



TWENTY-FIFTH
SUNDAY AFTER
Pentecost

Episcopal Church *of the Ascension*
November 19, 2023 | 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 427: Blue Hymnal

When morning gilds the skies

Laudes Domini

When morning gilds the skies, my heart, awaking, cries, may Jesus Christ be praised!
When evening shadows fall, this rings my curfew call, may Jesus Christ be praised!

When mirth for music longs, this is my song of songs: May Jesus Christ be praised!
God's holy house of prayer hath none that can compare with: Jesus Christ be praised!

No lovelier antiphon in all high heaven is known than, Jesus Christ be praised!
There to th'eternal Word th'eternal psalm is heard: May Jesus Christ be praised!

Ye nations of mankind, in this your concord find: May Jesus Christ be praised!
Let all the earth around ring joyous with the sound: May Jesus Christ be praised!

Sing, suns and stars of space, sing, ye that see his face, sing, Jesus Christ be praised!
God's whole creation o'er, both now and evermore shall Jesus Christ be praised!

OPENING ACCLAMATION

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

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

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.**

SONG OF PRAISE S280: Blue Hymnal *Glory to God (Gloria in Excelsis)* Robert Powell

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.**

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

**Blessed Lord, who caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning:
Grant us so to hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that we
may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which you
have given us in our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the
Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.**

Please be seated

FIRST READING

Judges 4:1-7

The Israelites again did what was evil in the sight of the Lord, after Ehud died. So the Lord sold them into the hand of King Jabin of Canaan, who reigned in Hazor; the commander of his army was Sisera, who lived in Harosheth-ha-goim. Then the Israelites cried out to the Lord for help; for he had nine hundred chariots of iron, and had oppressed the Israelites cruelly twenty years. At that time Deborah, a prophetess, wife of Lappidoth, was judging Israel. She used to sit under the palm of Deborah between Ramah and Bethel in the hill country of Ephraim; and the Israelites came up to her for judgment. She sent and summoned Barak son of Abinoam from Kedesh in Naphtali, and said to him, "The Lord, the God of Israel, commands you, 'Go, take position at Mount Tabor, bringing ten thousand from the tribe of Naphtali and the tribe of Zebulun. I will draw out Sisera, the general of Jabin's army, to meet you by the Wadi Kishon with his chariots and his troops; and I will give him into your hand.'"

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Please read together in unison

Psalm 123

**1 To you I lift up my eyes, *
to you enthroned in the heavens.**

- 2 **As the eyes of servants look to the hand of their masters, ***
 and the eyes of a maid to the hand of her mistress,
- 3 **So our eyes look to the Lord our God, ***
 until he show us his mercy.
- 4 **Have mercy upon us, O Lord, have mercy, ***
 for we have had more than enough of contempt,
- 5 **Too much of the scorn of the indolent rich, ***
 and of the derision of the proud.

SECOND READING

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. When they say, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. So then let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Please stand if able

HYMN 433: Blue Hymnal

We gather together

Kremser

We gather together to ask the Lord's blessing;
 He chastens and hastens his will to make known;
 The wicked oppressing now cease from distressing;
 Sing praises to his name; he forgets not his own.

Beside us to guide us, our God with us joining,
 Ordaining, maintaining his kingdom divine;

So from the beginning the fight we were winning;
Thou, Lord, wast at our side: all glory be thine!

We all do extol thee, thou leader triumphant,
And pray that thou still our defender wilt be.
Let thy congregation escape tribulation:
Thy name be ever praised! O Lord, make us free!

Please remain standing if able

THE GOSPEL

Matthew 25:14-30

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

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus said, "It is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' But his master replied, 'You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away.'

As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Please be seated

THE SERMON

The Rev. Andy Stoker

Please stand if able

THE NICENE CREED

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

Please remain standing.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Celebrant: Let us pray for the Church and for the world.

Leader: Grant, Almighty God, that all who confess your Name may be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world. Lord, in your mercy

All: Hear our prayer.

Leader: Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the ways of justice and peace; that we may honor one another and serve the common good. Lord, in your mercy

All: Hear our prayer.

Leader: Give us all a reverence for the earth as your own creation, that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others and to your honor and glory. Lord, in your mercy

All: Hear our prayer.

Leader: Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, and grant that we may serve Christ in them, and love one another as he loves us. Lord, in your mercy

All: Hear our prayer.

Leader: Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of your salvation. Lord, in your mercy

All: Hear our prayer.

Leader: We commend to your mercy all who have died, that your will for them may be fulfilled; and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom. Lord, in your mercy

All: Hear our prayer.

Leader: For those we name (*silently or aloud*)....., we pray to you, O Lord.

All: Hear our prayer.

Celebrant: Almighty and eternal God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth: Mercifully accept the prayers of your people, and strengthen us to do your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Please kneel if able

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

Please stand if able

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

Shut de Dō

Randy Stonehill

Arranged by Mark Hayes

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING:

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER A

The Book of Common Prayer (Red), p. 361

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them 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. Because in the mystery of the Word made flesh, you have caused a new light to shine in our hearts, to give the knowledge of your glory in the face of your son Jesus Christ our Lord.

