THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION



We believe in sharing love and grace with God and one another.

SCOUT SUNDAY THE PRESENTATION OF JESUS IN THE TEMPLE Sunday, February 2, 2025 The Rt. Rev. Dr. Glenda Curry, Bishop of the Diocese of Alabama The Rt. Rev. Brian Prior, Assisting Bishop The Reverend Candice B. Frazer, Rector

ORGANIST/CHOIRMASTER: Becky Taylor LECTOR: Claire Harrison, Will McKay Penny Wishum LEMs: Virginia Humphrey, Rachel Wishum, Ed Walker VERGER: Christopher Turner ACOLYTES: TEAM JOHN: Alden Pate, Grady Pate, Ways Holloway, Gage Holloway, Dylan Curvin VESTRY GREETER: Winston Sheehan, "Smitty" Smith CHILDREN'S CHURCH: Tina & Clark Waggoner AV CREW: Jason Pate, Camera Russell Bush, Sound ALTAR GUILD: Carol Jones, Virginia Humphrey FLOWER GUILD: Lacy Gibson USHERS: Charlie Hawthorne, Caleb Goodwyn

HOLY BAPTISM AND HOLY EUCHARIST ~ 10:30 AM LIVESTREAM

VoluntaryPsalm Prelude (H. Howells)IntroitHail to the Lord, who comes (adapt. R. Vaughan Williams)

Hymn 25 *O gracious Light, Lord Jesus Christ (The Eighth Tune)*



Words: Greek, 3rd cent.; tr. F. Bland Tucker (1895-1984); para. of *O Gracious Light*. Copyright © The Church Pension Fund. Music: *The Eighth Tune*, Thomas Tallis (1505?-1585); adapt. *Hymnal 1982*.

HOLY BAPTISM

Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.PeopleAnd blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

The Celebrant then continues

PeopleThere is one Body and one Spirit;PeopleThere is one hope in God's call to us;CelebrantOne Lord, one Faith, one Baptism;PeopleOne God and Father of all.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY:

CelebrantThe Lord be with you.PeopleAnd also with you.CelebrantLet us pray.

Almighty and everliving God, we humbly pray that, as your only-begotten Son was this day presented in the temple, so we may be presented to you with pure and clean hearts by Jesus Christ our Lord; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

THE FIRST LESSON: MALACHI 3:1-4

A reading from the prophet Malachi.

Thus says the Lord, See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight-- indeed, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?

For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

ReaderThe Word of the Lord.PeopleThanks be to God.



1 How dear to me is your dwelling, O / Lord of / hosts! * My soul has a desire and longing for the courts of the Lord; my heart and my flesh re- / joice in • the / liv - ing God.

2 The sparrow has found her a house

and the swallow a nest where may / lay her / young; * by the side of your altars, O Lord of hosts, my / **King** / and my / God.

3 Happy are they who / dwell in • your / house! * they will / always • be / prais - ing / you.

4 Happy are the people whose / strength is • in / you! * whose hearts are / set on • the / pil - grims' / way.

5 Those who go through the desolate valley will find it a / place of / springs, * for the early rains have / covered it • with / pools of / water.

6 They will climb from / height to / height, * and the God of gods will re - / veal him- / self in / Zion.

7 Lord God of hosts, / hear my / prayer; * --- / hearken, • O / God of / Jacob.

8 Behold our de- / fender, • O / God; * and look upon the / face of / your An- / ointed.

9 For one day in your courts is better than a / thousand in my • own / room, * and to stand at the threshold of the house of my God than to /dwell in • the / tents of • the / wicked.

10 For the Lord God is both / sun and / shield; * he will give / grace and / glo - / ry;

11 No good thing will the / Lord with- / hold * from / those who / walk with • in- / tegrity.

12 O / Lord of / hosts, * happy are they who / put their / trust in / you!

THE EPISTLE: HEBREWS 2:14-18

A reading from Paul's the letter to the Hebrews.

