

# THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION



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

## THE NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

PROPER 14

Sunday, August 10, 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

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### ORGANIST/CHOIRMASTER:

Becky Taylor

LECTOR: Sharon Massey

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VERGER: Christopher Turner

ACOLYTES: TEAM MARK:

Alden Pate, Addie Liveoak,  
Wren Mielke, Penelope Daniel

### VESTRY GREETER:

"Smitty" Smith

AV CREW: Jason Pate, Camera

ALTAR GUILD: Valerie Lee

FLOWER GUILD: Foy McGowin

USHERS: Daniel Hughes,  
Hunter McDonald, Philip Sellers

## HOLY EUCHARIST RITE II ~ 10:30 AM LIVESTREAM

Voluntary     *Meditation on "Adore te, devote"* (A. V. Fedak)  
Introit        *Bless now* (A. Hernandez)

Hymn 533     *How wondrous and great thy works, God of praise* (Lyons)

1 How won - drous and great thy works, God of praise!  
2 To na - tions of earth thy light shall be shown;  
How just, King of saints, and true are thy ways!  
their wor - ship and vows shall come to thy throne:  
O who shall not fear thee, and hon - or thy Name?  
thy truth and thy judg - ments shall spread all a - broad,  
Thou on - ly art ho - ly, thou on - ly su - preme.  
till earth's ev - ery peo - ple con - fess thee their God.

Words: Henry Ustick Onderdonk (1759-1858), alt.; para. *The Song of the Redeemed*. Music: Lyons, att. Johann Michael Haydn (1737-1806).

### THE WORD OF GOD

*Celebrant:*     Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit

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

*The Celebrant says*

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 S280 *Glory to God in the highest* (R. Powell)

1. Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and  
peace to his peo - ple on earth. 2. Lord God, heaven - ly  
King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we  
give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry. 3. Lord Je - sus  
Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, 4. you  
take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy  
ceive our prayer. 6. For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One,  
you a - lone are the Lord, 7. you a - lone are the Most  
on us; 5. you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re -  
High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spi - rit, in the  
glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

The musical score is written on ten staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It includes various musical notations such as treble clefs, notes, rests, and bar lines. There are three triplets marked with a '3' and a slur. The lyrics are placed below the corresponding staves, with some words hyphenated across lines.

## The Collect of the Day

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

*People* And also with you.

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

Grant to us, Lord, we pray, the spirit to think and do always those things that are right, that we, who cannot exist without you, may by you be enabled to live according to your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

## THE FIRST LESSON: GENESIS 15:1-6

*A reading from the book of Genesis.*

The word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision, "Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great." But Abram said, "O Lord God, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" And Abram said, "You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir." But the word of the Lord came to him, "This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir." He brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your descendants be." And he believed the Lord; and the Lord reckoned it to him as righteousness.

*Reader* The Word of the Lord.

*People* Thanks be to God.

**PSALM 33:12-22** *Exultate, justi*

William Russell  
(1777-1813)



12 Happy is the nation whose / God is • the / Lord! \*  
happy the people he has / chosen • to / be his / own!

13 The Lord looks / down from / heaven, \*  
and beholds all the / peo - ple / in the / world.

14 From where he sits enthroned he / turns his / gaze \*  
on all who / **dwel**l / on the / earth.

15 He fashions / all the / hearts of them \*  
and under - / **stand**s / all their / works.

16 There is no king that can be saved by a / might - y / army; \*  
a strong man is not de - / livered • by / his great / strength.

17 The horse is a vain / hope for • de - / liverance; \*  
for all its / strength it / can - not / save.

18 Behold, the eye of the Lord is upon / those who / fear him, \*  
on those who / wait up - / on his / love,

19 To pluck their / lives from / death, \*  
and to / feed them • in / time of / famine.

20 Our soul / waits for • the / Lord; \*

he is our / **help** / and our / shield.

