ASCENSION EPISCOPAL CHURCH

FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

January 28, 2024 10:30 AM Holy Eucharist Rite II



The Rev Mark W. McDonald, Rector

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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 10 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

PROCESSIONAL HYMN 339

SCHMÜCKE DICH



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.

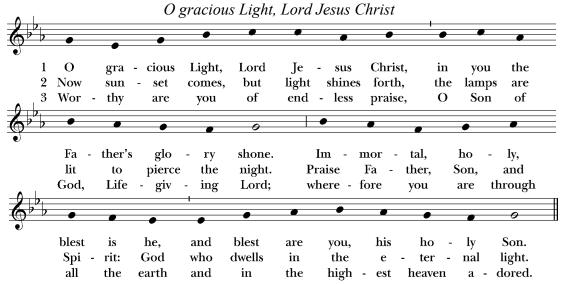
COLLECT FOR PURITY

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 and everlasting God, you govern all things both in heaven and on earth: Mercifully hear the supplications of your people, and in our time grant us your

peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen*.

The Lessons

FIRST READING: Deuteronomy 18:15-20

The people sit.

A Reading from the book of Deuteronomy.

[Moses summoned all Israel and said to them,] ¹⁵"The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; you shall heed such a prophet. ¹⁶This is what you requested of the LORD your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly when you said: 'If I hear the voice of the LORD my God any more, or ever again see this great fire, I will die.' ¹⁷Then the LORD replied to me: 'They are right in what they have said. ¹⁸I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their own people; I will put my words in the mouth of the prophet, who shall speak to them everything that I command. ¹⁹Anyone who does not heed the words that the prophet shall speak in my name, I myself will hold accountable. ²⁰But any prophet who speaks in the name of other gods, or who presumes to speak in my name a word that I have not commanded the prophet to speak—that prophet shall die.'"

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Silence may follow.

PSALM: Psalm 111

Remain seated. Please read responsively by half verse.

¹Hallelujah! I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart, * in the assembly of the upright, in the congregation.

²Great are the deeds of the LORD! *

they are studied by all who delight in them.

³His work is full of majesty and splendor, * and his righteousness endures forever.

⁴He makes his marvelous works to be remembered; * *the Lord is gracious and full of compassion.*

- ⁵He gives food to those who fear him; *

 he is ever mindful of his covenant.
- ⁶He has shown his people the power of his works * in giving them the lands of the nations.
- The works of his hands are faithfulness and justice; * all his commandments are sure.
- ⁸They stand fast for ever and ever, *

 because they are done in truth and equity.
- ⁹He sent redemption to his people; he commanded his covenant forever; * holy and awesome is his Name.
- ¹⁰The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; *

 those who act accordingly have a good understanding;

 his praise endures forever.

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 8:1-13

The people sit.

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

¹Now concerning food sacrificed to idols: we know that "all of us possess knowledge." Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up. ²Anyone who claims to know something does not yet have the necessary knowledge; ³but anyone who loves God is known by him.

⁴Hence, as to the eating of food offered to idols, we know that "no idol in the world really exists," and that "there is no God but one." ⁵Indeed, even though there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth—as in fact there are many gods and many lords—⁶yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist.

⁷It is not everyone, however, who has this knowledge. Since some have become so accustomed to idols until now, they still think of the food they eat as food offered to an idol; and their conscience, being weak, is defiled. ⁸"Food will not bring us close to God." We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. ⁹But take care that this liberty of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. ¹⁰For if others see you, who possess knowledge, eating in the temple of an idol, might they not, since their conscience is weak, be encouraged to the point of eating food sacrificed to idols? ¹¹So by your knowledge those weak believers for whom Christ died are destroyed. ¹²But when you thus sin against members of your

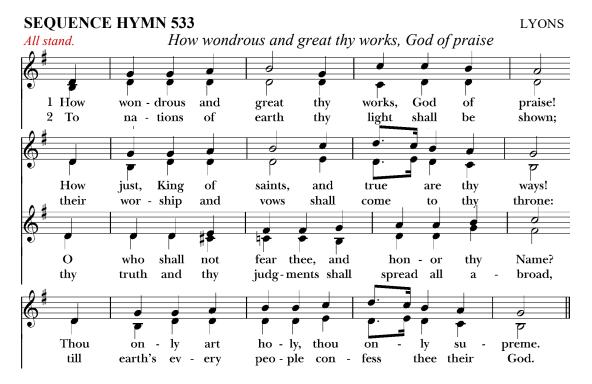
family, and wound their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ.

