

THE HOLY EUCHARIST



WITH THE INSTALLATION OF
MRS. SARAH LEE

AS

HEAD OF SCHOOL

AND



THE BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS

Sunday, August 16th, 2026
11 AM

Ascension Episcopal Church & School
1030 Johnston Street
Lafayette, Louisiana

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ECW Bake Sale Today: The ECW is hosting a bake sale fundraiser **Today**, after the 11:00 a.m. services. Purchases may be made with cash, check, or Venmo. All proceeds benefit the ECW's operating fund, which will be used to host events in support of Ascension families. Please join us for what promises to be a very sweet time!

Flower Ministry: We are once again collecting small vases for flower deliveries. If you have any you would like to donate, please drop off at the church office or bring on Sunday mornings. Many thanks.

Rector's Forum: Join Fr. Matthew Ainsley for a four-week rector's forum throughout **August**. Sessions meet each **Sunday at 9:45am in Coughlin Hall**.

NEW WORSHIP TIME-Worship at The Vincent, a senior living community, is held in The Vincent Chapel **every Friday at 10:00AM**, led by The Rev. Honey Becker. Please contact Deacon Becker with any questions. Our worship includes music, prayer, and Communion.

Sunday Morning Bible Study: Gospel of John - BEGINNING
Sunday, September 13 10:00 to 10:45 am in the Owen Room
Teachers: Fr Matt Ainsley, Laurie Godshall, John Griffin, Elizabeth Hesterly

Tuesday Evening Bible Study: Genesis - BEGINNING
Tuesday, September 8, 6:00 - 7:00 pm in the Owen Room
Teachers: Fr Matt Ainsley, Doug Driggers, Laurie Godshall, Elizabeth Hesterly, Sarah McNamara

Children's Church: Children's Church will return **September 13**.

Lectors: Kate Alldredge and Graycen Daly

Greeter: Penny Immel

Ushers: Jeff Straub and Kirk Headley

Acolytes: Rhodes Perry, Luke Belle, Windsor Ainsley, Pippa Ainsley, Austin Adams, Abigail Adams

Music: Stacy Shumaker, Minister of Music and John Moore, Organist, Natalia Guidry, violin

Church Office Hours: Monday -Friday: 9:00am –2:30pm

Processional Hymn

Christ is made the sure foundation

Hymnal 518

Descant

4 Here vouch - safe to all thy serv - ants what they ask of

1 Christ is made the sure foun - da - tion, Christ the head and
 2 All that ded - i - cat - ed ci - ty, dear - ly loved of
 3 To this tem - ple, where we call thee, come, O Lord of
 4 Here vouch - safe to all thy serv - ants what they ask of

thee to gain; what they gain from thee, for ev - er

cor - ner - stone, cho - sen of the Lord, and pre - cious,
 God on high, in ex - ult - ant ju - bi - la - tion
 Hosts, to - day; with thy wont - ed lov - ing - kind - ness
 thee to gain; what they gain from thee, for ev - er

with the bless - ed to re - tain, and here - af - ter

bind - ing all the Church in one; ho - ly Zi - on's
 pours per - pet - ual mel - o - dy; God the One in
 hear thy serv - ants as they pray, and thy full - est
 with the bless - ed to re - tain, and here - af - ter

in thy glo - ry ev - er - more with thee to reign.

help for ev - er, and her con - fi - dence a - lone.
 Three a - dor - ing in glad hymns e - ter - nal - ly.
 ben - e - dic - tion shed with - in its walls al - way.
 in thy glo - ry ev - er - more with thee to reign.

The Institution *The People are seated.*

Members of the Ascension School Board stand with the new Head of School and say

Reverend Father, we have come together to present Sarah Lee, who has been chosen to serve as the Head of Ascension Episcopal School. We believe she is well qualified and has been prayerfully and lawfully selected.

The Rector then says

Since 1959, Ascension Episcopal School has been committed to educational excellence in a Christian environment as a ministry of this parish. Sarah, do you, in the presence of this community, commit yourself to this trust and responsibility?

Head of School I do.

The Rector then addresses the Ascension School Faculty and Staff, all standing

Will you join Sarah and commit yourselves to this ministry?

