ASCENSION EPISCOPAL CHURCH

TWENTIETH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

October 11, 2026
10:30 AM
Holy Eucharist Rite II

The Rev Trent Pettit, Priest-in-Charge

2525 Seagler Road, Houston, TX 77042-3119
Telephone: 713-781-1330
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ascensionepiscopalchurch.org

Welcome

You've found home.

A church home, no matter your background, how you see God today, or how challenging your journey is right now, you belong here. At Ascension Episcopal Church, we strive to be a welcoming and safe place for all people to belong. We hope you encounter the radical love of God and the love of His church community right here. Love and joy are the byproducts of life with God and with each other. Come experience the beauty and love of Christ with us.

We are excited to get to know you; if this is your first time with us, scan this QR code, so we may get in touch with you after the service.

Mission Statement

It is the Mission of Ascension Episcopal Church to worship Jesus Christ, love one another, and prepare disciples to grow God's kingdom.

JOIN US EVERY SUNDAY.

We offer two services; our **8:00 AM WORSHIP SERVICE** is a Rite I Traditional Eucharist Service, without music and our **10:30 AM WORSHIP SERVICE** is a Rite II Contemporary Eucharist Service with organ and choral music.

Our **NURSERY** is available from 9:30 to noon on Sunday mornings. The safeguarded staff maintains a healthy and safe environment for your children.

From 9:30am to 10:15am, join us in person in the Church Library for **ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL. CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL** takes a summer break, but stayed tuned for fun summer events.

Voices of small children are always welcome.
Please take a moment to silence your cell phone.

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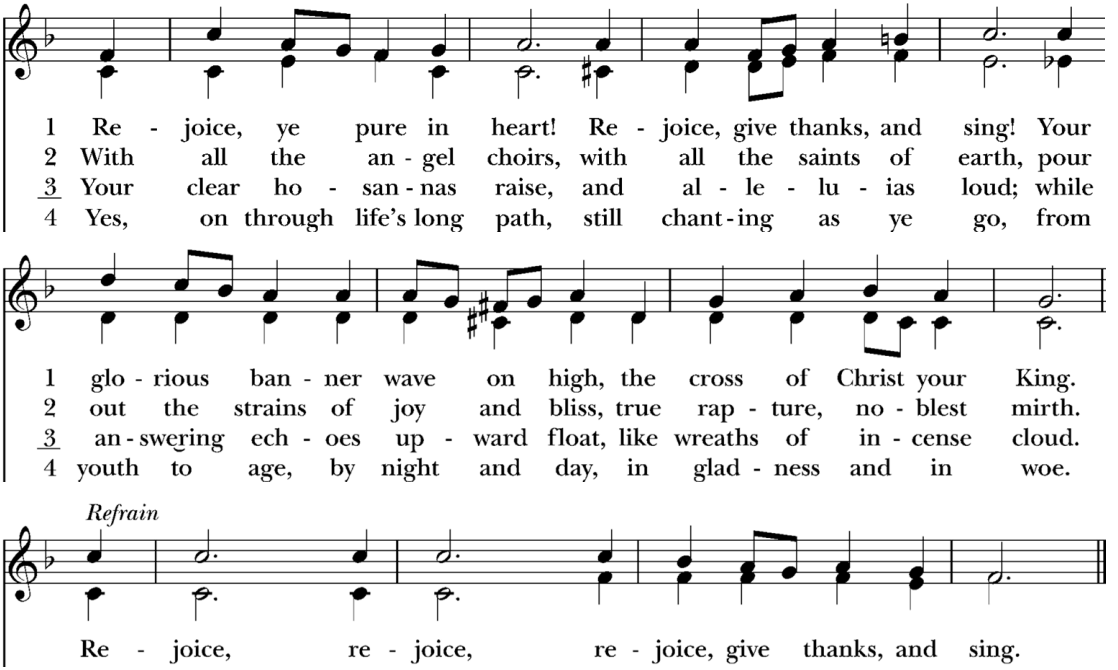
PRELUDE

The Word of God

Congregation Stands

ENTRANCE HYMN 556 *Rejoice, ye pure in heart* MARION



OPENING ACCLAMATION (BCP p. 355)

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

COLLECT FOR PURITY (BCP p. 355)

The Celebrant may say

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 S 280 *Glory to God* POWELL

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY (BCP p. 357)

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

Lord, we pray that your grace may always precede and follow us, that we may continually be given to good works; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen*.

