

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

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE



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

THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

Sunday, March 30, 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 The Reverend Andrew S. Brislin, Associate Rector

MINISTERS SERVING THIS SUNDAY

ORGANIST/CHOIRMASTER: Rebecca Taylor LECTOR: Sharon Massey LEMs: Nan Barganier, Brad Curvin, Rachel Wishum VERGER: Susan Copeland ACOLYTES: TEAM LUKE: Alden Pate, Grady Pate, Ways Holloway, Gage Holloway, Dylan Curvin CHILDREN'S CHURCH: Gina & Brad Curvin VESTRY GREETER: Matt Bledsoe, Bryan Reeves AV CREW: Jason Pate ALTAR GUILD: Nan Barganier, Carol Jones FLOWER GUILD: Foy McGowin USHERS: Robert Gould, Richard Gill, Matt Bledsoe

HOLY EUCHARIST RITE ONE, 10:30 AM LIVESTREAM

VoluntarySuite IV (H. Purcell)IntroitI've got peace like a river (Traditional Spiritual)Hymn 376Joyful, joyful, we adore thee (Hymn to Joy)



Words: Henry Van Dyke (1852-1933). Music: Hymn to Joy, Ludwig van Beethoven (1770-1827); adapt. Edward Hodges (1796-1867), alt.

THE WORD OF GOD

Officiant	Bless the Lord who forgiveth all our sins.
People	His mercy endureth forever.

The Celebrant says,

Almighty God, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love thee, and worthily magnify thy holy Name; through Christ our Lord. *Amen*

BCP 323

The Decalogue: Traditional

God spake these words, and said: I am the Lord thy God who brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. Thou shalt have none other gods but me. Lord have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.

Thou shalt not make to thyself any graven image, nor the likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or in the earth beneath, or in the water under the earth; thou shalt not bow down to them, nor worship them. *Lord have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.*

Thou shalt not take the Name of the Lord thy God in vain. Lord have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.

Remember that thou keep holy the Sabbath day. Lord have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.

Honor thy father and thy mother. Lord have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.

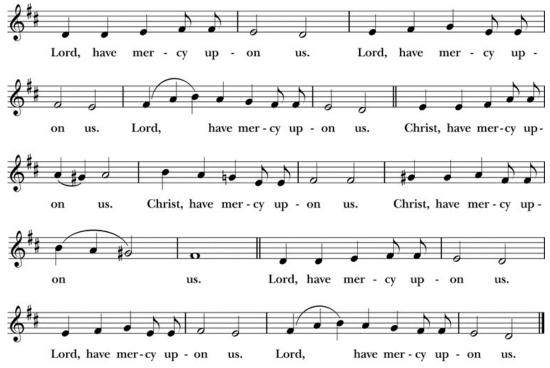
Thou shalt do no murder. Lord have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.

Thou shalt not commit adultery. Lord have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.

Thou shalt not steal. Lord have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.

Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor. Lord have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.

Thou shalt not covet. Lord have mercy upon us, and write all these thy laws in our hearts, we beseech thee. Kyrie eleison S91 (H. Willan)



Music: From Missa de Sancta Maria Magdalena, Healey Willan (1880-1968). By permission of Oxford University Press.

THE WORD OF GOD

Collect of the DayCelebrantThe Lord be with you.PeopleAnd with thy spirit.CelebrantLet us pray.

BCP 325

Gracious Father, whose blessed Son Jesus Christ came down from heaven to be the true bread which giveth life to the world: Evermore give us this bread, that he may live in us, and we in him; who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen*.