Since God's children share flesh and blood, Jesus himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. For it is clear that he did not come to help angels, but the descendants of Abraham. Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people. Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

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

fear 1 Let all mo - rtal flesh keep si - lence, and with and of 2 King of kings, yet born Ma - ry, as of old on of van - guard 3 Rank on rank the host hea - ven spreads its At his feet the six - winged ser - aph; cher u bim with O trem bling stand; pon - der noth - ing earth ly earth he stood, Lord of lords in hu man Light the way, as the of Light de on sleep less veil their fac es to the eye O for with bless ing in his hand mind - ed, dy in the Bo and the Blood ves ture, scend - eth from the realms of end less day, with Pres - ence, as cease - less voice they cry, 0 Christ our God to earth de scend eth, he will give to all the faith ful that the powers of hell may va nish "Al le lu le ia! ia, al lu --our full hom age to de mand. self for own heaven ly food. his the dark ness clears a way. as le High!" Al lu ia, Lord Most

Sequence Hymn 324 Let all mortal flesh keep silence (Picardy)

Words: Liturgy of St. James; para. Gerard Moultrie (1829-1885). Music: *Picardy*, French carol, 17th cent.; melody from *Chansons populaires des Provinces de France*, 1860; harm. after *The English Hymnal*, 1906.

THE GOSPEL: LUKE 2:22-40

Celebrant:The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.People:Glory to you, Lord Christ.

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, the parents of Jesus brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord"), and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons."

Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

> "Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel."

And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, "This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed-- and a sword will pierce your own soul too."

There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

Celebrant:	The Gospel of the Lord.
People:	Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Sermon: The Rev. Andrew S. Brislin

PRESENTATION AND EXAMINATION OF THE CANDIDATE

Infants and Younger Children Then the candidates who are unable to answer for themselves are presented individually by their Parents and Godparents, as follows

Parents and Godparents I present <u>Emma Anne Webb</u> to receive the Sacrament of Baptism.

When the candidate has been presented the Celebrant asks the parents and godparents

Will you be responsible for seeing that the child you present is brought up in the Christian faith and life?

Parents and Godparents I will, with God's help.

Celebrant Will you by your prayers and witness help this child to grow into the full stature of Christ?

Parents and Godparents I will, with God's help.

Then the Celebrant asks the following questions of the candidates who can speak for themselves, and of the parents and godparents who speak on behalf of the infants and younger children

Question Answer	Do you renounce Satan and all the spiritual forces of wickedness that rebel against God? I renounce them.
Question	Do you renounce the evil powers of this world which corrupt and destroy the creatures of God?
Answer	I renounce them.
Question	Do you renounce all sinful desires that draw you from the love of God?
Answer	I renounce them.
Question	Do you turn to Jesus Christ and accept him as your Savior?
Answer	I do.
Question	Do you put your whole trust in his grace and love?
Answer	I do.
Question	Do you promise to follow and obey him as your Lord?
Answer	I do.

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

Will you who witness these vows do all in your power to support *this person* in *her* life in Christ?

People We will.

The Celebrant then says these or similar words

Let us join with this person who is committing herself to Christ and renew our own baptismal covenant.

Celebrant People	Do you believe in God the Father? I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.
Celebrant	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.
Celebrant	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.
Celebrant	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.
Celebrant	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.
Celebrant People	Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ? I will, with God's help.
Celebrant People	Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself? I will, with God's help.
Celebrant	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 CANDIDATE

The Celebrant then says to the congregation Let us now pray for this person who is to receive the sacrament of new birth.

Leader	Deliver <i>her</i> , O Lord, from the way of sin and death.
People	Lord, hear our prayer.
Leader	Open <i>her</i> heart to your grace and truth.
People	Lord, hear our prayer.
Leader	Fill <i>her</i> with your holy and life-giving Spirit.
People	Lord, hear our prayer.
Leader	Keep <i>her</i> in the faith and communion of your holy Church.
People	Lord, hear our prayer.
Leader	Teach <i>her</i> to love others in the power of the Spirit.
People	Lord, hear our prayer.
Leader	Send <i>her</i> into the world in witness to your love.
People	Lord, hear our prayer.
Leader	Bring <i>her</i> to the fullness of your peace and glory.
People	Lord, hear our prayer.

