

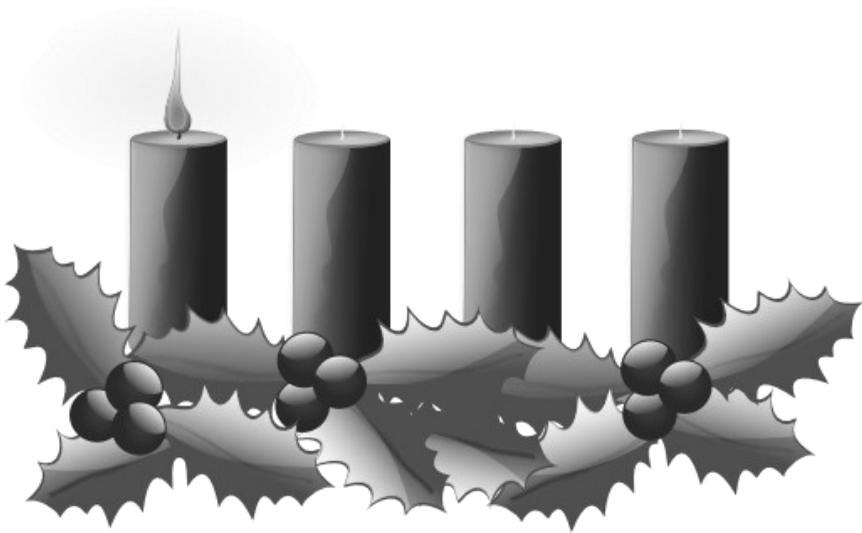
ASCENSION EPISCOPAL CHURCH

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

November 28, 2021

10:30 AM

Confirmation with 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

The Rt. Rev. Hector F. Monterroso, Bishop Assistant

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.

Join us in person in the Church Library for **ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL**, from 9:30am to 10:15am.

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



The Rt. Rev. Hector Monterroso
Bishop Assistant

A native of Guatemala, the Rt. Rev. Hector Monterroso served as bishop of Costa Rica for 14 years before becoming Bishop Assistant in the Diocese of Texas, July 1, 2017.

“I learned a lot in Costa Rica,” said the lifelong Episcopalian and former engineer. “I learned to start new missions, I learned what God’s response means when we’re desperate, I learned to be patient and to wait for God’s answer, I learned to use everything that God has given me to serve in the best manner I can,” the Bishop said, adding, “at each transition in my life, I have learned that God will never let me down.”

Bishop Monterroso served as an acolyte as a child and was confirmed by Bishop Anselmo Carral (deceased), who previously served as assistant bishop in the Diocese of Texas. Bishop Monterroso earned a precision mechanics and industrial maintenance degree and worked for a rum company as the chief engineer while he attended seminary at night. He left the company to plant a new Episcopal community to the chagrin of his work colleagues and despite the offer of a bonus and raise in salary.

His father’s professional soccer career proved to be an opener for him in gathering people to a new worshipping community. “It was a difficult time for me because my training in the seminary did not include how to open new churches,” he said, but he inherited some of his father’s talent. He was an excellent soccer player. “People couldn’t believe that a priest could play soccer and I was invited to be a part of the city’s soccer team. I visited many small towns where the people came to learn that I was the priest of the new church.

Many young people came to the church to meet and to play on my soccer team. Eventually, we had our own soccer team sponsored by the Episcopal Church. It was good advertising,” he laughed.

In addition to his experience as a missionary, and as Bishop of Costa Rica, Bishop Monterroso also served as Secretary General of Province IX (1986-2000); as editor of the Revista Anglicanos for 16 years, a magazine that served the Hispanic diaspora in the Anglican Communion; and as Secretary General of the Anglican Church of the Central Region of America. During his tenure in Costa Rica, he secured its financial stability, increased the number of clergy from seven to 29, assured that most congregations were self-sustaining, and gained governmental recognition and support for many of the Diocese's programs.

