

The First Reading: 2 Kings 2:1-12

When the LORD was about to take Elijah up to heaven by a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. Elijah said to Elisha, “Stay here; for the LORD has sent me as far as Bethel.” But Elisha said, “As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.” So they went down to Bethel. The company of prophets who were in Bethel came out to Elisha, and said to him, “Do you know that today the LORD will take your master away from you?” And he said, “Yes, I know; keep silent.” Elijah said to him, “Elisha, stay here; for the LORD has sent me to Jericho.” But he said, “As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.” So they came to Jericho. The company of prophets who were at Jericho drew near to Elisha, and said to him, “Do you know that today the LORD will take your master away from you?” And he answered, “Yes, I know; be silent.” Then Elijah said to him, “Stay here; for the LORD has sent me to the Jordan.” But he said, “As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.” So the two of them went on. Fifty men of the company of prophets also went, and stood at some distance from them, as they both were standing by the Jordan. Then Elijah took his mantle and rolled it up, and struck the water; the water was parted to the one side and to the other, until the two of them crossed on dry ground. When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, “Tell me what I may do for you, before I am taken from you.” Elisha said, “Please let me inherit a double share of your spirit.” He responded, “You have asked a hard thing; yet, if you see me as I am being taken from you, it will be granted you; if not, it will not.” As they continued walking and talking, a chariot of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them, and Elijah ascended in a whirlwind into heaven. Elisha kept watching and crying out, “Father, father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!” But when he could no longer see him, he grasped his own clothes and tore them in two pieces.

Reader: The Word of the Lord All: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 50:1-6 *Standing and read responsively by half verse*

The LORD, the God of gods, has spoken; *

he has called the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting.

Out of Zion, perfect in its beauty, *

God reveals himself in glory.

Our God will come and will not keep silence; *

before him there is a consuming flame, and round about him a raging storm.

He calls the heavens and the earth from above *

to witness the judgment of his people.

"Gather before me my loyal followers, *

those who have made a covenant with me and sealed it with sacrifice."

Let the heavens declare the rightness of his cause; *

for God himself is judge.

The Second Reading: 2 Corinthians 4:3-6

Even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus’ sake. For it is the God who said, “Let light shine out of darkness,” who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

Reader: The Word of the Lord All: **Thanks be to God.**

The Gradual Hymn *O wondrous type! O vision fair* Hymnal 137

The Gospel: Mark 9:2-9

Reader: The Holy Gospel... All: **Glory be to you, Lord Christ**

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

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

Reader: The Gospel of the Lord. All: **Praise be to you, Lord Christ.**

The Sermon The Rev’d Jordan Hylden

The Nicene Creed *Standing, said by all* BCP 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 Form III BCP 387

Kneeling, the Leader and People pray responsively

Father, we pray for your holy catholic Church; ***That we all may be one.***

Grant that every member of the church may truly and humbly serve you;
That your Name may be glorified by all people.

We pray for Jake, our bishop; for *Joseph, Jordan, Emily,* and *Jake,* our priests; for *Honey,* our deacon; and for all bishops, priests, and deacons
That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.

We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons;
That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.

We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;
That there may be justice and peace on the earth.

Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;
That our works may find favor in your sight.

Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;
That they may be delivered from their distress.
Give to the departed eternal rest; ***Let light perpetual shine upon them.***

We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;
May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.

The Celebrant concludes with a prayer

The Confession of Sin BCP 360

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

Celebrant and People

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.*

The celebrant pronounces absolution.

The Peace

Celebrant: The peace of the Lord be always with you. *People:* **And also with you.**

Welcome and Announcements

Offertory *Beautiful Savior*

The Presentation of the Gifts

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below; praise him above, ye heavenly host: praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Eucharistic Prayer A BCP 361

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.

All: **We lift them to the Lord.**

Celebrant: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: **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.

Then the celebrant adds a preface

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:

The Sanctus *Sung by all* Hymnal S-125

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 people kneel. *Then 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 before he died for us, 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, according to his command, O Father.

Celebrant and People

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.*

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say, *(in unison)*

The Lord's Prayer *Said by all* BCP 364

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.*

At the Breaking of the Bread

Celebrant: Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

All: **Therefore let us keep the feast.**

Anthem S-164

Jesus, Lamb of God: have mercy on us.