¹³Therefore, if food is a cause of their falling, I will never eat meat, so that I may not cause one of them to fall.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Silence may follow.



THE HOLY GOSPEL: Mark 1:21-28

All stand.

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

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

²¹[Jesus and his disciples] went to Capernaum; and when the sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught.²²They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. ²³Just then there was in

their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, ²⁴and he cried out, "What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God." ²⁵But Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Be silent, and come out of him!" ²⁶And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying with a loud voice, came out of him. ²⁷They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, "What is this? A new teaching—with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him." ²⁸At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

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 Anglican Church of Southern Africa and in the Diocese of Texas Cycle of Prayer, we pray for St. Alban's of Austin, St. Christopher's of Austin, and St. David's of Austin, 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, for your wonderful creation and 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 the grace of 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

OFFERTORY ANTHEM Song of Thanksgiving by Tony Ward

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.

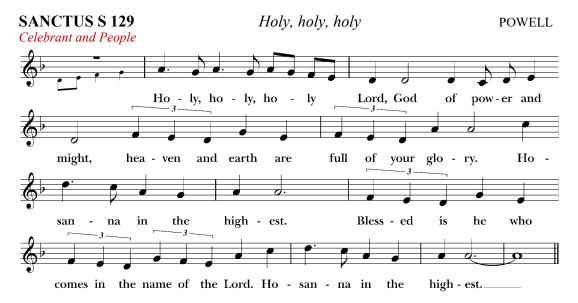
Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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,

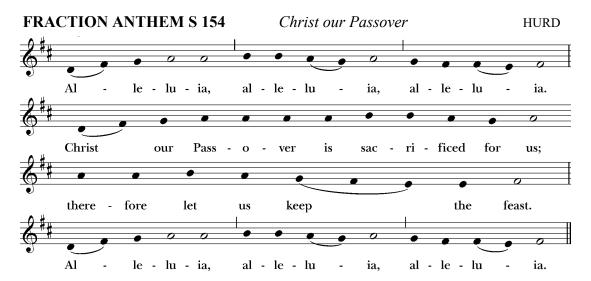
THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

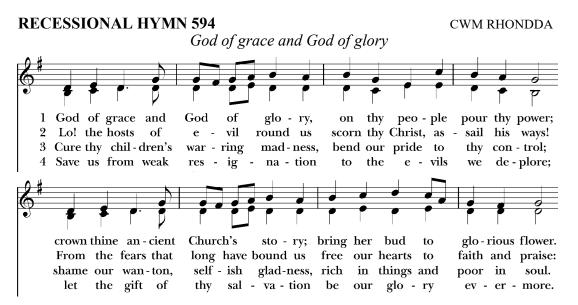
Let us pray.

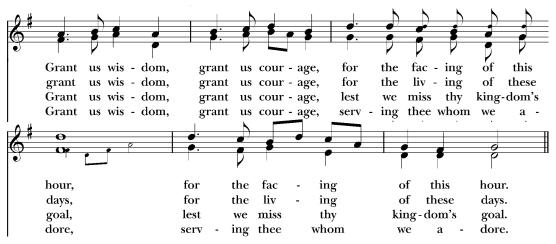
Celebrant and People

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

The priest blesses the people





DISMISSAL

Priest Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE Fanfare in C by Mary McDonald

Announcements

The Altar flowers are given to the glory of the Almighty God, by Dion and Pat Cole in thanksgiving for his many blessings and loving memory of Pat's sister, Courtney Frantz.