The Lessons

FIRST READING: Isaiah 25:1-9

The people sit.

A Reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

[1]O LORD, you are my God; I will exalt you, I will praise your name;
for you have done wonderful things, plans formed of old, faithful and sure.
[2]For you have made the city a heap, the fortified city a ruin;
the palace of aliens is a city no more, it will never be rebuilt.
[3]Therefore strong peoples will glorify you; cities of ruthless nations will fear you.
[4]For you have been a refuge to the poor, a refuge to the needy in their distress,
a shelter from the rainstorm and a shade from the heat.
When the blast of the ruthless was like a winter rainstorm,
[5]the noise of aliens like heat in a dry place, you subdued the heat
with the shade of clouds; the song of the ruthless was stilled.
[6]On this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for all peoples
a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines,
of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged wines strained clear.
[7]And he will destroy on this mountain the shroud that is cast over all peoples,
the sheet that is spread over all nations; [8]he will swallow up death forever.
Then the Lord GOD will wipe away the tears from all faces, and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the LORD has spoken.
[9]It will be said on that day, Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us. This is the LORD for whom we have waited;
let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.

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

Silence may follow.

PSALM: Psalm 23
*Please read responsively by half verse at asterisk.**

[1]The LORD is my shepherd; *
I shall not be in want.

[2]He makes me lie down in green pastures *
and leads me beside still waters.

[3]He revives my soul *
and guides me along right pathways for his Name's sake.

[4]Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil; *
for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

[5]You spread a table before me in the presence of those who trouble me; *
you have anointed my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

[6]Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, *
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.

SECOND READING: Philippians 4:1-9

A Reading from Paul's letter to the Church in Philippi.

[1]My brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.
[2]I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. [3]Yes, and I ask you also, my loyal companion, help these women, for they have struggled beside me in the work of the gospel, together with Clement and the rest of my co-workers, whose names are in the book of life.
[4]Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. [5]Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. [6]Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. [7]And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

[8]Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just,
whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any
excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. [9]Keep
on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and
the God of peace will be with you.

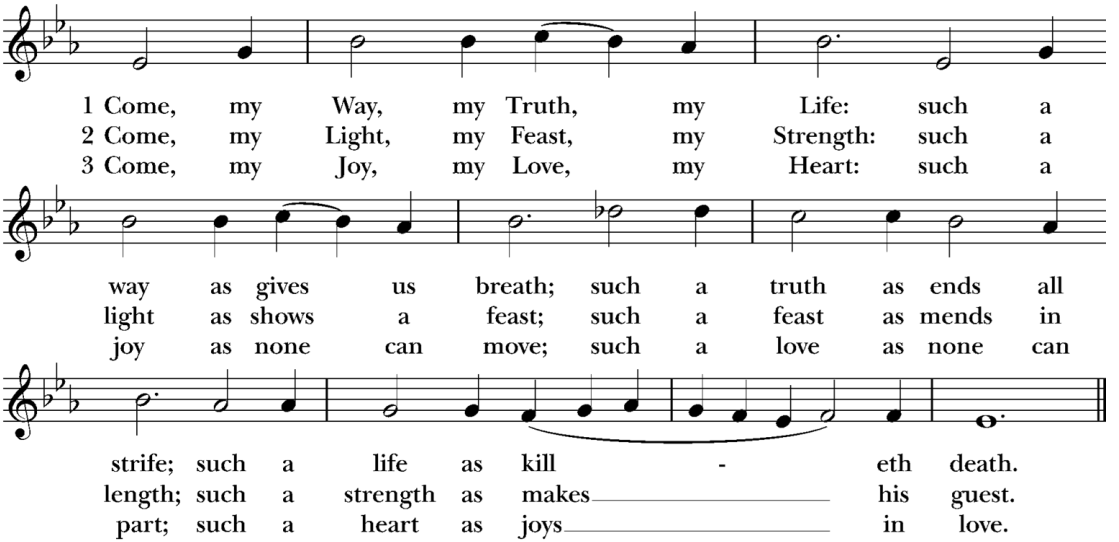
Reader The Word of the Lord.
People *Thanks be to God.*

Silence may follow.

