



Episcopal Church *of the* Ascension
April 2, 2026 | 7:30 p.m.

Welcome to Church of the Ascension!

Whether you're a guest or a long-time member, you'll find a warm community emanating love for the uniqueness God has sown within each one of us. We hope the notes below will help guide and connect you to this community.

Connect cards are in the pews, at the Welcome Center, and can be accessed through our website. Most weeks, we send an email which includes announcements, events, and information about worship. If you are a guest, please complete the Connect card, drop it in the collection plate on your way out, leave it with a greeter at the Welcome Center, or press "Send" if you fill it out online. We'd appreciate the opportunity to follow up with you. Members can use these cards to update information, as well.

A few notes to help you prepare for worship:

- Sit and breathe. The world around us is often in a hurry, so take a moment as you arrive to be present to the space and others who are here to worship God. It may also help to silence cell phones or other devices that can be distracting.
- Prepare to pray. This bulletin is your guide: review it. We hope you will join us in prayer and song, but simply being present to the worship is always an option.
- Children are an important part of our community, and they are always welcome in worship. We offer Children's Chapel at the 10:30 a.m. service as a space just for young people (ages 3 and up) to engage in worship at their own pace. To join in, simply follow the Children's Chapel processional cross during the singing of the opening hymn. We will return to the Nave at the Passing of the Peace!
- Weekly materials for creative worship are available for children of all ages in the Narthex; ask an usher or greeter if you need help. It's our hope that you will return the materials to the Welcome Desk when you leave so that children can enjoy them week-to-week.
- The sacraments are important to us. In the Episcopal Church, Christ is present in the consecrated bread and wine. All baptized Christians are welcome to receive communion. First, you will receive the host (gluten free is available upon request). You can consume this then sip from the chalice, or you may leave the host in your hand, and our lay eucharistic minister will intinct (dip) the host and place it back in your hand. If you are not baptized or do not wish to receive communion, we invite you to come forward for a blessing (please cross your arms over your chest), or remain in your pew.
- As the service ends, some may remain where they are to pray; others will move to the Narthex - the open area just outside our sanctuary - to greet one another and visit. A tour of the church facilities is offered the first Sunday of each month after the 10:30 a.m. worship, as well.
- For those with hearing aids or Cochlear Implants, our Nave has a hearing loop. You can access the loop by activating the telecoil function in your device, if you would like more information or need assistance connecting, please let us know.

OPENING VOLUNTARY

THE WORD OF GOD

Please stand if able

HYMN 577: Blue Hymnal

God is love

Ubi Caritas (Murray)

God is love, and where true love is God himself is there.
Here in Christ we gather, love of Christ our calling.
Christ, our love, is with us, gladness be his greeting.
Let us fear and love him, holy God eternal.
Loving him, let each love Christ in one another.
God is love, and where true love is God himself is there.

When we Christians gather, members of one Body,
Let there be in us no discord but one spirit.
Banished now be anger, strife and every quarrel.
Christ, our God, be always present here among us.
God is love, and where true love is God himself is there.

Grant us love's fulfillment, joy with all the blessed,
When we see your face, O Savior, in its glory.
Shine on us, O purest Light of all creation,
Be our bliss while endless ages sing your praises.
God is love, and where true love is God himself is there.

The Celebrant says

Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

His mercy endures forever.

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Almighty Father, whose dear Son, on the night before he suffered, instituted the Sacrament of his Body and Blood: Mercifully grant that we may receive it thankfully in remembrance of Jesus Christ our Lord, who in these holy mysteries gives us a pledge of eternal life; and who now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Please be seated

