

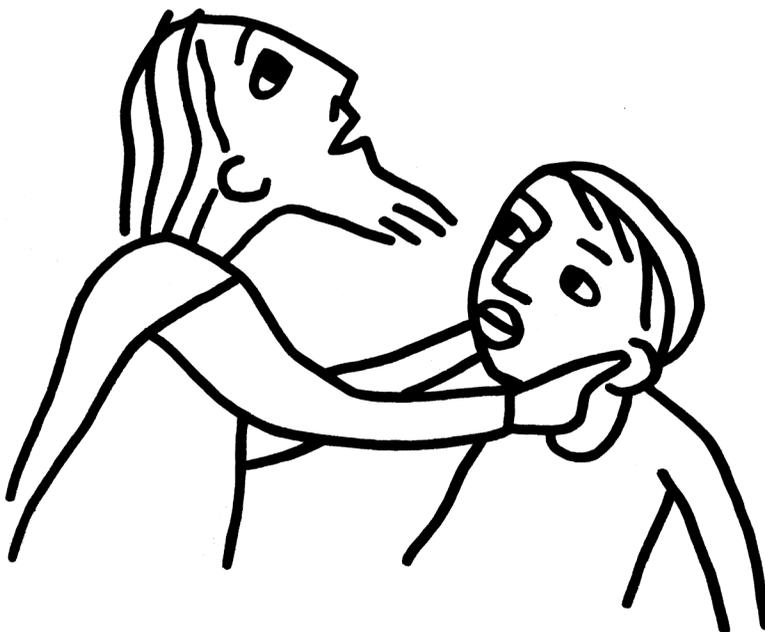
# ASCENSION EPISCOPAL CHURCH

## FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

September 5, 2021

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](mailto:office@ascensionepiscopalchurch.org)

[www.ascensionepiscopalchurch.org](http://www.ascensionepiscopalchurch.org)



The Episcopal Diocese of Texas

[www.epicenter.org](http://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 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 online for **SUNDAY SCHOOL**. The lessons are sent out with the virtual link on Sunday mornings. If you are not receiving the emails, please verify your email with the secretary.

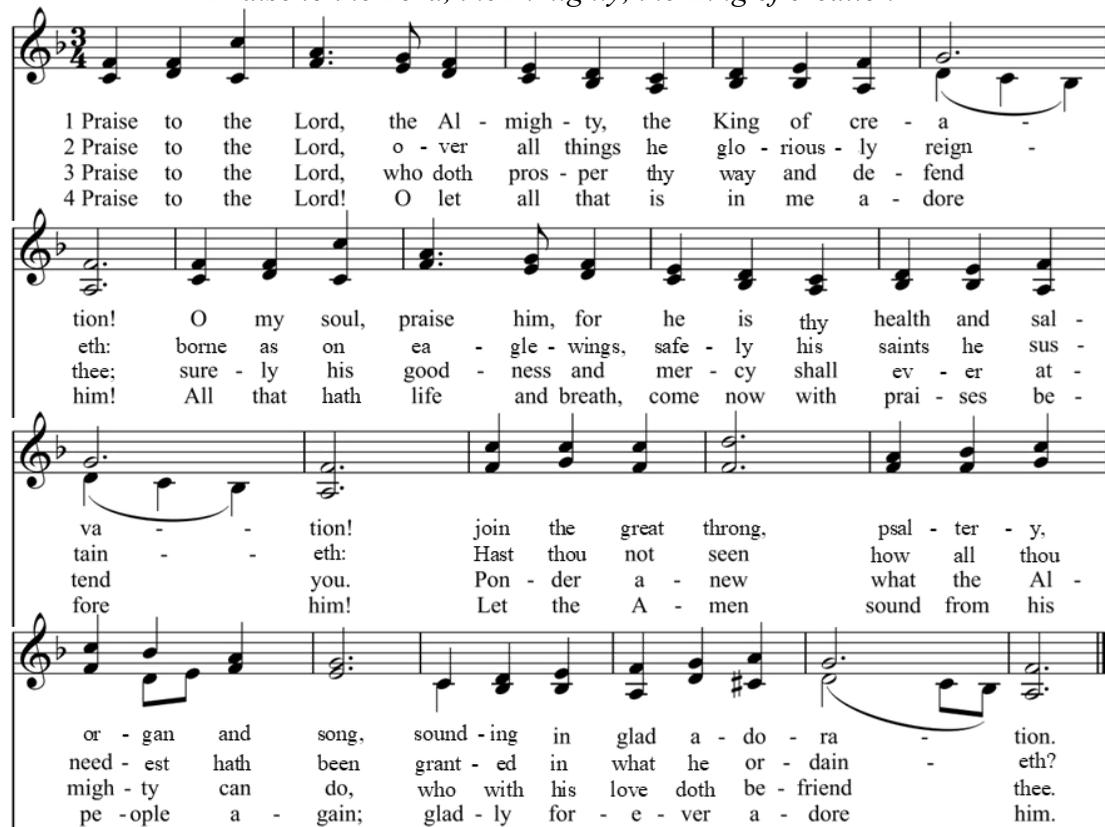
**Voices of small children are always welcome.  
Please take a moment to silence your cell phone.**