"At this time, children 2nd grade and under are invited to join Children's Bridge Worship. They will rejoin this service at the Peace for Holy Communion."

SEQUENCE HYMN 487 *Come, my Way, my Truth, my Life* THE CALL

All stand.



THE HOLY GOSPEL: Matthew 21:33-46

Priest The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.
People *Glory to you, Lord Christ.*

[1]Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: [2]"The kingdom of heaven may
be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. [3]He sent his slaves
to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come.
[4]Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have
prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and
everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' [5]But they made light of it and
went away, one to his farm, another to his business, [6]while the rest seized his slaves,
mistreated them, and killed them. [7]The king was enraged. He sent his troops,
destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. [8]Then he said to his slaves, 'The
wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. [9]Go therefore into the main
streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' [10]Those slaves went
out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad; so the
wedding hall was filled with guests.

[11]"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was
not wearing a wedding robe, [12]and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here
without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. [13]Then the king said to the
attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where
there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' [14]For many are called, but few are
chosen."

Priest The Gospel of the Lord.
People *Praise to you, Lord Christ.*

THE SERMON (BCP p. 358)

THE CREED (BCP p. 358)
All stand.

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 p. 387)
Congregation kneels. The Leader and People pray responsively.

Celebrant Let us pray for the church and the world.

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

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

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

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

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

Leader Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;
People *That they may be delivered from their distress.*

Leader Give to the departed eternal rest;
People *Let light perpetual shine upon them.*

Leader We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;
People *May we also come to shar e in your heavenly kingdom.*

Leader Let us pray for our own needs and those of others;

The people may add their own petitions.

The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.

THE CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

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

Silence may be kept.

All *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.

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 (BCP p. 360)
All stand.

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

Then the Ministers and the People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS
We are excited to get to know you; if this is your first time with us, scan this QR code, so we may get in touch with you after the service.

Prayers for Birthdays, Anniversaries, and Travel

The Holy Communion

OFFERTORY SENTENCE (BCP p. 376)
The Celebrant says

Ascribe to the Lord the honor due his Name; bring offerings and come into his courts. *Psalm 96:8*

OFFERTORY HYMN *The King of Love my Shepherd Is* Text: Sir Henry Baker
Music: Anna Page, Jean Shafferman

AT THE PRESENTATION H380, v3 OLD 100TH
All stand. *From all that dwell below the skies*

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.

The Great Thanksgiving
EUCHARISTIC PRAYER B BCP P. 367

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.*

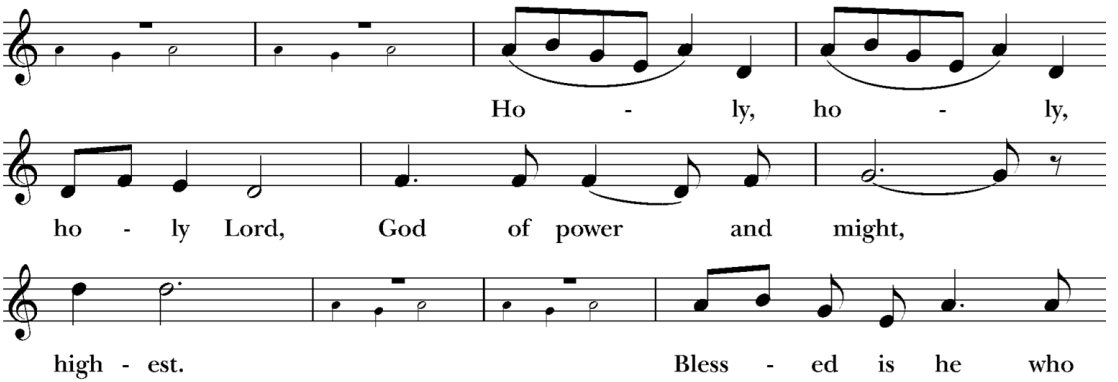
Facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