FIRST READING

Exodus 12:1-14

The LORD said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt: This month shall mark for you the beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year for you. Tell the whole congregation of Israel that on the tenth of this month they are to take a lamb for each family, a lamb for each household. If a household is too small for a whole lamb, it shall join its closest neighbor in obtaining one; the lamb shall be divided in proportion to the number of people who eat of it. Your lamb shall be without blemish, a year-old male; you may take it from the sheep or from the goats. You shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month; then the whole assembled congregation of Israel shall slaughter it at twilight. They shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses in which they eat it. They shall eat the lamb that same night; they shall eat it roasted over the fire with unleavened bread and bitter herbs. Do not eat any of it raw or boiled in water, but roasted over the fire, with its head, legs, and inner organs. You shall let none of it remain until the morning; anything that remains until the morning you shall burn. This is how you shall eat it: your loins girded, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and you shall eat it hurriedly. It is the passover of the LORD. For I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike down every firstborn in the land of Egypt, both human beings and animals; on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments: I am the LORD. The blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you live: when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague shall destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt. This day shall be a day of remembrance for you. You shall celebrate it as a festival to the LORD; throughout your generations you shall observe it as a perpetual ordinance.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 116:1,10-17

**1 I love the LORD, because he has heard the voice of my supplication, *
because he has inclined his ear to me whenever I called upon him.**

- 10 **How shall I repay the LORD ***
for all the good things he has done for me?
- 11 **I will lift up the cup of salvation ***
and call upon the Name of the LORD.
- 12 **I will fulfill my vows to the LORD ***
in the presence of all his people.
- 13 **Precious in the sight of the LORD ***
is the death of his servants.
- 14 **O LORD, I am your servant; ***
I am your servant and the child of your handmaid;
you have freed me from my bonds.
- 15 **I will offer you the sacrifice of thanksgiving ***
and call upon the Name of the LORD.
- 16 **I will fulfill my vows to the LORD ***
in the presence of all his people,
- 17 **In the courts of the LORD'S house, ***
in the midst of you, O Jerusalem.

SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 11:23-26

I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same way he took the cup also, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Please stand

THE GOSPEL

John 13:1-17, 31b-35

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Before the festival of the Passover, Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart from this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. The devil had already put it into the heart of Judas son of Simon Iscariot to betray him. And during supper Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going to God, got up from the table, took off his outer robe, and tied a towel around himself. Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was tied around him. He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?" Jesus answered, "You do not know now what I am doing, but later you will understand." Peter said to him, "You will never wash my feet." Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no share with me." Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!" Jesus said to him, "One who has bathed does not need to wash, except for the feet, but is entirely clean. And you are clean, though not all of you." For he knew who was to betray him; for this reason he said, "Not all of you are clean." After he had washed their feet, had put on his robe, and had returned to the table, he said to them, "Do you know what I have done to you? You call me Teacher and Lord—and you are right, for that is what I am. So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you. Very truly, I tell you, servants are not greater than their master, nor are messengers greater than the one who sent them. If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them. Jesus said, "Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, 'Where I am going, you cannot come.' I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

THE SERMON

The Rev. Oliver M. Butler

Please be seated

FOOT WASHING CEREMONY

The Celebrant says

Fellow servants of our Lord Jesus Christ: On the night before his death, Jesus set an example for his disciples by washing their feet, an act of humble service. He taught that strength and growth in the life of the Kingdom of God come not by power, authority, or even miracle, but by such lowly service. We all need to remember his example, but none stand more in need of this reminder than those whom the Lord has called to the ministry of leadership, whether lay or ordained.

Therefore, I invite you who share in the royal priesthood of Christ, to come forward, that the clergy may recall whose servants we are by following the example of our Master. But come remembering his admonition that what will be done for you is also to be done by you to others, for “a servant is not greater than his master, nor is one who is sent greater than the one who sent him. If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them.”

All are welcome to come forward to take part in the foot washing. You may take off one or both shoes to do so. Many choose to stay to wash the feet of the next person as well.

ANTHEM

Mandatum

Peter Latona

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Celebrant On this night, the Lord Jesus was handed over to sinners. Let us pray to his Father on behalf of all for whom he died, saying: God, who walked in love among us, have mercy on us.

Leader Clarify your church’s insight into your presence in the world and enable every human being to see in our fellowship the sign of your new covenant. God, who walked in love among us,

All Have mercy on us.

Leader Teach our national and local leaders the power of humility and enable them to work selflessly for the good of all. God, who walked in love among us,

All Have mercy on us.