PALM CROSSES FOR ASH WEDNESDAY

Please bring your palm crosses to church through February 13th and place them in the collection basket, or bring them to the burning on Shrove Tuesday.

WOMEN'S TUESDAY BIBLE STUDY, 1PM

The Women's Tuesday Bible Study is a group of amazing women, led by amazing women. Join these ladies every Tuesday at 1pm! Toyin Agboola guides this Bible Study in a safe trustworthy setting as they learn about the Bible. Julie Collins keeps things organized on the administration side, sending out emails, reminders, and the weekly Zoom link. You can contact her at collins_collins@comcast.net and she will happily get you into the swing of things, or just come by!!

HOME BLESSINGS

Father Mark is always available to bless your home. Many people feel Epiphany is a great time to do this, but anytime is a good time. There is a sign-up sheet available in the narthex. 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.

TUESDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY

We are studying the Book of Acts every Tuesday at 6:30pm in the Church Library, and for those who are unable to join us in person, there is a zoom link, which can be used for ALL of the Tuesday Night Bible Study Classes. The two books needed for this class "Acts for Everyone Study Guide" by N.T. Wright and "Acts for Everyone, Part One" by N. T. Wright are available on Amazon. I hope you join us and do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions. -God's Peace, Fr. Mark+

SHROVE TUESDAY

Join us on February 13 for Shrove Tuesday, Pancake Supper at 6:30pm, Pancakes and Bacon!! We have a great team of volunteers, but if you could drop off Orange Juice, Fresh Fruit, or Pancake mix, it will be greatly appreciated. Following the meal we will have the Burning of the Palms, for the ashes on Ash Wednesday, under the bell. You don't have to sign-up, but we want to make sure we have pancakes for all, so please sign-up.

ASH WEDNESDAY

We will celebrate with three services on Ash Wednesday, on February 14. We will have a service with the school at 8:30am, and services at noon and 6:30pm. Invite your friends to celebrate with you as we enter the Lent season.

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. .

February 21	Choir is serving Potato Soup
February 28	Terry Kahn is offering Black Bean Soup
March 6	8:00ers are getting together and will let us know what kind
March 13	Altar Guild is providing Baked Potato Soup
March 20	The Girl Scouts are happy to serve.

SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR ALL AGES AT 9:30 AM

Join us for 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.



	January 28th	February 4th	February 11th
	Fourth Sunday After the Epiphany	Fifth Sunday After the Epiphany	Sixth Sunday After the Epiphany
Vestry of the Week	Tom Sutton and Tom Downs	Funmi Falayi and Carol Goulet	Mike Black and Tex Wariboko
Altar Guild	Cole	Dipuma	Sutton
Lessons	Deuteronomy 18:15-20, Psalm 111, 1 Corinthians 8:1-13, Mark 1:21-28	Isaiah 40:21-31, Psalm 147:1-12, 21c, 1 Corinthians 9:16-23, Mark 1:29-39	2 Kings 2:1-12, Psalm 50:1-6, 2 Corinthians 4:3-6, Mark 9:2-9
Ushers	Cristina Mattern and Margo Kaplan	The Falayi Family	Gemma Williams
8 am Lect./Intercessor	Julie Downs	Glenn Criswell	Ken Kingdon
1030am Lect./Intercessor	Carroll Prasad	Allison Garcia	Todd Breton
Stream Team	Madeline Mattern	Enoch Falayi	Mike Black
Post Service Coffee	Cristina Mattern and Margo Kaplan	Nifemi & Damisi Falayi and Allison Garcia	VOLUNTEER

Calendar and Event Schedule

- Jan 21 Annual Meeting
- Jan 24 Worship Committee Meeting, 2pm
- 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 parishioner testimonials.
- March 10 Girl Scout Sunday
- March 24 Palm Sunday
- March 28 Maundy Thursday
- March 29 Good Friday
- March 31 Easter Sunday





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!