



Episcopal Church *of the Ascension*

April 28th, 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 362: Blue Hymnal

Holy, holy, holy!

Nicaea

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God almighty!
Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee;
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty!
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!

Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore thee,
Casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;
Cherubim and seraphim falling down before thee,
Which wert, and art, and evermore shalt be.

Holy, holy, holy! Though the darkness hide thee,
Though the sinful human eye thy glory may not see,
Only thou art holy; there is none beside thee,
Perfect in pow'r, in love, and purity.

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God almighty!
All thy works shall praise thy Name, in earth, and sky, and sea;
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty!
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!

OPENING ACCLAMATION

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Almighty God, whom truly to know is everlasting life: Grant us so perfectly to know your Son Jesus Christ to be the way, the truth, and the life, that we may steadfastly follow his steps in the way that leads to eternal life; through Jesus

Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

HYMN S 280: Blue Hymnal

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.

FIRST READING

Acts 8:26-40

An angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a wilderness road.) So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this: "Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter, and like a lamb silent before its shearer, so he does not open his mouth. In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth." The eunuch asked Philip, "About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?" He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was

passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Please read together

PSALM 22:24-30

- 24 My praise is of him in the great assembly; *
I will perform my vows in the presence of those who
worship him.**
- 25 The poor shall eat and be satisfied,
and those who seek the Lord shall praise him: *
"May your heart live for ever!"**
- 26 All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord, *
and all the families of the nations shall bow before him.**
- 27 For kingship belongs to the Lord; *
he rules over the nations.**
- 28 To him alone all who sleep in the earth bow down in worship; *
all who go down to the dust fall before him.**
- 29 My soul shall live for him;
my descendants shall serve him; *
they shall be known as the Lord's for ever.**
- 30 They shall come and make known to a people yet unborn *
the saving deeds that he has done.**

SECOND READING

1 John 4:7-21

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and

sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us. By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. So we have known and believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. We love because he first loved us. Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Please stand if able

HYMN 411: Blue Hymnal

O Bless the Lord, my Soul!

St. Thomas

O bless the Lord, my soul! His grace to thee proclaim!
And all that is within me join to bless his holy Name!

O bless the Lord, my soul! His mercies bear in mind!
Forget not all his benefits! The Lord to thee is kind.

He will not always chide; he will with patience wait;
His wrath is ever slow to rise and ready to abate.

He pardons all thy sins, prolongs thy feeble breath;
He healeth thine infirmities and ransoms thee from death.

He clothes thee with his love, upholds thee with his truth;
And like the eagle he renews the vigor of thy youth.

Then bless his holy Name, whose grace hath made thee whole,
Whose loving-kindness crowns thy days: O bless the Lord, my soul!

THE GOSPEL

John 15:1-8

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

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus said to his disciples, "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

THE SERMON

The Rev. Dr. Ernie McAfee

Please be seated

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 became truly human.

**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.**

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Celebrant In peace, we pray to you, Lord God.

Leader For all people in their daily life and work;

All For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.

Leader For this community, the nation, and the world;

All For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.

Leader For the just and proper use of your creation;

All For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.

Leader For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;

All For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.

Leader For the peace and unity of the Church of God;

All For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.

Leader For Michael our Presiding Bishop, and George and Wayne our Bishops; and for all
bishops and other ministers;

All For all who serve God in his Church.

Leader For the special needs and concerns of this congregation. *(Prayers may be offered
silently or aloud.)* Hear us, Lord;

All For your mercy is great.

Leader We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life. *(Prayers may be offered silently or
aloud.)* We will exalt you, O God our King;

All And praise your Name for ever and ever.

Leader We pray for all who have died, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom.
(Names may be offered silently or aloud.) Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon them;

All Who put their trust in you.

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.

All 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 am no longer my own

Mary McDonald

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 God thanks and praise.

The Celebrant continues

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Almighty God, Creator of heaven and earth. But chiefly are we bound to praise you for the glorious resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; for he is the true Paschal Lamb, who was

sacrificed for us, and has taken away the sin of the world. By Christ's death he has destroyed death, and by Christ's rising to life again he has won for us everlasting life.

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 people stand or kneel. Then the Celebrant continues

Holy and gracious God: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and maker of all.

Jesus stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world. On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Savior 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 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 shed for you and for many 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.