Leader Reconcile the divided Christian churches and grant peace to nations and religious groups hostile to one another. God, who walked in love among us,

All Have mercy on us.

Leader Come to the aid of the earth's starving peoples and give them their rightful share of the food you lavish on all your creatures. God, who walked in love among us,

All Have mercy on us.

Leader Heal the bodies of the wounded and diseased. Heal the hearts of those betrayed by their loved ones. God, who walked in love among us,

All Have mercy on us.

Leader Forgive the sins of this people which calls on you; let the bread we break and the cup we drink save us from evil and free us to obey your word. God, who walked in love among us,

All Have mercy on us.

Celebrant God our Savior, hear the prayers of your people, gathered to honor your Son as we seek to follow in His way. Pour forth on all humankind your blessings of life, harmony, and true freedom, through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE PEACE

The Peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

All may greet one another in the name of the Lord

THE HOLY COMMUNION

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING:

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER B

The Book of Common Prayer (Red), p. 367

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People We lift them up to the Lord.

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People It is right to give him thanks and praise.

The Celebrant continues

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord. For our sins he was lifted high upon the cross, that he might draw the whole world to himself; and, by his suffering and death, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who put their trust in him.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who forever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

HYMN S129: Blue Hymnal *Holy, Holy, Holy Lord (Sanctus)*

Robert Powell

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

The Celebrant continues

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

**We remember his death,
We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory;**

The Celebrant continues

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Celebrant And now, as our Savior has taught us, we are bold to say,

**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, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.**

Celebrant Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People **Therefore let us keep the feast.**

HYMN S161: Blue Hymnal *Lamb of God (Agnus Dei)* from *New Plainsong* David Hurd

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:

Have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:

Have mercy on us.

Lamb of God you take away the sins of the world:

Grant us peace.

MINISTRATION OF COMMUNION

As you prepare to receive the sacrament, extending both hands indicates you'd like to receive the intincted (dipped into the wine) host (bread). If you prefer to receive the host alone, simply point at the clergy person as they stand before you. Our tradition teaches that if you receive either (bread or wine) you have received in full.

HYMN 315: Blue Hymnal

Thou, who at thy first Eucharist didst pray

Song 1

Thou, who at thy first eucharist didst pray
That all thy Church might be for ever one,
Grant us at every Eucharist to say
With longing heart and soul, "Thy will be done."
O may we all one bread, one body be,
Through this blest sacrament of unity.

For all thy Church, O Lord, we intercede;
Make thou our sad divisions soon to cease;
Draw us the nearer each to each, we plead,
By drawing all to thee, O Prince of Peace;
Thus may we all one bread, one body be,
Through this blest sacrament of unity.

So, Lord, at length when sacraments shall cease,
May we be one with all thy Church above,
One with thy saints in one unbroken peace,
One with thy saints in one unbounded love;
More blessed still, in peace and love to be
One with the Trinity in Unity.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Celebrant Let us pray.

Almighty and everliving God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

BLESSING

Almighty God, we pray you graciously to behold this your family, for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed, and given into the hands of sinners, and to suffer death upon the cross; who lives and reigns for ever and ever. **Amen.**

STRIPPING OF THE ALTAR

During the stripping of the altar, the congregation reads the antiphon and continues with the reading of Psalm 22.

Antiphon **They divide my garments among them; they cast lots for my clothing.**

PSALM 22

The Book of Common Prayer (Red), p. 610

- 1 My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? *
and are so far from my cry and from the words of my distress?**
- 2 O my God, I cry in the daytime, but you do not answer; *
by night as well, but I find no rest.**
- 3 Yet you are the Holy One, *
enthroned upon the praises of Israel.**
- 4 Our forefathers put their trust in you; *
they trusted, and you delivered them.**
- 5 They cried out to you and were delivered; *
they trusted in you and were not put to shame.**
- 6 But as for me, I am a worm and no man, *
scorned by all and despised by the people.**
- 7 All who see me laugh me to scorn; *
they curl their lips and wag their heads, saying,**
- 8 "He trusted in the Lord; let him deliver him; *
let him rescue him, if he delights in him."**
- 9 Yet you are he who took me out of the womb, *
and kept me safe upon my mother's breast.**