21 Indeed, our heart re- / joices • in / him, \*  
for in his holy / Name we / put our / trust.

22 Let your loving-kindness, O / Lord, be • up- / on us, \*  
as we have / put our / trust in / you.

## THE EPISTLE: HEBREWS 11:1-3, 8-16

*A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.*

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. Indeed, by faith our ancestors received approval. By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible.

By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to set out for a place that he was to receive as an inheritance; and he set out, not knowing where he was going. By faith he stayed for a time in the land he had been promised, as in a foreign land, living in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. For he looked forward to the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God. By faith he received power of procreation, even though he was too old-- and Sarah herself was barren-- because he considered him faithful who had promised. Therefore from one person, and this one as good as dead, descendants were born, "as many as the stars of heaven and as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore."

All of these died in faith without having received the promises, but from a distance they saw and greeted them. They confessed that they were strangers and foreigners on the earth, for people who speak in this way make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. If they had been thinking of the land that they had left behind, they would have had opportunity to return. But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; indeed, he has prepared a city for them.

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

### SEQUENCE ANTHEM 636      *How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord (Foundation)*



1 How firm a foun - da - tion, ye saints of the Lord,  
2 "Fear not, I am with thee; O be not dis - mayed!  
3 "When through the deep wa - ters I call thee to go,  
4 "When through fier - y tri - als thy path - way shall lie,  
5 "The soul that to Je - sus hath fled for re - pose,



1 is laid for your faith in his ex - cel - lent word!  
2 For I am thy God, and will still give thee aid;  
3 the riv - ers of woe shall not thee o - ver - flow;  
4 my grace, all - suf - fi - cient, shall be thy sup - ply;  
5 I will not, I will not de - sert to its foes;



1 What more can he say than to you he hath said,  
2 I'll strength - en thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand,  
3 for I will be with thee, thy trou - bles to bless,  
4 the flame shall not hurt thee; I on - ly de - sign  
5 that soul, though all hell shall en - deav - or to shake,

1 to you that for ref - uge to Je - sus have fled?  
 2 up - held by my right - eous, om - ni - po - tent hand.  
 3 and sanc - ti - fy to thee thy deep - est dis - tress.  
 4 thy dross to con - sume, and thy gold to re - fine.  
 5 I'll nev - er, no, nev - er, no, nev - er for - sake."

*Optional Interlude*

Words: K. in John Rippon's *Selection*, 1787, alt. Music: *Foundation*, melody from *The Sacred Harp*, 1844; harm. Calvin Hampton (1938-1984); alt. acc. Eugene W. Hancock (b. 1929).

## THE GOSPEL: Luke 12:32-40

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

Jesus said to his disciples, "Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. Sell your possessions, and give alms. Make purses for yourselves that do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

"Be dressed for action and have your lamps lit; be like those who are waiting for their master to return from the wedding banquet, so that they may open the door for him as soon as he comes and knocks. Blessed are those slaves whom the master finds alert when he comes; truly I tell you, he will fasten his belt and have them sit down to eat, and he will come and serve them. If he comes during the middle of the night, or near dawn, and finds them so, blessed are those slaves.

"But know this: if the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour."

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

**The Sermon:** *The Rev. Candice B. Frazer*

### The 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,  
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who 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 are Form VI** found on page 392. *[Pause for a slow count to three]*

*The Leader and People pray responsively*

In peace, we pray to you, Lord God.  
*Silence*

For all people in their daily life and work;  
*For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.*

For Donald our President, Kay our Governor, and Steven our mayor; For this community, the nation, and the world;  
*For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.*

For the just and proper use of your creation;  
*For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.*

For those on our parish prayer list: Ways, Brett, Paul, Chris, Kenneth, Bob, Brittney, Debbie, Violet and Family, Andi, Janet, George, Ann, Tad, Ann, Sue & Bill, Betty, Sophie, Edith, Hugh, Marion, Ginny, Lila, Bruce, Anne, George, for all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;  
*For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.*