He was ordained as a deacon in 1986, a priest in 1987 in the Diocese of Guatemala and consecrated as the Bishop of Costa Rica on June 7, 2003. He and his wife, Sandra Cardona, have two grown children in Costa Rica: María Beatriz, a geriatrician, and Héctor Ramón, a civil engineer.

Bishop Monterroso and his wife Sandra moved to Houston, July 2017. His current ministries include the strengthening and growth of Hispanic congregations, new missional communities, 52 churches in the Southern Region of the Diocese, and several development programs. He coordinates interfaith and ecumenical efforts, supports the process and development of a multicultural presence in the congregations of the Diocese, and promotes the call to Ordained Ministry, identifying vocational leaders within the local Hispanic ministry. During his free time, he practices soccer, basketball, and ping pong.



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.

Entrance Rite

ENTRANCE HYMN 66

Come, thou long-expected Jesus

STUTT GART

1 Come, thou long-expect-ed Je-sus, born to set thy peo-ple free;
 2 Is-rael's strength and con-so-la-tion, hope of all the earth thou art:
 3 Born thy peo-ple to de-liv-er, born a child, and yet a king,
 4 By thine own e-ter-nal Spi-rit rule in all our hearts a-lone;

from our fears and sins re-lease us, let us find our rest in thee.
 dear de-sire of ev-ery na-tion, joy of ev-ery long-ing heart.
 born to reign in us for ev-er, now thy gra-cious king-dom bring.
 by thine all-suf-fi-cient mer-it raise us to thy glo-rious throne.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Today we light the first candle of the Advent wreath. This is the candle of HOPE. With Christians around the world, we use this light to help us prepare our hearts and minds for the coming of God's Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ. May we receive God's light as we hear the words of the prophet Isaiah:

"The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness — on them light has shined."—Isaiah 9:2

Let us pray:

Lord as we look to the birth of Jesus, grant that the light of your love for us will help us to become lights in the lives of those around us. Prepare our hearts for the joy and gladness of your coming, for Jesus is our hope. Amen.

OPENING ACCLAMATION (BCP p. 413)

The people standing, the Bishop says

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

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

SALUTATION FOR BAPTISM (BCP p. 413)

Bishop There is one Body and one Spirit;
People *There is one hope in God's call to us;*
Bishop One Lord, one Faith, one Baptism;
People *One God and Father of all.*

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY (BCP p. 413)

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

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

The Lessons

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 33:14-16

The people sit.

A Reading from the book of the prophet Jeremiah.

¹⁴The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ¹⁵In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. ¹⁶In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The LORD is our righteousness."

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

Silence may follow.

PSALM: Psalm 25:1-9

Remain seated. Please read responsively by half verse.

¹To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul; my God, I put my trust in you; *
let me not be humiliated, nor let my enemies triumph over me.

²Let none who look to you be put to shame; *
let the treacherous be disappointed in their schemes.

³Show me your ways, O LORD, *
and teach me your paths.

⁴Lead me in your truth and teach me, *
for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all the day long.

⁵Remember, O LORD, your compassion and love, *
for they are from everlasting.

⁶Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions; *
*remember me according to your love
and for the sake of your goodness, O LORD.*

⁷Gracious and upright is the LORD; *
therefore he teaches sinners in his way.

⁸He guides the humble in doing right *
and teaches his way to the lowly.

⁹All the paths of the LORD are love and faithfulness *
to those who keep his covenant and his testimonies.

SECOND READING: 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

The people sit.

