The Episcopal Church of the ASCENSION



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

THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Sunday, November 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 David Hall, Interim Associate Rector

MINISTERS SERVING THIS SUNDAY

ORGANIST/CHOIRMASTER:

Becky Taylor
LECTOR: Tim Vaught
LEMs: Harry Simon, Brad Curvin,
Virginia Humphrey
VERGER: Susan Copeland

ACOLYTES: TEAM MARK: Alden Pate, Addie Liveoak, Wren Mielke, Penelope Daniel

VESTRY GREETER:

AV CREW: Jason Pate, Camera **ALTAR GUILD**: Monique Walker,

Patty King

FLOWER GUILD: Foy McGowin,

Ed Walker

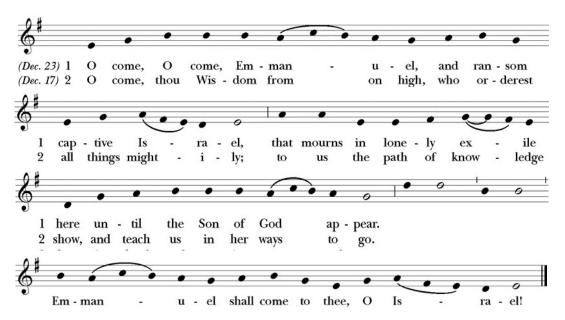
Ushers: Winston Sheehan,

Bryan Reeves

HOLY EUCHARIST RITE ONE, 10:30 AM LIVESTREAM

Introit E'en so, Lord Jesus, quickly come (P. Manz)

Lighting of the Advent Wreath Hymn 56 O come, O come, Emmanuel (vv.1-2)

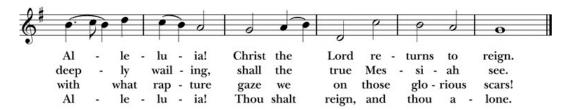


The stanzas may be used as antiphons with "The Song of Mary" on the dates given.

Words: Latin, ca. 9th cent.; ver Hymnal 1940, alt. Copyright © The Church Pension Fund. Music: Veni, Veni, Emmanuel, plainsong, Mode 1, Processionale, 15th, cent.; adpt. Thomas Helmore (1811-1890); acc. Richard Proulx (b. 1937) Copyright ©1975, G.I.A. Publications, Inc. All rights reserved. Used with permission.

Hymn 57: *Lo! he comes, with clouds descending (Helmsley)*





Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788). Music: *Helmsley*, melody Thomas Augustine Arne (1710-1778); harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958), alt.

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

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

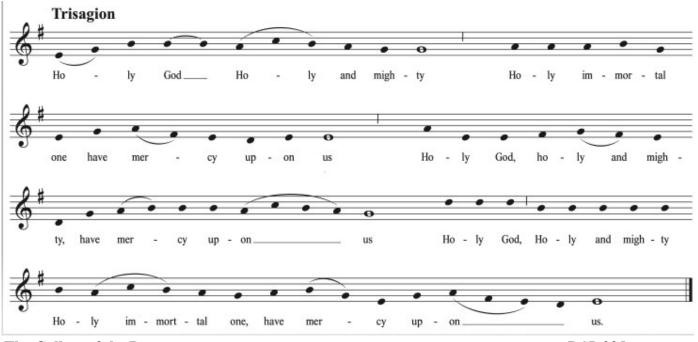
BCP 323

The Celebrant says,

People

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*

Hear what our Lord Jesus Christ saith: Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it: Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.



The Collect of the Day

BCP 325

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Let us pray.

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

THE FIRST READING: ISAIAH 2:1-5

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

In days to come the mountain of the LORD's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it. Many peoples shall come and say, 'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths.' For out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. He shall judge between the nations, and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into ploughshares, and their spears into pruning-hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.

O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the LORD!

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



THE EPISTLE: ROMANS 13:11-14

A reading from the book of Romans.