For you are the source of light and life, you made us in your image, and called us to new life in 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:

SANCTUS S 128 *Holy, holy, holy* MATHIAS
Celebrant and People



The People stand or kneel.

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

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

We remember his death,
We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory;

The Celebrant continues

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with [_____ and] all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

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,

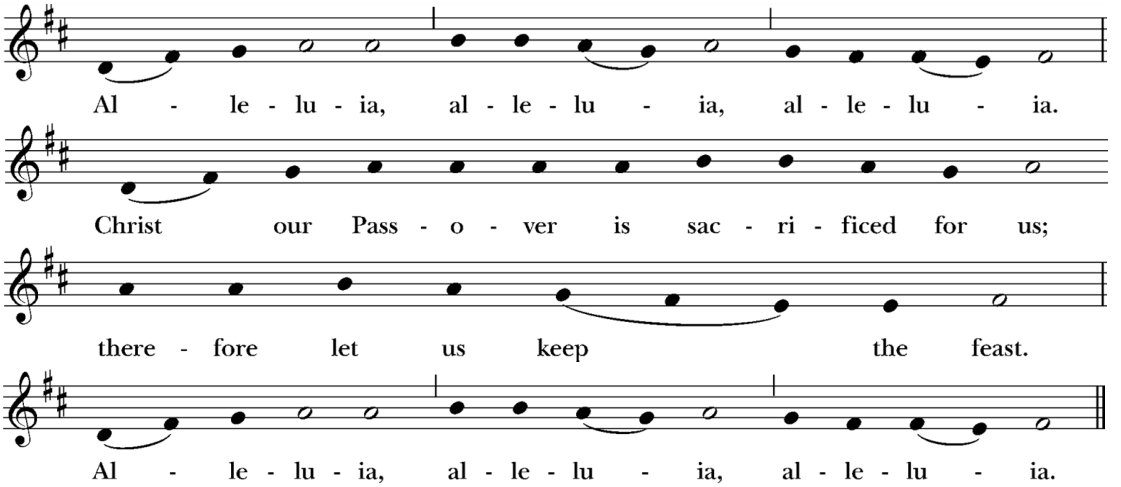
THE LORD'S PRAYER (BCP p. 363)
People and Celebrant

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,
forever and ever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

A period of silence is kept.

FRACTION ANTHEM S 154 *Christ our Passover* HURD



INVITATION (BCP p. 364)

The Celebrant says

The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR RECEIVING HOLY COMMUNION

All who are baptized in the Name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit who come forward in faith and are permitted to receive Holy Communion in their own church, are welcome to do so on this occasion. If you prefer to receive a blessing, simply come forward and cross your arms over your chest.

- *The Bread will be placed in the palm of your hand. Please consume it upon receiving.*
- *To receive from the Wine, gently hold the base of the chalice and guide it to your lips.*
- *If for any reason you are unable to receive both the Bread and the Wine, please know that the Church teaches that the fullness of the Sacrament is received in either element.*
- *Gluten-free hosts are available at the altar rail upon request.*
- *If you are not baptized but want to be, please speak with the priest-in-charge.*

COMMUNION HYMN 663 *The Lord my God my shepherd is* CRIMOND

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER (BCP p. 365)

Please stand.

Let us pray.

Celebrant and People

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.

