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SIXTEENTH  
SUNDAY AFTER  
*Pentecost*

Episcopal Church *of the Ascension*  
September 8, 2024 | 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 423: Blue Hymnal

*Immortal, invisible, God only wise*

*St. Denio*

Immortal, invisible, God only wise,  
In light inaccessible hid from our eyes,  
Most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,  
Almighty, victorious, thy great Name we praise.

Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,  
Nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might;  
Thy justice like mountains high soaring above  
Thy clouds, which are fountains of goodness and love.

To all life thou givest, to both great and small;  
In all life thou livest, the true life of all;  
We blossom and flourish, like leaves on the tree,  
Then wither and perish; but nought changeth thee.

Thou reignest in glory, thou rulest in light,  
Thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight;  
All laud we would render: O help us to see  
'Tis only the splendor of light hideth thee.

OPENING ACCLAMATION

Blessed be the one, holy, and living God.

**Glory to God for ever and 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.**

**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.

**Grant us, O Lord, to trust in you with all our hearts; for, as you always resist the proud who confide in their own strength, so you never forsake those who make their boast of your mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.**

*Please be seated*

## FIRST READING

Proverbs 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23

A good name is to be chosen rather than great riches, and favor is better than silver or gold. The rich and the poor have this in common: the Lord is the maker of them all. Whoever sows injustice will reap calamity, and the rod of anger will fail. Those who are generous are blessed, for they share their bread with the poor. Do not rob the poor because they are poor, or crush the afflicted at the gate; for the Lord pleads their cause and despoils of life those who despoil them.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Please read together in unison*

## PSALM 125

**1 Those who trust in the Lord are like Mount Zion, \*  
 which cannot be moved, but stands fast for ever.**

- 2     The hills stand about Jerusalem; \*  
          so does the Lord stand round about his people,  
          from this time forth for evermore.**
- 3     The scepter of the wicked shall not hold sway over the land  
          allotted to the just,  
          so that the just shall not put their hands to evil.**
- 4     Show your goodness, O Lord, to those who are good \*  
          and to those who are true of heart.**
- 5     As for those who turn aside to crooked ways,  
          the Lord will lead them away with the evildoers; \*  
          but peace be upon Israel.**

#### SECOND READING

James 2:1-17

My brothers and sisters, do you with your acts of favoritism really believe in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ? For if a person with gold rings and in fine clothes comes into your assembly, and if a poor person in dirty clothes also comes in, and if you take notice of the one wearing the fine clothes and say, "Have a seat here, please," while to the one who is poor you say, "Stand there," or, "Sit at my feet," have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts? Listen, my beloved brothers and sisters. Has not God chosen the poor in the world to be rich in faith and to be heirs of the kingdom that he has promised to those who love him? But you have dishonored the poor. Is it not the rich who oppress you? Is it not they who drag you into court? Is it not they who blaspheme the excellent name that was invoked over you? You do well if you really fulfill the royal law according to the scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." But if you show partiality, you commit sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it. For the one who said, "You shall not commit adultery," also said, "You shall not murder." Now if you do not commit adultery but if you murder, you have become a transgressor of the law. So speak and so act as those who are to be judged by the law of liberty. For judgment will be without mercy to anyone who has shown no mercy; mercy triumphs over judgment. What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, and one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill," and yet you do not supply

their bodily needs, what is the good of that? So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand if able*

HYMN 551: Blue Hymnal

*Rise up, ye saints of God!*

*Festal Song*

Rise up, ye saints of God! Have done with lesser things,  
Give heart and soul and mind and strength to serve the King of kings.

Rise up, ye saints of God! His kingdom tarries long:  
Lord, bring the day of truth and love and end the night of wrong.

Lift high the cross of Christ! Tread where his feet have trod;  
And quickened by the Spirit's power, rise up, ye saints of God!