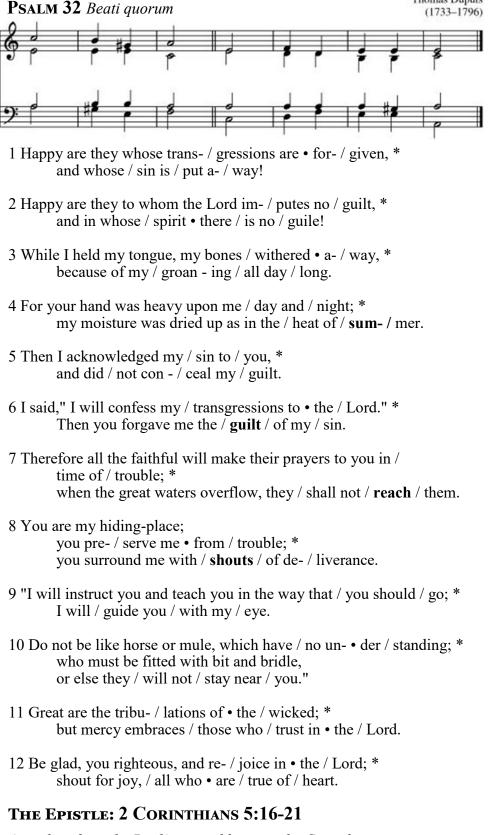
THE FIRST READING: JOSHUA 5:9-12

A reading from the book of Joshua.

The Lord said to Joshua, "Today I have rolled away from you the disgrace of Egypt." And so that place is called Gilgal to this day.

While the Israelites were camped in Gilgal they kept the passover in the evening on the fourteenth day of the month in the plains of Jericho. On the day after the passover, on that very day, they ate the produce of the land, unleavened cakes and parched grain. The manna ceased on the day they ate the produce of the land, and the Israelites no longer had manna; they ate the crops of the land of Canaan that year.

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



A reading from the Paul's second letter to the Corinthians.

From now on, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us.

Thomas Dupuis

So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

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

Sequence Hymn 594 God of grace and God of glory (Cum Rhondda)



Words: Harry Emerson Fosdick (1878-1969), alt. By permission of the author. Music: Cwm Rhondda, John Hughes (1873-1932).

HOLY GOSPEL LUKE 15:1-3, 11b-32

CelebrantThe Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.PeopleGlory be to thee, O Lord.

All the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to Jesus. And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them."

So Jesus told them this parable:

"There was a man who had two sons. The younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.' So he divided his property between them. A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. But when he came to himself he said, 'How many of my father's hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands."' So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. Then the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' But the father said to his slaves, 'Quickly, bring out a robe--the best one--and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!' And they began to celebrate.

"Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. He replied, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.' Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. But he answered his father, 'Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!' Then the father said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.'"

CelebrantThe Gospel of the Lord.PeoplePraise be to thee, O Christ.

Sermon

The Rev. Candice B. Frazer

Nicene Creed

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

Let us pray for the whole state of Christ's Church and the world. *[Pause for a slow count of three.]*

Almighty and everliving God, who in thy holy Word hast taught us to make prayers, and supplications, and to give thanks for all men: Receive these our prayers which we offer unto thy divine Majesty, beseeching thee to inspire continually the Universal Church with the spirit of truth, unity, and concord; and grant that all those who do confess thy holy Name may agree in the truth of thy holy Word, and live in unity and godly love.

Give grace, O heavenly Father, to all bishops and other ministers especially for the discernment of the next Archbishop of Canterbury; Sean, our Presiding Bishop; Glenda and Brian our bishops; and Candice and Drew our clergy that they may, both by their life and doctrine, set forth thy true and lively Word, and rightly and duly administer thy holy Sacraments.

And to all thy people give thy heavenly grace, and especially to this congregation here present; that, with meek heart and due reverence, they may hear and receive thy holy Word, truly serving thee in holiness and righteousness all the days of their life.

We beseech thee also so to rule the hearts of those who bear the authority of government in this and every land especially <u>Donald our President; Kay, our Governor; and Steven, our Mayor</u>, that they may be led to wise decisions and right actions for the welfare and peace of the world.

Open, O Lord, the eyes of all people to behold thy gracious hand in all thy works, that, rejoicing in thy whole creation, they may honor thee with their substance, and be faithful stewards of thy bounty.

And we most humbly beseech thee, of thy goodness, O Lord, to comfort and succor Jerry, Mark, Nancy, Paul, George, Ann, Mimi, Debbie, Janet, Lila, Andi, Bob, Brittney, Violet, Jean, Ann, Sue & Bill, Betty, Sophie, Edith, Hugh, Marion, Ginny, Anne, Bruce, and all those who in this transitory life, are in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness, or any other adversity.