You know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

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

Sequence Hymn 454 Jesus came, adored by angels (Lowry)



Words: Godfrey Thring (1823-1903), alt. Music: Lowry, Gerald Near (b. 1942). Copyright © The Church Pension Fund.

HOLY GOSPEL MATTHEW 24:36-44

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

People Glory be to thee, Lord Christ.

Jesus said to the disciples, "But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour."

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise be to thee, Lord Christ.

Sermon

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 Rev. Candice B. Frazer

Let us humbly confess our sins unto Almighty God.

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.

The Priest, stands and says

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.

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

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People And with thy spirit.

Then the Ministers and People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.

Announcements

Giving is available on-line by going to 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 Montgomery, Alabama (look for our logo)

OFFERTORY ANTHEM E'en so, Lord Jesus, quickly come (P. Manz)

Peace be to you and grace from him Who freed us from our sins Who loved us all and shed his blood That we might saved be Sign Holy, Holy to our Lord The Lord, Almighty God Who was, and is, and is to come Sing Holy, Holy to our Lord

Rejoice in heaven, all ye that dwell within Rejoice on earth, ye saints below For Christ is coming, is coming soon For Christ is coming soon E'en so Lord Jesus, quickly come And night shall be no more They need no light nor lamp nor sun For Christ will be their All!

Presentation The Doxology Old 100th

Celebrant: All things come of thee, O Lord,

People: And of thine own have we given thee. Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic 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.

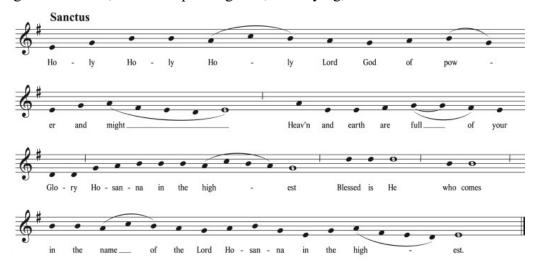
People It is meet and right so to do.

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.

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

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



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*.

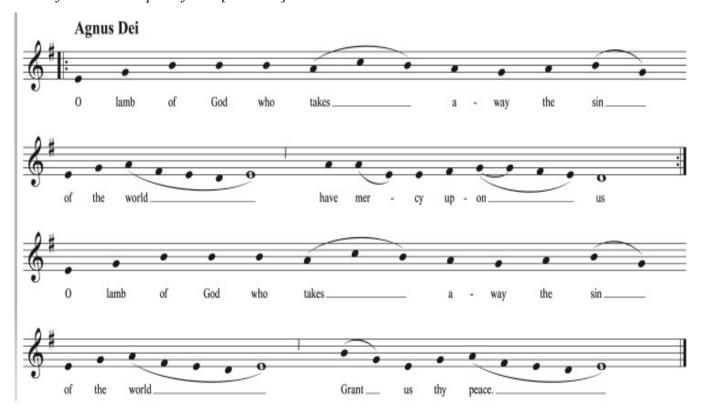
And now, as our Savior Christ hath taught us, we are bold to say,

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,
for ever and ever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept.

Then may be sung or said [Alleluia.] Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us; Therefore let us keep the feast. [Alleluia.]



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*.

Facing the people, the Celebrant may say the following invitation

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 Anthem: *Watchman, tell us of the night* (J. Parry)

- Watchman, tell us of the night,
 what its signs of promise are.
 Traveler, o'er yon mountain's height,
 see that glory-beaming star.
 Watchman, does its beauteous ray
 aught of joy or hope foretell?
 Traveler, yes; it brings the day,
 promised day of Israel.
- Watchman, tell us of the night; higher yet that star ascends. Traveler, blessedness and light, peace and truth its course portends.

- Watchman, will its beams alone gild the spot that gave them birth? Traveler, ages are its own; see, it bursts o'er all the earth.
- 3 Watchman, tell us of the night,
 for the morning seems to dawn.
 Traveler, darkness takes its flight,
 doubt and terror are withdrawn.
 Watchman, let thy wanderings cease;
 hie thee to thy quiet home.
 Traveler, lo! the Prince of Peace,
 lo! the Son of God is come!