The Faculty and Staff respond We will.

The Rector then addresses the congregation

Will you who witness this new beginning support and uphold Sarah in this ministry?

People **We will.**

The Litany

The Rector then says

Let us then kneel and offer our prayers to God for all of His people, especially for this community and for Sarah, our new Head of School.

The All-School Chaplain prays. Following each petition, the Chaplain says, "Lord, in your mercy," and the People respond, "Hear our prayer."

Everliving God, strengthen and sustain Sarah, that with patience, wisdom, and steadfast love she may shepherd this school in the name of Christ and of this parish; and that together we may offer you the gifts of mind and heart you have entrusted to us.

For the Church of the Ascension—its people and clergy—that we may grow ever more faithful in our witness to the Gospel in this community.

For Sarah, Head of School, and for all the administrators, faculty, and staff of Ascension Episcopal School, that they may be united in the holy work of teaching and formation.

For the students of Ascension Episcopal School, that they may grow in wisdom, virtue, and the knowledge and love of God.

For our school campuses—River Ranch, Downtown, and Sugar Mill Pond—for their safety and security, and that they may be lively centers of learning.

For all the children of this community and of every school, that they may be nurtured in body, mind, and spirit, and find joy in learning.

For the families of this school and for all families who entrust their children to teachers and schools, that they may be strengthened in faith, hope, and love.

For the Ascension School Board, its committees, volunteers, and friends, in thanksgiving for their selfless dedication and service.

For all who have gone before us—our founders, especially Jeanette Parker; past board members; faculty; staff; and the many students who have passed through these halls: as we stand on their shoulders, grant that we may be faithful to their vision and learn from their example.

For children throughout the world, and especially for the students of Epiphany School in Uganda, our sister school, that they too may grow in wisdom and grace.

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

Rector The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Rector Let us pray
People

All join in saying the Ascension Episcopal School Prayer:

O Heavenly Father, who has given us Thy Son, Jesus Christ, to be our redeemer and friend: help us to understand His friendship, and to do such things as will please Him. Bless us in our work and in our play. Make us gentle, generous, truthful, kind and brave. Keep us in purity of heart, and let the life of our school go on from strength to strength and have its place in Thy Kingdom: all of which we ask through Jesus Christ Our Lord. Amen.

The Old Testament Lesson *The People sit.*
Graycen Daly, Arts Prefect

Joshua 1:7-9

“Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to obey all the law my servant Moses gave you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, that you may be successful wherever you go. Keep this Book of the Law always on your lips; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful. Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.”

Lector: The Word of the Lord. *People:* **Thanks be to God.**

The Psalm *The People remain seated; said responsively by half-verse.*
Kate Alldredge, Community Service Prefect

Psalm 78:1-7

Hear my teaching, O my people; *
incline your ears to the words of my mouth.

I will open my mouth in a parable; *
I will declare the mysteries of ancient times.

That which we have heard and known,
and what our forefathers have told us, *
we will not hide from their children.

We will recount to generations to come
the praiseworthy deeds and the power of the LORD, *
and the wonderful works he has done.

He gave his decrees to Jacob
and established a law for Israel, *
which he commanded them to teach their children;

That the generations to come might know,
and the children yet unborn; *
that they in their turn might tell it to their children;

So that they might put their trust in God, *
and not forget the deeds of God but keep his commandments;

The Epistle *AES 2026-27 Theme Verse*
Kate Alldredge, Community Service Prefect

1 Corinthians 16:13-14

Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be courageous; be strong. Do everything in love.

Lector: The Word of the Lord. People: Thanks be to God.

Sequence Hymn *All stand*

Jesus calls us: o'er the tumult

Hymnal 550

Unison or harmony

1 Je - sus calls us; o'er the tu - mult
2 as, of old, Saint An - drew heard it
3 Je - sus calls us from the wor - ship
4 In our joys and in our sor - rows,
5 Je - sus calls us! By thy mer - cies,

1 of our life's wild, rest - less sea, day by day his
 2 by the Gal - i - le - an lake, turned from home and
 3 of the vain world's gold - en store; from each i - dol
 4 days of toil and hours of ease, still he calls, in
 5 Sa - vior, make us hear thy call, give our hearts to

1 clear voice sound - eth, say - ing, "Chris - tian, fol - low me;"
 2 toil and kin - dred, leav - ing all for his dear sake.
 3 that would keep us, say - ing, "Chris - tian, love me more."
 4 cares and plea - sures, "Chris - tian, love me more than these."
 5 thine o - be - dience, serve and love thee best of all.

