

**The Collect of the Day** *Kneeling*  
*Celebrant: The Lord be with you.*

People: **And with thy spirit.**

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put upon us the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which thy Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the quick and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

*Dismiss children for Children's Church.*

**Reader: A Reading from the Book of Jeremiah 33:14-16**

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The Lord is our righteousness."

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

**Psalms 25:1-9** *Standing and read responsively by half verse*

To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul; my God, I put my trust in you; \*  
**let me not be humiliated, nor let my enemies triumph over me.**

Let none who look to you be put to shame; \*

**let the treacherous be disappointed in their schemes.**

Show me your ways, O LORD, \* **and teach me your paths.**

Lead me in your truth and teach me, \*

**for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all the day long.**

Remember, O LORD, your compassion and love, \* **for they are from everlasting.**

Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions; \*

**remember me according to your love**  
**and for the sake of your goodness, O LORD.**

Gracious and upright is the LORD; \* **therefore he teaches sinners in his way.**

He guides the humble in doing right \* **and teaches his way to the lowly.**

All the paths of the LORD are love and faithfulness \*

**to those who keep his covenant and his testimonies.**

**Reader: A Reading from Paul's First Letter to the Thessalonians 3:9-13**

How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith. Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

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

**Gradual** *Redeemer of the nations, come* Hymnal 55

**The Gospel: Luke 21:25-36**

*Reader: The Holy Gospel...* All: **Glory be to thee, O Lord.**

Jesus said, "There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in a cloud' with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near." Then he told them a parable: "Look at the fig tree and all the trees; as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. Heaven and

earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. "Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day catch you unexpectedly, like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man."

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

**The Sermon** The Rev'd Honey Becker

**The Nicene Creed** *Standing, said by all* BCP 327

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible;

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of his Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father; by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Ghost of the Virgin Mary, and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried; and the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures, and ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of the Father; and he shall come again, with glory, to judge both the quick and the dead; whose kingdom shall have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Ghost the Lord, and Giver of Life, who proceedeth from the Father and the Son; who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified; who spake by the Prophets. And I believe one holy Catholic and Apostolic Church; I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins; and I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

**The Prayers of the People** *kneeling* BCP 328

*Leader:* Let us pray for the whole state of Christ's Church and the world.

Almighty and everliving God, who in thy holy Word hast taught us to make prayers, and supplications, and to give thanks for all men: Receive these our prayers which we offer unto thy divine Majesty, beseeching thee to inspire continually the Universal Church with the spirit of truth, unity, and concord; and grant that all those who do confess thy holy Name may agree in the truth of thy holy Word, and live in unity and godly love.

*Leader:* Lord, in thy mercy All: **Hear our prayer.**

Give grace, O heavenly Father, to all bishops and other ministers [especially *Jake our bishop*], that they may, both by their life and doctrine, set forth thy true and lively Word, and rightly and duly administer thy holy Sacraments.

*Leader:* Lord, in thy mercy All: **Hear our prayer.**

And to all thy people give thy heavenly grace, and especially to this congregation here present; that, with meek heart and due reverence, they may hear and receive thy holy Word, truly serving thee in holiness and righteousness all the days of their life.

*Leader:* Lord, in thy mercy All: **Hear our prayer.**

We beseech thee also so to rule the hearts of those who bear the authority of government in this and every land [especially *Joseph, our president*], that they may be led to wise decisions and right actions for the welfare and peace of the world.

*Leader:* Lord, in thy mercy All: **Hear our prayer.**

Open, O Lord, the eyes of all people to behold thy gracious hand in all thy works, that, rejoicing in thy whole creation, they may honor thee with their substance, and be faithful stewards of thy bounty.

*Leader:* Lord, in thy mercy All: **Hear our prayer.**

And we most humbly beseech thee, of thy goodness, O Lord, to comfort and succor those on our Intercessory Prayer list, *for all expectant mothers, for those celebrating birthdays and anniversaries this week; all the men and women in our nation's armed forces,* all those who, in this transitory life, are in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness, or any other adversity.

*Leader:* Lord, in thy mercy All: **Hear our prayer.**

And we also bless thy holy Name for all thy servants departed this life in thy faith and fear, beseeching thee to grant them continual growth in thy love and service; and to grant us grace so to follow the good examples of all thy saints, that with them we may be partakers of thy heavenly kingdom. Grant these our prayers, O Father, for Jesus Christ's sake, our only Mediator and Advocate. *Amen.*

*Almighty God, who has blessed and sustained us through the years, grant us the strength to meet the days ahead with steadfastness and patience; look graciously on this parish and school family, and send forth your Holy Spirit to guide the search committee, the vestry, and the whole community of Ascension, that we may receive a priest and pastor who will boldly proclaim your Gospel, faithfully administer your sacraments, care for your people, and equip us for your service; through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

**The Peace**

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

*People:* **And with thy spirit.**

**Welcome and Announcements**

*Offertory* *Prepare the way O Zion* Lyles

**The Presentation of the Gifts**

All things come of Thee, O Lord, and of Thine own have we given Thee.