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 S125: Blue Hymnal *Holy, holy, holy Lord (Sanctus)* Richard Proulx

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

The Celebrant continues

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

The Celebrant continues

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: 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

After the bread is broken, the Celebrant and People sing together

HYMN S155: Blue Hymnal *Christ our Passover (Fraction Anthem)* Gerald R. Near

***Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.
Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;***

*Therefore let us keep the feast.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.*

ANTHEM

I lift up mine eyes

Allen Pote

Please kneel if able

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

The Book of Common Prayer (Red), p. 365

Let us pray.

Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

SENDING OUT OF LAY EUCHARISTIC VISITORS

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.

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

BLESSING

Please stand if able

HYMN 473: Blue Hymnal

Lift high the cross

Crucifer

Refrain: Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim
Till all the world adore his sacred Name.

Each newborn servant of the Crucified bears
On the brow the seal of him who died. *Refrain*

Led on their way by this triumphant sign,
The hosts of God in conquering ranks combine. *Refrain*

O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree,
As thou hast promised, draw the world to thee. *Refrain*

So shall our song of triumph ever be:
Praise to the Crucified for victory. *Refrain*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please stand if able

THE DISMISSAL

Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.

Alleluia, Alleluia.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia.

CLOSING VOLUNTARY

Our Prayer List

Alice; Mark and Jill; Dabney; Jim; Elliott and Suzanne; Judy; Jack; Suzan; Rebecca; Sallie; Mike; Robert; Perry; Kenn; Joy; Terrel; Adrian; Pat; Nora; Maureen; Patrick; Jim; Joan; Janie; Richard; Marlene and Steve; Jeff and Deborah; Ruthie; David; Judy; Pettigrew Family; Marla; Ellie; Teresa; Quinta; Eva Maria; James; Gabby; Lynda; Ben; Nancy; Rosabella, Taylon; Fred; Vanessa; Kelli; James; Lisa; Linda; Sara; The Mohanty family; Janice; Greg; Janet; Matthew and family; Jennifer; Mary; Bob; Norma; Jack & Karen; Jill; Linda; Lupita Pryor and family; Jimmy; Yazzy; Clifton; Michael; Hoover; Shannon; 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 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: Spanish Language Ministries Committee; Multicultural Congregations in the Diocese of Dallas

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Upcoming Events & Notices

GUEST PREACHERS THIS FALL

While Fr. Paul is on sabbatical this fall, we are blessed with an outstanding group of Sunday preachers. This week, we welcome Reverend Doctor Andy Stoker as our final guest preacher of the fall. Andy Stoker is married to Megan (25 years, as of last Tuesday), and they are parents to two sons, Alex (20), and Wesley (15). Andy is an ordained Elder in the United Methodist Church, holds a secular Ph.D. in Family Science, and is a certified mindfulness meditation teacher. Andy served the Thanks-Giving Foundation after serving First United Methodist Church of Dallas as Senior Minister for nine years. He is part of the teaching faculty at Life in the Trinity Ministry. He serves on the Executive Committee for the Pastors for Texas Children and is the lead organizer for Interfaith Alliance Texas. We trust that in this sabbatical time, God will be at work in the lives of Fr. Paul and his family and the lives of the people of this church, using all things for our good and God's glory. We entrust Fr. Paul and his family to God's care for God's good works and rich blessings.

WELCOME BACK POTLUCK EVENTS FOR FR. PAUL

Sunday, December 3rd | Following 8:00 and 10:30 Services

Although we have loved having our cut-out version of Fr. Paul to keep us company this fall, nothing beats the real thing! Fr. Paul's first Sunday back will be December 3rd, and we want to welcome him home by celebrating with potluck feasts! We ask those attending the 8:00 service to bring breakfast or brunch items to share. If you're attending the 10:30 service, please bring lunch items. Whether it's a favorite homemade dish or something you pick up at the store, the food you bring will be a welcome addition. Ascension will provide plates, bowls, plasticware, cups, and napkins. No need to sign up in advance. All we need is you and your contribution to the Potluck! Questions? Email Suzan Fenner suzanfenner@gmail.com. Many thanks to our Radical Hospitality Committee for sponsoring these events!

ADVENT AT ASCENSION

Begins Sunday, November 26th

We have many inspiring Advent offerings for members of all ages at Ascension this season! Please visit our website for a full listing of all that is available! We hope to share in this joyful time with you. www.ascensiondallas.org/adventchristmas2023



EPISCOPAL CHURCH
OF THE
ASCENSION

The Rev. Paul Klitzke, Rector

On Sabbatical through November 2023

The Rev. Dr. Ernie McAfee, Assisting Priest

ernie.mcafee@ascensiondallas.org

Mark Unkenholz, Organist and Choirmaster

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Eva Barraza, Director of Christian Formation

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