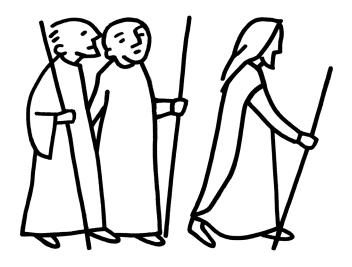
# ASCENSION EPISCOPAL CHURCH

# SECOND SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

January 14, 2024 10:30 AM Holy Eucharist Rite II



The Rev Mark W. McDonald, Rector

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



The Episcopal Diocese of Texas www.epicenter.org

The Rt. Rev. C. Andrew Doyle, Bishop

#### Welcome

# You've found home.

A church home, where whatever your background, however you see God today, no matter 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.

We're a multi-generational spiritual center, with grandparents, parents, singles, teens and children living out the central invitation from Jesus to Love God, Love Others, and Serve the World. We smile a lot around here, and it's authentic!

We believe that people desire relationships over religion; our Sunday services are engaging and hope-filled. And, I believe that fun and church worship are not mutually exclusive. Love and joy are the byproducts of life with God and with each other. Come see and experience the beauty and love of Christ with us.

Welcome home!

The Rev. Mark W. McDonald

JOIN US EVERY SUNDAY.

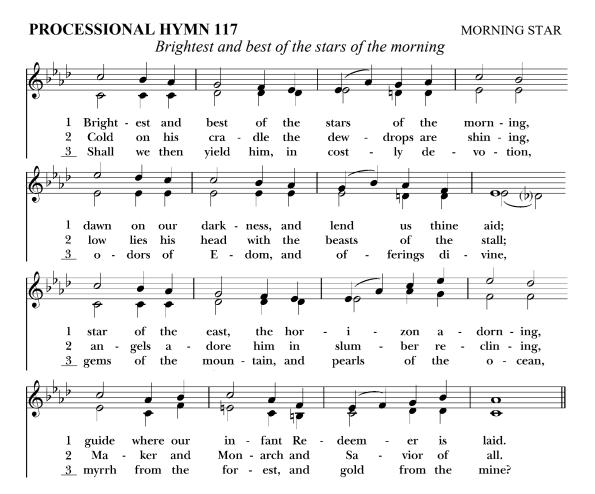
We offer two services; our **8:00 AM WORSHIP SERVICE** is a Rite I Traditional Eucharist Service, without music and our **10:30 AM WORSHIP SERVICE** is a Rite II Contemporary Eucharist Service with organ and choral music.

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** or Upstairs for **CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL**.

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

# The Word of God



#### **OPENING ACCLAMATION**

The people standing, the Celebrant says

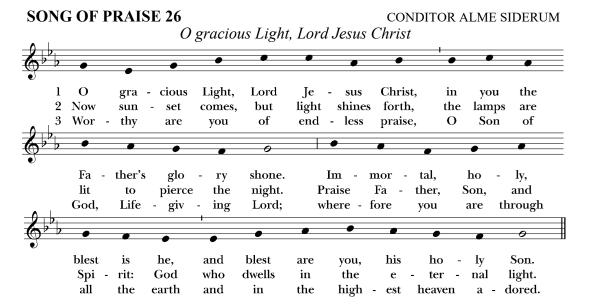
Priest Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

#### COLLECT FOR PURITY

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*.



#### THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Let us pray.

Almighty God, whose Son our Savior Jesus Christ is the light of the world: Grant that your people, illumined by your Word and Sacraments, may shine with the radiance of Christ's glory, that he may be known, worshiped, and obeyed to the ends of the earth; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, now and for ever. *Amen*.

## The Lessons

#### FIRST READING: 1 Samuel 3:1-20

The people sit.

A Reading from the First book of Samuel.

Now the boy Samuel was ministering to the LORD under Eli. The word of the LORD was rare in those days; visions were not widespread.