We pray for the safety of our armed forces both here and abroad and for peace throughout the nations.

We pray for The Way, The Truth, and The Life, our capital campaign.

We pray for the discernment of the 13th Bishop of Alabama:

Almighty God, giver of every good gift: Look graciously on your Church, and so guide the minds of those who shall choose a bishop for this Diocese, that we may receive a faithful pastor, who will care for your peo-

ple and equip us for our ministries; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

And we also bless thy holy Name for all thy servants departed this life in thy faith and fear, those in whose name the altar greenery are given: <u>.Arthur B. "Bubber" Patton, James William Patton, Sr. Dr. & Mrs. Neal</u> <u>Andrews, Sr., Sam Patton, Gertrude Patton, Frances Patton Oakley, Jean Elizabeth Patton, Neil L. Andrews,</u> <u>Martha Jane Patton Daniel</u>, beseeching thee to grant them continual growth in thy love and service; and to grant us grace so to follow the good examples of all thy saints, that with them we may be partakers of thy heavenly kingdom.

Grant these our prayers, O Father, for Jesus Christ's sake, our only Mediator and Advocate. Amen.

Confession of Sin

Celebrant: Ye who do truly and earnestly repent you of your sins, and are in love and charity with your neighbors, and intend to lead a new life, following the commandments of God, and walking from henceforth in his holy ways: Draw near with faith, and make your humble confession to Almighty God, devoutly kneeling. *Silence may be kept.*

Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. maker of all things, judge of all men: We acknowledge and bewail our manifold sins And wickedness. which we from time to time most grievously have committed, by thought, word, and deed, against thy divine Majesty, provoking most justly thy wrath and indignation against us. We do earnestly repent, and are heartily sorry for these our misdoings; the remembrance of them is grievous unto us, the burden of them is intolerable. Have mercy upon us, have mercy upon us, most merciful father; for thy Son our Lord Jesus Christ's sake, forgive us all that is past; and grant that we may ever hereafter serve and please thee in newness of life, to the honor and glory of thy Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Absolution and Comfortable Words

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who of his great mercy hath promised forgiveness of sins to all those who with hearty repentance and true faith turn unto him, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and bring you to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen*.

A minister may then say one or more of the following sentences, first saying Hear the Word of God to all who truly turn to him.

Come unto me, all ye that travail and are heavy laden, and I will refresh you. *Matthew 11:28*

God so loved the world, that he gave his only-begotten Son, to the end that all that believe in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. *John 3:16*

This is a true saying, and worthy of all men to be received, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. *1 Timothy 1:15*

If any man sin, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; and he is the perfect offering for our sins, and not for ours only, but for the sins of the whole world. *1 John 2:1-2*

The Peace

CelebrantThe peace of the Lord be always with you.PeopleAnd with thy spirit.

Announcements

Giving is available on-line by going to <u>www.coascension.org</u> and click on the "Give" link Or, text the word "GIVE" to (833)901-2138 and follow as prompted. Or, VENMO @churchoftheascension Montgomery, Alabama (look for our logo)

OFFERTORY ANTHEM Thou knowest, Lord, the secrets of my heart (H. Purcell) Thou knowest, Lord, the secrets of our hearts; shut not thy merciful ears unto our prayers; but spare us, Lord most holy, O God most mighty, O holy and most merciful Saviour, thou most worthy judge eternal, suffer us not at our last hour, for any pains of death, to fall from thee. Amen.

PRESENTATION Doxology Hymn 380, vs. 3 (Old 100th) All things come of thee, O Lord, And of thine own have we given thee. Amen.

HOLY COMMUNION The Great Thanksgiving Prayer I

The people remain standing. The Celebrant, whether bishop or priest, faces them and sings or says

	The Lord be with you.
People	And with thy spirit.
Celebrant	Lift up your hearts.
People	We lift them up unto the Lord.
Celebrant	Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.
People	It is meet and right so to do.