Jesus, bearer of our sins: have mercy on us.

Jesus, redeemer of the world: give us your peace, give us your peace.

The Invitation to Communion

Communion Hymns *Songs of thankfulness and praise* Hymnal 135
For the bread which you have Hymnal 341

Thanksgiving and Blessing *Said by all* BCP 366

Almighty and everliving God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and forever. *Amen.*

Recessional *Ye watchers and ye holy ones* Hymnal 618

Dismissal People respond: *Thanks be to God*

Postlude

YOUR PRAYERS ARE ASKED FOR:

Our Vestry and Clergy- our brother, Joseph, Julian Christopher Buuck, Stephen, Sandie Jordan, Joyce McClellan, Christopher Anglin, Lynn, Charles Lutes, Gerald Delaunay, Mary McIntosh, Lisa Bordelon, Maggie Patin, Billy Hall, Hazel, Marvin, , Mary Fay Freshley, Michael Reed, Nicholas Blonski, Margret DeLarue, Catherine Elizabeth, Emily Taylor, Alison Higginbotham, Renee Reina, Dr Kerri Remmel, Rebecca Jayne, James Alan Vaughn, Sawyer Billeaud, Maddox, Louise Haddock, Father Gary Schexnayder, Miller, Nagham El Karhili, Kasey, Jack Larmier, David, Carlin Craig, Kasey, Sharon, Kristen, John Bateman, Arthur White, Lou Ann St. Julien, Sterling Lejeune, Sylvia Turner, Roxanne Myers, Andrew D., Mary Beth Tompkins, Donald Shaffer, Jack Seale, Noelle Freeland, Bart Freeland, Donna Hebert, Jim, Lazane Frost, Molly Zeringue, Jeanne Zeringue, Kevin Barry, Jan and Charles, Dusty Nassif, Ed Walker, Emily Marie, Miller King, Pat Fontenot, Paige, Alex Martin, Alicia, Maggie Johnson, Tolley Odom, Karen Anderson, Aimee White, Marion, Betsy Vigorito, Albert Freeman, Becky Slagle, Lynda Gaiennie, Alyssa Willson, Janet Limouze, Joe and Christina, Albert Davis, Myra Tener, Susan Oglesbee, Ann Jacobs, David Snyder, Penny Immel, Janet Bernhardt, Morgan Rutledge, Jake Rushing and family, Jan Hamilton, Reese Forest, Fiona Chisholm, Ella Mitchell, Peezie Alfred, Eddie and Rebecca LeBlanc, Brooks Citron, Mary Connor, Wendy Ortego, Karen Lavalais, David, Connor, Mona Stagg, Lillie Hardy, Susan Davis, Judy Herman, Nash, Roya Parker, Perry Joseph, friends and family serving in the armed services. Diocesan Cycle of Prayer: Our Lady of Queen of Peace Catholic Church, Good Shepherd in Lake Charles, St. Michael and All Angels in Lake Charles, and Providence of the Episcopal Church of South Sudan. (Names stay on the prayers list for three weeks unless otherwise requested.)

The Altar Flowers are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Mr. and Mrs. Frank C. Rogers

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome to Ascension! Please join us for coffee and breakfast in Coughlin Hall between services.

Like the Blues Brothers, we're "on a mission from God." But what is it? This Epiphany, our **Rector's Forum** has covered a different aspect of the church's mission each Sunday (10am, Coughlin). Next week, we'll begin a new series on *The Seven Deadly Sins (And How to Avoid Them)*.

Lent begins this week! **Ash Wednesday** services will be at noon and 6pm on Feb. 14. **Lent Dinner and Discussion** will start up the following Wed., Feb. 21, 5:30pm in Coughlin (childcare available in nursery). We'll be talking together about the Seven Heavenly Virtues (justice, fortitude, temperance, courage, faith, hope, and love).

Children's Sunday school (elementary school) and youth group (middle/high school) meet at 10am, with **Children's church** during the sermon and readings at the 11am service.

