



Episcopal Church *of the* Ascension
February 11, 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

HYMN 427: Blue Hymnal

When morning gilds the skies

Laudes Domini

When morning gilds the skies, my heart, awaking, cries, may Jesus Christ be praised!

When evening shadows fall, this rings my curfew call, may Jesus Christ be praised!

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

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

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

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

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

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

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

Robert Powell

**Glory to God in the highest and peace to his people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you
We give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God,
You take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us;
You are seated at the right hand of the Father:
Receive our prayer. For you alone are the Holy One,
You alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,
In the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

O God, who before the passion of your only-begotten Son revealed his glory upon the holy mountain: Grant to us that we, beholding by faith the light of his countenance, may be strengthened to bear our cross, and be changed into his likeness from glory to glory; 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

2 Kings 2:1-12

When the Lord was about to take Elijah up to heaven by a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. Elijah said to Elisha, "Stay here; for the Lord has sent me as far as Bethel." But Elisha said, "As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So they went down to Bethel. The company of prophets who were in Bethel came out to Elisha, and said to him, "Do you know that today the Lord will take your master away from you?" And he said, "Yes, I know; keep silent." Elijah said to him, "Elisha, stay here; for the Lord has sent me to Jericho." But he said, "As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So they came to Jericho. The company of prophets who were at Jericho drew near to Elisha, and said to him, "Do you know that today the Lord will take your master away from you?" And he answered, "Yes, I know; be silent." Then Elijah said to him, "Stay here; for the Lord has sent me to the Jordan." But he said, "As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So the two of them went on. Fifty men of the company of prophets also went, and stood at some distance from them, as they both were standing by the Jordan. Then Elijah took his mantle and rolled it up, and struck the water; the water was parted to the one side and to the other, until the two of them crossed on dry ground. When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, "Tell me what I may do for you, before I am taken from you." Elisha said, "Please let me inherit a double share of your spirit." He responded, "You have asked a

hard thing; yet, if you see me as I am being taken from you, it will be granted you; if not, it will not.” As they continued walking and talking, a chariot of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them, and Elijah ascended in a whirlwind into heaven. Elisha kept watching and crying out, “Father, father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!” But when he could no longer see him, he grasped his own clothes and tore them in two pieces.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Please read together in unison

Psalm 50:1-6

- 1 The Lord, the God of gods, has spoken; *
he has called the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting.**
- 2 Out of Zion, perfect in its beauty, *
God reveals himself in glory.**
- 3 Our God will come and will not keep silence; *
before him there is a consuming flame,
and round about him a raging storm.**
- 4 He calls the heavens and the earth from above *
to witness the judgment of his people.**
- 5 "Gather before me my loyal followers, *
those who have made a covenant with me
and sealed it with sacrifice."**
- 6 Let the heavens declare the rightness of his cause; *
for God himself is judge.**

SECOND READING

2 Corinthians 4:3-6

Even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus' sake.

For it is the God who said, “Let light shine out of darkness,” who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Please stand if able

HYMN 429: Blue Hymnal

I'll praise my Maker while I've breath

Old 113th

I'll praise my Maker while I've breath; and when my voice is lost in death,
Praise shall employ my nobler powers.
My days of praise shall ne'er be past while life and thought and being last,
Or immortality endures.

How happy they whose hopes rely on Israel's God, who made the sky
And earth and seas with all their train;
Whose truth for ever stands secure, who saves the oppressed, and feeds the poor.
And none shall find his promise vain.

The Lord pours eyesight on the blind; the Lord supports the fainting mind
And sends the laboring conscience peace.
He helps the stranger in distress, the widowed and the fatherless,
And grants the prisoner sweet release.

I'll praise him while he lends me breath; and when my voice is lost in death,
Praise shall employ my nobler powers.
My days of praise shall ne'er be past while life and thought and being last,
Or immortality endures.

Please remain standing if able

THE GOSPEL

Mark 9:2-9

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

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them. And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. Then Peter said to Jesus, “Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.” He did not know what to say, for they were terrified. Then a cloud

overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, “This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!” Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them any more, but only Jesus. As they were coming down the mountain, he ordered them to tell no one about what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

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

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.

Celebrant: Through Christ let us continually offer to God the sacrifice of praise, that is, the fruit of lips that acknowledge his Name. But do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God. *Hebrews 13:14, 15*

ANTHEM

Jesu, bright and morning star

Leo Sowerby

Jesu, bright and morning star,
Uncreated Light of ages,
Star of Jacob, seen afar,

Guide our footsteps with yon Sages,
'Till we also, of thy grace, see thy face.
If the timid mariner
Do but eye thee, Star of morrow,
Though the winter night be drear,
Courage high he straight will borrow,
Soon will gain the port,
Where he fain would be.
Wonder Star of eastern skies,
Grant that, at thy next appearing,
With our bodies we may rise,
Joyfully thy summons hearing,
And to realms of endless day
Wend our way.

