



Episcopal Church *of the* Ascension

May 25, 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

# THE WORD OF GOD

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!

## OPENING ACCLAMATION

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

**Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

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.**

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.

## THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray.

O God, you have prepared for those who love you such good things as surpass our understanding: Pour into our hearts such love towards you, that we, loving you in all things and above all things, may obtain your promises, which exceed all that we can desire; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

## FIRST READING

Acts 16:9-15

During the night Paul had a vision: there stood a man of Macedonia pleading with him and saying, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." When he had seen the vision, we immediately tried to cross over to Macedonia, being convinced that God had called us to proclaim the good news to them. We set sail from Troas and took a straight course to Samothrace, the following day to Neapolis, and from there to Philippi, which is a leading city of the district of Macedonia and a Roman colony. We remained in this city for some days. On the sabbath day we went outside the gate by the river, where we supposed there was a place of prayer; and we sat down and spoke to the women who had gathered there. A certain woman named Lydia, a worshiper of God, was listening to us; she was from the city of Thyatira and a dealer in purple cloth. The Lord opened her heart to listen eagerly to what was said by Paul. When she and her household were baptized, she urged us, saying, "If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come and stay at my home." And she prevailed upon us.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Please read together*

PSALM 67

- 1     **May God be merciful to us and bless us, \***  
          **show us the light of his countenance and come to us.**
- 2     **Let your ways be known upon earth, \***  
          **your saving health among all nations.**

- 3     **Let the peoples praise you, O God; \***  
          **let all the peoples praise you.**
- 4     **Let the nations be glad and sing for joy, \***  
          **for you judge the peoples with equity**  
          **and guide all the nations upon earth.**
- 5     **Let the peoples praise you, O God; \***  
          **let all the peoples praise you.**
- 6     **The earth has brought forth her increase; \***  
          **may God, our own God, give us his blessing.**
- 7     **May God give us his blessing, \***  
          **and may all the ends of the earth stand in awe of him.**

## SECOND READING

Revelation 21:10, 22-22:5

In the spirit the angel carried me away to a great, high mountain and showed me the holy city Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God. I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb. And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God is its light, and its lamp is the Lamb. The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it. Its gates will never be shut by day-- and there will be no night there. People will bring into it the glory and the honor of the nations. But nothing unclean will enter it, nor anyone who practices abomination or falsehood, but only those who are written in the Lamb's book of life. Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb through the middle of the street of the city. On either side of the river is the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, producing its fruit each month; and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. Nothing accursed will be found there any more. But the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him; they will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. And there will be no more night; they need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand if able*

Hymn 655: Blue Hymnal

*O Jesus, I have promised*

*Nyland*

O Jesus, I have promised to serve thee to the end;  
Be thou for ever near me, my Master and my friend;  
I shall not fear the battle, if thou art by my side,  
Nor wander from the pathway, if thou wilt be my guide.

O let me hear thee speaking in accents clear and still,  
Above the storms of passion, the murmurs of self-will;  
O speak to reassure me, to hasten or control;  
O speak, and make me listen, thou guardian of my soul.

O Jesus, thou hast promised to all who follow thee,  
That where thou art in glory there shall thy servant be;  
And, Jesus I have promised to serve thee to the end;  
O give me grace to follow, my Master and my friend.

#### THE GOSPEL

John 14:23-29

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

**Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Jesus said to Judas (not Iscariot), "Those who love me will keep my word, and my Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. Whoever does not love me does not keep my words; and the word that you hear is not mine, but is from the Father who sent me. I have said these things to you while I am still with you. But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid. You heard me say to you, 'I am going away, and I am coming to you.' If you loved me, you would rejoice that I am going to the Father, because the Father is greater than I. And now I have told you this before it occurs, so that when it does occur, you may believe."

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

#### THE SERMON

The Rev. Oliver M. Butler

*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;
<b>All</b>	<b>For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.</b>
Leader	For this community, the nation, and the world;
<b>All</b>	<b>For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.</b>
Leader	For the just and proper use of your creation;
<b>All</b>	<b>For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.</b>

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 Sean our Presiding Bishop; for George and Wayne our Bishops; for Rob our Bishop Coadjutor -Elect; 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 lift up to you the Search Committee as it seeks to raise up the next Rector of Church of the Ascension.  
**All Guide and bless the work you have given them to do.**

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. **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.*

## ORGAN OFFERTORY

## 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.**

***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.*

#### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

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.**

#### SENDING OUT OF LAY EUCHARISTIC VISITORS

In the name of this congregation, I send you forth bearing these holy gifts, that those to whom you go may share with us in the communion of Christ's body and blood.

**We who are many are one body, because we all share one bread, one cup.**

#### BLESSING

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

The Church's one foundation is Jesus Christ her Lord;  
She is his new creation by water and the word:  
From heaven he came and sought her to be his holy bride;  
With his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died.