Present yourselves as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.

All things come of Thee, O Lord, and of Thine own have we given Thee.

**The Great Thanksgiving** *Standing* BCP 340

*Celebrant:* The Lord be with you. All: **And with thy spirit.**

*Celebrant:* Lift up your hearts. All: **We lift them up unto the Lord.**

*Celebrant:* Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.

All: **It is meet and right so to do.**

**The Celebrant Continues** *with people kneeling* BCP 341

It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto thee, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God.

*Here a Proper Preface is sung or said on all Sundays, and on other occasions as appointed.*

Therefore with Angels and Archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious Name; evermore praising thee, and saying,

**The Sanctus** *Sung by all* S114

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of Hosts:

Heaven and earth are full of thy glory.

Glory be to thee, O Lord Most High.

Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

**The Celebrant continues** *with people kneeling* BCP 341

**The Lord's Prayer** *Said by all* BCP 336

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-166

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.

**The Prayer of Humble Access** *Celebrant and people* BCP 337

We do not presume to come to this thy Table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in thy manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under thy Table. But thou art the same Lord whose property is always to have mercy. Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of thy dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. *Amen.*

**The Invitation to Communion**

*We welcome all baptized Christians to receive Holy Communion. Those receiving the bread may do so in the open palm, and those receiving the wine may drink from the cup or by intinction, slightly dipping the bread in the wine. You may request a blessing instead of Communion by crossing your arms on your chest. To receive from your pew, please ask an usher.*

**Communion Hymns** *O day of God, draw nigh* Hymnal 601  
*Hail to the Lord's Anointed* Hymnal 616

**Thanksgiving and Blessing** *Kneeling and in unison* BCP 339

Almighty and everliving God, we most heartily thank thee for that thou dost feed us, in these holy mysteries, with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and dost assure us thereby of thy favor and goodness towards us; and that we are very members incorporate in the mystical body of thy Son, the blessed company of all faithful people; and are also heirs, through hope, of thy everlasting kingdom. And we humbly beseech thee, O heavenly Father, so to assist us with thy grace, that we may continue in that holy fellowship, and do all such good works as thou hast prepared for us to walk in; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honor and glory, world without end. *Amen.*

**Recessional Hymn** *O Zion, haste, thy mission high fulfilling* Hymnal 539

**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, Alison Higginbotham, Renee Reina, Dr Kerri Remmel, Rebecca Jayne, James Alan Vaughn, Sawyer Billeaud, Maddox, Louise Had-dock, 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 Free-land, Bart Freeland, Donna Hebert, Jim, Lazane Frost, Molly Zeringue, Jeanne Zeringue, Kevin Barry, Jan and Charles, Dusty Nassif, Miller King, Pat Fontenot, Paige, Alex Martin, Alicia, Maggie Johnson, Karen Anderson, Aimee White, Marion, Betsy Vigorito, Albert Freeman, Becky Slagle, Alyssa Willson, Janet Limouze, Joe and Christina, Albert Davis, Susan Oglesbee, Ann Jacobs, David Snyder, Janet Bernhardt, Morgan Rutledge, Jan Hamilton, Reese Forest, Fiona Chisholm, Peezie Alfred, Eddie and Rebecca LeBlanc, Brooks Citron, Mary Connor, Wendy Ortego, Karen Lavalais, David, Connor, Mona Stagg, Lillie Hardy, Susan Davis, Nash, Perry Joseph, Gail White, Katrina Marlana McKinnis, Nicole Wynn, Richard Bessent, Tron Thomas, Randy Harelson, Ronnie and Larry Garric, Marianna Cooney, Pat, Sher-rye, Courtney, Judy, Sasha, Kelly and Dave Domangue, Troy LeBouef, Kory Bowman, Ashlynn Brou-sard, Finn, Caroline and Eddie, John Michael, Lizzie, Mary Domingue, Beau Domingue, Courtney and family, Harry Bruder, Rick Onks, Lynette Newchurch, Neil Joseph, The family of Sr. Cpl. Segus Jo-livette, Janice Batton, Jane Cecil, Chris Silva, Agnes Capello, Pam Michael, Kimet Coldiron, Randy Morgan, Rachelle Morgan, Carolyn Barker, Danielle, Alexis, Jon, Ashley, Eddie, Caroline, Finn, Han-nah Murphy, Natalie Hesterly, Mac, Francis LeBlanc, Karen Cox, Joe and Amy, Dim Berger, Claire, Donald Leger, Freda Keller, Jillian Schossberg, Beau Soulier, Kathleen David, Ed Keller, William Kel-ler, Gili Menashe Robinson, Kate and Mark, Jo and Lee Cox, Mark Andrus, friends and family serving in the armed services. Diocesan Cycle of Prayer: The Bishop, The Bishop's Staff, The Standing Com-mittee, the Diocesan Council, First United Methodist Church, and Province of the Episcopal Church of South Sudan. (Names stay on the prayers list for three weeks unless otherwise requested.)