*Please stand if able*

THE GOSPEL

Mark 7:24-37

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

**Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Jesus set out and went away to the region of Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know he was there. Yet he could not escape notice, but a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit immediately heard about him, and she came and bowed down at his feet. Now the woman was a Gentile, of Syrophenician origin. She begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter. He said to her, "Let the children be fed first, for it is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." But she answered him, "Sir, even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs." Then he said to her, "For saying that, you may go—the demon has left your daughter." So she went home, found the child lying on the bed, and the demon gone. Then he returned from the region of Tyre, and went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis. They brought to him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they begged him to lay his hand on him. He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spat and touched his tongue. Then looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, "Ephphatha," that is, "Be opened." And immediately his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. Then Jesus ordered them to tell no one; but the more he ordered them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. They were astounded beyond measure, saying,

“He has done everything well; he even makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

THE SERMON

*Please be seated*

The Rev. Paul Klitzke

*Please stand*

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 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. For those we name (*silently or aloud*)..... 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.**

Celebrant Almighty God, to whom our needs are known before we ask: Help us to ask only what accords with your will; and those good things which we dare not, or in our blindness cannot ask, grant us for the sake of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**



## CONFESSION OF SIN AND ABSOLUTION

Celebrant Let us confess our sins to God.

**All**           **God of all mercy, we confess that we have sinned against you, opposing your will in our lives. We have denied your goodness in each other, in ourselves, and in the world you have created. We repent of the evil that enslaves us, the evil we have done, and the evil done on our behalf. Forgive, restore, and strengthen us through our Savior Jesus Christ, that we may abide in your love and serve only your will. Amen.**

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

*Please stand*

### THE PEACE

The peace of the Christ 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 sing the mighty power of God*

Steven Strite

*Please stand if able*

### THE GREAT THANKSGIVING: Eucharistic Prayer 1 (*Enriching our Worship*)

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 our thanks and praise.**

*The Celebrant continues*

It is truly right, and good and joyful, to give you thanks, all-holy God, source of life and fountain of mercy. You have filled us and all creation with your blessing and fed us with your constant love; you have redeemed us in Jesus Christ and knit us into one body. Through your Spirit you replenish us and call us to fullness of life.

Therefore, joining with Angels and Archangels and with the faithful of every generation, we lift our voices with all creation as we sing:

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*

Blessed are you, gracious God, creator of the universe and giver of life. You formed us in your own image and called us to dwell in your infinite love.

You gave the world into our care that we might be your faithful stewards and show forth your bountiful grace. But we failed to honor your image in one another and in ourselves;

we would not see your goodness in the world around us; and so we violated your creation, abused one another, and rejected your love. Yet you never ceased to care for us, and prepared the way of salvation for all people.

Through Abraham and Sarah you called us into covenant with you. You delivered us from slavery, sustained us in the wilderness, and raised up prophets to renew your promise of salvation. Then, in the fullness of time, you sent your eternal Word, made mortal flesh in Jesus. Born into the human family, and dwelling among us, he revealed your glory. Giving himself freely to death on the cross, he triumphed over evil, opening the way of freedom and life.

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

As supper was ending, Jesus 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 poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

Remembering his death and resurrection, we now present to you from your creation this bread and this wine. By your Holy Spirit may they be for us the Body and Blood of our Savior Jesus Christ. Grant that we who share these gifts may be filled with the Holy Spirit and live as Christ's Body in the world. Bring us into the everlasting heritage of your daughters and sons, that with all your saints, past, present, and yet to come, we may praise your Name for ever.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever and 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 S155: Blue Hymnal *Fraction Anthem: Christ our Passover*

Gerald R. Near

*Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.*  
*Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;*  
*Therefore let us keep the feast.*  
*Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.*

## MINISTRATION OF COMMUNION

*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. Our tradition teaches that receiving either (bread or wine) is to receive in full.*

ANTHEM

*For the Bread Which You Have Broken*

*Howard Helvey*

*Please kneel if able*

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

**Loving God, we give you thanks for restoring us in your image and nourishing us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood. Now send us forth a people, forgiven, healed, renewed; that we may proclaim your love to the world and continue in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.**

## BLESSING

*Please stand if able*

HYMN 587: Blue Hymnal

*Our Father, by whose Name*

*Rhosymedre*

Our Father, by whose Name all fatherhood is known,  
Who dost in love proclaim each family thine own,  
Bless thou all parents, guarding well, with constant love as sentinel,  
The homes in which thy people dwell.

