



SECOND SUNDAY  
IN  
*Lent*

Episcopal Church *of the Ascension*

March 16, 2025 | 10:30 a.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 two emails which include 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 3-9) 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 to sing the hymn*

HYMN 401: Blue Hymnal

*The God of Abraham Praise*

*Leoni*

The God of Abraham praise, who reigns enthroned above;  
Ancient of everlasting days, and God of love;  
The Lord, the great I AM, by earth and heaven confessed:  
We bow and bless the sacred Name for ever blest.

He by himself hath sworn: we on his oath depend;  
We shall, on eagle wings upborne, to heaven ascend:  
We shall behold his face, we shall his power adore,  
And sing the wonders of his grace for evermore.

There dwells the Lord, our King, the Lord, our Righteousness,  
Triumphant o'er the world and sin, the Prince of Peace;  
On Zion's sacred height his kingdom he maintains,  
And, glorious with his saints in light, forever reigns.

The God who reigns on high the great archangels sing,  
And "Holy, holy, holy," cry, "Almighty King!  
Who was, and is, the same, and evermore shall be:  
Eternal Father, great I AM, we worship thee."

The whole triumphant host give thanks to God on high;  
"Hail, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost" they ever cry;  
Hail, Abraham's Lord divine! With heaven our songs we raise;  
All might and majesty are thine, and endless praise.

*The people standing, the Celebrant says*

OPENING ACCLAMATION

Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

**His mercy endures for ever.**

Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal One,

**Have mercy upon us.**

## THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray.

**O God, whose glory it is always to have mercy: Be gracious to all who have gone astray from your ways, and bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of your Word, Jesus Christ your Son; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.**

*Please be seated*

## FIRST READING

Genesis 15:1-12,17-18

The word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision, "Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great." But Abram said, "O Lord God, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" And Abram said, "You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir." But the word of the Lord came to him, "This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir." He brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your descendants be." And he believed the Lord; and the Lord reckoned it to him as righteousness. Then he said to him, "I am the Lord who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to possess." But he said, "O Lord God, how am I to know that I shall possess it?" He said to him, "Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtledove, and a young pigeon." He brought him all these and cut them in two, laying each half over against the other; but he did not cut the birds in two. And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away. As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram, and a deep and terrifying darkness descended upon him. When the sun had gone down and it was dark, a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces. On that day the Lord made a covenant with Abram, saying, "To your descendants I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates."

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Please read together in unison*

PSALM 27

- 1     **The Lord is my light and my salvation;  
whom then shall I fear? \***  
          **the Lord is the strength of my life;  
of whom then shall I be afraid?**
- 2     **When evildoers came upon me to eat up my flesh, \***  
          **it was they, my foes and my adversaries, who stumbled and fell.**
- 3     **Though an army should encamp against me, \***  
          **yet my heart shall not be afraid;**
- 4     **And though war should rise up against me, \***  
          **yet will I put my trust in him.**
- 5     **One thing have I asked of the Lord; one thing I seek; \***  
          **that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life;**
- 6     **To behold the fair beauty of the Lord \***  
          **and to seek him in his temple.**
- 7     **For in the day of trouble he shall keep me safe in his shelter; \***  
          **he shall hide me in the secrecy of his dwelling  
and set me high upon a rock.**
- 8     **Even now he lifts up my head \***  
          **above my enemies round about me.**
- 9     **Therefore I will offer in his dwelling an oblation  
with sounds of great gladness; \***  
          **I will sing and make music to the Lord.**
- 10    **Hearken to my voice, O Lord, when I call; \***  
          **have mercy on me and answer me.**
- 11    **You speak in my heart and say, "Seek my face." \***  
          **Your face, Lord, will I seek.**

- 12 **Hide not your face from me, \***  
**nor turn away your servant in displeasure.**
- 13 **You have been my helper; cast me not away; \***  
**do not forsake me, O God of my salvation.**
- 14 **Though my father and my mother forsake me, \***  
**the Lord will sustain me.**
- 15 **Show me your way, O Lord; \***  
**lead me on a level path, because of my enemies.**
- 16 **Deliver me not into the hand of my adversaries, \***  
**for false witnesses have risen up against me,**  
**and also those who speak malice.**
- 17 **What if I had not believed that I should see the goodness of the Lord \***  
**in the land of the living!**
- 18 **O tarry and await the Lord's pleasure;**  
**be strong, and he shall comfort your heart; \***  
**wait patiently for the Lord.**

*Please be seated*

**SECOND READING**

Philippians 3:17-4:1

Brothers and sisters, join in imitating me, and observe those who live according to the example you have in us. For many live as enemies of the cross of Christ; I have often told you of them, and now I tell you even with tears. Their end is destruction; their god is the belly; and their glory is in their shame; their minds are set on earthly things. But our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. He will transform the body of our humiliation that it may be conformed to the body of his glory, by the power that also enables him to make all things subject to himself. Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand*

HYMN 495: Blue Hymnal

*Hail, thou once despised Jesus!*

*In Babilone*

Hail, thou once despised Jesus! Hail, thou Galilean King!  
Thou didst suffer to release us; thou didst free salvation bring.  
Hail, thou universal Savior, bearer of our sin and shame!  
By thy merit we find favor: life is given through thy Name.

