



*Easter
Sunday*

Episcopal Church *of the Ascension*

March 31st, 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.

THE WORD OF GOD

*During the voluntary, those who choose to do so are invited to flower the cross.
Extra flowers are available in the Narthex.*

HYMN 207: Blue Hymnal

Jesus Christ is risen today

Easter Hymn

Jesus Christ is risen today, Alleluia! our triumphant holy day, Alleluia!
Who did once upon the cross, Alleluia! suffer to redeem our loss. Alleluia!

Hymns of praise then let us sing, Alleluia! unto Christ, our heavenly king, Alleluia!
Who endured the cross and grave, Alleluia! sinners to redeem and save. Alleluia!

But the pains which he endured, Alleluia! our salvation have procured, Alleluia!
Now above the sky he's King, Alleluia! where the angels ever sing. Alleluia!

Sing we to our God above, Alleluia! praise eternal as his love, Alleluia!
Praise him, all ye heav'nly host, Alleluia! Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Alleluia!

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, who through your only-begotten Son Jesus Christ overcame death and opened to us the gate of everlasting life: Grant that we, who celebrate with joy the day of the Lord's resurrection, may be raised from the death of sin by your life-giving Spirit; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

HYMN 182: Blue Hymnal

Christ is alive! Let Christians sing

Truro

Christ is alive! Let Christians sing. His cross stands empty to the sky.
Let streets and homes with praises ring. His love in death shall never die.

Christ is alive! No longer bound to distant years in Palestine,
He comes to claim the here and now and conquer every place and time.

Christ is alive! His spirit burns through this and every future age,
Till all creation lives and learns his joy, his justice, love, and praise.

FIRST READING

Acts 10:34-43

Peter began to speak to them: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Please read together

PSALM 118:1-2, 14-24

- 1 Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; *
his mercy endures for ever.**
- 2 Let Israel now proclaim, *
"His mercy endures for ever."**
- 14 The Lord is my strength and my song, *
and he has become my salvation.**
- 15 There is a sound of exultation and victory *
in the tents of the righteous:**

- 16 **"The right hand of the Lord has triumphed! *
the right hand of the Lord is exalted!
the right hand of the Lord has triumphed!"**
- 17 **I shall not die, but live, *
and declare the works of the Lord.**
- 18 **The Lord has punished me sorely, *
but he did not hand me over to death.**
- 19 **Open for me the gates of righteousness; *
I will enter them; I will offer thanks to the Lord.**
- 20 **"This is the gate of the Lord; *
he who is righteous may enter."**
- 21 **I will give thanks to you, for you answered me *
and have become my salvation.**
- 22 **The same stone which the builders rejected *
has become the chief cornerstone.**
- 23 **This is the Lord's doing, *
and it is marvelous in our eyes.**
- 24 **On this day the Lord has acted; *
we will rejoice and be glad in it.**

SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 15:1-11

I would remind you, brothers and sisters, of the good news that I proclaimed to you, which you in turn received, in which also you stand, through which also you are being saved, if you hold firmly to the message that I proclaimed to you--unless you have come to believe in vain. For I handed on to you as of first importance what I in turn had received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, and that he was buried, and that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers and sisters at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. For I am the least of the apostles, unfit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I

am, and his grace toward me has not been in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them--though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me. Whether then it was I or they, so we proclaim and so you have come to believe.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM (10:30)

Christ is Risen!

Jan Sanborn

Christ is risen! Alleluja!
Christ is risen! Alleluja! Alleluja! Alleluja!
Christ being raised from the dead dieth no more.
Death has no dominion over Him.
For in that He died, He died unto sin.
For in that He lives, He lives unto God!
Christ is risen! Alleluja!

THE GOSPEL

John 20:1-18

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

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him." Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, and the cloth that had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. Then the disciples returned to their homes. But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. They said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him." When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you

weeping? Whom are you looking for?” Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, “Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away.” Jesus said to her, “Mary!” She turned and said to him in Hebrew, “Rabbouni!” (which means Teacher). Jesus said to her, “Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, ‘I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.’” Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, “I have seen the Lord”; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

THE SERMON

Please be seated

The Rev. Paul Klitzke

Please stand

THE NICENE CREED

The Book of Common Prayer (Red), p. 358

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven:
by the power of the Holy Spirit**

he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary and 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.