## The Word of God

## Entrance Rite

## ENTRANCE HYMN 390

## LOBE DEN HERREN

*Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation*


1 Praise to the Lord, the Al - migh - ty, the King of cre - a -  
 2 Praise to the Lord, o - ver all things he glo - ri - ous - ly reign -  
 3 Praise to the Lord, who doth pros - per thy way and de - fend at -  
 4 Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me a - dore

tion! O my soul, praise him, for he is thy health and sal -  
 eth: borne as on ea - gle - wings, safe - ly his saints he sus -  
 thee: sure - ly his good - ness and mer - cy shall ev - er at -  
 him! All that hath life and breath, come now with prai - ses be -

va - tion! join the great throng, psal - ter - y,  
 tain - eth: Hast thou not seen how all thou  
 tend you. Pon - der a - new what the Al -  
 fore him! Let the A - men sound from his

or - gan and song, sound - ing in glad a - do - ra - tion.  
 need - est hath been grant - ed in what he or - dain - eth?  
 migh - ty can do, who with his love doth be - friend thee.  
 pe - o - ple a - gain; glad - ly for - e - ver a - dore him.

## OPENING ACCLAMATION (BCP p. 355)

*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 (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

*First Song of Isaiah*

Jack Noble White

*The following is sung, all standing*

Refrain: *Surely it is God who saves me;  
I will trust in him and not be afraid.  
For the Lord is my stronghold and my sure defense,  
and he will be my Savior.*

Vs. 1 *Therefore you shall draw water  
with rejoicing from the springs of salvation.  
And on that day you shall say,  
Give thanks to the Lord,  
and call upon his Name. REFRAIN*

Vs. 2 *Make his deeds known among the peoples;  
See that they remember that his name is exalted.  
Sing the praises of the Lord, for he has done great things. REFRAIN*

Vs. 3 *Cry aloud, inhabitants of Zion,  
Ring out your joy, for the great one in the midst of you  
is the Holy One of Israel. REFRAIN*

## THE COLLECT OF THE DAY (BCP p. 357)

Celebrant      The Lord be with you.

People          *And also with you.*

Celebrant      Let us pray.

Grant us, O Lord, to trust in you with all our hearts; for, as you always resist the proud who confide in their own strength, so you never forsake those who make their boast of your mercy; 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 35:4-7a

*The people sit.*

A Reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

<sup>4</sup>Say to those who are of a fearful heart, “Be strong, do not fear!  
Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense.  
He will come and save you.” <sup>5</sup>Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,  
and the ears of the deaf unstopped; <sup>6</sup>then the lame shall leap like a deer,  
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.  
For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert;  
<sup>7a</sup>the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water.

Reader            The Word of the Lord.

People            *Thanks be to God.*

*Silence may follow.*

## PSALM: Psalm 146

*Remain seated. Please read responsively by half verse.*

<sup>1</sup>Hallelujah! Praise the LORD, O my soul! \*  
*I will praise the LORD as long as I live;  
I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.*

<sup>2</sup>Put not your trust in rulers, nor in any child of earth, \*  
*for there is no help in them.*

<sup>3</sup>When they breathe their last, they return to earth, \*  
*and in that day their thoughts perish.*

<sup>4</sup>Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help! \*  
*whose hope is in the LORD their God;*

<sup>5</sup>Who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them; \*  
*who keeps his promise for ever;*

<sup>6</sup>Who gives justice to those who are oppressed, \*  
*and food to those who hunger.*

<sup>7</sup>The LORD sets the prisoners free; the LORD opens the eyes of the blind; \*  
*the LORD lifts up those who are bowed down;*

<sup>8</sup>The LORD loves the righteous; the LORD cares for the stranger; \*  
*he sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way of the wicked.*

<sup>9</sup>The LORD shall reign for ever, \*  
*your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. Hallelujah!*

## **SECOND READING: James 2:1-10 [11-13] 14-17**

*The people sit.*

A Reading from the letter of James.