For the peace in the world...in our country...in our homes...and in our hearts, we pray to you, O Lord.\*\*  
*For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.*

For the discernment for the next Archbishop of Canterbury; for Sean, our Presiding Bishop; for Glenda and Brian, our bishops; for Candice and Drew our clergy; and for all bishops and other ministers;  
*For all who serve God in his Church.*

For the special needs of this congregation:  
*Silence*

*The people may add their own petitions.*

For the discernment for the next 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 the Diocese of Alabama, that we may receive a faithful pastor who will preach the Gospel, care for your people, equip us for ministry, and lead us forth in fulfillment of the Great Commission; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

For the safety of our Armed Forces, serving here and abroad.

Hear us Lord;  
*For your mercy is great.*

We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life.

*Silence*

*The People may add their own thanksgivings*

Especially: Ascension Day School; and our capital campaign The Way, The Truth, and The Life.

*Silence*

*The People may add their own petitions.*

Hear us, Lord;

*For your mercy is great.*

We will exalt you, O God our King;

*And praise your Name for ever and ever.*

We pray for all who have died, especially for those in whose memory the altar flowers are given, the family of Clyde Eller that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom.

*Silence*

*The People may add their own petitions*

Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon them;

*Who put their trust in you.*

We pray to you also for the forgiveness of our sins.

*Silence may be kept.*

*Leader and People*

Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father;  
in your compassion forgive us our sins,  
known and unknown,  
things done and left undone;  
and so uphold us by your Spirit  
that we may live and serve you in newness of life,  
to the honor and glory of your Name;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*[The celebrant will say a concluding collect or absolution; stand at the lectern until they are finished and then move to your seat at the Peace.]*

## **The Peace**

*Celebrant*            The peace of the Lord be always with you.

*People*              *And also with you.*

## **Announcements**

*Giving is available on-line by going to [www.coascension.org](http://www.coascension.org) and click on the "Give" link*

*Or, text the word "GIVE" to (833)901-2138 and follow as prompted.*

*Or, VENMO @churchoftheascension (look for our logo in color or gold*

**Offertory Anthem** *Keep your lamps trimmed and burning* (A. Crouch)

**Presentation** *The Doxology (Old 100th)*

*All things come of thee, O Lord,*

*And of thine own have we given thee. Amen.*



## The Holy Communion

### The 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 unto our Lord God.  
*People* It is right to give him thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

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 Hymn S129 *Holy, holy, holy* (R. Powell)

The musical score is written on four staves in G major (one sharp). The melody is simple and hymn-like. The lyrics are: "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 score includes triplets and a final long note.

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 kneel or stand.*

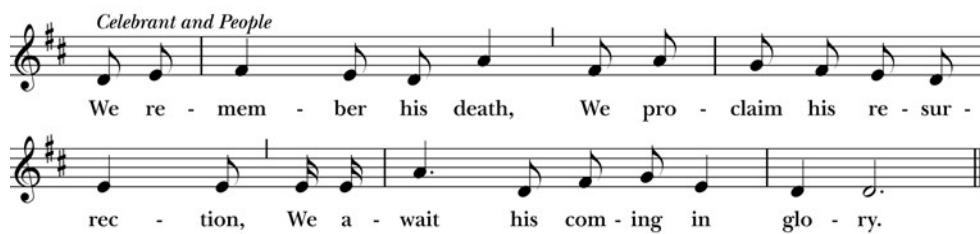
We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the 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,



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.