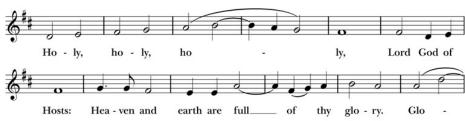
Then, facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds

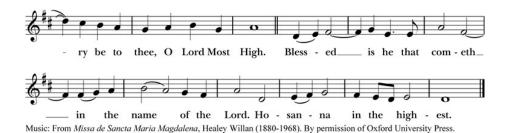
It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto thee, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord, who was in every way tempted as we are, yet did not sin; by whose grace we are able to triumph over every evil, and to live no longer unto ourselves, but unto him who dies for us and rose again.

Therefore with Angels and Archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious Name; evermore praising thee, and saying.

Celebrant and People





The people kneel or stand.

Then the Celebrant continues

All glory be to thee, Almighty God, our heavenly Father, for that thou, of thy tender mercy, didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption; who made there, by his one oblation of himself once offered, a full, perfect, and sufficient sacrifice, oblation, and satisfaction, for the sins of the whole world; and did institute, and in his holy Gospel command us to continue, a perpetual memory of that his precious death and sacrifice, until his coming again.

At the following words concerning the bread, the Celebrant is to hold it, or 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

For in the night in which he was betrayed, he took bread; and when he had given thanks, he brake it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take, eat, this is my Body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." Likewise, after supper, he took the cup; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink ye all of this; for this is my Blood of the New Testament, which is shed for you, and for many, for the remission of sins. Do this, as oft as ye shall drink it, in remembrance of me."

Wherefore, O Lord and heavenly Father, according to the institution of thy dearly beloved Son our Savior Jesus Christ, we, thy humble servants, do celebrate and make here before thy divine Majesty, with these thy holy gifts, which we now offer unto thee, the memorial thy Son hath commanded us to make; having in remembrance his blessed passion and precious death, his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension; rendering unto thee most hearty thanks for the innumerable benefits procured unto us by the same.

And we most humbly beseech thee, O merciful Father, to hear us; and, of thy almighty goodness, vouchsafe to bless and sanctify, with thy Word and Holy Spirit, these thy gifts and creatures of bread and wine; that we, receiving them according to thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ's holy institution, in remembrance of his death and passion, may be partakers of his most blessed Body and Blood.

And we earnestly desire thy fatherly goodness mercifully to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving; most humbly beseeching thee to grant that, by the merits and death of thy Son Jesus Christ, and through faith in his blood, we, and all thy whole Church, may obtain remission of our sins, and all other benefits of his passion.

And here we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, our selves, our souls and bodies, to be a reasonable, holy, and living sacrifice unto thee; humbly beseeching thee that we, and all others who shall be partakers of this Holy Communion, may worthily receive the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son Jesus Christ, be filled with thy grace and heavenly benediction, and made one body with him, that he may dwell in us, and we in him.

And although we are unworthy, through our manifold sins, to offer unto thee any sacrifice, yet we beseech thee to accept this our bounden duty and service, not weighing our merits, but pardoning our offenses, through Jesus Christ our Lord;

By whom, and with whom, in the unity of the Holy Ghost, all honor and glory be unto thee, O Father Almighty, world without end. *Amen*. 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.*

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

Agnus Dei



Music: From Missa de Sancta Maria Magdalena, Healey Willan (1880-1968). By permission of Oxford University Press.

The following prayer may be said. The People may join in saying this prayer

We do not presume to come to this thy Table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in thy manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under thy Table. But thou art the same Lord whose property is always to have mercy. Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of thy dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. *Amen*.

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.

The Bread and the Cup are given to the communicants with these words

The Body of our Lord Jesus Christ, which was given for thee, preserve thy body and soul unto everlasting life. Take and eat this in remembrance that Christ died for thee, and feed on him in thy heart by faith, with thanks-giving.

The Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, which was shed for thee, preserve thy body and soul unto everlasting life. Drink this in remembrance that Christ's Blood was shed for thee, and be thankful.

COMMUNION HYMN 693 Just as I am (Woodworth)



Lay Eucharistic Commission

In the name of this congregation, we send you forth bearing these holy gifts, that those to whom you go may share with us in the communion of Christ's body and blood.