<sup>1</sup>My brothers and sisters, do you with your acts of favoritism really believe in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ? <sup>2</sup>For if a person with gold rings and in fine clothes comes into your assembly, and if a poor person in dirty clothes also comes in, <sup>3</sup>and if you take notice of the one wearing the fine clothes and say, "Have a seat here, please," while to the one who is poor you say, "Stand there," or, "Sit at my feet," <sup>4</sup>have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts?

<sup>5</sup>Listen, my beloved brothers and sisters. Has not God chosen the poor in the world to be rich in faith and to be heirs of the kingdom that he has promised to those who love him? <sup>6</sup>But you have dishonored the poor. Is it not the rich who oppress you? Is it not they who drag you into court? <sup>7</sup>Is it not they who blaspheme the excellent name that was invoked over you?

<sup>8</sup>You do well if you really fulfill the royal law according to the scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." <sup>9</sup>But if you show partiality, you commit sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. <sup>10</sup>For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it. [<sup>11</sup>For the one who said, "You shall not commit adultery," also said, "You shall not murder." Now if you do not commit adultery but if you murder, you have become a transgressor of the law. <sup>12</sup>So speak and so act as those who are to be judged by the law of liberty. <sup>13</sup>For judgment will be without mercy to anyone who has shown no mercy; mercy triumphs over judgment.]

<sup>14</sup>What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? <sup>15</sup>If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, <sup>16</sup>and one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill," and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? <sup>17</sup>So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.

Reader            The Word of the Lord.

People            *Thanks be to God.*

*Silence may follow.*

**SEQUENCE HYMN 602***Kneels at the feet of his friends*

CHERE PONI

*All stand.*

*Chorus*

Je - su, Je - su, fill us with your love, show  
us how to serve the neigh - bors we have from you.

- 1 Kneels at the feet of his friends, si - lent - ly wash - es their
- 2 Neigh - bors are rich\_\_\_ and poor, neigh - bors are black\_\_\_ and
- 3 These are the ones we should serve, these are the ones we should
- 4 Lov - ing puts us on our knees, serv - ing as though we were

*Repeat Chorus*

feet, Mas - ter who acts as a slave to them.  
white, neigh - bors are near - by and far a - way.  
love. All\_\_\_ are neigh - bors to us and you.  
slaves; this is the way we should live with you.

**THE HOLY GOSPEL: Mark 7:24-37***All stand.*

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

*People*            *Glory to you, Lord Christ.*

<sup>24</sup>[Jesus] set out and went away to the region of Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know he was there. Yet he could not escape notice,<sup>25</sup> but a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit immediately heard about him, and she came and bowed down at his feet. <sup>26</sup>Now the woman was a Gentile, of Syrophenician origin. She begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter. <sup>27</sup>He said to her, “Let the children be fed first, for it is not fair to take the children’s food and throw it to the dogs.” <sup>28</sup>But she answered him, “Sir, even the dogs under the table eat the children’s crumbs.” <sup>29</sup>Then he said to her, “For saying that, you may go—the demon has left your daughter.” <sup>30</sup>So she went home, found the child lying on the bed, and the demon gone.

<sup>31</sup>Then he returned from the region of Tyre, and went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis. <sup>32</sup>They brought to him a deaf man who

had an impediment in his speech; and they begged him to lay his hand on him. <sup>33</sup>He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spat and touched his tongue. <sup>34</sup>Then looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, “Ephphatha,” that is, “Be opened.” <sup>35</sup>And immediately his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. <sup>36</sup>Then Jesus ordered them to tell no one; but the more he ordered them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. <sup>37</sup>They were astounded beyond measure, saying, “He has done everything well; he even makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak.”

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

## **THE SERMON - THE REV. MARK W. MCDONALD (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 (BCP p. 359)**

*The People may kneel or stand as they are able.*

Let us pray for the Church and for the world.

Grant, Almighty God, that all who confess your Name may be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world.

*Silence*

Lord, in your mercy  
*Hear our prayer.*

Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the ways of justice and peace; we pray for Joe, our President, Greg, our Governor, Sylvester, our Mayor, and for leaders of all nations, that we may honor one another and serve the common good.

*Silence*

Lord, in your mercy  
*Hear our prayer.*

Give us all a reverence for the earth as your own creation, that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others and to your honor and glory.

