



SEVENTEENTH
SUNDAY AFTER
Pentecost

Episcopal Church *of the Ascension*
September 20, 2026 | 8:00 & 10:30 a.m.

Welcome!

Thank you for worshipping with us today! The mission of the Church of the Ascension is to restore all people to unity with God and each other, and we joyfully welcome all people into our life and fellowship. We strive to be a radically-inclusive community with diverse and vibrant worship, intentionally-focused on children and youth, caring for each other, and on being the hands and feet of Christ in all that we do.

To help us welcome you, please take a moment to complete a connect card, located in your pew, then place it in the collection plate. Virtual cards are also available on the website.

	Ushers can guide you to the most convenient restrooms. A unisex restroom is available in the Narthex (foyer).
	Ask an usher if you would like a hearing assistance device.
	Our professionally staffed nursery is open. An usher can help direct you.
	Help us get to know you. Visit the welcome desk for a nametag.
	Help us remain a place where everyone feels seen, valued, and uplifted. We encourage you to greet and welcome those in front of you, behind you, and in your pew.

The Holy Eucharist

Opening Voluntary

10:30 only

Awake, awake to love and work

Wilbur Held

Welcome

Please stand, as you are able, as the procession enters the nave.

Processional Hymn

Verses 4-6

10:30 only

Awake, awake to love and work

The Hymnal 9

Opening Acclamation

Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

Collect for Purity

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 Song of Praise

Spoken at 8:00

Gloria in excelsis

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father,
We worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God,
You take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us;
You are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer.
For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,
You alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,
In the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Sung at 10:30

Earth and all stars

Verses 1 & 5

The Hymnal 412

Collect of the Day

Presider The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Presider Let us pray.

Grant us, Lord, not to be anxious about earthly things, but to love things heavenly; and even now, while we are placed among things that are passing away, to hold fast to those that shall endure; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Please be seated.

First Lesson

Jonah 3:10-4:11

When God saw what the people of Nineveh did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it.

But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. He prayed to the LORD and said, "O LORD! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning; for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and ready to relent from punishing. And now, O LORD, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live." And the LORD said, "Is it right for you to be angry?" Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city, and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of the city.

The LORD God appointed a bush, and made it come up over Jonah, to give shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort; so Jonah was very happy about the bush. But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. When the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that he might die. He said, "It is better for me to die than to live."

But God said to Jonah, "Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?" And he said, "Yes, angry enough to die." Then the LORD said, "You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labor and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night. And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are

more than a hundred and twenty thousand persons who do not know their right hand from their left, and also many animals?”

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm

145:1-8

I will exalt you, O God my King, *

and bless your Name for ever and ever.

Every day will I bless you *

and praise your Name for ever and ever.

Great is the LORD and greatly to be praised; *

there is no end to his greatness.

One generation shall praise your works to another *

and shall declare your power.

I will ponder the glorious splendor of your majesty *

and all your marvelous works.

They shall speak of the might of your wondrous acts, *

and I will tell of your greatness.

They shall publish the remembrance of your great goodness; *

they shall sing of your righteous deeds.

The LORD is gracious and full of compassion, *

slow to anger and of great kindness.

Second Lesson

Philippians 1:21-30

To me, living is Christ and dying is gain. If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which I prefer. I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again.

Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel, and are in no way intimidated by your opponents. For them this is evidence of their destruction, but of your

salvation. And this is God's doing. For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well--since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Please stand, as you are able.

Sequence Hymn

Eternal ruler of the ceaseless round

The Hymnal 617

10:30 only

Gospel

Matthew 20:1-16

Presider The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Jesus said, "The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; and he said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.' So they went. When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, 'Why are you standing here idle all day?' They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard.' When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, 'Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.' When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, saying, 'These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.' But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?' So the last will be first, and the first will be last."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Please be seated.

Sermon

The Rev. Victoria Heard

Please stand, as you are able.

Nicene Creed

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 and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped 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 of the People

Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church;
That we all may be one.

Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;
That your Name may be glorified by all people.

We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons;
That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.