Words: Greek; tr. John Brownlie (1859-1925), alt. Music: St. Stephen, William Jones (1726-1800), alt.

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

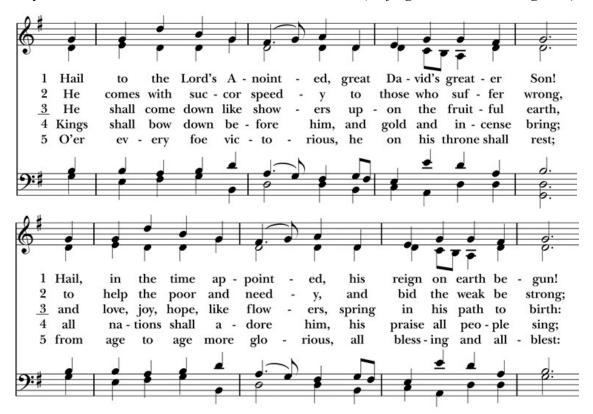
Almighty and everliving God, we most heartily thank thee for that thou dost feed us, in these holy mysteries, with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and dost assure us thereby of thy favor and goodness towards us; and that we are very members incorporate 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

The priest blesses the people, saying

May the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you and scatter the darkness from before your path; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. *Amen*.

Hymn in Procession 616 Hail to the Lord's Anointed (Es flog ein kleins Waldvögelein)





Words: James Montgomery (1771-1854); para. of Psalm 72. Music: Es flog ein kleins Waldvögelein, German folk song; adapt. and harm. A Student's Hymnal, 1923, after Henry Walford Davies (1869-1941).

Dismissal

Celebrant Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia. Alleluia. People Thanks be to God. Alleluia. Alleluia.

Voluntary Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme' (G. A. Homilius)

WAYS TO GIVE AT ASCENSION











Text to Give 833-901-2138

ADVENT 2024

25TH ANNIVERSARY SEASON TRAWICK-SCOTT ADVENT RECITAL SERIES

DECEMBER 4

12:05 PM

JOEL GREGORY, ORGANIST

DECEMBER 11

12:05 PM

PRESTON WINKLES, ORGANIST

DECEMBER 18

CONCERT IN CELEBRATION OF THE 25TH SEASON

12:05 PM

THE ASCENSION CHOIR

CHRISTMAS 2024

MESSIAH SINGALONG DECEMBER 3

7:00 PM

JOIN THE MONTGOMERY CHORALE, ORCHESTRA, AND SOLOISTS IN THE CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION NAVE IN A GROUP SINGALONG OF HANDEL'S IMMORTAL WORK

DECEMBER 15

THE CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

9:15 AM

JOIN CHILDREN AND YOUTH IN ASCENSION HALL FOR THE TELLING OF THE CHRISTMAS STORY.

DECEMBER 19

BLUE CHRISTMAS

12:00 PM

Service for those who are experiencing grief or struggling with loss

DECEMBER 24 CHRISTMAS EVE FAMILY EUCHARIST 5:00 PM

CELEBRATE THE CHRISTMAS EUCHARIST WITH THE ENTIRE FAMILY

FESTIVE CHRISTMAS EUCHARIST 10:30 PM

ANTHEMS AND HYMNS WITH THE ASCENSION CHOIR

DECEMBER 25 **CHRISTMAS EUCHARIST** 10:00 AM

This service will not have music

CHRISTMAS LESSONS & CAROLS DECEMBER 29 10:30 AM

HEAR THE STORY OF GOD REDEMPTION WITH CAROLS AND ANTHEMS AND LESSONS READ BY REPRESENTATIVES OF ASCENSION MINISTRIES

JANUARY 6

FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY BONFIRE & CHILI COOKOFF

5:30 PM

Close the Christmas season with worship around the bonfire , then join us in THE PARKING LOT FOR THE ANNUAL ASCENSION CHILI COOKOFF



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