Words: Cecil Frances Alexander (1818-1895), alt. Music: *Restoration*, melody from *The Southern Harmony*, 1835; harm. *Hymnal* 1982, after *The Southern Harmony*, 1985; alt. harm. Margart W. Mealy (b. 1922).

The Holy Gospel

Matthew 14:22-32

Deacon The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St. Matthew.

People **Glory to you, Lord Christ**

Immediately Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead of him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowd. After he had dismissed them, he went up on a mountainside by himself to pray. Later that night, he was there alone, and the boat was already a considerable distance from land, buffeted by the waves because the wind was against it. Shortly before dawn Jesus went out to them, walking on the lake. When the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified. "It's a ghost," they said, and cried out in fear. But Jesus immediately said to them: "Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid."

"Lord, if it's you," Peter replied, "tell me to come to you on the water." "Come," he said.

Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus. But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, "Lord, save me!"

Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. "You of little faith," he said, "why did you doubt?" And when they climbed into the boat, the wind died down. Then those who were in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."

Deacon: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

The Sermon

The Rev'd Fr. Matthew Ainsley

The Induction

Representatives from Ascension Church and School present symbols of ministry to the Head of School.

The Rev'd Fr. Matthew Ainsley, Rector

Sarah, take these keys and open the doors of Ascension to faithful learning and service.

Mrs. Molly Kallenberger, Vestry Representative; Mrs. Sara Trawick, AES Board Chair; and Mrs. Christy Sheets, Governance Committee Chair

Sarah, obey these bylaws and serve with us as a faithful leader.

Mrs. Ashley Higginbotham, Head of Preschool; and Mrs. Neekee Hall, Director of Arts

Sarah, receive this artwork and cultivate among us a love of beauty, reflecting God's call to creativity.

Mrs. Liz Tremblay, Head of Lower & Middle School, and Mrs. Katherine McCormick, Director of Community Engagement

Sarah, wear this Ascension scarf and honor the school traditions that bind us together, guiding each generation of Blue Gators as they take their next steps in our shared journey.

Mr. Marshall Gray, Head of Upper School; and Mr. Lonny Landry, Athletic Director

Sarah, take this helmet and be among us a true Blue Gator, a person of play and sportsmanship.

Mrs. Angelle Adams, Director of Enrollment Management; and Mrs. Portia Reyna, Assistant Head of Upper School

Sarah, take this Ascension pin and wear it as a symbol of welcome, belonging, and the school community we are called to build together.

The Rev'd Fr. Jacob Schlossberg, All-School Chaplain; Mr. Taylor Trotter, Mrs. Susen Brown, and Mrs. Lynley Jones, Instructors of Christian Studies:

Sarah, receive this *Book of Common Prayer* and be among us as a woman of prayer.

The Rev'd Fr. Matthew Ainsley, Rector

Sarah, receive this icon and be among us as a living, breathing image of Christ.

The Head of School then says a prayer.

Rector then presents the Head of School to the congregation, saying

Ascension, greet your new Head of School and her family.

Applause is appropriate.

The Peace

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

People: **And also with you.**

Offertory Sentence

Offertory Anthem *Lord, I Need You* Nockels, Carson, Reeves, Stanfill, and Maher

Lord I come, I confess
Bowling here I find my rest
Without You I fall apart
You're the one that guides my heart

Chorus:

Lord, I need you, oh I need You
Every hour I need You
My one defense, my righteousness
Oh God, how I need you

Where sin runs deep, Your grace is more
Where grace is found is where You are
And where You are Lord I am free
Holiness is Christ in me
Yes where You are Lord I am free
Holiness is Christ in me

Bridge:

So teach my song to rise to You
When temptation comes my way
And when I cannot stand I'll fall on You
Jesus You're my hope and stay

The Presentation of the Gifts and Doxology

All stand.