O Christ, thyself a child within an earthly home,  
With heart still undefiled, thou didst, to manhood come;  
Our children bless, in every place, that they may all behold thy face,  
And knowing thee may grow in grace.

O Spirit, who dost bind our hearts in unity,  
Who teachest us to find the love from self set free.  
In all our hearts such love increase, that every home, by this release,  
May be thy dwelling place of peace.

## 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*

Tom; Kim; Allison; Joell; Jerry; Jim; Spence; Alison; Colleen; Manali, Leo, Milan; Wes; Steve, Bobbie; Diane; Sara; Barbara; Phil and Sandy; Roger; George; Glen and Dusty; Jane and Don; George and Nancy; Joe; Jerry; Ginny; The Heffner family; Terry and Jan; Trish; Rosemary and John; Gloria; the Coney family; the Bryant family; Titus & Theresa; Lani; Sterling and Kay; Alice; Mark and Jill; Elliott and Suzanne; Judy; Suzan; Kenn; Adrian; Maureen; Janie; Steve; Jeff and Deborah; David; Marla; Quinta; Eva Maria; Lynda; Nancy; Rosabella; Taylon; Fred; Kelli; Linda; Janice; Greg; Janet and Bruce; Jennifer; Jack & Karen; Lupita Pryor and family; George; Clifton; Hoover; Mary.

For the repose of the soul of Jimmy Whitfield, and grace and comfort for his sister Marsha and all those who mourn this loss.

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: Acolytes, Vergers, Lay Readers, and Lay Eucharistic Ministers; Christian Formation Commission



## *Upcoming Events & Notices*

### **THURSDAY EVENING ADULT FORMATION: *DISCIPLE FAST TRACK***

**Starts Thursday, September 5th | 6:30 - 7:45 p.m. | In Person & Zoom**

All adults are invited to join us for a new fall formation offering that is available both in person (meeting in the office conference room) and via Zoom. *Disciple Fast Track* is an adaptation of the original, bestselling *Disciple Bible Study: Becoming Disciples through Bible Study*. The program is ideal for busy people who want to fit a comprehensive Bible study into their schedule. This fall, our class will meet for a total of 12 weeks, studying the Old Testaments. Daily preparation is manageable, with only 3–5 chapters of the Bible to read each day. Weekly sessions last 75 minutes. Have questions or want to receive the Zoom link? Contact Joan Romanosky at [romanjoan63@gmail.com](mailto:romanjoan63@gmail.com).

### **TACOS WITH FR. ERNIE: A CELEBRATION OF MINISTRY**

**Monday, September 23rd | 6:00 p.m. | Mijas Taqueria | 9901 Royal Ln.**

Fr. Ernie is retiring from active ministry, and a special event is planned to celebrate his many contributions to Ascension. Join us Monday, September 23rd, 6:00 p.m., at Mijas Taqueria, for a joyous occasion of thanksgiving - and tacos! We hope to see you there as we honor Fr. Ernie's ministry here at Ascension!

### **2025 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN: ABIDE IN LOVE; LIVE WITH PURPOSE**

As we look ahead to our Abide in Love | Live with Purpose stewardship season this fall, it's an opportune time to reflect on our spiritual gifts and how we can use them to serve our community. Over the next three months, you will hear from twelve parishioners through their written or spoken reflections each Sunday. These reflections have been chosen from the assigned lectionary readings for the day and include a question to ponder for the week. Be on the lookout soon for our Stewardship page on the website. We're so grateful to Janey Burruss and Ashley Rector for co-chairing this year's campaign.



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

**The Rev. Paul Klitzke, Rector**

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