SOLO (10:30)

I know that my redeemer liveth

G. F. Handel

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:

***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.

The Celebrant continues

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 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.

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.**

HYMN 180: Blue Hymnal

He is risen!

Unser Herrscher

He is risen, he is risen! Tell it out with joyful voice:
He has burst his three days' prison; let the whole wide earth rejoice:
Death is conquered, we are free, Christ has won the victory.

He is risen, he is risen! He hath opened heaven's gate:
We are free from sin's dark prison, risen to a holier state;
And a brighter Easter beam on our longing eyes shall stream.

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 ANTHEM (10:30) *Hallelujah* from *Messiah*

G. F. Händel

It is customary to stand for the singing of this well-known chorus from the larger work, "Messiah". "Messiah" is an English-language oratorio composed in 1741 by George Frideric Händel, with a scriptural text compiled by Charles Jennens from the King James Bible and from the Coverdale Psalter, the version of the Psalms included in the Book of Common Prayer. So, how did this become tradition? Well, here's the thing — we honestly don't know. The most accepted reason is that King George II stood up during the chorus at the Messiah's 1743 London premiere. Some believe the king was so moved by the music that he stood up to show his reverence. And, since it was considered good etiquette to stand when the king stood, the audience had to follow suit. In any case, if you know the Hallelujah Chorus, please feel free to join in singing with the choir as it is sung.

Soloist

*Camille King, Professor of Voice
Meadows School for the Arts
Southern Methodist University*

***HAVE A BLESSED AND GLORIOUS 50-DAY
CELEBRATION OF EASTER!***

Our Prayer List

The Heffner family; John; the Stubblefield family; Terry and Jan; Sawyer; 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; 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: Flower Mound - St. Nicholas: The Rev. Patrick Webb;
DeSoto - St. Anne: The Rev. David Miller, The Rev. George Udell

Upcoming Events & Notices

RAMADAN DINNER @ ASCENSION

Sponsored by Dialogue Institute Dallas | Thursday, April 4th | 6:30 p.m. | Parish Hall

We invite you to join us for our third annual Ramadan Dinner on Thursday, April 4th, at 6:30 p.m. Sponsored by the Dialogue Institute of Dallas, the evening will start with a welcome, which will be followed by a Ramadan presentation. Our guests will provide a tasty meal, and we will break bread together in the holy month of Ramadan! Registration is required and can be found on our website's homepage calendar. We are excited to see you on April 4th!

BYOT and BYF! (BUILD YOUR OWN TACOS & BRING YOUR FRIENDS)

Sunday, April 7th | 11:30 a.m. | Parish Hall

Our celebration of the Easter season continues! Grab your friends and join us in the Parish Hall immediately after the 10:30 a.m. service on April 7th for a build-your-own taco bar and fellowship. We'll have plenty of ingredients for you to craft your own special tacos, whether you prefer beef, chicken, fish, or veggie! Both corn and flour tortillas will be available, and toppings will include the usual lettuce and tomato, as well as regular or vegan cheese. Stick around for dessert, too! We hope you'll help us spread the joy of the Easter season by joining us on Sunday, April 7th!

***IT'S ABOUT TIME* WOMEN'S RETREAT**

Friday-Saturday, April 26th-27th | Mt. Lebanon Camp | Cedar Hill, TX

Calling all Women of Ascension! Mark your calendars! After a four-year hiatus, the long-awaited return of our annual Women's Retreat is Friday, April 26th - Saturday, April 27th. We are thrilled to invite you to join us for a rejuvenating experience away from the hustle and bustle of everyday life. This year, our retreat leader will be Mother Rebecca Tankersley, the esteemed Senior Associate Rector of the Episcopal Church of the Transfiguration. Embracing the theme *It's About Time*, our retreat offers a unique opportunity to explore the art of prioritization, aligning our tasks with our values to craft a life centered on faith and purpose. Let us come together for fellowship, formation, and rest. We will stay at Mt. Lebanon Camp at 1701 Texas Plume Rd, Cedar Hill, TX 75104, and the retreat is from Friday, 6:00 PM to Saturday, 3:00 PM. You can choose from our comfortable shared or single motel room accommodations on-site and embark on this spiritual growth and fellowship journey. More information is to come, so be on the lookout. Questions? contact Eva Barraza.



EPISCOPAL CHURCH
OF THE
ASCENSION

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