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

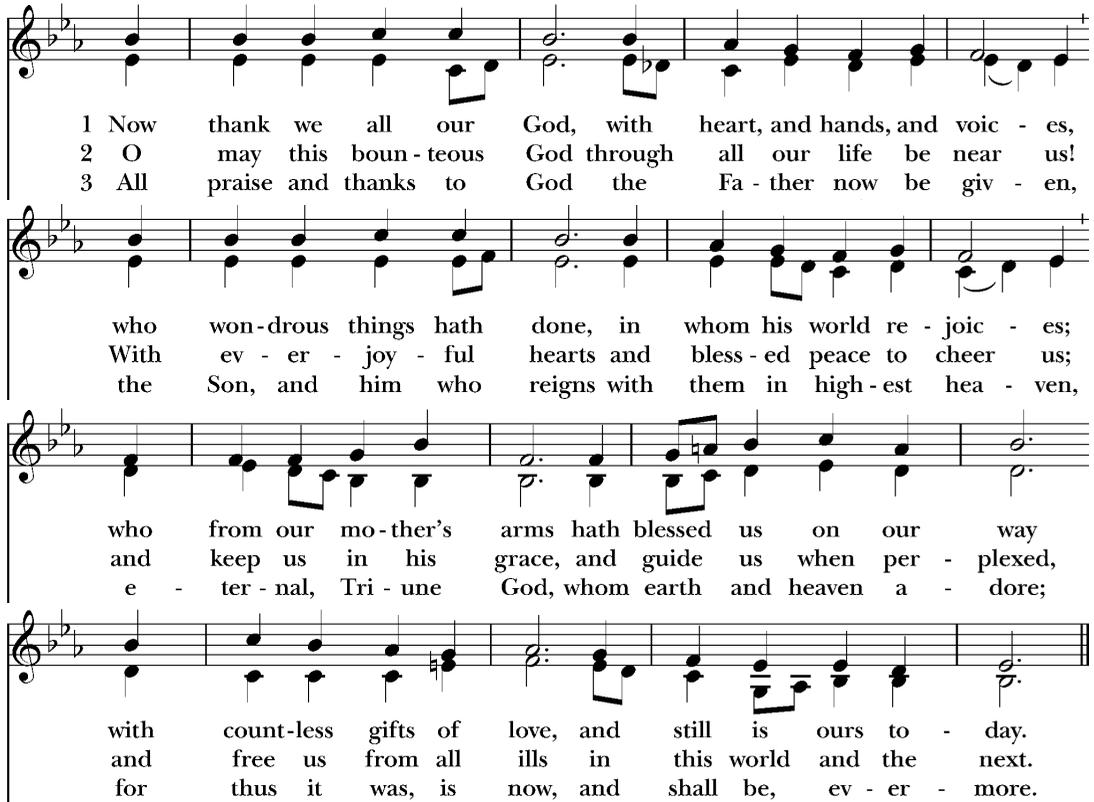
⁹How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? ¹⁰Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith.

¹¹Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. ¹²And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. ¹³And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

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

Silence may follow.

SEQUENCE HYMN 397 *Now thank we all our God* NUN DANKET ALLE GOTT
All stand.



1 Now thank we all our God, with heart, and hands, and voic - es,
2 O may this boun - teous God through all our life be near us!
3 All praise and thanks to God the Fa - ther now be giv - en,

who won - drous things hath done, in whom his world re - joic - es;
With ev - er - joy - ful hearts and bless - ed peace to cheer us;
the Son, and him who reigns with them in high - est hea - ven,

who from our mo - ther's arms hath blessed us on our way
and keep us in his grace, and guide us when per - plexed,
e - ter - nal, Tri - une God, whom earth and heaven a - dore;

with count - less gifts of love, and still is ours to - day.
and free us from all ills in this world and the next.
for thus it was, is now, and shall be, ev - er - more.

THE HOLY GOSPEL: Luke 21:25-36

All standing, the Bishop or Priest reads the Gospel, first saying

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

People *Glory to you, Lord Christ.*

[Jesus said:] ²⁵“There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. ²⁶People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ²⁷Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in a cloud’ with power and great glory. ²⁸Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.” ²⁹Then he told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree and all the trees; ³⁰as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. ³¹So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. ³²Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. ³³Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. ³⁴“Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, ³⁵like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. ³⁶Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

THE SERMON - THE RT. REV. HECTOR MONTERROSO

Presentation and Examination of the Candidates

PRESENTATION (BCP p. 415)

All Stand

Bishop The Candidate(s) will now be presented.