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. Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving

The people remain standing. The Celebrant, whether bishop or priest, faces them and sings or says 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; but chiefly are we bound to praise you through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Here a Proper Preface is said as appointed

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 in unison*

**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!

Eucharistic Prayer A

The people stand or kneel. 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:

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 forever. **AMEN.**

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

The Lord's Prayer *Said by all*

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, the power, and 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.**

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.

Facing the people, the Celebrant says the following Invitation

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

Communion Hymns & Anthems

Mrs. Neekee Hall, Mr. Kaedron Hall, and AES Students

Goodness of God

Words & Music: Jenn Johnson, Brian Johnson, Ed Cash, Ben Fielding, Jason Ingram

How Great Thou Art

Original Swedish text: Carl Boberg (O Store Gud); English version & arrangement: Stuart K. Hine; Melody: Traditional Swedish

Postcommunion Prayer

Celebrant The Lord be with you

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray

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 for ever. Amen.**

Postcommunion Anthem

The Lord Bless You and Keep You

Rutter

Ascension Choir

The Blessing of the Backpacks

While the choir sings, students and educators come forward to the front of the nave, placing their backpacks at the foot of the chancel steps.

After the postcommunion anthem, the Celebrant says

The Lord be with you

People **And also with you**

Celebrant Let us pray

Assist us mercifully, O Lord, in these our supplications and prayers for the students, teachers, and faculty. Dispose the way of thy servants towards the attainment of everlasting salvation; that, among all the changes and chances of this mortal life, they may ever be defended by thy gracious and ready help; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

O Eternal God, bless all schools, colleges, and universities, and especially the schools which these our children attend, that they may be lively centers for sound learning, new discovery, and the pursuit of wisdom; and grant that those who teach and those who learn may find you to be the source of all truth; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Celebrant blesses the backpacks with holy water, saying

Almighty God, we bring before you these instruments of learning. We pray that your Holy Spirit of wisdom go forth with all who carry them this year: that all who bear these backpacks may rest secure in the knowledge of your abiding strength, peace and love. May they, like the young Jesus, grow in wisdom and in stature, in favor with God and with man. All this we ask through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns now and forever. Amen.

The Celebrant then gives the final blessing.

Dismissal Hymn

Lord, dismiss us with thy blessing

Hymnal 344

1 Lord, dis - miss us with thy bless - ing; fill our hearts with
 2 Thanks we give and a - dor - a - tion for thy Gos - pel's
 3 so that when thy love shall call us, Sa - vior, from the

joy and peace; let us each, thy love pos - sess - ing,
 joy - ful sound: may the fruits of thy sal - va - tion
 world a - way, fear of death shall not ap - pall us,

tri - umph in re - deem-ing grace: O re - fresh us,
 in our hearts and lives a - bound: ev - er faith - ful,
 glad thy sum - mons to o - bey. May we ev - er,

O re - fresh us trav - eling through this wil - der - ness.
 ev - er faith - ful to thy truth may we be found;
 may we ev - er reign with thee in end - less day.

Words: Att. to John Fawcett (1739/40-1817). Music: *Sicilian Mariners*, Sicilian melody; first published *The European Magazine and London Review*, 1792, alt.

The Dismissal

Deacon
People

Let us bless the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Order of Procession

Austin Adams
Crucifer

Pippa Ainsley and Windsor Ainsley
Torch Bearers

Ascension Choir

Luke Belle
Ascension School Banner

Mr. Marshall Gray, Mrs. Liz Tremblay, and Mrs. Ashley Higginbotham
Ascension School Division Heads

Mrs. Sara Trawick, *School Board Chair*, and Mrs. Molly Kallenberger, *Vestry Representative*

