



FOURTH SUNDAY  
AFTER THE

*Epiphany*

Episcopal Church *of the Ascension*

January 29, 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 542: Blue Hymnal

*Christ is the world's true Light*

*St. Joan*

Christ is the world's true Light, its Captain of salvation,  
The Daystar clear and bright of every race and nation;  
New life, new hope awakes, for all who own his sway:  
Freedom her bondage breaks, and night is turned to day.

In Christ all races meet, their ancient feuds forgetting,  
The whole round world complete, from sunrise to its setting:  
When Christ is throned as Lord all shall forsake their fear,  
To plowshare beat the sword, to pruning-hook the spear.

One Lord, in one great Name unite us all who own thee;  
Cast out our pride and shame that hinder to enthrone thee;  
The world has waited long, has travailed long in pain;  
To heal its ancient wrong, come, Prince of Peace, and reign.

*The people standing, the Celebrant says:*

OPENING ACCLAMATION

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

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

THE COLLECT FOR PURITY

The Book of Common Prayer (Red), p. 355

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

Robert Powell

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray.

**Almighty and everlasting God, you govern all things both in heaven and on earth: Mercifully hear the supplications of your people, and in our time grant us**

**your peace; 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 READING

Micah 6:1-8

Hear what the Lord says: Rise, plead your case before the mountains, and let the hills hear your voice. Hear, you mountains, the controversy of the Lord, and you enduring foundations of the earth; for the Lord has a controversy with his people, and he will contend with Israel. "O my people, what have I done to you? In what have I wearied you? Answer me! For I brought you up from the land of Egypt, and redeemed you from the house of slavery; and I sent before you Moses, Aaron, and Miriam. O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab devised, what Balaam son of Beor answered him, and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal, that you may know the saving acts of the Lord." With what shall I come before the Lord, and bow myself before God on high? Shall I come before him with burnt-offerings, with calves a year old? Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, with tens of thousands of rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?" He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Please read together in unison.*

PSALM 15

- 1 **Lord, who may dwell in your tabernacle? \*  
who may abide upon your holy hill?**
- 2 **Whoever leads a blameless life and does what is right, \*  
who speaks the truth from his heart.**
- 3 **There is no guile upon his tongue; he does no evil to his friend; \*  
he does not heap contempt upon his neighbor.**
- 4 **In his sight the wicked is rejected, \*  
but he honors those who fear the Lord.**
- 5 **He has sworn to do no wrong \*  
and does not take back his word.**

6 **He does not give his money in hope of gain, \*  
nor does he take a bribe against the innocent.**

7 **Whoever does these things \*  
shall never be overthrown.**

SECOND READING

1 Corinthians: 1:18-31

The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written, "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart." Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength. Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to reduce to nothing things that are, so that no one might boast in the presence of God. He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, in order that, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord."

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand if able.*

HYMN 441: Blue Hymnal

*In the cross of Christ I glory*

*Rathbun*

In the cross of Christ I glory, towering o'er the wrecks of time;  
All the light of sacred story gathers round its head sublime.

When the woes of life o'ertake me, hopes deceive, and fears annoy,  
Never shall the cross forsake me: lo, it glows with peace and joy.

When the sun of bliss is beaming light and love upon my way,  
From the cross the radiance streaming adds new luster to the day.

Bane and blessing, pain and pleasure, by the cross are sanctified;  
Peace is there that know no measure, joys that through all time abide.

*Please remain standing if able.*

THE GOSPEL

Matthew 5:1-12

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

**Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying: "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. "Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. "Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. "Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy. "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. "Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. "Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you."

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

THE SERMON

The Rev. Paul Klitzke

*Please be seated.*

*Please stand.*

THE NICENE CREED

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

*Please remain standing.*

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

**Celebrant:** As God's people, let us pray for the needs of the church and the world, saying:  
O gracious Lord, hear our prayer.

**Leader:** We pray for the people of God, loved wholly by God and sent to be light in the world. O gracious Lord,

**All:** **Hear our prayer.**

**Leader:** For leaders of nations, and for those who serve us in governments, that all people may work for peace and justice. O gracious Lord,

**All:** **Hear our prayer.**

**Leader:** For all who are persecuted, shunned, neglected, or rejected because of prejudice, that they may find welcoming love in our community of faith. O gracious Lord,

**All:** **Hear our prayer.**

**Leader:** For all members of our community, that we may recognize the gifts we have received from the Spirit and use them freely for the good of all. O gracious Lord,

**All:** **Hear our prayer.**

**Leader:** For all members of the church community, including the sick, the dying, the deceased, and those who mourn. At this time I invite you to offer your prayers for yourself and others. (*Prayers may be offered silently or aloud.*) O gracious Lord,

**All:** **Hear our prayer.**

**Celebrant:** Holy God, lover of the human family and helper of all in need, hear the prayers we offer in faith, and strengthen us in your love. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

**All:** **Amen.**

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

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

*Blessed*

Paul D. Weber

## 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.*

*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.**

BLESSING

*Please stand.*

HYMN 593: Blue Hymnal      *Lord, make us servants of your peace*      *Dickinson College*

Lord, make us servants of your peace; where there is hate, may we so love;  
Where there is hurt, may we forgive; where there is strife, may we make one.