The Celebrant says

Grant, O Lord, that all who are baptized into the death of Jesus Christ your Son may live in the power of his resurrection and look for him to come again in glory; who lives and reigns now and forever. *Amen.*

Hymn 296 We know that Christ is raised and dies no more (Engelburg)

We know that Christ is raised and dies no more embraced by death he broke its fearful hold; and our despair he turned to blazing joy. Alleluia!

We share by water in his saving death. Reborn we share with him an Easter life as living members of a living Christ. Alleluia!

The Father's splendor clothes the Son with life. The Spirit's power shakes the Church of God. Baptized we live with God, the Three in One. Alleluia!

A new creation comes to life and grows as Christ's new body take on flesh and blood. The universe restored and whole will sing: Alleluia! Amen.

Thanksgiving over the Water

The Celebrant blesses the water, first saying

People	The Lord be with you. And also with you.
Celebrant	Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People	It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Celebrant

We thank you, Almighty God, for the gift of water. Over it the Holy Spirit moved in the beginning of creation. Through it you led the children of Israel out of their bondage in Egypt into the land of promise. In it your Son Jesus received the baptism of John and was anointed by the Holy Spirit as the Messiah, the Christ, to lead us, through his death and resurrection, from the bondage of sin into everlasting life.

We thank you, Father, for the water of Baptism. In it we are buried with Christ in his death. By it we share in his resurrection. Through it we are reborn by the Holy Spirit. Therefore in joyful obedience to your Son, we bring into his fellowship those who come to him in faith, baptizing them in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

At the following words, the Celebrant touches the water

Now sanctify this water, we pray you, by the power of your Holy Spirit, that those who here are cleansed from sin and born again may continue for ever in the risen life of Jesus Christ our Savior.

To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

The Baptism

Each candidate is presented by name to the Celebrant, or to an assisting priest or deacon, who then immerses, or pours water upon, the candidate, saying

Emma, I baptize you in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. *Amen*.

When this action has been completed for the candidate, the Priest, at a place in full sight of the congregation, prays over the candidates, saying

Let us pray.

Heavenly Father, we thank you that by water and the Holy Spirit you have bestowed upon *this* your servant the forgiveness of sin, and have raised *her* to the new life of grace. Sustain *her*, O Lord, in your Holy Spirit. Give *her* an inquiring and discerning heart, the courage to will and to persevere, a spirit to know and to love you, and the gift of joy and wonder in all your works. *Amen*.

Then the Priest places a hand on the person's head, marking on the forehead the sign of the cross [using Chrism if desired] and saying to each one

Emma, you are sealed by the Holy Spirit in Baptism and marked as Christ's own for ever. *Amen*.

When all have been baptized, the Celebrant says

Let us welcome the newly baptized.

Celebrant and People

We receive you into the household of God. Confess the faith of Christ crucified, proclaim his resurrection, and share with us in his eternal priesthood.

The Peace

CelebrantThe peace of the Lord be always with you.PeopleAnd also with you.

Announcements

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Offertory Anthem Nunc Dimittis (H. Howells)

Presentation The Doxology (Old 100th) All things come of thee, O Lord, And of thine own have we given thee. Amen.

HOLY COMMUNION Great Thanksgiving, Eucharistic Prayer B

Celebrant	The Lord be with you.
People	And also with you.
Celebrant	Lift up your hearts.
People	We lift them to the Lord.
Celebrant	Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People	It is right to give him thanks and praise.

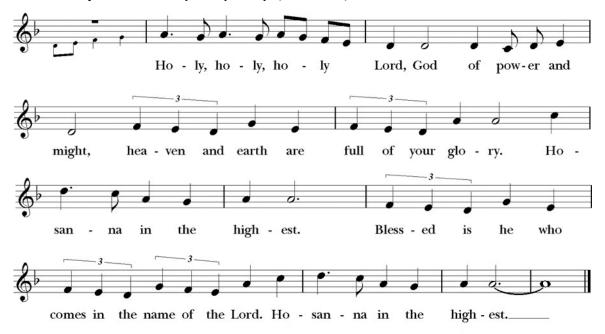
The Celebrant proceeds

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and every-where to give thanks to you, Father Almighty,

Creator of heaven and earth.

