



NINTH SUNDAY  
AFTER  
*Pentecost*

Episcopal Church *of the* Ascension

August 10, 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

*Prelude & Fugue in F Major  
BWV 556*

Bach

## THE WORD OF GOD

*Please stand to sing the hymn*

HYMN 372: Blue Hymnal

*Praise to the living God!*

Leoni

Praise to the living God! All praised be his Name  
Who was, and is, and is to be, for ay the same.  
The one eternal God ere aught that now appears:  
The first, the last, beyond all thought his timeless years!

Formless, all lovely forms declare his loveliness;  
Holy, no holiness of earth can his express.  
Lo, he is Lord of all. Creation speaks his praise,  
And everywhere above, below. His will obeys.

His spirit floweth free, high surging where it will:  
In prophet's word he spoke of old: he speaketh still.  
Established is his law, and changeless it shall stand,  
Deep writ upon the human heart, on sea, on land.

Eternal life hath he implanted in the soul;  
His love shall be our strength and stay while ages roll.  
Praise to the living God! All praised be his Name  
Who was, and is, and is to be, for ay the same.

## OPENING ACCLAMATION

Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

**And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

## COLLECT FOR PURITY

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.**

*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.

Grant to us, Lord, we pray, the spirit to think and do always those things that are right, that we, who cannot exist without you, may by you be enabled to live according to your will; 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

Isaiah 1:1, 10-20

The vision of Isaiah son of Amoz, which he saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem in the days of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah, kings of Judah. Hear the word of the Lord, you rulers of Sodom! Listen to the teaching of our God, you people of Gomorrah! What to me is the multitude of your sacrifices? says the Lord; I have had enough of burnt offerings of rams and the fat of fed beasts; I do not delight in the blood of bulls, or of lambs, or of goats. When you come to appear before me, who asked this from your hand? Trample my courts no more; bringing offerings is futile; incense is an abomination to me. New moon and sabbath and calling of convocation—I cannot endure solemn assemblies with iniquity. Your new moons and your appointed festivals my soul hates; they have become a burden to me, I am weary of bearing them. When you stretch out your hands, I will hide my eyes from you; even though you make many prayers, I will not listen; your hands are full of blood. Wash yourselves; make yourselves clean; remove the evil of your doings from before my eyes; cease to do evil, learn to do good; seek justice, rescue the oppressed, defend the orphan, plead for the widow. Come now, let us argue it out, says the Lord: though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be like

snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall become like wool. If you are willing and obedient, you shall eat the good of the land; but if you refuse and rebel, you shall be devoured by the sword; for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Please read together in unison*

PSALM 50:1-8, 23-24

- 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.**
- 7     **Hear, O my people, and I will speak:**  
          **"O Israel, I will bear witness against you; \***  
          **for I am God, your God.**
- 8     **I do not accuse you because of your sacrifices; \***  
          **your offerings are always before me.**
- 23    **Consider this well, you who forget God, \***  
          **lest I rend you and there be none to deliver you.**
- 24    **Whoever offers me the sacrifice of thanksgiving honors me; \***  
          **but to those who keep in my way will I show the salvation of God."**

## SECOND READING

Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. Indeed, by faith our ancestors received approval. By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible. By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to set out for a place that he was to receive as an inheritance; and he set out, not knowing where he was going. By faith he stayed for a time in the land he had been promised, as in a foreign land, living in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. For he looked forward to the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God. By faith he received power of procreation, even though he was too old--and Sarah herself was barren--because he considered him faithful who had promised. Therefore from one person, and this one as good as dead, descendants were born, "as many as the stars of heaven and as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore." All of these died in faith without having received the promises, but from a distance they saw and greeted them. They confessed that they were strangers and foreigners on the earth, for people who speak in this way make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. If they had been thinking of the land that they had left behind, they would have had opportunity to return. But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; indeed, he has prepared a city for them.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand if able*

HYMN 533: Blue Hymnal

*How wondrous and great*

Lyons

How wondrous and great thy works, God of praise!  
How just, King of saints, and true are thy ways!  
O who shall not fear thee, and honor thy Name?  
Thou only art holy, thou only supreme.

To nations of earth thy light shall be shown;  
Their worship and vows shall come to thy throne:  
Thy truth and thy judgements shall spread all abroad,  
Till earth's every people confess thee their God.

*Please remain standing if able*

THE GOSPEL

Luke 12:32-40

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

**Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Jesus said to his disciples, "Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. Sell your possessions, and give alms. Make purses for yourselves that do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. Be dressed for action and have your lamps lit; be like those who are waiting for their master to return from the wedding banquet, so that they may open the door for him as soon as he comes and knocks. Blessed are those slaves whom the master finds alert when he comes; truly I tell you, he will fasten his belt and have them sit down to eat, and he will come and serve them. If he comes during the middle of the night, or near dawn, and finds them so, blessed are those slaves. But know this: if the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour."