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, Almighty God, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling Christ's death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the

holy food and drink of new and unending life in Christ. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom. All this we ask through Jesus Christ our Savior. By Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, 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 S154: Blue Hymnal *Fraction Anthem: Christ our Passover*

David Hurd

*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

One Bread, One Body

John B. Foley, S.J.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

God of abundance, you have fed us with the bread of life and cup of salvation; you have united us with Christ and one another; and you have made us one with all your people in heaven and on earth. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue for ever in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.

BLESSING

May Almighty God, who has redeemed us and made us his children through the resurrection of his Son our Lord, bestow upon you the riches of his blessing. **Amen.**

May God, who through the water of baptism has raised us from sin into newness of life, make you holy and worthy to be united with Christ for ever. **Amen.**

May God, who has brought us out of bondage to sin into true and lasting freedom in the Redeemer, bring you to your eternal inheritance. **Amen.**

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. **Amen.**

Please stand if able

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.

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

Ginny; Jewel; The Heffner family; John; the Stubblefield family; Terry and Jan; Alexis and Fortune; Trish; Rosemary and John; Gloria; the Coney family; the Bryant family; Titus & Theresa; Amit and family; Lani; Clara; Sterling and Kay; Alice; Mark and Jill; Elliott and Suzanne; Judy; Jack; Rebecca; Sallie; Mary Ann and Perry; Kenn; Joy; Terrel; Adrian; Nora; Maureen; Janie; Marlene and Steve; Jeff and Deborah; David; Judy; Pettigrew Family; Marla; Ellie; Teresa; Quinta; Eva Maria; James; Lynda; Nancy; Rosabella; Taylon; Fred; Vanessa; Kelli; James; Lisa; Linda; Sara; The Mohanty family; Janice; Greg; Janet and Bruce; Jennifer; Mary; Jack & Karen; Linda; Lupita Pryor and family; Jimmy; Clifton; Hoover; Mary.

For the repose of the soul of Shannon Calhoun, and grace and comfort for her family 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: Irving - St. Mary's: The Rev. Antonio Munoz; Kaufman - Our Merciful Saviour: The Rev. Todd Wetzel; Kemp - St. James on the Lake: The Rev. Nathan Webb, The Rev. Jerry Morriss

Upcoming Events & Notices

MOTHER'S DAY CELEBRATION

Sunday, May 12th | After 8:00 and 10:30 a.m. services

Mother's Day is Sunday, May 12th, and we plan to honor your mom/mother figure! Join us for Mother's Day music selections, flower stems for moms, and a backdrop to capture a photo with your mom and loved ones. We will also have a take-home activity for kids so they can make something special for Mom. Don't miss out on this day of celebration!

GRADUATE SUNDAY AT ASCENSION

Sunday, May 12th | 10:30 a.m. Service

On Sunday, May 12th, we will honor all graduates at the 10:30 a.m. service. If you have a family member who's graduating from high school, college, or a post-graduate program, we'd love to showcase them on a special page on the website and more. We're excited to share in your graduate's joy! Please visit our website to complete a short form and submit a photo we can use. Congratulations to all of our graduates!

ANNUAL ALL-PARISH PICNIC

Sunday, May 19th | After 10:30 a.m. Service

It's time to celebrate the end of the school year, the start of the summer, and Pentecost all at once! Join us on Sunday, May 19th, after the 10:30 a.m. service for the Annual All-Parish Picnic! All members of Ascension, their families, friends, guests, and all newcomers are invited to our party. We will gather in the large playground area, where the Men's Club will be manning the grille. Face painting, balloon animals, and much fun and frivolity will be had. Hosted by the Radical Hospitality Committee, this is the one event you won't want to miss!

What We Provide

Grilled hot dogs and hamburgers (both beef and veggie burgers); buns and condiments; plates, napkins, plasticware; some basic drinks and ice; and a few tables for seating.

What You Can Bring

Drinks in coolers, chairs or a blanket for seating, and a side dish to share. You can bring your side dish to the kitchen before the 10:30 service, pick it up after services, and bring it to the buffet in the playground. **Please visit our website for side dish assignments!**

Questions? Contact Harry Breda by email hbreda@msn.com or phone at 303.887.5051. For more details, check our website.



EPISCOPAL CHURCH
OF THE
ASCENSION

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