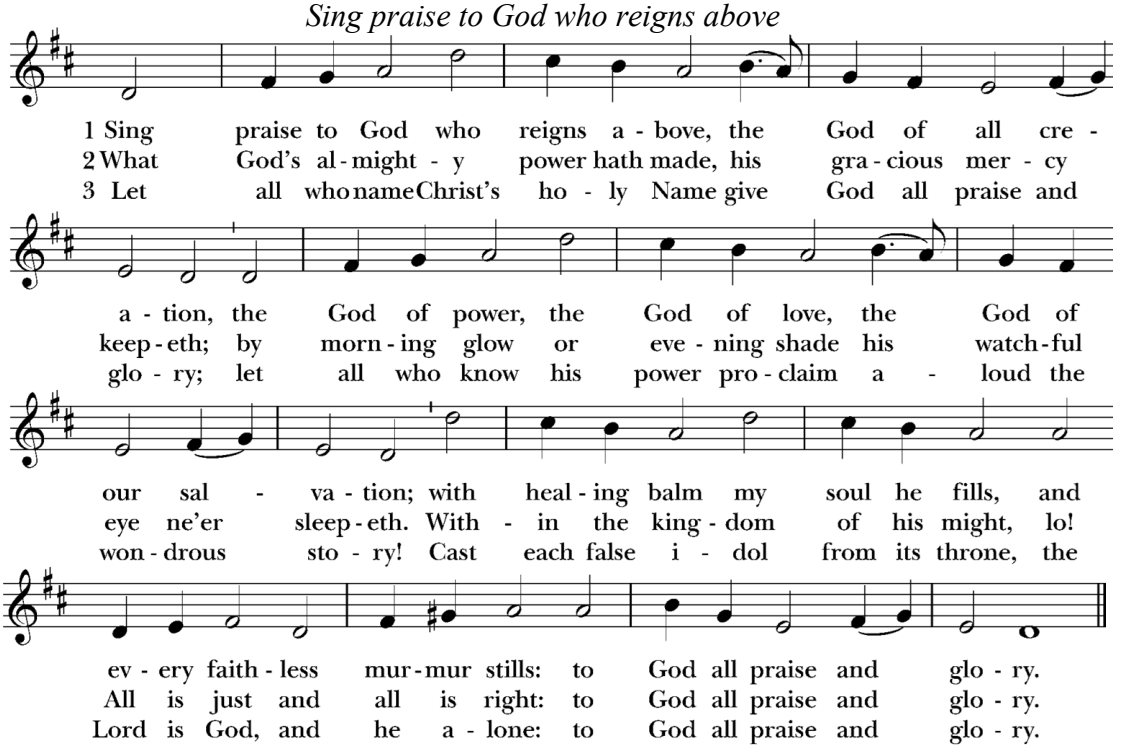
BLESSING (BCP p. 366)

The Priest blesses the people, saying

The blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. *Amen.*

RECESSIONAL HYMN 408 MIT FREUDEN ZART

Sing praise to God who reigns above



DISMISSAL (BCP p. 366)

Priest Let us go forth in the name of Christ. Alleluia, Alleluia.
People *Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia.*

POSTLUDE *Organist: Jisu Oh*

My Church, My Home

Stewardship Testimony

"We chose Ascension because we wanted to fully immerse ourselves in our immediate community, in the school and in this part of Houston. When we first moved here, we visited a few churches before Ascension, and what stood out was how much AEC needed and welcomed younger families. It felt like our presence could actually matter, that we could help move the needle in this community. So we jumped in with both feet, and we've been blessed by the school and embraced by the congregation ever since. We believe the biggest impact comes from giving ourselves fully to the community right in front of us. Our hope for Ascension in the coming year is that it keeps finding its footing, a church and school where the community is thriving, the mission is clear, and hopefully, the finances aren't always on edge.

— Adam & Bryce Zornes

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Altar flowers are given to the glory of the Almighty God in thanksgiving for His many blessings.

Stewardship Potluck Lunch

On Sunday, October 18, we will celebrate that together at our Stewardship Campaign Celebration Potluck. I hope you'll join us as we give thanks for what God has already done and look forward with confidence to what he will do next.