*Silence*

Lord, in your mercy  
*Hear our prayer.*

Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, and grant that we may serve Christ in them, and love one another as he loves us.

*Silence*

Lord, in your mercy  
*Hear our prayer.*

Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of your salvation.

We pray for: Frank, Ana Lupe, Cathie, Alice, Frances, Todd, Landon, Anastacia, Luke, Sarah, Paul, John, Dion, Jim, Hicham & Janet, Jim, Albert, Cory, David, John, James, Cora, Jack & Jean, Lucia, Jean, Leyna, Bobby, Lance, Lucia, Barbara, Angela, Carissa, Kelley, Pete, Maria Isabel, C.J., Margaret, Mary, Mary, David, Valerie, and those known privately to us.

We invite your prayers at this time.

*(People may offer their petitions, aloud or silently.)*

*Silence*

Lord, in your mercy  
*Hear our prayer.*

We pray for Justin, Archbishop of Canterbury, Michael, the presiding Bishop, Andy, our Bishop, Mark our Rector and for all Clergy and People.

*Silence*

Lord, in your mercy  
*Hear our prayer.*

We pray for peace in the world.

*Silence*

Lord, in your mercy  
*Hear our prayer*

In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer, we pray for the Anglican Church of Tanzania and in the Episcopal Diocese of Texas cycle of prayer, we pray for St. Cuthbert's of Houston, St. Dunstan's of Houston, and St. Isidore's of Spring.

*Silence*

Lord, in your mercy  
*Hear our prayer.*

We commend to your mercy all who have died, that your will for them may be fulfilled; and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom.

*Silence*

Lord, in your mercy  
*Hear our prayer.*

*The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.*

## **CONFESSION OF SIN (BCP p. 359)**

*The 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 Priest 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. 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 (BCP p. 376)

*The Celebrant says*

Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God. *Ephesians 5:2*

## OFFERTORY ANTHEM

*Amazing Grace*

arr. by John Ness Beck

## 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.

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 130

*Holy, holy, holy*

Schubert/Proulx

*Celebrant and People*

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and

might, Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord,  
 God of power and might, hea - ven and earth are  
 full, full of your glo - ry. Ho -  
 san - na in the high - est. 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. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

*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.*

*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. 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**

At this time there will be no wine offered. Please wait for the ushers to release you to come forward to receive the host. Father Mark will hand you the host and you are asked to return to your seat as directed by the ushers, we apologize that we cannot offer the altar rail for prayers at this time.

COMMUNION HYMN

*Blessed Quietness*

LEVAS 185

1. Joys are flow - ing like a riv - er,  
 2. Bring - ing life and health and glad - ness  
 3. Like the rain that falls from heav - en,  
 4. See, a fruit - ful field is grow - ing,  
 5. What a won - der - ful sal - va - tion,

1. Since the com - fort - er has come;  
 2. All a - round this heav'n - ly guest,  
 3. Like the sun - light from the sky,  
 4. Bless - ed fruit of righ - teous - ness;  
 5. When we al - ways see His face,

1. He a - bides with us for - ev - er,  
 2. Ban - ished un - be - lief and sad - ness,  
 3. So the Ho - ly Ghost is giv - en,  
 4. And the streams of life are flow - ing  
 5. What a per - fect hab - i - ta - tion,

1. Makes the trust - ing heart His home.  
 2. Chang'd our wea - ri - ness to rest.  
 3. Com - ing on us from on high.  
 4. In the lone - ly wil - der - ness.  
 5. What a qui - et rest - ing place.

Bless - ed qui - et - ness, - ho - ly qui - et - ness, What as - sur - ance in my soul,

On the storm - y sea, - Je - sus speaks to me, And the bil - lows cease to roll.

## POST-COMMUNION PRAYER (BCP p. 365)

*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.*

## BLESSING

*The Priest blesses the people*

### RECESSIONAL HYMN 429 *I'll praise my Maker while I've breath* OLD 113<sup>TH</sup>



1 I'll praise my Mak - er while I've breath; and when my voice is lost in  
2 How hap - py they whose hopes re - ly on Is - rael's God, who made the  
3 The Lord pours eye - sight on the blind; the Lord sup - ports the faint - ing  
4 I'll praise him while he lends me breath; and when my voice is lost in



death, praise shall em - ploy my no - bler powers. My  
sky and earth and seas with all their train; whose  
mind and sends the la - boring con - science peace. He  
death, praise shall em - ploy my no - bler powers. My



days of praise shall ne'er be past while life and thought and be - ing  
truth for ev - er stands se - cure, who saves the op - pressed, and feeds the  
helps the strang - er in dis - tress, the wid - owed and the fa - ther -  
days of praise shall ne'er be past while life and thought and be - ing



last, or im - mor - tal - i - ty en - dures.  
poor. And none shall find his prom - ise vain.  
less, and grants the pris - oner sweet re - lease.  
last, or im - mor - tal - i - ty en - dures.