Paschal Lamb, by God appointed, all our sins on thee were laid:  
By almighty love anointed, thou has full atonement made.  
All thy people are forgiven through the virtue of thy blood:  
Opened is the gate of heaven, reconciled are we with God.

Jesus, hail! enthroned in glory, there for ever to abide;  
All the heavenly hosts adore thee, seated at thy Father's side.  
There for sinners thou art pleading: there thou dost our place prepare;  
Ever for us interceding, till in glory we appear.

Worship, honor, power, and blessing thou are worthy to receive;  
Highest praises, without ceasing, right it is for us to give.  
Help, ye bright angelic spirits, all your noblest anthems raise;  
Help to sing our Savior's merits, help to chant Emmanuel's praise!

*Please remain standing*

THE GOSPEL

Luke 13:31-35

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

**Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Some Pharisees came and said to Jesus, "Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you." He said to them, "Go and tell that fox for me, 'Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work. Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed outside of Jerusalem.' Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, 'Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.'"

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

THE SERMON

*Please be seated*

The Rev. Paul Klitzke

*Please stand if able*

THE NICENE CREED

The Book of Common Prayer (Red), p. 358

**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.**

*Please remain standing*

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Celebrant: In this holy season of Lent, let us turn to God in prayer, saying: Lord, have mercy.

Leader: For the catechumens and for all the holy people of God (*silence*), that we may heed the voice of the Lord and reform our ways and our deeds, let us pray to the Lord.

**All: Lord, have mercy.**



Leader: For the peoples and leaders of nations (*silence*), that we may preserve and care for the blessings of this world, let us pray to the Lord.

**All: Lord, have mercy.**

Leader: For outcasts and those without home or land (*silence*), that a place of refuge, shelter, and belonging will be theirs, let us pray to the Lord.

**All: Lord, have mercy.**

Leader: For this community (*silence*), that God may grant us the grace to lift our minds above the things of earth and to stand firm in the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.

**All: Lord, have mercy.**

Leader: For our own needs and those of others (*please join us by offering your own prayers, aloud or in the quiet of your heart*), that we may find shelter and protection under God's wings, let us pray to the Lord.

**All: Lord, have mercy.**

Celebrant: Come to our aid, Lord God, and grant, by your grace, that we may walk in the footsteps of the crucified Lord and so come with him to the glory you have promised. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

**All: Amen.**

CONFESSION OF SIN AND ABSOLUTION The Book of Common Prayer (Red), p. 360

Celebrant: 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.**

Celebrant: 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

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 OFFERTORY

*The Offertory is a time for us to offer ourselves, souls and bodies, and gifts of money, bread, wine, music and meditation to the Lord. Representatives of the congregation bring the people's offerings to the clergy. The people stand while the offerings are presented.*

### ANTHEM

*I Will Arise*

*arr. Alice Parker & Robert Shaw*

*Please stand*

### 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; who was tempted in every way as we are, yet did not sin. By his grace we are able to triumph over every evil, and to live no longer for ourselves alone, but for him who died for us and rose again.

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

HYMN S128: Blue Hymnal

*Holy, Holy, Holy Lord (Sanctus)*

William Mathias

*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,

**All    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.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

The Book of Common Prayer (Red), p. 364

Celebrant And now, as our Savior Christ 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.**

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

ANTHEM

*Plenty Good Room*

arr. John Horman

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.**

SOLEMN PRAYER

O Lord our God, grant us grace to desire you with our whole heart; that desiring you, we may seek you; that seeking you, we may find you; and that finding you, we may love you; that loving you, we may hate those sins from which you have delivered us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*Please stand*

HYMN 598: Blue Hymnal     *Lord Christ, when first thou cam'st*     *Mit Freuden zart*

Lord Christ, when first thou cam'st to earth, upon a cross they bound thee,  
And mocked thy saving kingship then by thorns with which they crowned thee:  
And still our wrongs may weave thee now new thorns to pierce that steady brow,  
And robe of sorrow round thee.

O awful Love, which found no room in life where sin denied thee,  
And, doomed to death, must bring to doom the powers which crucified thee,  
Till not a stone was left on stone, and all those nations' pride, o'er-thrown,  
Went down to dust beside thee!

New advent of the love of Christ, shall we again refuse thee,  
Till in the night of hate and war we perish as we lose thee?  
From old unfaith our souls release to seek the kingdom of thy peace,  
By which alone we choose thee.

