

The Collect of the Day BCP 214
Celebrant: The Lord be with you People: **And also with you**

Give us grace, O Lord, to answer readily the call of our Savior Jesus Christ and proclaim to all people the Good News of his salvation, that we and the whole world may perceive the glory of his marvelous works; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Celebrant dismisses the children for Children's Church.

Reader: A Reading from the Book of Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10

All the people of Israel gathered together into the square before the Water Gate. They told the scribe Ezra to bring the book of the law of Moses, which the LORD had given to Israel. Accordingly, the priest Ezra brought the law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could hear with understanding. This was on the first day of the seventh month. He read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand; and the ears of all the people were attentive to the book of the law. And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was standing above all the people; and when he opened it, all the people stood up. Then Ezra blessed the LORD, the great God, and all the people answered, "Amen, Amen," lifting up their hands. Then they bowed their heads and worshiped the LORD with their faces to the ground. So they read from the book, from the law of God, with interpretation. They gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading. And Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, "This day is holy to the LORD your God; do not mourn or weep." For all the people wept when they heard the words of the law. Then he said to them, "Go your way, eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions of them to those for whom nothing is prepared, for this day is holy to our LORD; and do not be grieved, for the joy of the LORD is your strength."

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

Psalm 19 *Read responsively by half verse*
The heavens declare the glory of God, *
and the firmament shows his handiwork.

One day tells its tale to another, *
and one night imparts knowledge to another.

Although they have no words or language, *
and their voices are not heard,

Their sound has gone out into all lands, *
and their message to the ends of the world.

In the deep has he set a pavilion for the sun; *
it comes forth like a bridegroom out of his chamber;
it rejoices like a champion to run its course.

It goes forth from the uttermost edge of the heavens
and runs about to the end of it again; *
nothing is hidden from its burning heat.

The law of the LORD is perfect and revives the soul; *
the testimony of the LORD is sure and gives wisdom to the innocent.

The statutes of the LORD are just and rejoice the heart; *
the commandment of the LORD is clear and gives light to the eyes.

The fear of the LORD is clean and endures for ever; *
the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether.

More to be desired are they than gold, more than much fine gold, *
sweeter far than honey, than honey in the comb.

By them also is your servant enlightened, *
and in keeping them there is great reward.

Who can tell how often he offends? *
cleanse me from my secret faults.

Above all, keep your servant from presumptuous sins;
let them not get dominion over me; *
then shall I be whole and sound, and innocent of a great offense.

Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my
heart be acceptable in your sight, *
O LORD, my strength and my redeemer.

Reader: A Reading from the Book of 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a

Just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body--Jews or Greeks, slaves or free--and we were all made to drink of one Spirit. Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many. If the foot would say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. And if the ear would say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. If all were a single member, where would the body be? As it is, there are many members, yet one body. The eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you," nor again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you." On the contrary, the members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, and those members of the body that we think less honorable we clothe with greater honor, and our less respectable members are treated with greater respect; whereas our more respectable members do not need this. But God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honor to the inferior member, that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another. If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it. Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers; then deeds of power, then gifts of healing, forms of assistance, forms of leadership, various kinds of tongues. Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? But strive for the greater gifts.

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

The Gradual Hymn *O Christ, the Word Incarnate* Hymnal 632

The Gospel : Luke 4:14-21
Reader: The Holy Gospel.... All: **Glory be to you, Lord Christ**

Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country. He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone. When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor." And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he began to say to them, "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing."

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

The Sermon The Rev'd Matt Woollett

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 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.

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

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 *Ubi Caritas* Durufle

The Presentation of the Doxology
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 BCP 361

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 Celebrant Continues *with people kneeling* BCP 362

Celebrant: Therefore, we proclaim the mystery of faith;
All: **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again**

The Celebrant Continues BCP 363

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 *My God, thy table now is spread* Hymnal 321
Lord, make us servants of your peace Hymnal 593

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 *Christ for the world we sing!* Hymnal 537

