



Episcopal Church *of the* Ascension

January 19, 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

Please stand

HYMN 124: Blue Hymnal

What star is this, with beams so bright

Puer Nobis

What star is this, with beams so bright, more beautiful than the noonday light?
It shines to herald forth the King, and Gentiles to his crib to bring.

True spoke the prophet from afar who told the rise of Jacob's star;
And eastern sages with amaze upon the wondrous token gaze.

The guiding star above is bright; within them shines a clearer light,
And leads them on with power benign to seek the Giver of the sign.

O Jesus, while the star of grace impels us on to seek thy face,
Let not our slothful hearts refuse the guidance of thy light to use.

To God the Father, heavenly Light, to Christ, revealed in earthly night,
To God the Holy Ghost we raise our equal and unceasing praise.

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.

**Almighty God, whose Son our Savior Jesus Christ is the light of the world:
Grant that your people, illumined by your Word and Sacraments, may shine
with the radiance of Christ's glory, that he may be known, worshipped, and
obeyed to the ends of the earth; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you
and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, now and for ever. Amen.**

Please be seated

FIRST READING

Isaiah 62:1-5

For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until her vindication shines out like the dawn, and her salvation like a burning torch. The nations shall see your vindication, and all the kings your glory; and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the Lord will give. You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the Lord, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God. You shall no more be termed Forsaken, and your land shall no more be termed Desolate; but you shall be called My Delight Is in Her, and your land Married; for the Lord delights in you, and your land shall be married. For as a young man marries a young woman, so shall your builder marry you, and as the bridegroom rejoices over the bride, so shall your God rejoice over you.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Please read together in unison

PSALM 36:5-10

**5 Your love, O Lord, reaches to the heavens, *
and your faithfulness to the clouds.**

- 6 **Your righteousness is like the strong mountains,
your justice like the great deep; *
you save both man and beast, O Lord.**
- 7 **How priceless is your love, O God! *
your people take refuge under the shadow of your wings.**
- 8 **They feast upon the abundance of your house; *
you give them drink from the river of your delights.**
- 9 **For with you is the well of life, *
and in your light we see light.**
- 10 **Continue your loving-kindness to those who know you, *
and your favor to those who are true of heart.**

SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 12:1-11

Now concerning spiritual gifts, brothers and sisters, I do not want you to be uninformed. You know that when you were pagans, you were enticed and led astray to idols that could not speak. Therefore I want you to understand that no one speaking by the Spirit of God ever says "Let Jesus be cursed!" and no one can say "Jesus is Lord" except by the Holy Spirit. Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Please stand if able

HYMN 126: Blue Hymnal

The people who in darkness walked

Dundee

The people who in darkness walked have seen a glorious light;
On them broke forth the heavenly dawn who dwelt in death and night.

To hail thy rising, Sun of life, the gathering nations come,
Joyous as when the reapers bear their harvest treasures home.

To us the promised Child is born, to us the Son is given;
Him shall the tribes of earth obey, and all the hosts of heaven.

His name shall be the Prince of Peace for evermore adored,
The Wonderful, the Counselor, the mighty God and Lord.

His power increasing still shall spread, his reign no end shall know;
Justice shall guard his throne above, and peace abound below.

Please remain standing if able

THE GOSPEL

John 2:1-11

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

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine." And Jesus said to her, "Woman, what concern is that to you and to me? My hour has not yet come." His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you." Now standing there were six stone water jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. Jesus said to them, "Fill the jars with water." And they filled them up to the brim. He said to them, "Now draw some out, and take it to the chief steward." So they took it. When the steward tasted the water that had become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the steward called the bridegroom and said to him, "Everyone serves the good wine first, and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now." Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee, and revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

THE SERMON

The Rev. Paul Klitzke

Please be seated

Please stand if able

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.**

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. **Amen.**

Please kneel if able

CONFESSION OF SIN AND ABSOLUTION

Celebrant Let us confess our sins to God.

All **God of all mercy, we confess that we have sinned against you,
opposing your will in our lives.**

**We have denied your goodness in each other,
in ourselves, and in the world you have created.**

**We repent of the evil that enslaves us, the evil we have done,
and the evil done on our behalf.**

**Forgive, restore, and strengthen us through our Savior Jesus Christ,
that we may abide in your love and serve only your will. 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.