Presenters I present these persons for Confirmation.

EXAMINATION (BCP p. 415)

Bishop Do you reaffirm your renunciation of evil?

Candidate I do.

Bishop Do you renew your commitment to Jesus Christ?

Candidate I do, and with God's grace I will follow him as my Savior and Lord.

After all have been presented, the Bishop addresses the congregation, saying

Will you who witness these vows do all in your power to support *these persons* in their life in Christ?

People We will.

The Bishop then says these or similar words

Let us join with *those* who are committing *themselves* to Christ and renew our own baptismal covenant.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT (BCP p. 416)

Bishop Do you believe in God the Father?

People I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

Bishop Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

*People I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.*

Bishop Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

*People I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.*

Bishop Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of the bread, and in the prayers?

People I will, with God's help.

Bishop Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

People I will, with God's help.

Bishop Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?
People *I will, with God's help.*

Bishop Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?
People *I will, with God's help.*

Bishop Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?
People *I will, with God's help.*

PRAYERS FOR THE CANDIDATES (BCP p. 417)

The Bishop then says to the congregation

Let us now pray for *these persons* who have renewed *their* commitment to Christ.

Bishop Deliver *them*, O Lord, from the way of sin and death.

People *Lord, hear our prayer.*

Bishop Open *their hearts* to your grace and truth.

People *Lord, hear our prayer.*

Bishop Fill *them* with your holy and life-giving Spirit.

People *Lord, hear our prayer.*

Bishop Keep *them* in the faith and communion of your holy Church.

People *Lord, hear our prayer.*

Bishop Teach *them* to love others in the power of the Spirit.

People *Lord, hear our prayer.*

Bishop Send *them* into the world in witness to your love.

People *Lord, hear our prayer.*

Bishop Bring *them* to the fullness of your peace and glory.

People *Lord, hear our prayer.*

A period of silence follows.

Then the Bishop says

Almighty God, we thank you that by the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ you have overcome sin and brought us to yourself, and that by the sealing of your Holy Spirit you have bound us to your service. Renew in *these* your *servants* the covenant you have made with *them* at *their* Baptism. Send *them* forth in the power of that Spirit to perform the service you set before *them*; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

LAYING ON OF HANDS (BCP p. 418)

The Bishop lays hands upon each one and says

Strengthen, O Lord, your servant *N.* with your Holy Spirit; empower *him* for your service; and sustain *him* all the days of *his* life. *Amen.*

The Bishop concludes with this prayer

Almighty and everlasting God, let your fatherly hand ever be over *these* your *servants*; let your Holy Spirit ever be with *them*; and so lead *them* in the knowledge and obedience of your Word, that *they* may serve you in this life, and dwell with you in the life to come; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE (BCP p. 328)

Stand or kneel as you are able. After each paragraph of this prayer, the People may make an appropriate response, as directed.

Celebrant In gratitude for all we have received, every perfect gift that comes from God above, we gather to offer our intentions, petitions, and thanksgivings to God.

We pray for the Church, founded on the gift of your Word, and for all who gather to worship, praise, and work. Pour your blessings on Justin, Archbishop of Canterbury, Michael, Presiding Bishop Andy and Hector, our Bishops, and our clergy and leadership. Pray for the Church.

Silence

May we who witness your power in the world, be ever grateful for Every Perfect Gift.

Which comes from God above.

We pray for the world, your greatest Gift to us, and the gift of all Creation. We pray for the welfare of our planet, and for the wise stewardship of our world. Bless and

guide our President, Joe, Greg, our Governor, Sylvester, our Mayor, our legislative and judicial institutions, and the members of our local government. May they forever care for the people they represent and work for peace and justice. I invite your prayers for our world, either aloud or in the silence of our hearts.

Silence

May we who witness your power in the world, be ever grateful for Every Perfect Gift.

Which comes from God above.

We pray for the work of our church in the world. As we enter this season of intention and focus on the gifts that we give, inspire us to be generous with our time, our talent, and our treasure.