We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;
That there may be justice and peace on the earth.

Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;
That our works may find favor in your sight.

Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;
That they may be delivered from their distress.

Give to the departed eternal rest.
Let light perpetual shine upon them.

We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;
May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others. (*Prayers may be offered silently or aloud.*)

Silence

Please kneel, as you are able.

Confession

Presider Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

All Most merciful God,
**we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word and deed, by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will,
and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

Presider Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

The Peace

Presider The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

The Offertory

You may scan this code to make a one-time offering:



Celebrant Live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ and stand firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel.

Please be seated.

Anthem

I will arise

Parker/Shaw

10:30 only

I will arise and go to Jesus. He will embrace me in his arms.
In the arms of my dear Savior, Oh! there are ten thousand charms.

Teach me some melodious sonnet Sung by flaming tongues above.
Praise the mount. I'm fixed upon it, Mount of thy redeeming love.

Come, thou fount of every blessing. Tune my heart to sing thy grace.
Streams of mercy never ceasing Call for songs of loudest praise.

I will arise and go to Jesus. He will embrace me in his arms.
In the arms of my dear Savior, Oh! there are ten thousand charms.

Please stand, as you are able.

The Great Thanksgiving

Prayer C

The Lord be 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 him thanks and praise.

God of all power, Ruler of the Universe, you are worthy of glory and praise.

Glory to you for ever and ever.

At your command all things came to be: the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses, and this fragile earth, our island home.

By your will they were created and have their being.

From the primal elements you brought forth the human race, and blessed us with memory, reason, and skill. You made us the rulers of creation. But we turned against you, and betrayed your trust; and we turned against one another.

Have mercy, Lord, for we are sinners in your sight.

Again and again, you called us to return. Through prophets and sages you revealed your righteous Law. And in the fullness of time you sent your only Son, born of a woman, to fulfill your Law, to open for us the way of freedom and peace.

By his blood, he reconciled us. By his wounds, we are healed.

And therefore we praise you, joining with the heavenly chorus, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all those in every generation who have looked to you in hope, to proclaim with them your glory, in their unending hymn:

Sanctus

The Hymnal S124

Spoken at 8:00; sung at 10:30

***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 presider continues the prayer and then says:

Remembering now his work of redemption, and offering to you this sacrifice of thanksgiving,

We celebrate his death and resurrection, as we await the day of his coming

Lord God of our Fathers: God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ: Open our eyes to see your hand at work in the world about us. Deliver us from the presumption of coming to this Table for solace only, and not for strength; for pardon only, and not for renewal. Let the grace of this Holy Communion make us one body, one spirit in Christ, that we may worthily serve the world in his name.

Risen Lord, be known to us in the breaking of the Bread.

Accept these prayers and praises, Father, through Jesus Christ our great High Priest, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, your Church gives honor, glory, and worship, from generation to generation. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

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

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

The Breaking of the Bread

After the Bread is broken, silence is kept.

Spoken at 8:00

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

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

Sung at 10:30

The Hymnal S 154

Communion of the People

Please follow the instructions of the ushers. All who are baptized by water and in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, regardless of denomination, are invited to receive Communion. Those who are not baptized, or who choose not to receive for any reason, are invited forward to the altar rail to receive a blessing, indicated by crossing your arms over your chest. To indicate your desire to receive a gluten-free host, hold out your hands together, palms down. There is something for everyone at God's table today.

Communion Voluntary

Variations on Ora Labora

Gerre Hancock

10:30 only

Please stand or kneel, as you are able.

Postcommunion Prayer

Celebrant Let us pray.

All **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.**

Please stand.

On Sundays when we send visitors to the homebound or ill, the service continues:

Sending Forth of the Eucharistic Visitors

Celebrant In the name of this congregation, I send you forth bearing these holy gifts, that those to whom you go may share with us in the communion of Christ's body and blood.