Mrs. Sarah Lee
Head of School

Abigail Adams
Parish Banner

Rhodes Perry
Rector's Cross

The Rev'd Dcn. Honey Becker
Deacon

The Rev'd Fr. Jacob Schlossberg
All-School Chaplain

The Rev'd Fr. Matthew Ainsley
Rector

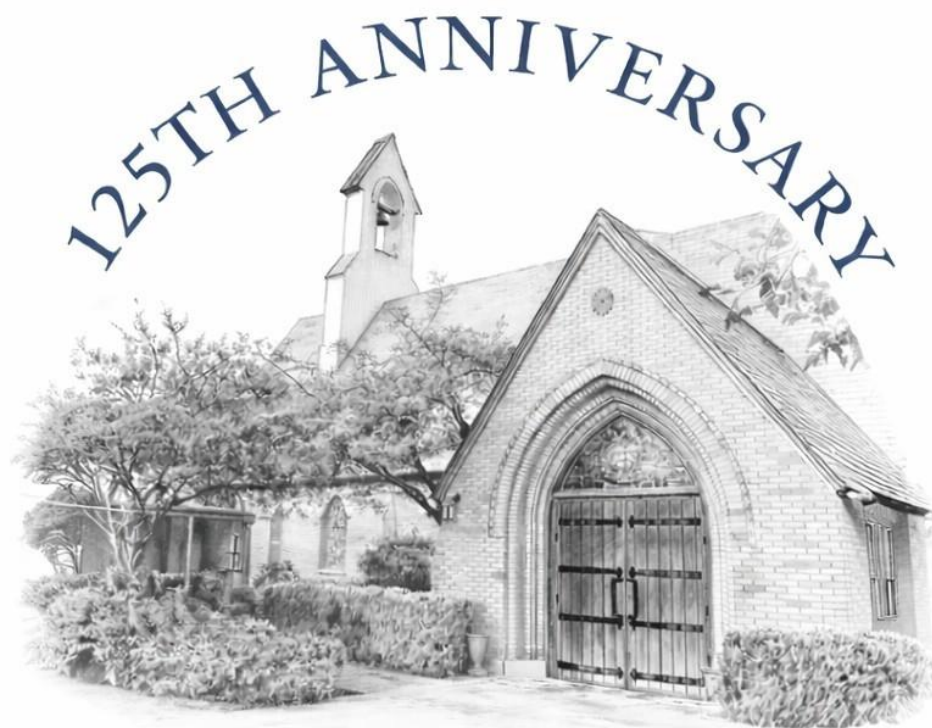
YOUR PRAYERS ARE ASKED FOR: Our Vestry and Clergy- our brother, Joseph, Alison Higginbotham, Arthur White, Sterling Lejeune, Betsy Vigorito, Becky Slagle, Janet Limouze, Joe and Christina, Susan Oglesbee, Ann Jacobs, David Snyder, Janet Bernhardt, Jan Hamilton, Reese Forest, Fiona Chisholm, Peezie Alfred, Wendy Ortego, Perry Joseph, Gail White, Troy LeBouef, Ashlynn Broussard, Rick Onks, Lynette Newchurch, Neil Joseph, Rachelle Morgan, Ed Keller, William Keller, Gili Menashe Robinson, Donny, Elliot, Emily Chapin, Kelly, Carol Hamilton Hunt, Brenda Privat, James, Evie, and Malaina, Margaret DeGruy, Mark Weems, Lara McKinnis, Kit Gumbs, Carolyn Barker, Pat Vallery, Amber, Pauline, Donald Leger, Jr., Charles Lewis, Mike Comeaux, Carol Jane, Renee, Marc, Carolyn, Virginia Morrison, Graison Louviere, Landon Romero, Kate Graciana, Kathleen David, Mac Camille, Ann Shower, Steve Baker, Pete Peters, Luke Heggy, Remi and Joseph, Melissa Keane, Guy Ellison, Jr., Archie Ganucheau, David Mills, Susan Davis, Nick Domino, Charles Swett, John Perkins, Mona Fitzgerald Stephan, Sasha, Rita Driggers, Mike Immel, Phil Swift, Tom Bryant, Mona Coulter, Anna Catherine, Marc Powell, The Family of Steven Miller, Dumas, and friends and family serving in the armed services. Diocesan Cycle of Prayer: Episcopal Church of the United Families of Hope in Monroe, Trinity in Natchitoches, St. Patrick's Catholic Church, and The Church in Wales. (Names stay on the prayers list for three weeks unless otherwise requested.)



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Episcopal Church of the
ASCENSION
Lafayette, Louisiana
Est. 1901