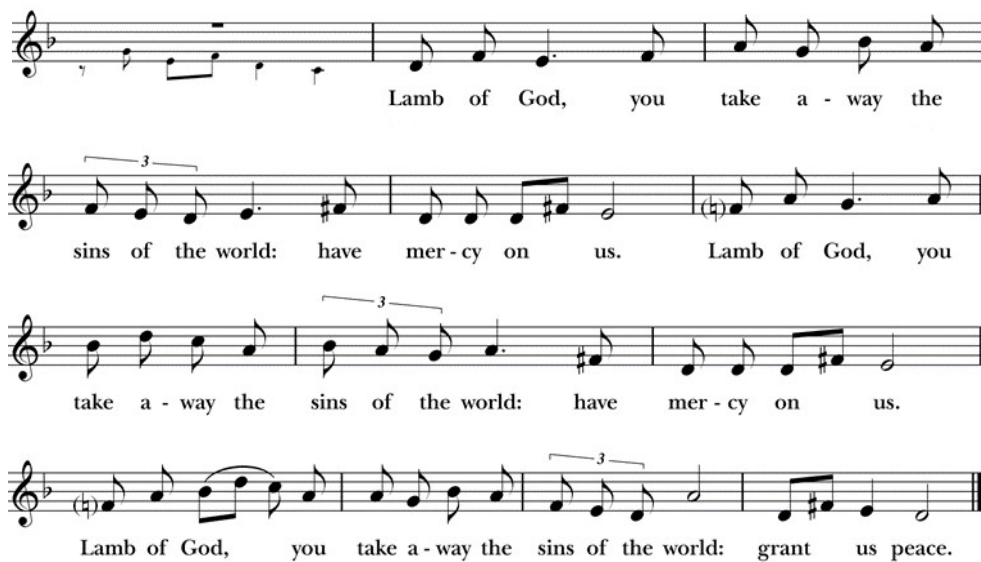
## Breaking of the Bread

BCP 364

*A period of silence is kept.*

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

*Fraction Anthem S163 Lamb of God (R. Powell)*



Music: Robert Powell (b. 1932). Setting: Copyright © Church Publishing Inc.

*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.

**Communion Hymn** *Alleluia II: 34*

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.

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;

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,  
and this is known in all the world.

Cry aloud, inhabitants of Zion,  
ring out your joy,  
for the great one in the midst of you  
is the Holy One of Israel.

**Communion Hymn    *Alleluia II:* 133**

*Refrain:*

*Just a closer walk with Thee  
Grant it, Jesus, is my plea  
Daily walking close to Thee  
Let it be, dear Lord, let it be*

I am weak but Thou art strong  
Jesus keep me from all wrong  
I'll be satisfied as long  
As I walk, dear Lord, close to Thee. (Refrain)

Through this world of toils and snares,  
If I falter, Lord, who cares?  
Who with me my burden shares?  
None but Thee, dear Lord, none but Thee. (Refrain)

When my feeble life is o'er  
Times for me will be no more  
Guide me gently, safely o'er  
To Thy kingdom's shore, to Thy shore. (Refrain)

**Communion Hymn    *Alleluia II:* 66**

In my life, Lord, be glorified, be glorified  
In my life, Lord, be glorified today.

In my song, Lord, be glorified, be glorified  
In my song, Lord, be glorified, be glorified today.

In Your church, Lord, be glorified, be glorified  
In Your church, Lord, be glorified, be glorified today.

**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.***

***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 the peace of God which passes all understanding  
keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God,  
and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord;  
and the blessing of God Almighty the Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be amongst you, and remain with you always. Amen.*

## Processional Hymn 68      *Rejoice! rejoice, believers (Llangloffan)*

1 Re - joice! re - joice, 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!

Words: Laurentius Laurenti (1660-1722); tr. Sarah B. Findlater (1823-1907), alt. Music: *Llangloffan*, melody from *Hymnau a Thonau er Gwasanaeth yr Eglwys yng Nghymru*, 1865.

**Dismissal**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia. Alleluia.

*Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia!*

**Voluntary** *Come thou fount of every blessing* (arr. Emma Lou Diemer)



**Financial Gifts Offered This Week**

**\$25,543**

**Financial Gifts Offered This Month**

**\$25,543**

**Financial Gift Target Monthly**

**\$85,500**

**Total Pledged Amount for 2025 - \$912,628**  
**Total Collected Amount for 2025 - \$543,756**

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