## DISMISSAL (BCP p. 366)

Priest            Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

*People            Thanks be to God.*

## POSTLUDE

*Voluntary on Lobe den Herren*

arr by Paul Manz

From riteplanning.com.

Copyright © 2021 Church Publishing Inc. All rights reserved.

---

# Announcements

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

## COVID UPDATE

As long as Harris County remains at a red COVID threat level, we will insist the safety of our church family be our first priority. Children under 12, those who are immunocompromised, and those that suffer other health conditions, are unable to get vaccinated. Therefore, vaccinated and not, we ask that you **WEAR MASKS** and appropriately **SOCIAL DISTANCE**. We are delaying the return of wine at the 10:30 service and temporarily discontinuing the serving of wine at the 8:00 service. We are not offering the altar rail for communion, but coming forward to receive the host and returning to your seat.

We know these measures to be temporary and greatly appreciate your help in protecting your church family and making the community safer. The church will stay open and take necessary precautions to ensure the strength and health of its congregation.

## UPDATING THE CAMPUS!!

The school has installed a new turf lawn in the courtyard behind the 400 building and updated the flooring in their main offices. The main church parking lot has gotten a lighting makeover with brighter, more dependable LED lights. See the weekly newsletter for photos.

## **MEN'S THURSDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY**

The Men's Thursday Morning Bible Study is actively meeting. They meet in the church library at 6:30am. There is sometimes kolaches, but always coffee. So gentlemen, please feel free to join in. No sign up required, just come!

## **LADIES TUESDAY AFTERNOON BIBLE STUDY**

The Ladies Tuesday Afternoon Bible Study is taking a short hiatus for the remainder of the summer. They will resume on September 7th, with a study led by Fr. Mark, who will be teaching on the Kerygma Bible series. If you would like to join these ladies and need information on the book for the study, please contact the office.

## **POSTPONED: BACK TO CHURCH SUNDAY WITH SUNDAY SCHOOL**

With current rising cases of the COVID virus and variants, we are postponing our back to church celebration. As stated above, we are suspending the return of wine to the 10:30 service. We are also postponing the BBQ meal. At this stage we are uncertain about the return of Sunday School, please keep an eye on future publications.

## **FROM THE DIOCESE REGARDING HURRICANE IDA**

On Sunday, August 29, sixteen years after Hurricane Katrina hit the Gulf Coast, Hurricane Ida made landfall in the same region. This Category 4 storm brought flooding and damaging winds that caused a loss of water to hundreds of thousands and a loss of electricity to over 1 million people. Episcopal Relief & Development is working closely with the Diocese of Louisiana and other regional partners in what will be a long-term response. Your generous gift will help alleviate suffering for the most vulnerable residents impacted by Hurricane Ida. Please visit [episcopalrelief.org/hurricane-relief](https://episcopalrelief.org/hurricane-relief) to make a gift today.



## **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.

	<b>September 5, 2021</b>	<b>September 12, 2021</b>	<b>September 19, 2021</b>
	<i>Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost</i>	<i>Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost</i>	<i>Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost</i>
<b>Vestry of the Week</b>	Jim Anderson and Julie Collins	Ken Kingdon and John Searle	Allison Garcia and Pam Schwabrow
<b>Altar Guild</b>	DiPuma	Cole	Sutton
<b>Lessons</b>	Isaiah 35:4-7a, Psalm 146, James 2:1-10, [11-13], 14-17, Mark 7:24-37	Isaiah 50:4-9a, Psalm 116:1-8, James 3:1-12, Mark 8:27-38	Solomon 1:16-2:1, 12-22, or Jeremiah 11:18-20, Psalm 54, James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a, Mark 9:30-37
<b>Ushers</b>	Liz and Chad Goodman	Todd and Cindy Breton	Wesley and Marissa Goette
<b>8 am Lect./Intercessor</b>	Glenn Criswell	Ken Kingdon	Allison Garcia
<b>10 am Lect./Intercessor</b>	Glenn Criswell	J. D. Reiner	Mike Black
<b>Stream Team</b>	Charlie Goodman	Carol Sempira	Cooper McDonald

**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

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

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