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

THE SERMON

*Please be seated*

The Rev. Oliver M. Butler

*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 was made man.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
 who proceeds from the Father and the Son.  
 With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.  
 He has spoken through the Prophets.  
 We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.  
 We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
 We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
 and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

#### 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 Sean our Presiding Bishop; for George and Wayne our Bishops; for Oliver our Interim Rector; 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.**

CONFESSION OF SIN AND ABSOLUTION The Book of Common Prayer (Red), p. 360

Celebrant Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

**All Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you  
in thought, word and deed, by what we have done,  
and by what we have left undone.  
We have not loved you with our whole heart;  
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.  
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.  
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,  
have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will,  
and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

Celebrant Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**And also with you.**

*All may greet one another in the name of the Lord*

# THE HOLY COMMUNION

## THE OFFERTORY

*The Offertory is a time for us to offer ourselves, souls and bodies, and gifts of money, bread, wine, music and meditation to the Lord. Representatives of the congregation bring the people's offerings to the clergy. The people stand while the offerings are presented.*

*Please stand if able*

## 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. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. In fulfillment of his true promise, the Holy Spirit came down from heaven, lighting upon the disciples, to teach them and to lead them into all truth; uniting peoples of many tongues in the confession of one faith, and giving to your Church the power to serve you as a royal priesthood, and to preach the Gospel to all nations.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

HYMN S128: Blue Hymnal

*Holy, Holy, Holy Lord (Sanctus)*

William Mathias

***Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.***

***Hosanna in the highest.***

***Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.***

***Hosanna in the highest.***

*The Celebrant continues*

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:

**All            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

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 S155: Blue Hymnal *Fraction Anthem: Christ our Passover*

Gerald R. Near

*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.*

*Please kneel if able*

## 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 forever. **Amen.**

*Please stand if able*

HYMN 436: Blue Hymnal

*Lift up your heads*

Truro

Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates; behold the King of glory waits!  
The King of kings is drawing near; the Savior of the world is here.

O blest the land, the city blest, where Christ the ruler is confessed!  
O happy hearts and happy homes to whom this King of triumph comes!

Fling wide the portal of your heart; make it a temple, set apart  
From earthly use for heaven's employ, adorned with prayer and love and joy.

Redeemer come! I open wide my heart to thee: here, Lord, abide!  
Let me thy inner presence feel: thy grace and love in me reveal.

So come, my Sovereign: enter in! Let new and nobler life begin;  
Thy Holy Spirit guide us on, until the glorious crown be won.

THE DISMISSAL

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

CLOSING VOLUNTARY

*Praeludium in C Minor*  
*BWV 549*

Bach

## *Our Prayer List*

Suzanne; Paul; Debbie; the Gould family; Nancy; Lani; Jackie; Richard; Sadie; Gregg; The Byers family; Judy & ABW; Maddy; Craig; Kevin; Stacy; Jude; Linda; Gary; Mike & Ginner; Alice; Stephanie; Michael; Jason; Kerry & Damien; Joe & Betty; Zylynda; Yolanda; Kevin; Julian; Earl; Alexis; Mary Ann; Gary, Tommie; Sally; Frances; Helen; Jacqueline; Blake & Anne; Jamie; Robert; Jude; Amy; Richard; Paul; Mary Jo; Paulette; Joell; Jerry; Spence; Eric; Colleen; Manali, Leo, Milan; Wes; Phil & Sandy; Roger; Glen & Dusty; George & Nancy; Jan; Trish; Titus & Theresa; Judy & Alfred; Suzan; Kenn; Adrian; Deborah; David; Eva Maria; Taylon; Linda; Greg; Jack & Karen; Lupita & Kryss; George & Sue; 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; and for those who face threats of violence, particularly those at Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs). For all those affected by the Texas floods — the victims, their loved ones, and the communities enduring hardship — as well as the dedicated individuals and organizations involved in the ongoing relief efforts. Awaken us to our common humanity, our common human needs no matter the walls we build.

Diocese of Dallas Cycle of Prayer: Clergy Spouses & Families; Retired Clergy of the Diocese; Surviving Spouses of Clergy

## *Upcoming Events & Notices*

### **SANDBRANCH WATER DRIVE**

**Now through Saturday, 9/6**

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, September 6th, 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!

### **ADS ICE CREAM SOCIAL**

**TODAY! | After 10:30 a.m. Service | Parish Hall**

Following the 10:30 service today, please join us for an Ice Cream Social to celebrate the start of school and the beginning of our very own Ascension Day School's 15th year! This event will be held in the Parish Hall and is open to all Ascension members and ADS families! Many thanks to our Radical Hospitality team for hosting and serving. We hope to see you there!

### **2026 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN KICKOFF**

***Discerning God's Call | Renewing our Mission | Sunday, August 24th***

For our upcoming Fall Stewardship Campaign, we will seek to answer the question "How do you decide what to give God of your time, talent, and treasure through Ascension?" by considering our theme of Discerning God's Call – Renewing Our Mission. Through our individual spiritual disciplines of listening to God's loving direction in all that we are and do and then defining how together we can be the Church through our shared mission, we can become our best selves, both individually and collectively. We will utilize writers and speakers to explore this theme and encourage those interested in a greater role to email Janey Burruss at [JaneyBurruss@gmail.com](mailto:JaneyBurruss@gmail.com).



**EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
OF THE  
ASCENSION**

**The Rev. Oliver M. Butler, Interim Rector**

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

**Alice Frederick, Director of Christian Formation**

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

**Glenn Stroh, Interim Organist & Choirmaster**

**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**

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