O wounded hands of Jesus, build in us thy new creation;  
Our pride is dust, our vaunt is stilled, we wait thy revelation:  
O love that triumphs over loss, we bring our hearts before thy cross,  
To finish thy salvation.

THE DISMISSAL

Let us bless the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

*During Lent, it is customary to refrain from speaking or singing the word "Alleluia".  
The organ will be silent at the end of these services until  
the Easter Vigil, the first service of Easter.  
This year our Vigil will begin at 7:30 PM on April 19, 2025.  
Please consider joining us at the Easter Vigil  
for the lighting of "The Light of Christ", the singing of the "Exsultet",  
and the readings which chronicle God's saving deeds in history.*

## *Our Prayer List*

Linsday; Vernal; Hester; Orlando; Julian; Earl; Wesley; Alexis; Lucy; Mary Ann; Patrick; Gary, Tommie; Sally; Joe; Frances; Helen; Jacqueline; Blake & Anne; Jamie; Greg; Robert; Jude; Amy; Richard; Paul; Kent, Mary Jo; Paulette; Joell; Jerry; Spence; Alison; Eric; Colleen; Manali, Leo, Milan; Wes; Phil and Sandy; Roger; Glen and Dusty; George and Nancy; Joe; Jerry; Terry and Jan; Trish; Rosemary and John; Gloria; Titus & Theresa; Lani; Elliott and Suzanne; Judy and Alfred; Suzan; Kenn; Adrian; Maureen; Janie; Steve; Deborah; David; Marla; Quinta; Eva Maria; Lynda; Taylon; Fred; Linda; Greg; Jennifer; Jack & Karen; Lupita Pryor and family; George and Sue; Clifton; Hoover; Mary.

For the homeless and those in need; for migrants and refugees at our border and around the world; for the people of Ukraine, Israel, and Gaza and those who seek help from war; for those affected by natural disasters; and for those who face threats of violence, particularly those at Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs). Awaken us to our common humanity, our common human needs no matter the walls we build.

Diocese of Dallas Cycle of Prayer: Denton - St. Barnabas: The Rev. Craig Reed; Denton - St. David of Wales: The Rev. Paul Nesta, The Rev. Yehoshua Odidi

## *Upcoming Events & Notices*

### **LENTEN SPEAKER SERIES AT ASCENSION**

**Starts Wednesday, March 12th | Parish Hall**

**Dinner at 6:00 p.m. | Program at 6:30 p.m.**

Feeling called to ministry is a humbling experience rooted in a deep desire to serve God and others. This five-week, Wednesday evening Lenten series starts on March 12th and is titled "Being Called | Personal Stories of Responding to the Call." We've invited five community leaders to share their journeys of responding to the call and the spiritual disciplines that have shaped them. Everyone has a calling—whether in ordained ministry, lay service, or community involvement. This series invites you to reflect on living your faith purposefully. Join us on Wednesday nights at 6:30 p.m. for personal stories from our community leaders. Dinner is optional at 6:00 p.m., with the program from 6:30 to 7:15 p.m. We look forward to seeing you!

### **FAREWELL CELEBRATION FOR FR. PAUL**

**Sunday, March 30th | Following 10:30 Service**

Join us on Sunday, March 30th, for a farewell lunch for Father Paul! We will have a catered taco lunch sponsored by our Radical Hospitality team immediately following the 10:30 a.m. service. We will have traditional tacos, rice and beans, as well as vegan and pescatarian options. There will be fun, games, and lots of opportunities for photos with Father Paul and Sarah. Early birds - don't worry: We will also have special treats following the 8:00 a.m. service!

### **EASTER EGG HUNT DRIVE**

**March 6th - April 13th**

Eggciting news! Our annual Easter Egg Hunt will take place on Easter Sunday! We have plenty of plastic eggs already; all we need are treats to fill them! Donations for egg fillers will be accepted through April 13th. Small candy and/or toys are greatly appreciated. If you'd like to keep it easy, you can simply email Alice Frederick to get a link to our Amazon Egg Hunt Wish List. Thank you in advance for your support!



**EPISCOPAL CHURCH**  
**OF THE**  
**ASCENSION**

**The Rev. Paul Klitzke, Rector**

[paul.klitzke@ascensiondallas.org](mailto:paul.klitzke@ascensiondallas.org)

**Mark Unkenholz, Organist and Choirmaster**

[mark.unkenholz@ascensiondallas.org](mailto:mark.unkenholz@ascensiondallas.org)

**Alice Frederick, Director of Christian Formation**

[alice.frederick@ascensiondallas.org](mailto:alice.frederick@ascensiondallas.org)

8787 Greenville Avenue

Dallas, Texas 75243

Phone: 214-340-4196

Website: [www.ascensiondallas.org](http://www.ascensiondallas.org)

Facebook: [ascensiondallas](https://www.facebook.com/ascensiondallas)