<sup>2</sup>At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see, was lying down in his room; <sup>3</sup>the lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the LORD, where the ark of God was. <sup>4</sup>Then the LORD called, "Samuel! Samuel!" and he said, "Here I am!" <sup>5</sup>and ran to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call; lie down again." So he went and lay down. <sup>6</sup>The LORD called again, "Samuel!" Samuel got up and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call, my son; lie down again." <sup>7</sup>Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD, and the word of the LORD had not yet been revealed to him. <sup>8</sup>The LORD called Samuel again, a third time. And he got up and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." Then Eli perceived that the LORD was calling the boy. <sup>9</sup>Therefore Eli said to Samuel, "Go, lie down; and if he calls you, you shall say, 'Speak, LORD, for your servant is listening.'" So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

<sup>10</sup>Now the LORD came and stood there, calling as before, "Samuel! Samuel!" And Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant is listening." <sup>11</sup>Then the LORD said to Samuel, "See, I am about to do something in Israel that will make both ears of anyone who hears of it tingle. <sup>12</sup>On that day I will fulfill against Eli all that I have spoken concern -ing his house, from beginning to end. <sup>13</sup>For I have told him that I am about to punish his house forever, for the iniquity that he knew, because his sons were blaspheming God, and he did not restrain them. <sup>14</sup>Therefore I swear to the house of Eli that the iniquity of Eli's house shall not be expiated by sacrifice or offering forever."

<sup>15</sup>Samuel lay there until morning; then he opened the doors of the house of the LORD. Samuel was afraid to tell the vision to Eli. <sup>16</sup>But Eli called Samuel and said, "Samuel, my son." He said, "Here I am." <sup>17</sup>Eli said, "What was it that he told you? Do not hide it from me. May God do so to you and more also, if you hide anything from me of all that he told you." <sup>18</sup>So Samuel told him everything and hid nothing from him. Then he said, "It is the LORD; let him do what seems good to him."

<sup>19</sup>As Samuel grew up, the LORD was with him and let none of his words fall to the ground. <sup>20</sup>And all Israel from Dan to Beer-sheba knew that Samuel was a trustworthy prophet of the LORD.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

#### Silence may follow.

#### PSALM: Psalm 139:1-5, 12-17

Remain seated. Please read responsively by half verse.

- LORD, you have searched me out and known me; \* you know my sitting down and my rising up; you discern my thoughts from afar.
- <sup>2</sup>You trace my journeys and my resting-places \* and are acquainted with all my ways.
- <sup>3</sup>Indeed, there is not a word on my lips, \* but you, O LORD, know it altogether.
- <sup>4</sup>You press upon me behind and before \* and lay your hand upon me.
- <sup>5</sup>Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; \* *it is so high that I cannot attain to it.*
- <sup>12</sup>For you yourself created my inmost parts; \* you knit me together in my mother's womb.
- <sup>13</sup>I will thank you because I am marvelously made; \* *your works are wonderful, and I know it well.*
- <sup>14</sup>My body was not hidden from you, \*

  while I was being made in secret

  and woven in the depths of the earth.
- <sup>15</sup>Your eyes beheld my limbs, yet unfinished in the womb; all of them were written in your book; \*

  they were fashioned day by day,
  when as yet there was none of them.
- <sup>16</sup>How deep I find your thoughts, O God! \* how great is the sum of them!
- <sup>17</sup>If I were to count them, they would be more in number than the sand; \* to count them all, my life span would need to be like yours.

#### SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 6:12-20

The people sit.

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

<sup>12</sup>"All things are lawful for me," but not all things are beneficial. "All things are lawful for me," but I will not be dominated by anything. <sup>13</sup>"Food is meant for the stomach and the stomach for food," and God will destroy both one and the other. The body is meant not for fornication but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. <sup>14</sup>And God raised the Lord and will also raise us by his power. <sup>15</sup>Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Should I therefore take the members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute? Never! <sup>16</sup>Do you not know that whoever is united to a prostitute becomes one body with her? For it is said, "The two shall be one flesh." <sup>17</sup>But anyone united to the Lord becomes one spirit with him. <sup>18</sup>Shun fornication! Every sin that a person commits is outside the body; but the fornicator sins against the body itself. <sup>19</sup>Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, which you have from God, and that you are not your own? <sup>20</sup>For you were bought with a price; therefore glorify God in your body.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

#### Silence may follow.



#### THE HOLY GOSPEL: John 1:43-51

All stand.