May we who witness your power in the world, be ever grateful for Every Perfect Gift.

Which comes from God above.

We pray for our neighbors and all who need or request our prayers. We remember the sick, the lonely, the suffering; those oppressed domestically or abroad and those in prison; for all who give care and comfort to those in need; for the poor and those who sleep on our streets; We pray for: Ana Lupe, Cathie, Alice, Frances, Todd, Landon, John, Dion, Jim, Albert, Cory, David, John, James, Cora, Greg, Jack & Jean, Lucia, Jean, Leyna, Bobby, Lance, Lucia, Barbara, Angela, Olive, Lance, Carissa, Kelley, Laura, Pete, Maria Isabel, C.J., Margaret, Mary, Mary, David, Ann, Valerie, and those known privately to us.

Silence

May we who witness your power in the world, be ever grateful for Every Perfect Gift.

Which comes from God above.

We pray for those who have died. May they rest in peace and may light perpetual shine upon them.

Silence

May we who witness your power in the world, be ever grateful for Every Perfect Gift.

Which comes from God above.

It is impossible to number the blessings we have received, the many gifts that we have been given and those we share with the world. For what are you thankful today?

Silence

May we who witness your power in the world, be ever grateful for Every Perfect Gift.
Which comes from God above.

Priest: With grateful hearts we thank you, Abundant God for hearing the faithful prayers of your people, granting them grace and love and blessings for Every Perfect Gift.
Amen.

The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.

CONFESSION OF SIN (BCP p. 359)

The Deacon or Celebrant says

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence may be kept.

Minister and People

*Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will,
and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.*

The Bishop stands and says

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. 419)

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 (BCP p. 376)

OFFERTORY ANTHEM *Sing to the Lord of Harvest* by Healey Willan

*Sing to the Lord of harvest, sing songs of love and praise;
With joyful hearts and voices your alleluias raise.
By Him the rolling seasons in fruitful order move;
Sing to the Lord of harvest a joyous song of love.*

*God makes the clouds rain goodness, the deserts bloom and spring.
The hills leap up in gladness, the valleys laugh and sing.
God fills them with His fullness, all things with large increase;
He crowns the year with blessing, with plenty and with peace.*

*Bring to this sacred altar the gifts His goodness gave,
The golden sheaves of harvest, the souls Christ died to save.
Your hearts lay down before Him when at His feet you fall,
And with your lives adore Him who gave His life for all.*

The Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer A BCP pg. 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.*

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.

Because you sent your beloved Son to redeem us from sin and death, and to make us heirs in him of everlasting life; that when he shall come again in power and great triumph to judge the world, we may without shame or fear rejoice to behold his appearing.

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 129
Celebrant and People

Holy, holy, holy

POWELL

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and
might, hea - ven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est._____

The People stand or kneel as you are able.

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 for ever. *AMEN.*

THE LORD’S PRAYER (BCP p. 363)

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

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.

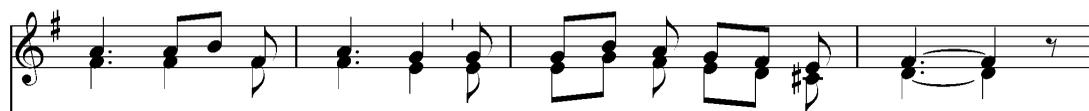
FRACTION ANTHEM S 164 *Jesus, Lamb of God* SCHUBERT/PROULX



Je - sus, Lamb of God: have mer - cy on us.



Je - sus, bear - er of our sins: have mer - cy on us.



Je - sus, re - deem - er, re - deem - er of the world:



give us your peace, give us your peace.

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.

AT THE COMMUNION

At this time the wine is offered for intinction only. The ushers will instruct you to come forward. Fr. Mark will distribute the host and the cup will be passed for dipping. Please then return to your seat; we apologize that we cannot offer the altar rail for prayers at this time.