Elect from every nation, yet one o'er all the earth,  
Her charter of salvation, one Lord, one faith, one birth;  
One holy Name she blesses, partakes one holy food,  
And to one hope she presses, with every grace endued.

Though with a scornful wonder men see her sore oppressed,  
By schisms rent asunder, by heresies distressed;  
Yet saints their watch are keeping, their cry goes up, "How long?"  
And soon the night of weeping shall be the morn of song.

Mid toil and tribulation, and tumult of her war  
She waits the consummation of peace for evermore;  
Till with the vision glorious her longing eyes are blessed,  
And the great Church victorious shall be the Church at rest.

Yet she on earth hath union with God, the Three in One,  
And mystic sweet communion with those whose rest is won.  
O happy ones and holy! Lord, give us grace that we  
Like them, the meek and lowly, on high may dwell with 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 guest organist today is Jody Lindh  
Music Director Emeritus  
University Park United Methodist Church*

## *Our Prayer List*

Alice; Stephanie; Lauren; Mike; Jason; Kerry & Damien; Joe and Betty; Christine; Zylynda; Yolanda; Kevin; Lindsay; 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; Titus & Theresa; Lani; Elliott and Suzanne; Judy and Alfred; Suzan; Kenn; Adrian; Maureen; Janie; Steve; Deborah; David; Marla; Eva Maria; Lynda; Taylon; Fred; Linda; Greg; Jennifer; Jack & Karen; Lupita Pryor and family; George and Sue; Clifton; Hoover; Mary.

Continued prayers of discernment for the Ascension search committee members as they diligently seek a new rector for our parish.

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: Plano - Holy Nativity/Grace Community: The Rev. Cn. Samira Page



## *Upcoming Events & Notices*

### **RECTOR SEARCH COMMITTEE**

Have we heard from you yet? You have been hearing and reading about the Church Assessment Tool Survey, and by now you should have received the link to the CAT Survey. If you haven't already, please set aside 20-30 minutes to complete the assessment no later than June 2nd. This is the first of two ways that the Rector Search Committee can hear from you as we begin our search for the next Rector at Ascension. Please **MAKE COMPLETING THE SURVEY A PRIORITY THIS WEEK** if you haven't already shared your experiences and perspectives. If you need assistance, computers and a committee member will be available in the parlor after the 8 and 10:30 services. THANK YOU for lending your voice to this process. If you have not received a survey please find Ashley Rector after the service or send her an email at [ashleypbevis@gmail.com](mailto:ashleypbevis@gmail.com).

### **SANDBRANCH WATER INITIATIVE**

#### **Now through Saturday, June 7th**

Our next Sandbranch collection effort is in full swing. Please drop off your donations of bottled or gallon-sized water in the designated areas of the Narthex. We will meet at the church at 7:00 a.m. on Saturday, June 7th, to drive and deliver the water to Sandbranch. Anyone who wants to stay and help with the pantry from 9-11 can do so. If you prefer to make a cash or check gift, you can do so by placing it in the Sunday collection plate, dropping it by the church office, or visiting our website to give online. Please make sure to designate your monetary donation as "Water Ministry," "Sandbranch," etc. Thank you for your continued support!

### **SEUSSICAL MUSICAL THEATER CAMP**

#### **M-F June 16th - 20th | 9 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.**

#### **Incoming Kinder - Incoming 8th Graders | Cost: \$200.00**

Please join us for our *Seussical* Musical Theater Camp starting Monday, June 16th, at 9:00 a.m.. All incoming kindergarteners through incoming 8th graders are welcome! *Seussical for Kids* explores themes such as friendship, loyalty, love, identity, and creativity. Through the Dr. Seuss characters we love, this show presents a community of creatures coming to life on stage to delight us all. Join the hilarity of singing and dancing our way to universal truths. Have questions or want more information? Contact Mark Unkenholz.



**EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
OF THE  
ASCENSION**

**The Rev. Oliver M. Butler, Priest-in-Charge/Interim**

[oliver.butler@ascensiondallas.org](mailto:oliver.butler@ascensiondallas.org)

**Mark Unkenholz, Organist and Choirmaster**

[mark.unkenholz@ascensiondallas.org](mailto:mark.unkenholz@ascensiondallas.org)

**Alice Frederick, Director of Christian Formation**

[alice.frederick@ascensiondallas.org](mailto:alice.frederick@ascensiondallas.org)

**The Vestry**

**Katie Dickinson, Senior Warden**

[katiedickinson3@icloud.com](mailto:katiedickinson3@icloud.com)

**Herb Kadane, Junior Warden**

**Anne Burgdorf Moisuk, Clerk**

**Aaron Husman, Treasurer**

**Steve Baker**

**Todd Rutenbar**

**Ginger Greenberg**

**Audry Lee**

**Michelle Heron**

**Bob Iden**

**Kathleen Rylander**

8787 Greenville Avenue

Dallas, Texas 75243

Phone: 214-340-4196

Website: [www.ascensiondallas.org](http://www.ascensiondallas.org)

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