Priest The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

<sup>43</sup>Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, "Follow me."
<sup>44</sup>Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. <sup>45</sup>Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found him about whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus son of Joseph from Nazareth." <sup>46</sup>Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." <sup>47</sup>When Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him, he said of him, "Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!" <sup>48</sup>Nathanael asked him, "Where did you get to know me?" Jesus answered, "I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you." <sup>49</sup>Nathanael replied, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!" <sup>50</sup>Jesus answered, "Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these." <sup>51</sup>And he said to him, "Very truly, I tell you, you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man."

Priest The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

#### THE SERMON - THE REV. MARK W. MCDONALD+(BCP P. 358)

#### THE NICENE 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 VI - BCP P. 393

Stand or kneel as you are able.

In peace, we pray to you, Lord God.

#### Silence

For all people in their daily life and work;

For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.

For Joe, our president; Greg, our governor; John, our mayor, for the city of Houston, for the nation, and for the world:

For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.

For the just and proper use of your creation;

For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.

For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;

For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.

For the peace and unity of the Church of God; For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.

For Justin, the Archbishop of Canterbury, Michael, the Presiding Bishop, Andy, our Bishop, Hector, our Bishop Assistant, Mark our Rector, and for all bishops and other ministers;

For all who serve God in his Church.

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation. We pray for: Vinnie, Alice, Frances, Phyllis, Todd, Dion, Jim, John, Albert, Cory, Todd, Stephanie, John, Ellen, Greg, Jack, Kathy, Shirley, Lucia, Jean, Al, Bobby, Lance, Don, Katy, David, Lucia, Angela, Pat, Olive, Carissa, Laura, Pete, Maria Isabel, C.J., Margaret, Tim, Mary, David, Ann, Valerie, and family and friends we name now.

Silence
The People may add their own petitions.

We pray for peace in the world; in the Anglican Cycle of Prayer, we pray for the Church of the Province of South East Asia and in the Diocese of Texas Cycle of Prayer, we pray for Epiphany of Burnet, Good Shepherd of Austin, and Grace of Georgetown. Hear us, Lord;

For your mercy is great.

We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life. We thank you for the people who make up the Church of the Ascension. We thank for your wonderful creation. We thank you for our family and friends. We thank you for the opportunities you give us to serve in the Kingdom of God, and most of all, we thank you for your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

We invite you to offer you own thanksgivings at this time.

Silence
The People may add their own thanksgivings

We will exalt you, O God our King;

And praise your Name for ever and ever.

We pray for all who have died, especially \_\_\_\_\_\_, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom.

Silence
The People may add their own petitions

Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon them; *Who put their trust in you.* 

We pray to you also for the forgiveness of our sins.

Silence may be kept.

#### Leader and People

Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father; in your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and left undone; and so uphold us by your Spirit that we may live and serve you in newness of life, to the honor and glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Celebrant concludes with the following absolution.

#### **ABSOLUTION**

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

Prayers for Birthdays & Anniversaries and those who are Traveling If you are a visitor or guest, please scan the QR code in the announcements section of this bulletin and give us your contact information. Let us connect with you!

# The Holy Communion

#### **OFFERTORY SENTENCE**

by Dan Schulte arr. by Jack Schrader

**AT THE PRESENTATION** *From all that dwell below the skies* 

OLD 100TH

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 A BCP P. 361

The People remain standing.

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People We lift them to the Lord.

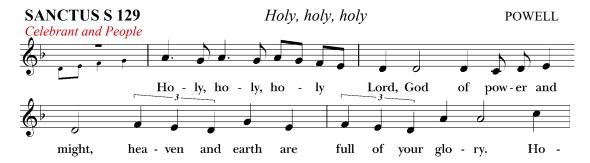
Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

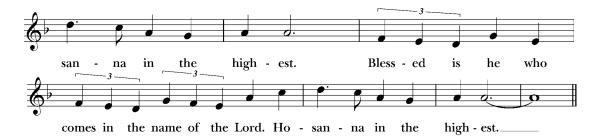
People It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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

Because in the mystery of the Word made flesh, you have caused a new light to shine in our hearts, to give the knowledge of your glory in the face of your Son 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:





The People stand or kneel.

