



THIRD SUNDAY
IN
Lent

Episcopal Church *of the Ascension*

March 23, 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

Choral Cistercien

Jehan Alain

Although Jehan Alain's career was cut short by his untimely death in WWII, he is considered one of the most original and innovative voices of his generation. He was the father of two young children, who by his death, were forced to come to maturity without his brilliance and presence in their daily lives. His sister, Marie-Claire Alain, became one of the world's finest and most sought-after recitalists, a teacher, and a champion of his music.

THE WORD OF GOD

Please stand to sing the hymn

HYMN 690: Blue Hymnal

Guide me, O thou great Jehovah

Cwm Rhondda

Guide me, O thou great Jehovah, pilgrim through this barren land;
I am weak, but thou art mighty; hold me with thy powerful hand;
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven, feed me now and evermore,
Feed me now and evermore.

Open now the crystal fountain, whence the healing stream doth flow;
Let the fire and cloudy pillar lead me all my journey through;
Strong deliverer, strong deliverer, be thou still my strength and shield,
Be thou still my strength and shield.

When I tread the verge of Jordan, bid my anxious fears subside;
Death of death, and hell's destruction, land me safe on Canaan's side;
Songs of praises, songs of praises, I will ever give to thee,
I will ever give to thee.

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.

Almighty God, you know that we have no power in ourselves to help ourselves:

Keep us both outwardly in our bodies and inwardly in our souls, that we may be

defended from all adversities which may happen to the body, and from all evil thoughts which may assault and hurt the soul; 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

Exodus 3:1-15

Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian; he led his flock beyond the wilderness, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire out of a bush; he looked, and the bush was blazing, yet it was not consumed. Then Moses said, "I must turn aside and look at this great sight, and see why the bush is not burned up." When the Lord saw that he had turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am." Then he said, "Come no closer! Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground." He said further, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God. Then the Lord said, "I have observed the misery of my people who are in Egypt; I have heard their cry on account of their taskmasters. Indeed, I know their sufferings, and I have come down to deliver them from the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey, to the country of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. The cry of the Israelites has now come to me; I have also seen how the Egyptians oppress them. So come, I will send you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt." But Moses said to God, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh, and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?" He said, "I will be with you; and this shall be the sign for you that it is I who sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall worship God on this mountain." But Moses said to God, "If I come to the Israelites and say to them, 'The God of your ancestors has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' what shall I say to them?" God said to Moses, "I am who I am." He said further, "Thus you shall say to the Israelites, 'I am has sent me to you.'" God also said to Moses, "Thus you shall say to the Israelites, 'The Lord, the God of your ancestors, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you': This is my name forever, and this my title for all generations."

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Please read together in unison

PSALM 63:1-8

- 1 **O God, you are my God; eagerly I seek you; *
my soul thirsts for you, my flesh faints for you,
as in a barren and dry land where there is no water.**
- 2 **Therefore I have gazed upon you in your holy place, *
that I might behold your power and your glory.**
- 3 **For your loving-kindness is better than life itself; *
my lips shall give you praise.**
- 4 **So will I bless you as long as I live *
and lift up my hands in your Name.**
- 5 **My soul is content, as with marrow and fatness, *
and my mouth praises you with joyful lips,**
- 6 **When I remember you upon my bed, *
and meditate on you in the night watches.**
- 7 **For you have been my helper, *
and under the shadow of your wings I will rejoice.**
- 8 **My soul clings to you; *
your right hand holds me fast.**

Please be seated

SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 10:1-13

I do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, and all ate the same spiritual food, and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual rock that followed them, and the rock was Christ. Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them, and they were struck down in the wilderness. Now these things occurred as examples for us, so that we might not desire evil as they did. Do not become idolaters as some of them did; as it is written, "The people sat down to eat and drink, and they rose up to play." We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did, and were destroyed by serpents.

And do not complain as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer. These things happened to them to serve as an example, and they were written down to instruct us, on whom the ends of the ages have come. So if you think you are standing, watch out that you do not fall. No testing has overtaken you that is not common to everyone. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tested beyond your strength, but with the testing he will also provide the way out so that you may be able to endure it.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Please stand

HYMN 343: Blue Hymnal *Shepherd of souls, refresh and bless*

St. Agnes

Shepherd of souls, refresh and bless thy chosen pilgrim flock
With manna in the wilderness, with water from the rock.

We would not live by bread alone, but by thy word of grace,
In strength of which we travel on to our abiding-place.

Be known to us in breaking bread, and do not then depart;
Savior, abide with us, and spread thy table in our heart.

Lord, sup with us in love divine, thy Body and thy Blood,
That living bread, that heavenly wine, be our immortal food.

Please remain standing

THE GOSPEL

Luke 13:1-9

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

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

At that very time there were some present who told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. He asked them, "Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them--do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did." Then he told this parable: "A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. So he said to the gardener, 'See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?' He replied,

'Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

THE SERMON

The Rev. Paul Klitzke

Please be seated

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. **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 waited patiently for the Lord

Allen Pote

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,

**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

The Gift of Love

Hal H. Hopson

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 149: Blue Hymnal

Eternal Lord of Love, behold your Church

Old 124th

Eternal Lord of love, behold your Church
Walking once more the pilgrim way of Lent,
Led by your cloud by day, by night your fire,
Moved by your love and toward you presence bent:
Far off yet here—the goal of all desire.

So daily dying to the way of self,
So daily living to your way of love,
We walk the road, Lord Jesus, that you trod,
Knowing ourselves baptized into your death:
So we are dead and live with you in God.

If dead in you, so in you we arise,
You the firstborn of all the faithful dead;
And as through stony ground the green shoots break,
Glorious in springtime dress of leaf and flower,
So in the Father's glory shall we wake.

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

Marybelle; Christine; Zylynda; Laverne; Yolanda; Randy; Kevin; Lindsay; 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: Dallas - Transfiguration: The Rev. Robert Shobe, The Rev. Rebecca Tankersley, The Rev. Ted Clarkson, The Rev. Terence Roper, The Rev. Michael Merriman, the Rev. Alina Williams

Upcoming Events & Notices

LENTEN SPEAKER SERIES AT ASCENSION

Next Installment Wednesday, March 26th | 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 following the 10:30 a.m. service! 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

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