COMMUNION HYMN 428

O all ye works of God, now come

IRISH

1 O all ye works of God, now come to thank him
 2 O sun and moon and stars of heaven, your end - less
 3 O heat and cold, O night and day, O storms and
 4 O earth and sea, O all that live in wa - ter
 5 O let his peo - ple bless the Lord like right - eous

1 and a - dore; O an - gels, sing and
 2 praise out - pour; O chang - ing sea - sons,
 3 thun - der's roar, O fields and for - ests,
 4 or on shore, O men and wo - men,
 5 souls of yore; let those of ho - ly,

1 bless the Lord and praise him ev - er - more.
 2 bless the Lord and praise him ev - er - more.
 3 bless the Lord and praise him ev - er - more.
 4 bless the Lord and praise him ev - er - more.
 5 hum ble heart come praise him ev - er - more.

6 So let us glorify and bless
 the God we bow before,
 the Father, Holy Spirit, Son,
 and praise him evermore.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER (BCP p. 365)

After Communion, the Celebrant says

Let us pray.

*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 Bishop blesses the people.

RECESSIONAL HYMN 68

Rejoice! rejoice, believers

LLANGLOFFAN



1 Re - joyce! re - joyce, be - liev - ers, and let your lights ap - pear!
2 See that your lamps are burn - ing, re - ple-nish them with oil;
3 Our hope and ex - pec - ta - tion, O Je - sus, now ap - pear;



The eve-ning is ad - vanc - ing, and dark-er night is near.
look now for your sal - va - tion, the end of sin and toil.
a - rise, thou Sun so longed for, a - bove this dark-ened sphere!



The Bride-groom is a - ris - ing, and soon he will draw nigh;
The mar - riage - feast is wait - ing, the gates wide o - pen stand;
With hearts and hands up - lift - ed, we plead, O Lord, to see



up, watch in ex - pec - ta - tion! at mid - night comes the cry.
rise up, ye heirs of glo - ry, the Bride-groom is at hand!
the day of earth's re - demp - tion, and ev - er be with thee!

DISMISSAL (BCP p. 366)

Celebrant Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People *Thanks be to God.*

POSTLUDE

Fanfare on an Original Theme

by Gilbert Martin

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Announcements

The Altar flowers are given by Constance O'Brien and James Turner to God's glory for the unexpected gift of waiting during this advent season.

BISHOP MONTERROSO

Welcome Bishop Monterroso!! He is celebrating with us today, November 28, at the 10:30 service at the confirmation service, as well as the ingathering and blessing of the pledges. He will then join us afterwards for our BBQ celebration.



THE BISHOP'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

All undesignated monies, either cash or checks, that is collected today will be given to the Bishop's discretionary fund. You will still be able to place your pledge or other money in the plate, as long as you mark on the check or envelope what it is for.



STEWARDSHIP INGATHERING AND CELEBRATION

INGATHERING: Thank you to all those who have pledged. Pledges will be lifted to the glory of the Almighty God in thanksgiving by Bishop Monterroso.

CELEBRATION: Join us after the 10:30 service for BBQ!! Our grill masters have provided brisket and pork, our Parish Life Team has provided the sides and **YOU have brought** desert!! We look forward to a wonderful variety of sweets!

We thank you in advance for your pledge, which allows us to plan for the ministries and operations in the upcoming year. We understand the challenges faced by many this year as we have all uniquely been effected by the pandemic. Now more than ever it is especially important to prayerfully consider what you are able to give to help Ascension Church remain a strong and influential community presence.

SALVATION ARMY CHRISTMAS "FORGOTTEN SENIOR" PROGRAM

All bags were picked up!! And thank you to all who did so!
All bags should have been returned today. If for some reason, you were unable to return it today, please, please, bring it by before 9am on Monday morning. The Salvation Army will be picking up the bags Monday morning!!

Christmas is Coming!

Christmas Music Underwriters - Please make an offering to help underwrite the Christmas Guest Musicians expense. Donations may be mailed, placed in the offering plate, brought to the church office, or made online. (Be sure checks "for Choir Fund/Christmas Brass" on the memo line.)