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.

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,

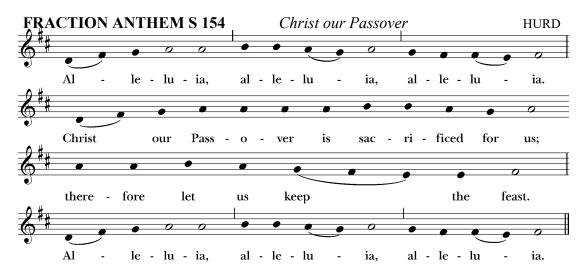
#### THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.



#### INVITATION TO COMMUNION

The Gifts of God for the People of God. This is the table, not of the Church, but of the Lord. It is made ready for those who love God and for those who hope to love God more. So, come, you who have faith and you who have doubts. Come if you have been here often, and come if you have not been here long. Come if you have followed, and come if you have stumbled. Come, because it is the Lord who invites you. It is Christ's will that those who seek him will meet him here at God's table. Come!

#### AT THE COMMUNION

- All baptized Christian welcome to receive communion.
- To receive communion, place your right hand inside of your left to receive the bread.
- To receive a gluten free wafer please place your palms together.
- You may then either drink from the cup or dip the bread into the wine.
- If you wish to receive just a blessing, please cross your hands over your chest.



#### **POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**

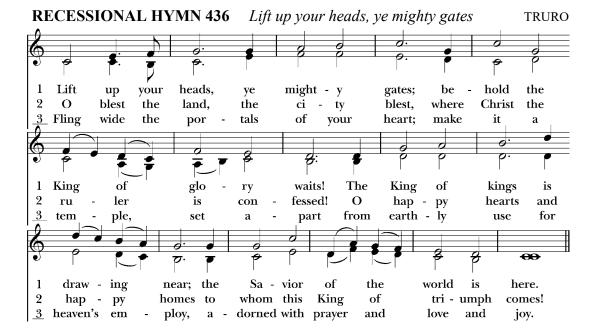
After Communion, the Celebrant says

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.

#### THE BLESSING



#### DISMISSAL

Priest Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People Thanks be to God.

# **Announcements**

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

## **ANNUAL MEETING**

The Annual Meeting will be held on January 21, 2024. We will have a **POTLUCK LUNCH** (provided by you), thank the exiting vestry members, welcome the new ones, review the past and future finances, and discuss other important business. Please make plans to attend this vital church function.

#### **CALL FOR DIOCESAN COUNCIL DELEGATES**

Each year we elect at the Annual Meeting FOUR Delegates and TWO Alternates to attend the Diocesan Council.at which the diocese discusses changes, budgets, improvements, and issues. This incredibly informative meeting keeps us in the loop about all the ongoings in the diocese. This year the 175th Diocesan Council meeting will be held February 9-10 at the Waco Convention Center. Please let us know if you would like to attend.

#### **ATTENTION MINISTRY HEADS!**

It's Annual Reporting Time! We would like to hear from all ministry heads. Please email the office a brief report by Tuesday, January 16th to be included in the annual meeting reports letting us know what you've been up to, that you are still hanging in there, and what your hopes for 2024 are. We want to share with the congregation all that Ascension offers and how they can get involved.

## **HOME BLESSINGS**

Father Mark is always available to bless your home. Many people feel Epiphany is a great time to do this. Fresh start, new year, bless your home. But anytime is a good time. There is a sign-up sheet available in the narthex and the online sign-up will be available shortly. We ask that you list your name, the phone number that will reach you most easily, and your address. Fr. Mark will contact you to set the time and date and remember, no need to fret over the post holiday clutter, your home is not under inspection. Fr. Mark will only need access to your front door and entry way.

#### **SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR ALL AGES AT 9:30 AM**

Sunday School resumes; both Children's Sunday school, upstairs with Miss Allison Garcia and Adult Christian Education, downstairs in the church library. The Adult Class will continue to have an online option for those who are unable to be present in person.