*The Altar Greens are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of  
Chris Headley, Chris Brumfield, and Patsy Merikle by Mr. and Mrs. Kirk Headley*

### Announcements

**Please return your pledge card by December 8th, 2024.**

**Ascension Kids:** We need kiddos for the Christmas pageant..angels, shepherds, and the holy family too! Grades 3rd and up can be lecturers....there's a spot for everyone! We will start re-hearsing during Sunday school times. If you have any questions, please contact Susen Brown (sbrown@ascensionbluegators.org)

**Rectors Forum: Lectors-** Father Matt will meet with the lecturers in Coughlin Hall next Sun-day, December 8th at 10am.

**Ushers-** Sunday, December 15 at 10am Father Matt will meet with the Ushers in Coughlin Hall.

**Tuesday Bible Study** — Tuesday evenings Study of I Samuel 6-7:00 pm in the Owen Room. Teachers: Laurie Godshall, Doug Goings, Elizabeth Hesterly, Sarah McNamara. Please bring your Bible and invite a friend.

**Ascension Men:** We will resume for lunch at noon on Thursday, December 5 in the Robson Room and meet for breakfast at Hub City Diner on Wednesday, December 11. We continue to study the Book of Acts, generally alternating breakfast, and lunch each week. Join us every week or drop in for a single session. You are always welcome! Also- Each month (roughly!), we serve a meal to the homeless at St. Joseph's Diner: to sign up to serve, contact Louis Si-mon (louissimon221@gmail.com).

**Adult Bible Study - Class will not meet Sunday morning, Dec 1 due to the Thanksgiving holiday.** Sunday Mornings Study of Ephesians 10-10:45 am in the Owen Room. Teach-ers: Mark Bengé, Laurie Godshall, Doug Goings, John Griffin, Elizabeth Hesterly

**Note from the Treasurer:** As the year end draws near, please remember that all 2024 contributions must be received by the church office before December 31 for 2024 tax deduction.

**Lessons and Carols: 11am December 8**

**Christmas Eve:**

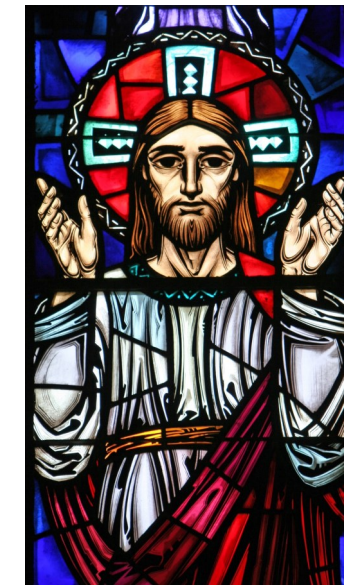
**Children's Nativity Pageant w/ Holy Eucharist: 5pm**

**Choral Prelude: 9:40pm**

**The Feast of the Holy Nativity: 10pm**

**Christmas Day: 10am Holy Eucharist**

**Lector:** Susan Davis **Greeter:** Ginger Norvell **Ushers:** Jeff Straub and Kirk Headley  
**Acolyte:** Gavin Stewart, Christian Singleton, Wells Randall, and Rex Randall  
**Music:** Tom Lyles, Minister of Music and John Moore, organ  
**Office Hours:** Monday—Friday: 8:30 am—2:30pm



## The Episcopal Church of the Ascension

1030 Johnston Street,  
Lafayette, Louisiana 70501  
(337) 232-2732  
www.ascensionlafayette.com

**Bishop**

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

**Interim Rector**

*The Reverend Matt Woollett*

**Chaplain and Associate for Youth**

*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.

*The nursery is available for infants and toddlers.  
Please remember to silence your cell phone.*

## The First Sunday of Advent

December 1, 2024  
11:00 am

**Prelude**

**Processional Hymn** *Lo! He comes, with clouds descending* Hymnal 57

**Celebrant:** Bless the Lord who forgiveth all our sins.  
**All:** His mercy endureth for ever.

**The Summary of the Law** BCP 319

**The Confession of Sin** *Kneeling* BCP 320

Almighty and most merciful Father, we have erred and strayed from thy ways like lost sheep, we have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts, we have offended against thy holy laws, we have left undone those things which we ought to have done, and we have done those things which we ought not to have done. But thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us, spare thou those who confess their faults, restore thou those who are penitent, according to thy promises declared unto mankind in Christ Jesus our Lord; and grant, O most merciful Father, for his sake, that we may hereafter live a godly, righteous, and sober life, to the glory of thy holy Name. *Amen.*

*The Celebrant pronounces absolution*

The Almighty and merciful Lord grant you absolution and remission of all your sins, true repentance, amendment of life, and the grace and consolation of his Holy Spirit. *Amen.*



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