You may dedicate your the gift in memory of, in honor of, in thanksgiving for, etc., and the contribution will be acknowledged in the Christmas orders of service. Thank you for your support of the Music Department. ***The deadline for the printed dedications is December 20th.***



Christmas Poinsettia Offerings - You may sign-up to donate and dedicate a poinsettia. Please sign the flower chart in the narthex and write your dedication in the book below the chart. The dedications may be made in honor of someone, in memory of someone or in thanksgiving for all the wonderful things that God has put in your life. The cost is \$25, but any donation amount is welcome. Any questions can be directed to the office or to Mrs. Ann Burton. ***The deadline for the printed dedications is December 20th.***

VESTRY NOMINATIONS

Do you know a person who has demonstrated a passion for Ascension and shown themselves to be a leader? Today through December 19th, we will take nominations of people you think will be good vestry members. Each nomination should include the nominee's name, and what you think qualifies them for this leadership position. We ask that you speak to them first about their willingness to serve. They should be confirmed pledging members who are in good standing. Thank you for your help in this process which is vital to the ongoing life of Ascension. You may use the nomination form below. Just fill it out, tear it out and drop it in the plate.

Vestry Nomination:

To the best of my knowledge, _____ is a pledging, confirmed member in good standing. I believe they will serve Ascension well because

↑
TEAR HERE
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CHILDREN'S CHOIR

The Organist Choirmaster, Alice Serralta has put together a children's/youth choir, for grades K through 8, to sing at Christmas time. Practice will continue in the sanctuary immediately following church for 15-20 minutes. Parents can mingle outside. Rehearsals will begin the second Sunday in November (11/14), and continue for 4 weeks. The children's choir will sing on Sunday, December 12th during the service.

	November 28, 2021	December 5, 2021	December 12, 2021
	<i>First Sunday of Advent</i>	<i>Second Sunday of Advent</i>	<i>Third Sunday of Advent</i>
Vestry of the Week	Ken Kingdon and Carroll Prasad	John Searle and Pam Schwabrow	Elizabeth Till and Nigel Hypolite
Altar Guild	Dipuma	Cole	Sutton
Lessons	Jeremiah 33:14-16, 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13, Luke 21:25-36, Psalm 25:1-9	Baruch 5:1-9, or Malachi 3:1-4, Philipians 1:3-11, Luke 3:1-6, Canticle 4 or 16	Zephaniah 3:14-20, Philippians 4:4-7, Luke 3:7-18, Canticle 9
Ushers	Gemma Williams	Cristina Mattern and Margo Kaplan	Liz and Chad Goodman
8 am Lect./Intercessor	Lisa May	Glenn Criswell	Allison Garcia
10 am Lect./Intercessor	Carroll Prasad	John Searle	Mike Black
Stream Team	Mike Black	Cooper McDonald	Charlie Goodman
Post Service Coffee	BBQ Luncheon	Cristina Mattern and Margo Kaplan	Mike & Sharon Black and Isaac Griesbaum

Your Current Vestry

To Annual Meeting of 2022– Allison Garcia, Nigel Hypolite, Elizabeth Till, Julie Collins
To Annual Meeting of 2023–Jim Anderson, Ken Kingdon, Dipo Ogunmesa, John Searle
To Annual Meeting of 2024–Pam Schwabrow, Carroll Prasad, Troi Malveaux

Staff:	The Rev. Mark McDonald, Rector	mark@ascensionepiscopalchurch.org
	Alice Serralta, Organist Choirmaster	alice@ascensionepiscopalchurch.org
	Ann Seitz, Bookkeeper	finance@ascensionepiscopalchurch.org
	Samantha King, Office Administrator	office@ascensionepiscopalchurch.org

Giving

A quick and easy way to give to the church!! If you would like to give your pledge, make a donation, contribute to the Christmas music or poinsettias, 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.



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.



***Thank you for
worshipping with us!
Have a Blessed Day!!***