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

Be Thou My Vision

arranged by Larry Shackley

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:

*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

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.**

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.***

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 324: Blue Hymnal

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

Picardy

Let all mortal flesh keep silence, and with fear and trembling stand;
Ponder nothing earthly minded, for with blessing in his hand
Christ our God to earth descendeth, our full homage to demand.

King of Kings, yet born of Mary, as of old on earth he stood,
Lord of lords in human vesture, in the Body and the Blood
He will give to all the faithful his own self for heavenly food.

Rank on rank the host of heaven spreads its vanguard on the way,
As the Light of Light descendeth from the realms of endless day,
That the powers of hell may vanish as the darkness clears a way.

At his feet the six-winged seraph; cherubim with sleepless eye
Veil their faces to the Presence, as with ceaseless voice they cry,
“Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, Lord Most High!”

THE DISMISSAL

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia. Alleluia.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia. Alleluia.

CLOSING VOLUNTARY

Our Prayer List

Sally; Joe; Frances; Helen; Jacqueline; Blake & Anne; Jamie; Greg; Gregg; Robert; Jude; Amy; Richard; Paul; Kent, Mary Jo; Marsha; Paulette; Joell; Jerry; Jim; Spence; Alison; Eric; Colleen; Manali, Leo, Milan; Wes; Steve, Bobbie; Phil and Sandy; Roger; Glen and Dusty; George and Nancy; Joe; Jerry; Terry and Jan; Trish; Rosemary and John; Gloria; the Coney family; the Bryant family; Titus & Theresa; Lani; Elliott and Suzanne; Judy and Alfred; Suzan; Kenn; Adrian; Maureen; Janie; Steve; Deborah; David; Marla; Quinta; Eva Maria; Lynda; Taylon; Fred; Linda; Greg; Jennifer; Jack & Karen; Lupita Pryor and family; George, Sue; Clifton; Hoover; Mary.

For the repose of the soul of Steve Raine and grace and comfort for his wife Bobbie, their family, and all who mourn this loss.

For the homeless and those in need; for migrants and refugees at our border and around the world; for the people of Ukraine, Israel, and Gaza and those who seek help from war; for those affected by natural disasters, particularly the fires in California; 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: Coppell - Church of the Apostles: The Rev. Timothy Cherry; Dallas - Ascension: The Rev. Paul Klitzke, The Rev. Mark Odieny

Upcoming Events & Notices

ADULT PROGRESSIVE DINNER

Saturday, January 25th | 6:00 - 10:00 p.m.

Mark your calendar and plan to attend our Adult Progressive Dinner on Saturday, January 25th! This event provides a wonderful opportunity to enjoy delicious food and engage in meaningful fellowship with other parishioners, so we hope you will join us. **People with young children: we want you to join us at this event! We will happily reimburse you for any babysitting costs you incur by attending this dinner.** To sign up for this event, fill out the form on our website. www.ascensiondallas.org

ANNUAL ALL-PARISH MEETING

Sunday, January 26th | 9:00 a.m.

All parishioners are invited to attend our Annual Meeting on January 26th. It is an opportunity for every member to hear about the previous year and participate in the leadership for our future. On this day, the congregation will elect leadership to the vestry and representation at Diocesan Convention. It's also a time to hear from Fr. Paul, the vestry, and standing committees on the state of Ascension and plans for 2025. We hope to see you there!

ADULT EPIPHANY STUDY

***Luke: Jesus and the Outsiders, Outcasts, and Outlaws* | 9:15 a.m. | Conference Room**

This winter, our adult formation group will be reading and discussing *Luke: Jesus and the Outsiders, Outcasts, and Outlaws* by Adam Hamilton. The book explores the life, teachings, death, and resurrection of Jesus as told in the Gospel of Luke. Through Luke's stories we find Jesus' care and compassion for all as he welcomes sinners and outcasts. As we study Luke and see Jesus' concern for those who were considered unimportant, we hear a hopeful and inspiring word for our lives today. All adults are invited to attend this engaging series beginning January 12th. Questions? Contact Joan Romanosky. romanjoan63@gmail.com

Bulletin Cover Art:

Epiphany by Jan L. Richardson



EPISCOPAL CHURCH
OF THE
ASCENSION

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