- 10 I have been entrusted to you ever since I was born; *
you were my God when I was still in my mother's womb.
- 11 Be not far from me, for trouble is near, *
and there is none to help.
- 12 Many young bulls encircle me; *
strong bulls of Bashan surround me.
- 13 They open wide their jaws at me, *
like a ravening and a roaring lion.
- 14 I am poured out like water; all my bones are out of joint; *
my heart within my breast is melting wax.
- 15 My mouth is dried out like a pot-sherd;
my tongue sticks to the roof of my mouth; *
and you have laid me in the dust of the grave.
- 16 Packs of dogs close me in, and gangs of evildoers circle around me; *
they pierce my hands and my feet; I can count all my bones.
- 17 They stare and gloat over me; *
they divide my garments among them; they cast lots for my clothing.
- 18 Be not far away, O Lord; *
you are my strength; hasten to help me.
- 19 Save me from the sword, *
my life from the power of the dog.
- 20 Save me from the lion's mouth, *
my wretched body from the horns of wild bulls.
- 21 I will declare your Name to my brethren; *
in the midst of the congregation I will praise you.
- 22 Praise the Lord, you that fear him; *
stand in awe of him, O offspring of Israel;
all you of Jacob's line, give glory.

- 23 For he does not despise nor abhor the poor in their poverty;
neither does he hide his face from them; *
but when they cry to him he hears them.
- 24 My praise is of him in the great assembly; *
I will perform my vows in the presence of those who worship him.
- 25 The poor shall eat and be satisfied,
and those who seek the Lord shall praise him: *
"May your heart live for ever!"
- 26 All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord, *
and all the families of the nations shall bow before him.
- 27 For kingship belongs to the Lord; *
he rules over the nations.
- 28 To him alone all who sleep in the earth bow down in worship; *
all who go down to the dust fall before him.
- 29 My soul shall live for him; my descendants shall serve him; *
they shall be known as the Lord's for ever.
- 30 They shall come and make known to a people yet unborn *
the saving deeds that he has done.

Antiphon They divide my garments among them; they cast lots for my clothing.

HYMN

*Stay here, and keep watch with me
You are invited to sing this ostinato refrain in harmony.*

Jacques Berthier



Stay here and keep watch with me. The hour has come.



Stay here and keep watch with me. Watch and pray.

*When the music has concluded and the stripping of the altar is complete,
there follows a silent procession.*

Where possible, we encourage you to continue some time of silence as this service concludes.

While departing this service in silence may challenge us, it is often poignant as well.

Our Prayer List

Brandon & Becky; Riley, Aaron, & Kelli; Kathy; Monique; Julia; Carol; Krista; Mac; Kirk; Ron; Pete; John; Lyn; Susan; Marcy; Cheryl; Michelle; Theresa; Carrie; Tom; Daniel; Don & Susy; Krystal & Newman; Tom; Matthew; Denise; Mason; June; Linda, Emma, & family; Jim; Susan; the Gould family; Nancy; Lani; Sadie; Craig; Gary; Mike & Ginner; Alice; Stephanie; Jason; Kerry & Damien; Joe & Betty; Zyllynda; Yolanda; Kevin; Earl; Alexis; Sally; Helen; Jacqueline; Jamie; Robert; Jude; Amy; Richard; Paulette; Jerry; Spence; Eric; Colleen; Wes; Glen & Dusty; George; Trish; Titus & Theresa; Judy & Alfred; Suzan; Kenn; Adrian; David; Eva Maria; Taylon; Linda; Greg; Jack & Karen; Lupita & Krys; George & Sue.



**EPISCOPAL CHURCH
OF THE
ASCENSION**

The Rev. Oliver M. Butler, Interim Rector
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Glenn Stroh
Interim Organist and Choirmaster

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The Vestry
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Kathleen Rylander, Junior Warden

Jane Taber, Clerk of the Vestry

Aaron Husman, Treasurer

Anne Burgdorf Moisuk

Ginger Greenberg

Diane Haack

Michelle Heron

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