# **TUESDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY**

# Start the new year by studying the Bible

Beginning, Tuesday, January 9 at 6:30 PM, the brand new study of the Book of Acts will be held in the Church Library, and for those who are unable to join us in person, join us on Zoom. This is a great time to join us! There are two books needed for this class and they are available on Amazon.

- Acts for Everyone Study guide by N.T. Wright
- Acts for Everyone, Part One by N. T. Wright

For those who are unable to attend in person, there is a zoom link, which can be used for ALL of the Tuesday Night Bible Study Classes. I hope you join us and do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions. -God's Peace, Fr. Mark+

#### **WORSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING**

The Worship Committee Meeting will convene at 2pm on Jan 24. Our goal is to review and organize the many facets that go into each worship service. If you are interested in attending, we will meet in the church library.

#### Staff:

The Rev. Mark McDonald, Rector Alice Serralta, Organist Choirmaster Linda Parks, Bookkeeper Samantha King, Office Administrator mark@ascensionepiscopalchurch.org alice@ascensionepiscopalchurch.org finance@ascensionepiscopalchurch.org office@ascensionepiscopalchurch.org

## Your Current Vestry

To Annual Meeting of 2024— Pam Schwabrow, Carroll Prasad, Jackie Bergquist To Annual Meeting of 2025— Mike Black, Todd Breton, Funmi Falayi, Carol Goulet To Annual Meeting of 2026 - Tom Sutton, Joan Harwood

### **LENT IS EARLY THIS YEAR**

February 13 Shrove Tuesday, We need Volunteers.

Pancake Supper, 6:30pm, Pancakes and Bacon!! Burning of the Palms to follow, under the bell.

Sign-up! We want to make sure we have pancakes for all!

(The sign-up will be available early next week and in future publications.)

February 14 Ash Wednesday Services, Times, 8:30am, noon, and 6:30pm

#### **Lenten Soup Suppers**

The Lenten Soup Suppers are a wonderful Ascension pastime. We will serve soup, and hear the testimonials and stories of fellow parishioners. Traditionally, we have asked ministries to provide the soup for the evening, but individuals and families can step up too. Please see the dates below and let Samantha know which date you or your ministry would like to serve.

February 21	Choir serving Potato Soup
February 28	Terry Kahn serving Black Bean Soup
March 6	
March 13	
March 20	

	January 14th	January 21st	January 28th
	Second Sunday After the Epiphany	Third Sunday After the Epiphany	Fourth Sunday After the Epiphany
Vestry of the Week	Carol Goulet and Joan Harwood	Todd Breton and Volunteer	Tom Sutton and Tom Downs
Altar Guild	Sutton	Smith	Dipuma
Lessons	Samuel 3:1-10(11-20), Psalm 139:1-5, 12-17, 1 Corinthians 6:12-20, John 1:43-51	Jonah 3:1-5, 10, Psalm 62:6-14, 1 Corinthians 7:29-31, Mark 1:14-20	Deuteronomy 18:15-20, Psalm 111, 1 Corinthians 8:1-13, Mark 1:21-28
Ushers	Liz and Chad Goodman	Todd and Cindy Breton	Cristina Mattern and Margo Kaplan
8 am Lect./Intercessor	Glenn Criswell	Ken Kingdon	Julie Downs
1030am Lect./Intercessor	John Searle	Tex Wariboko	Carroll Prasad
Stream Team	Charlie Goodman	Joey Serralta	Madeline Mattern
Post Service Coffee	Joni, Elizabeth, and Roxanne	Potluck Annual Meeting	Cristina Mattern and Margo Kaplan

## **Calendar and Event Schedule**

- Jan 15 Office is closed, in observance of MLK Jr. Day
- Jan 21 Annual Meeting
- Feb 9-10 175th Diocesan Council at the Waco Convention Center.
- Feb 13 Shrove Tuesday, Need Volunteers!!
- Feb 14 Ash Wednesday, Service times 8:30, noon, and 6:30.
- Wednesdays during Lent: We will have soup and lessons, details tba.



# **Welcome Visitors**

Please take a moment to let us know who you are!! Scan the QR code to the left and fill out the form. This will allow us to connect with you and get to know you and your family.

# **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.





# It was great to see you! Have a great week!