Trunk or Treat

Join us for our annual Trunk or Treat on October 30, from 4pm to 6pm. Help make this a memorable community event for the school and neighborhood! Enjoy a fun and safe evening of trick-or-treating, decorated trunks, candy, warm drinks, snacks, and fellowship. Bring the whole family! Please sign up to host a trunk and continue this wonderful way to connect with our school community.

Ascension Renewal Prayer Group !

The Ascension and St John the Divine Prayer Group meet in the church library every Tuesday, 12:15 - 12:45, prior to the Ladies Bible Study. ALL are welcome and encouraged to attend, so if you are nearby, on your lunch break, or have a free moment, PLEASE meet in the church library from 12:15 to 12:45. There is a Zoom link to those who are unable to join in-person. Please find it in the Happenings, or email the church office to get it!

Small Groups

Interested in joining a neighborhood small group at Ascension? We're exploring the idea of putting two types of groups—mixed-age and young-family—that would bring together people from Ascension Church and School and St. John the Divine for Bible study, prayer, meals, friendship, and service. This is also a great opportunity to invite our neighbors to share life with us at Ascension. We will provide curriculum (conversational teaching on the Book of Acts) and discussion questions.

Interested or know others who would be? Contact Rev. Trent: tpettit@sjd.org

	October 11th	**October 18th**	**October 25th**
	Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost	*Twenty First Sunday after Pentecost*	*Twenty Second Sunday after Pentecost*
Priest	Rev. Reagan Cocke	Rev. Trent Pettit	Rev. John Sundara
Vestry of the Week	Tom Downs and Volunteer	Al Crosby and Ken Kingdon	Tex Wariboko and Dave Bergquist
Altar Guild	Cole	Sutton	Smith
Lessons	Isaiah 25:1-9 Psalm 23 Philippians 4:1-9 Matthew 22:1-14	Isaiah 45:1-7, Psalm 96:1-9, (10-13), 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10, Matthew 22:15-22	Leviticus 19:1-2,15-18, Psalm 1, 1 Thessalonians 2:1-8, Matthew 22:34-46
Ushers	Al and Loretta Crosby	Edwin and Jolie Murvee	The Falayi Family
8am Lect./Intercessor	Glenn Criswell	Ken Kingdon	Joan Harwood
1030am Reader	Ray Kees	Damisi Falayi	Nifemi Falayi
1030am Intercessor/ Chalice Bearer	Pam Schwabrow	Ngozi Adimora	Tex Wariboko
Acolyte	Chloe Schwabrow	Edlishia Murvee	Lonimi Falayi
Stream Team	**Volunteer**	Enoch Falayi	Mike Black
Post Service Coffee	Al and Loretta Crosby	Elizabeth Ibarra, & Roxanne Haase	Damisi Falayi and Allison Garcia

PRAYERS

To make prayer requests, please write your request on the prayer card available in the narthex and drop it in the plate. You may also update, add, or remove prayer requests by sending an email to office@ascensionepiscopalchurch.org.

In addition to praying for the members of our Ascension family as we did during the communion, we also pray for peace in the world.

In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer, we pray for the Anglican Church of Burundi and in the Diocese of Texas Cycle of Prayer, we pray for St. Mark's of Beaumont, St. Paul's of Orange, and St. Paul's of Woodville.

Pray for the special needs and concerns of this congregation: The Adimora-Nweke Family, Jack, Beatrice, Alice, Sharon, Alan and Ann, Joanna, David, Ronnie, Dion, Sam, Cory, Stephanie, Cora, Ellen, Jim, Jack, Ray, Lucia, Angela, Sayge, Pat, Olive, Maria Isabel, CJ, Margaret, Nancy, Pam, Megan, Ann, Valerie, and those known privately to us.

Pray for our college students: Robert Downs, Nifemi Falayi, Charlie Goodman, Madeleine Mattern, Max Murvee, Temi Ogunmesa, Miriam Rafaat

Giving

A quick an easy way to give to the church!! If you would like to give your pledge, make a donation, contribute to specialty music or flower campaigns, or any other reason, simply scan the QR code to the right, make your contribution, and leave a message as to what it is for.

Have a Wonderful Week!!