mixing their Music, making ev'ry string  
More to enravish as they this tune sing.

*God is gone up with a triumphant shout....*

#### Fourth reading: Hebrews 7:11-28

<sup>11</sup> If perfection could have been attained through the Levitical priesthood – and indeed the law given to the people established that priesthood – why was there still need for another priest to come, one in the order of Melchizedek, not in the order of Aaron? <sup>12</sup> For when the priesthood is changed, the law must be changed also. <sup>13</sup> He of whom these things are said belonged to a different tribe, and no one from that tribe has ever served at the altar. <sup>14</sup> For it is clear that our Lord descended from Judah, and in regard to that tribe Moses said nothing about priests. <sup>15</sup> And what we have said is even more clear if another priest like Melchizedek appears, <sup>16</sup> one who has become a priest not on the basis of a regulation as to his ancestry but on the basis of the power of an indestructible life. <sup>17</sup> For it is declared:

‘You are a priest for ever,  
in the order of Melchizedek.’

<sup>18</sup> The former regulation is set aside because it was weak and useless <sup>19</sup> (for the law made nothing perfect), and a better hope is introduced, by which we draw near to God. <sup>20</sup> And it was not without an oath! Others became priests without any oath, <sup>21</sup> but he became a priest with an oath when God said to him:

‘The Lord has sworn  
and will not change his mind:  
“You are a priest for ever.”’

<sup>22</sup> Because of this oath, Jesus has become the guarantor of a better covenant.

<sup>23</sup> Now there have been many of those priests, since death prevented them from continuing in office; <sup>24</sup> but because Jesus lives for ever, he has a permanent priesthood. <sup>25</sup> Therefore he is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them.

<sup>26</sup> Such a high priest truly meets our need – one who is holy, blameless, pure, set apart from sinners, exalted above the heavens. <sup>27</sup> Unlike the other high priests, he does not need to offer sacrifices day after day, first for his own sins, and then for the sins of the people. He sacrificed for their sins once for all when he offered himself. <sup>28</sup> For the law appoints as high priests men in all their weakness; but the oath, which came after the law, appointed the Son, who has been made perfect for ever.

God has ascended amid shouts of joy.

**He is greatly exalted.**

## Intercessions

### Notices

#### Hymn

*The head that once was crowned*

1 The head that once was crowned with thorns  
is crowned with glory now:  
a royal diadem adorns  
the mighty victor's brow

2 The highest place that heav'n affords  
is his, is his by right.  
The King of kings and Lord of lords  
and heav'n's eternal light.

3 The joy of all who dwell above,  
the joy of all below,  
to whom he manifests his love,  
and grants his name to know.

4 They suffer with their Lord below,  
they reign with him above,  
their profit and their joy to know  
the myst'ry of his love.

5 The cross he bore is life and health,  
though shame and death to him;  
his people's hope, his people's wealth,  
their everlasting theme.

Thomas Kelly (1769-1855). CCLI Licence No. 1891688

**Sermon**

Hebrews 7:23-28

'The heavenly session of the ascended Christ'

*Mike Neville*

## Hymn

### *Christ triumphant*

(We take a collection during this hymn. People give in a variety of ways. Some may not be in a position to give. Please pass the plate on if that is appropriate for you. If you are a taxpayer, please use one of the Gift Aid envelopes in your pew, completing the information on the front. You can also give using the card reader located at the back of the church.)

1 Christ triumphant, ever reigning,  
Saviour, Master, King!  
Lord of heaven, our lives sustaining,  
hear us as we sing:

*Yours the glory and the crown,  
the high renown, the eternal name.*

2 Word incarnate, truth revealing,  
Son of Man on earth!  
power and majesty concealing  
by your humble birth:

*Yours the glory...*

3 Suffering servant, scorned, ill - treated,  
victim crucified!  
death is through the cross defeated,  
sinners justified:

*Yours the glory...*

4 Priestly king, enthroned for ever  
high in heaven above!  
sin and death and hell shall never  
stifle hymns of love:

*Yours the glory...*

5 So, our hearts and voices raising  
through the ages long,  
ceaselessly upon you gazing,  
this shall be our song:

*Yours the glory...*

## Closing Prayer

Seeing we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us offer him the praise worthy of his name.

Glory to our ascended Lord

**All: Who has gone before us to prepare a place for us.**

Glory to him who ever lives to intercede for us

**All: That we might draw near to God with full assurance.**

Glory to the pioneer and perfecter of our faith

**All: That we might run the race, eyes fixed on him.**

We set our hearts on things above

**All: Where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God in glory.**

## Blessing

### Organ Voluntary

*Toccata Giocosa - William Mathias*

## Notices

### **Church Supper and Guest Service - Sunday 17 May, 6.30pm**

This evening there will be an informal bring and share church supper after the evening service. The whole church family and friends are invited. The service beforehand will include a talk that will have guests in mind. If you are able to bring food or wine, or be on the welcome team, please get in touch with Sophie/Beurre at [sophie.butterfield@ssz.org.uk](mailto:sophie.butterfield@ssz.org.uk)

### **Painting in the Psalms**

On **7 June at 4-5:30pm in the church building**, our Ministry Trainee, Liv Jani, will be leading a seminar on the Psalms. We'll think about the book as a whole, consider a few specific psalms, and then paint to reflect. To express an interest please email [liv.jani@ssz.org.uk](mailto:liv.jani@ssz.org.uk).

### **Men Together at St Simon's - Saturday 13 June 10-11.30am**

We warmly invite men from both the morning and evening congregations to join us for a **men's breakfast** being held on Saturday 13 June in the church building. Breakfast will be followed by a short talk and discussion on Christian friendship. There will be space to chat and get to know each other better. Unfortunately, we are not able to provide childcare. For more information, speak to Tom Miller or Joe Ammoun. To let us know if you're coming, please contact Joe at [joe.ammoun@ssz.org.uk](mailto:joe.ammoun@ssz.org.uk).

### **Save the date: an evening with Tanya Ling**

On **Thursday 25 June at 7pm**, St Simon's is hosting an evening with Tanya Ling, in conversation about Christian faith and her life and work as an artist, designer and fashion illustrator. Save the date and look out for further details soon.

### **A Holiday with a difference - 17-24 July or 24-31 July**

The 'City Summer School' is a holiday week with Bible teaching, relaxation and fun, set in beautiful East Sussex. It is rather like the St Simon's Weekend Away but for seven days rather than two. There is an excellent children's programme led by experienced volunteers. Mike is giving the morning Bible teaching on both weeks, and Liz will be there for most of the two weeks. The second week is fairly fully booked but there are places on the first week. Visit <https://tinyurl.com/2u8zyt4b> for the brochure, or <https://tinyurl.com/3jnhscuw> for more details.

### **Confirmation service and baptism**

Bishop Rob Munro will be coming to our evening service on **Sunday 4 October** for a service of confirmation. If you have never been confirmed, or if you are an adult who has never been baptized, and you would like to know more, please get in touch with Joe between now and the end of May at [joe.ammoun@ssz.org.uk](mailto:joe.ammoun@ssz.org.uk).

### **Weekly email**

*Associate Vicar Joe Ammoun sends out a weekly email letter each Wednesday with church family news and a short reflection. If you don't currently receive this but would like to, please get in touch with Gloria at [gloria.skelsey@ssz.org.uk](mailto:gloria.skelsey@ssz.org.uk).*