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, Sherrye, Courtney, Judy, Sasha, Kelly and Dave Domangue, Troy LeBouef, Kory Bow-man, Ashlynn Broussard, Finn, Caroline and Eddie, John Michael, Lizzie, Mary Domingue, Beau Domingue, Courtney and family, Harry Bruder, Rick Onks, Lynette Newchurch, Neil Joseph, The fami-ly of Sr. Cpl. Segus Jolivette, Janice Batton, Jane Cecil, Chris Silva, Agnes Capello, Pam Michael, Ki-met Coldiron, Randy Morgan, Rachelle Morgan, Carolyn Barker, Danielle, Alexis, Jon, Ashley, Eddie, Caroline, Finn, Hannah 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 Keller, Gili Menashe Robinson, Kate and Mark, Jo and Lee Cox, Donny, Elliot, Donny, Ricky Stutes, Phyllis Bouchereau, Bailee Slagle, Dixie Huval, friends and family serving in the armed services. Diocesan Cycle of Prayer: Diocesan Cycle of Prayer: All Canterbury ministries and Chaplains, Centenary College, Grambling University, Louisiana Tech, McNeese State University, Northwestern State University, University of Louisiana at Lafayette, University of Louisiana at Monroe, The University of the South, Virginia Theological Seminary and the Seminary of Southwest, Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church, and The Episcopal/Anglican Province of Alexandria. (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. & Mrs. O.T. Brewster and Mr. & Mrs. W.L. Dobie,
parents of Ann and Walter Dobie
&
John P. Keller, Sr., Gladys M. Voss, and W. S. Williams, by Becky and Elmer Slagle*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Delegates to the Diocesan Convention: So far, we have two delegates to represent Ascension Church at the Annual Diocesan Convention, which will be held on April 4-5 in Alexandria, Louisiana: George Hall and Kathy Knierim. If anyone else is interested in serving as a delegate, please let Fr. Matt know, or send Misty an email. It would be helpful to have as many as six people serve in this capacity: four delegates and two alternates. Attending convention is a wonderful way to connect with the diocesan church and experience how God is working in all the parishes and missions that make up The Episcopal Diocese of Western Louisiana.

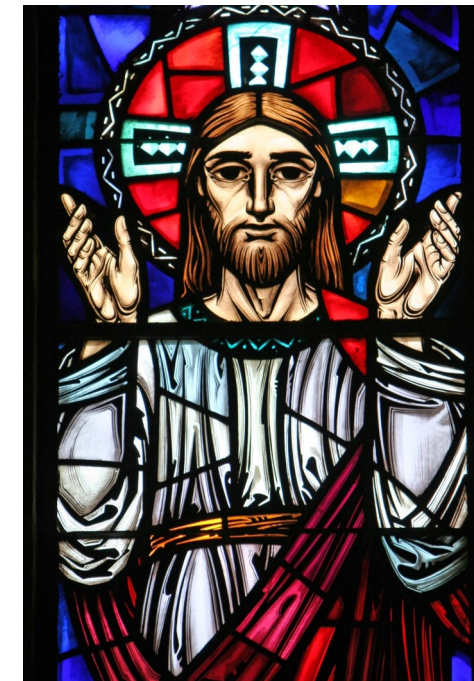
Ascension Sunday School, Youth Group, and Children's Church: Children's Church is celebrated each Sunday during 11am Eucharist, children are dismissed during service by the celebrant. All Children are invited to participate in the Children's liturgy at the 11am Eucha-rist. There will not be 10am Sunday School until further notice.

Tuesday Bible Study: We will continue the study of I Samuel. Teachers: Laurie Godshall, Doug Goings, Elizabeth Hesterly, Sarah McNamara. Please bring your Bible and invite a friend.

Ascension Men: We will meet for breakfast Wednesday, Jan. 22 at Hub City Diner at 7:45 am. and again the following week, for brown bag lunch in the Robson Room at the Church, Thursday, January 30 at 11:45 am. We continue to study the Book of Acts, generally alternat-ing 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 Simon (louissimon221@gmail.com).

Adult Bible Study: The Sunday Morning Bible Study will be back on Sunday, January 12 at 10am. We will begin the study of Philippians. Teachers: Mark Benge, Laurie Godshall, Doug Goings, John Griffin, Elizabeth Hesterly

Lectors: Gail White
Acolytes: Perry Joseph, Chancey Joseph, Cannon Schwegmann, Gabe Sicard
Ushers: Jeff Straub and Kirk Headley
Greeter: Jerie Olivier
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.

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 Third Sunday after the Epiphany

January 26, 2025
11:00 AM

Prelude

Procession *Sing praise to God who reigns above* Hymnal 408

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.*



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