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

Holy and gracious Father: 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 Father of all. He 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 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 we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

The Celebrant continues

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his 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 him. 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 your Son Jesus Christ: By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever.

Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

The Book of Common Prayer (Red), p. 364

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

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

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

ANTHEM

In heavenly love abiding

Robert Lowry; Lloyd Larson
Text A.I. Waring, Fanny Crosby

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 618: Blue Hymnal

Ye watchers and ye holy ones

Lasst uns erfreuen

Ye watchers and ye holy ones, bright seraphs, cherubim, and thrones,
Raise the glad strain, Alleluia!
Cry out, dominions, principedoms, powers, virtues, archangels, angels' choirs,
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

O higher than the cherubim, more glorious than the seraphim,
Lead their praises, Alleluia!
Thou bearer of the eternal Word, most gracious, magnify the Lord,
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Respond, ye souls in endless rest, ye patriarchs and prophets blest,
Alleluia, alleluia!
Ye holy twelve, ye martyrs strong, all saints triumphant raise the song,
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

O friends, in gladness let us sing, supernal anthems echoing,
Alleluia, alleluia!
To God the Father, God the son, and God the Spirit, Three in One,
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

THE DISMISSAL

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

CLOSING VOLUNTARY

Our Prayer List

Alexis and Fortune; Trish; Helen; Rosemary and John; Gloria; the Coney family; the Bryant family; Titus & Theresa; Amit and family; Lani; Clara; Sterling and Kay; Alice; Mark and Jill; Jim; Elliott and Suzanne; Judy; Jack; Rebecca; Sallie; Robert; Perry; Kenn; Joy; Terrel; Adrian; Pat; Nora; Maureen; Patrick; Janie; Richard; Marlene and Steve; Jeff and Deborah; Ruthie; 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; Matthew and family; Jennifer; Mary; Bob; Norma; Jack & Karen; Linda; Lupita Pryor and family; Jimmy; Clifton; Hoover; Shannon; Mary.

For the homeless and those in need; for migrants and refugees at our border and around the world; for the people of Ukraine, Israel, and Gaza and those who seek help from war; for those affected by natural disasters, and those who face threats of violence, particularly those at Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs). Awaken us to our common humanity, our common human needs no matter the walls we build.

Diocese of Dallas Cycle of Prayer: Dallas - Incarnation: The Rev. Dr. Christopher Beeley, The Rev. Joseph Dewey, The Rev. J. Oliver Lee, Jr., The Rev. Dorothy Budd, The Rev. Judy Frizzell, The Rev. Jon Jordan, The Rev. Cody Turner, The Rev. Matthew Rossi; Dallas - Our Savior: The Rev. Joseph Clavijo; Dallas - San Francisco De Asis: The Rev. Aquilino Lara, The Rev. Juana Lara

Upcoming Events & Notices

ASH WEDNESDAY AT ASCENSION

Wednesday, February 14th | 12:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. | Nave

Ash Wednesday is the first of the forty days of Lent, named for the custom of placing blessed ashes on the foreheads of Christians. We come to this season with cluttered lives and conflicted hearts. On Ash Wednesday we begin to let go – learn to lay aside what weighs us down. Ashes, prayers, fasting, and opening hearts, hands, and minds, mark the Lenten journey that begins this day. Join us for our Ash Wednesday services at noon or 7:30 p.m. on February 14th.

ATHEISM FOR LENT

Ash Wednesday, February 14th | Intro to Class 6:30 - 7:15 p.m. (no dinner)

Wednesdays | Feb, 21st-Mar. 27th | Dinner, Program, & Lectio Divina 6:00 -7:30 p.m.

In-Person and Zoom | Parish Hall

Join us this Lenten season for a seven week in-person and Zoom series, Atheism for Lent. The series features Peter Rollins, known for his work as an author, philosopher, storyteller, producer, and public speaker. An optional light dinner will be at 6 p.m. in the Parish Hall, followed by a short video by Rollins and subsequent facilitated discussion. There are three options to participate to accommodate people's schedules. 1) Subscribe to a daily email from Peter Rollins, 2) Subscribe to a weekly recap and reminder for the following week's session, and/or 3) Show up for one or more in-person sessions and take what works for you.

We invite you to let this be a time of genuine growth, a new death, honesty, and the ability to be critiqued by the “other” to see the new self emerge from the ashes. You won't want to miss this opportunity for transformation as we journey toward the cross together. Please invite your friends and join us in fellowship this February! Need childcare? Contact Eva Barraza.



EPISCOPAL CHURCH
OF THE
ASCENSION

The Rev. Paul Klitzke, Rector

paul.klitzke@ascensiondallas.org

Mark Unkenholz, Organist and Choirmaster

mark.unkenholz@ascensiondallas.org

Eva Barraza, Director of Christian Formation

eva.barraza@ascensiondallas.org

8787 Greenville Avenue

Dallas, Texas 75243

Phone: 214-340-4196

Website: www.ascensiondallas.org

Facebook: [ascensiondallas](https://www.facebook.com/ascensiondallas)