All **We who are many are one body, because we all share one bread, one cup.**

Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you this day and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Processional Hymn

Come labor on

The Hymnal 541

10:30 only

Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Closing Voluntary

Psalm 19

Benedetto Marcello

10:30 only

Our Prayer List

Our Members Richard; Patrick; Becca; Helen; Craig & Kay; Lisa; Mike; Joe & Betty; Jim & Gayle; Phil; Brad & Janie; Pat; Daniel; Alice.

Our Friends & Family Carolyn; Manali, Leo, Milan and Mayo; Jody; Cooper; Betty; The Felicito family; Terry; Morrigan; Tracey; Rebecca; Steve; Katara; Mary; Blake; Michael; Evyonne; Brandon & Becky; Aaron & Kelli; Monique; Mac; Kirk; Ron; Susan; Marcy; Cheryl; Michelle; Carrie; Kenn; Karen; Lani; Gary; Greg; Colleen; Krystal & Newman; Eric; Judy & Alfred; Nancy; Spence; Linda & Emma; Sadie; Zylynda; Jacqueline; George; George & Sue; Titus; Richard; Alexis; Taylon; Gould Family; Jamie; Trish; Paulette; Eva; Mason; Lupita & family; Charles & John.

For the homeless and those in need; for migrants and refugees at our border and around the world, especially Juan, Jose, Pedro, Ayoub, Ayoub, Nakisa, Afsaneh, Evaristo, Mo, Barbod, Milad, Sahel, Farshid, Amir, Blas Bautista, and their families; for the people of Ukraine, Israel, Iran, and Gaza and those who seek help from war; and for those who face threats of violence. For all those affected by extreme heat and wildfires around the globe — the victims, their loved ones, and the communities enduring hardship — as well as the dedicated individuals and organizations involved in ongoing relief efforts. Awaken us to our common humanity.

Upcoming Events & Notices

LINDA STARR IS 75!

Today | Sunday, September 20, Celebration After 10:30 a.m. service

Join us as we celebrate Linda Starr's 75th birthday with a display of her collages and a party. Linda has been part of Ascension for almost 20 years. A retired CPA, she lost the use of her right side and her voice to a stroke in 2011, and since then, collage has become her language. Come see her work and wish her a happy birthday!

FORMATION FOR ALL AGES

Sundays | 9:15 a.m.



Our season of formation for all ages and stages has begun. Adults have one more week of the Nicene Creed with Mtr. Rebecca, followed by a seven-week study of Women in the Old Testament. The men of Ascension will dig into Adam Hamilton's *The Walk* starting this Sunday exploring five essential practices rooted in Jesus' own walk with God. Kids can join Godly Play (Pre-K–2nd grade) or Journeying Through the Gospels (3rd–6th grade), and youth (6th–12th grade) gather for Bible study, service, and community. Scan the QR code above for the full list.

TRUNK OR TREAT CANDY COLLECTION

Collecting starts today, September 20



Our Annual Trunk or Treat is Sunday, October 25th, and we're collecting candy for those decorating their car trunks for this special day! Look for the donation bin in the Narthex. You can bring bags of candy yourself, or have Amazon ship them straight to us. (Scan the QR code.) Every bag helps make the night special for our kids and neighbors. Thank you for filling the trunks, we hope to see you there in costume! All ages are welcome!

BITES WITHOUT BORDERS Annual Potluck Dinner

Saturday, October 3 | 6:00 p.m.

Join us Saturday, October 3, for our annual fall potluck! Bring an international dish to share: German sausages, Chinese egg rolls, Indian curry, whatever tells your story. Vegetarian, vegan, and gluten-free dishes welcome. Doors open at 6 pm, food at 6:30, with drinks, games, and prizes provided. Bring a dish, bring your family, bring your appetite!

BLESSING OF THE PETS

Sunday, October 4 | 4:00 p.m.

Bring your furry, feathered, and scaled friends to Ascension on Sunday, October 4 at 4:00 p.m. for our annual Blessing of the Pets, a tradition tied to the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi, patron saint of animals. All well-behaved pets and their people are welcome.



EPISCOPAL CHURCH
OF THE
ASCENSION

The Rev. Rebecca Tankersley
Rector

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Glenn Stroh
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
Ginger Greenberg
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