Because in Jesus Christ our Lord you have received us as your sons and daughters, made us citizens of your kingdom, and given us the Holy Spirit to guide us into all truth. 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 Hymn S 129 Holy, Holy, Holy (R. Powell)



The people stand or kneel.

Then the Celebrant continues

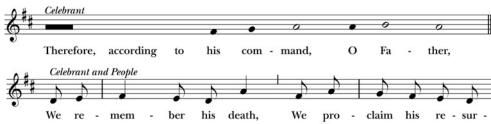
We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the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

At the following words concerning the bread, the Celebrant is to hold it, or to lay a hand upon it; and at the words concerning the cup, to hold or place a hand upon the cup and any other vessel containing wine to be consecrated.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, according to his command, O Father, *Celebrant and People*





Music: McNeil Robinson II (b. 1943). Copyright © 1984 Theodore Presser Co. Used by permission of the publisher.

The Celebrant continues

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

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

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. AMEN.

The Celebrant then continues And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, We are bold to say

Officiant and People

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, for ever and ever. Amen.

Breaking of the Bread

A period of silence is kept.

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us; *Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.*

Fraction Anthem, S163 Angus Dei (R. Powell)

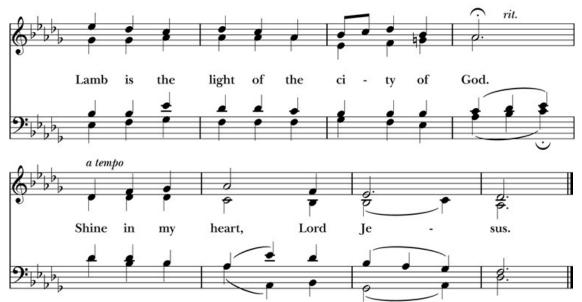
The Celebrant says

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.

BCP 364

Communion Hymn Hymnal 1982: 490





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Communion Anthem: *Guide us Waking* and *Nunc dimittis* (A. Hernandez and J. Barnby) Children's Choirs, Parents and The Ascension Choir

The Post Communion Prayer

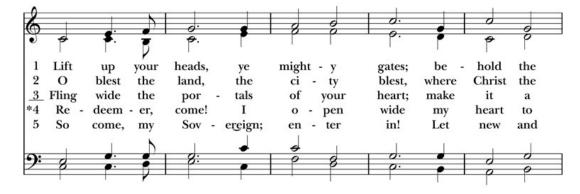
After Communion, the Celebrant says Let us pray.

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.

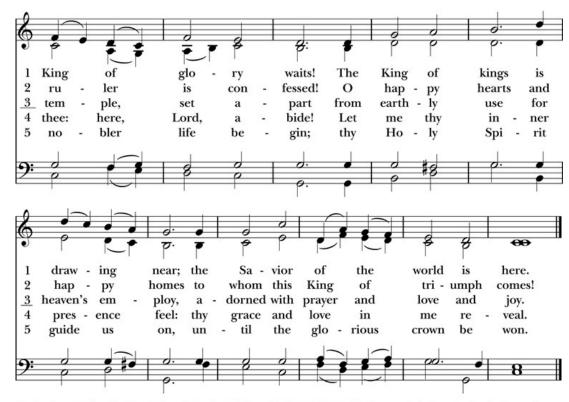
The Blessing

The priest blesses the people, saying

May Christ, the Son of God, be manifest in you, that your lives may be a light to the world; and, the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit be upon you this day and remain with you always. Amen.



Hymn 436 Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates (Truro)



Words: Georg Weissel (1590-1635); tr. Catherine Winkworth (1827-1878). Music: Truro, melody from Psalmodia Evangelica, Part II, 1789; harm. Lowell Mason (1792-1872), alt.

Dismissal: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia. Alleluia. *Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia!*

Voluntary *Psalm Prelude* (H. Howells)





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