All: We who are many, are one body because we all share in one bread, one cup.

After Communion, the Celebrant says Let us pray.

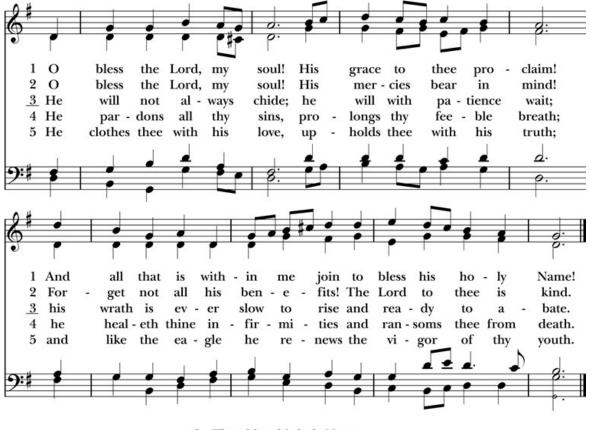
The People may join in saying this prayer

Almighty and everliving God, we most heartily thank thee for that thou dost feed us, in these holy mysteries, with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and dost assure us thereby of thy favor and goodness towards us; and that we are very members incorporate in the mystical body of thy Son, the blessed company of all faithful people; and are also heirs, through hope, of thy everlasting kingdom. And we humbly beseech thee, O heavenly Father, so to assist us with thy grace, that we may continue in that holy fellowship, and do all such good works as thou hast prepared for us to walk in; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honor and glory, world without end. Amen.

The Blessing

Look down in mercy, Lord, on your people who kneel before you; and grant that those whom you have nourished by your Word and Sacraments may bring forth fruit worthy of repentance; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, be amongst you and remain with your always. Amen.

Hymn in Procession 411 O bless the Lord, my soul! (St. Thomas (Williams))



6 Then bless his holy Name, whose grace hath made thee whole, whose loving-kindness crowns thy days: O bless the Lord, my soul!

Words: James Montgomery (1771-1854); para. of Psalm 103. Music: St. Thomas (Williams), melody Aaron Williams (1731-1776); harm. Lowell Mason (1792-1872).

Dismissal Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. *Thanks be to God*.



lift up your woice SINGING THROUGH LENT AND EASTER

SINGING THROUGH LENT AND EASTER In this devotional, each day, scripture and song inspires our hope in the midst of this season of Lent.

Booklets available in Ascension Hall and the Narthex. Daily emails contain a link to the hymn of the day.

GIVING

I gave today in gratitude for what God has given me. 'All things come of thee, O Lord...'

WAYS TO GIVE AT ASCENSION









@ChurchoftheAscension-Montgomery, AL

Text to GiveGiving envelopes available upon833-901-2138request—contact Tracy Hinton

Walk in Love Financial Gifts Offered This Week\$18,809Financial Gifts Offered This Month\$55,781Financial Gift Target Monthly\$85,500Total Pledged Amount for 2025 - \$912,628Total Collected Amount for 2025 - \$258,980

Lent 2025

WEEKDAYS DURING LENT 8:00 AM Morning Prayer on Facebook Live

PALM SUNDAY, APRIL 13 8:00 AM Holy Eucharist Rite One 10:15AM Liturgy of the Palms and Holy Eucharist begins in the Sundial Garden

Holy Week

MAUNDY THURSDAY, APRIL 17 5:30 PM Foot Washing in the Chapel 6:00 PM Holy Eucharist and Ritual Stripping of the Altar

GETHSEMANE WATCH - STAY WITH ME, APRIL 17 8:00 PM to 11:00 AM in the Chapel

GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 18 12 Noon Good Friday Observance 6:00 PM Stations of the Cross in the Sundial Garden

> HOLY SATURDAY, APRIL 19 7:15 PM Easter Vigil

EASTER DAY, APRIL 20

6:30 AM Sunrise Service at Oakwood Cemetery 9:00 AM Family Easter Celebration followed by Egg Hunt 11:00 AM Festal Easter Celebration

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION

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