Where all is doubt, may we sow faith; where all is gloom, may we sow hope;  
Where all is night, may we sow light; where all is tears, may we sow joy.

Jesus, our Lord, may we not seek to be consoled, but to console,  
Nor look to understanding hearts, but look for hearts to understand.

May we not look for love's return, but seek to love unselfishly,  
For in our giving we receive, and in forgiving are forgiven.

Dying, we live, and are reborn through death's dark night to endless day:  
Lord, make us servants of your peace, to wake at last in heaven's light.

#### THE DISMISSAL

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia. Alleluia.  
**Thanks be to God. Alleluia. Alleluia.**

#### CLOSING VOLUNTARY

### *Our Prayer List*

Millie; John & Lucy; Tom; Judy; Ben; Nancy; Dan; David; Kevin; Adrian; Keith; Rosabella,  
Taylon; Fred; Vanessa; The Wright Family; Kelli; James; Lisa; Linda; Sara; The Mohanty family;  
Janice; Greg; Janet; Matthew and family; Diane; Jennifer; Mary; Bob; Norma; Jose; Jack &  
Karen; Jill; Linda; Lupita Pryor and family; Doug and Olivia; Doris; Jimmy; Yazzy; Clifton;  
Michael; Hoover; Shannon; Mary.

For the repose of the soul of Adrienne and those who mourn her, especially Jane Burruss.

For the homeless and those in need; for migrants and refugees at our border and around the  
world, for the people of Ukraine and those who seek to help them; for those affected by natural  
disasters and those who face threats of violence, particularly those at Historically Black  
Colleges and Universities (HBCUs).

Diocese of Dallas Cycle of Prayer: Dallas - Good Shepherd: The Rev. Michael Mills, The Rev.  
Thomas Hotchkiss, The Rev. Melody Shobe, The Rev. Clif Gardner

## *Upcoming Events & Notices*

### **VOLUNTEER WITH AUSTIN STREET**

**Saturday, February 4th | 4:30 p.m.**

On Saturday, February 4th, Ascension will again deliver dinner to Austin Street Center. We will collect and deliver our traditional lasagnas and side items. Because Austin Street has returned to their former serving capacity (400 clients), we need a lot more lasagnas for this session! We will collect lasagnas in the west parking lot of Ascension from 4:30-5:00 p.m. We will also be serving the lasagnas on February 4th. Please note that Austin Street now requires servers to be 10 years or older. Call or email Brian Kasper to sign up, ask for assistance, or to get more information. [abhanbrian@gmail.com](mailto:abhanbrian@gmail.com) / (972) 358-5965

### **SANDBRANCH COMMUNITY WATER DRIVE**

**Begins Sunday, February 5th**

Our next initiative to collect water for the Sandbranch community kicks off in just a couple of weeks. We will collect water and cash donations from Sunday, February 5th, through Friday, March 3rd. We will then deliver our donations to the Sandbranch community on Saturday, March 4th. Volunteers will meet at church parking lot at 7:30 a.m. that morning to load vehicles, drive to Sandbranch, and return by 9:00 a.m. We hope you will contribute to this worthy cause in whatever way you can! Visit the Sandbranch page on our website to learn more about this community, or visit our Give to donate online.

### **CHILDREN'S BOOK FAIR**

**Sunday, February 5th - Tuesday, February 7th | Parish Hall**

Ascension and ADS will host a book fair February 5th-7th in the Parish Hall. Sunday hours are 9 a.m.-12 p.m. so that church members can shop after both services. Monday/Tuesday hours are 9 a.m.-2 p.m.; ADS parents and church members are welcome then. PaperPie, formerly Usborne Books, will once again provide books as well as additional STEM products for kids! Shoppers can also make a donation for the KidsU after-school program, for whom we provide a new book for all 100 students each spring.

### **Bulletin Cover Art:**

*Star of Bethlehem*

Worship painting by Mollie Walker Freeman



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

**The Rev. Paul Klitzke, Rector**

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