Our children's ministry will be hosting a **Lent Fundraiser** on Feb. 25, benefiting our sister Epiphany School in Uganda after both Sunday morning services. If you or your little one would like to donate baked goods, or help with bake sales that day, please reach out to Angelle Adams at aadams@ascensionbluegators.org.

Join us today for our **youth group Super Bowl party** (5:30pm, Hylden residence, 228 Grand Ave.). Plus, Ascension Youth are asked to help with our Mardi Gras parking fundraiser for youth ministry, by helping clean after the final Tues., Feb. 13 parade (4:30pm).

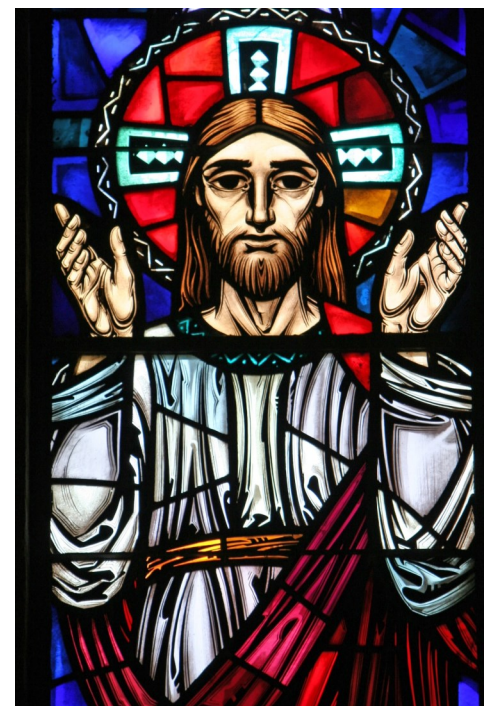
Ascension Women: Tuesday night Bible study and dinner meets each week at 6pm in Coughlin Hall, but we are off this week for Mardi Gras!

Ascension Men: Join us every Wednesday for lectionary Bible study: lunch the 1st, 3rd, and 5th weeks (12:15, Bon Temps Grill); and breakfast the 2nd and 4th (7:45am, Hub City Diner). *This week: Breakfast at Hub City.* Each month, we serve a meal to the homeless at St. Joseph's Diner: to sign up, contact Louis Simon (louissimon221@gmail.com).

Our **February Vice-Rector's book club** selection is *How Far to the Promised Land*, by Esau McCaulley. Fr. Jordan will lead at 6:30pm, Thurs. Feb. 29, at Pour (Degaulle Sq.).

Lectors: Gail White
Ushers: Jeff Straub and Dough Goings
Greeter: Susan Davis

Acolytes: Austin Adams, Abigail Adams, Anna-Grace Adams, Wells Randall
Music: Tom Lyles, Minister of Music and John Moore, Organist, and Choir
Church Office Hours: Monday -Friday- 8:30am -2:30pm



The Episcopal Church of the Ascension

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Bishop

The Right Reverend Jacob W. Owensby, Ph.D.

Rector

The Reverend Joseph Daly

Vice Rector

The Reverend Jordan Hylden, Th.D.

Clergy Associate

The Reverend Emily Hylden

Chaplain

The Reverend Jacob Schlossberg

Deacon

The Reverend Honey Becker

Welcome

We welcome all those who have come to worship with us today, and please come back often. If you are searching for a church home, we invite you to join us in our worshiping and celebration of God's love. Please fill out a "Communication Card" in the pew and drop it in the offering plate so that we can extend our hospitality to you beyond our doors.

All children are welcome in Church. The nursery is available for infants and toddlers. Please remember to silence your cell phone.

The Last Sunday after the Epiphany

February 11, 2024
11:00 AM

Prelude

Procession *Alleluia! Sing to Jesus!* Hymnal 460

Celebrant: Blessed be God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
All: **And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

The Collect for Purity

The Gloria *Glory to God* Hymnal S-280
The "S" indicates Service Music found in the front section of the Hymnal

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 BCP 215
Celebrant: The Lord be with you. People: **And also with you.**

O God, who before the passion of your only-begotten Son revealed his glory upon the holy mountain: Grant to us that we, beholding by faith the light of his countenance, may be strengthened to bear our cross, and be changed into his likeness from glory to glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*



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