

The Episcopal Church of the *ASCENSION*



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

THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Sunday, December 7, 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: Paula Smith

LEMs: Anne Kimzey, Rachel Wishum,
Brittany Wade

VERGER: Ellen Brooks

ACOLYTES: TEAM LUKE:

Grady Pate, Natalee Coker, Harper Mielke,
Lily Mielke

VESTRY GREETER: "Smitty" Smith

AV CREW: Jason Pate, Camera

ALTAR GUILD: Polly Williamson,
Lisa Franklin

FLOWER GUILD: Cara Coreale

USHERS: Evans Bailey, Philip Sellers

HOLY EUCHARIST RITE ONE, 10:30 AM LIVESTREAM

Voluntary *Nun kom der Heiden Heiland* (J. S. Bach)

Introit *O day of peace that dimly shines* (C. H. H. Parry)

Lighting of the Advent Wreath Hymn **56** *O come, O come, Emmanuel* (vv.3-4)

(Dec. 18) 3 O come, O come, thou Lord of might, who to thy
(Dec. 19) 4 O come, thou Branch of Jes - se's tree, free them from

3 tribes on Si - nai's height in an - cient times didst give the
4 Sa - tan's ty - ran - ny that trust thy might - y power to

3 law, in cloud, and ma - jes - ty, and awe.
4 save, and give them vic - tory o'er the grave. Re - ioice! Re - ioice!

Em - man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

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.; adapt. Thomas Helmore (1811-1890); acc. Richard Proulx (b. 1937).

Hymn 59 *Hark! A thrilling voice is sounding* (Merton)

Descant

2 Wak - ened by the sol - emn warn - ing, from earth's bond - age let us rise;
5 Hon - or, glo - ry, might, and bless - ing to the Fa - ther and the Son,

1 Hark! a thrill - ing voice is sound - ing: "Christ is nigh," it seems to say;
2 Wak - ened by the sol - emn warn - ing, from earth's bond - age let us rise;
3 Lo! the Lamb, so long ex - spect - ed, comes with par - don down from heaven;
4 so when next he comes with glo - ry, and the world is wrapped in fear,
5 Hon - or, glo - ry, might, and bless - ing to the Fa - ther and the Son,

2 Christ, our sun, all sloth dis - pel - ling, shines up - on the morn - ing skies.
5 with the ev - er - last - ing Spi - rit while un - end - ing a - ges run.

1 "Cast a - way the works of dark - ness, O ye child - ren of the day."
2 Christ, our sun, all sloth dis - pel - ling, shines up - on the morn - ing skies.
3 let us haste, with tears of sor - row, one and all to be for - given;
4 may he with his mer - cy shield us, and with words of love draw near.
5 with the ev - er - last - ing Spi - rit while un - end - ing a - ges run.

Words: Latin, ca. 6th cent.; tr. *Hymns Ancient and Modern*, 1861, alt. Music: Merton, William Henry Monk (1823-1889); desc. Alan Gray (1855-1935).

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

BCP 323

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*

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.

Trisagion

Ho - ly God - Ho - ly and migh - ty Ho - ly im - mor - tal
one have mer - cy up - on us Ho - ly God, ho - ly and migh -
ty, have mer - cy up - on us Ho - ly God, Ho - ly and migh - ty
Ho - ly im - mort - tal one, have mer - cy up - on us.

The Collect of the Day

BCP 325

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People And also with you.
Celebrant Let us pray.

Merciful God, who didst send thy messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

THE FIRST READING: ISAIAH 11:1-10

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.

The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him,
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of counsel and might,
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of
the LORD.

His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see,
or decide by what his ears hear;

but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,
and decide with equity for the meek of

the earth;

he shall strike the earth with the rod of his
mouth,
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill
the wicked.

Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist,
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

The wolf shall live with the lamb,
the leopard shall lie down with the kid,
the calf and the lion and the fatling together,
and a little child shall lead them.

The cow and the bear shall graze,

their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.

They will not hurt or destroy
on all my holy mountain;

for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD
as the waters cover the sea.

On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

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

PSALM 72:1-7, 18-19 *Deus, judicium*

Thomas Dupuis
(1733-1796)



- 1 Give the King your / justice, • O / God, *
and your / righteousness to • the / **King's** / Son;
- 2 That he may rule your / peo - ple / righteously *
--- / and the / poor with / justice;
- 3 That the mountains may bring pros- / perity to • the / people, *
and the little / hills bring / right - eous / ness.
- 4 He shall defend the needy a- / mong the / people; *
he shall rescue the / poor and / crush the • op - / pressor.
- 5 He shall live as long as the sun and / moon en- / dure, *
from one gene- / ra - tion / to an- / other.
- 6 He shall come down like rain upon the / **mown** / field, *
like / showers • that / water • the / earth.
- 7 In his time shall the / right - eous / flourish; *
there shall be abundance of peace till the / moon shall / be no / more.
- 18 Blessed be the Lord God, the / God of / Israel, *
who a- / lone does / won - drous / deeds!
- 19 And blessed be his glorious / Name for / ever! *
and may all the earth be filled with his / glory • A - / men.
A - / men.

THE EPISTLE: ROMANS 15:4-13

A reading from Paul's letter to the Romans.

Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written,

"Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles,
and sing praises to your name";
and again he says,
"Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people";
and again,
"Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles,
and let all the peoples praise him";
and again Isaiah says,
"The root of Jesse shall come,
the one who rises to rule the Gentiles;
in him the Gentiles shall hope."

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

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

Sequence Hymn 75 *There's a voice in the wilderness crying (Ascension)*



1 There's a voice in the wil - der - ness cry - ing, a____
2 O_____ Zi - on, that bring - est good tid - ings, get thee
3 but the word of our God____ en - du - reth, the____

call from the ways un - trod: Pre - pare in the des - ert a
up to the heights and sing! Pro - claim to a des - o - late
arm of the Lord is strong; he stands in the midst____ of

high - way, a high - way for our God! The____
peo - ple the com - ing of their King. Like the
na - tions, and he will right the wrong. He shall

val - leys shall be ex - alt - ed, the
flowers of the field they____ per - ish, like
feed his____ flock like a shep - herd, the



Words: James Lewis Milligan (1876-1961), alt. Music: *Ascension*, Henry Hugh Bancroft (1904-1988). Copyright © 1938, H. Hugh Bancroft.

HOLY GOSPEL MATTHEW 3:1-12

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew
People *Glory be to thee, O Lord.*

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said,

“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:
‘Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight.’”

Now John wore clothing of camel’s hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit worthy of repentance. Do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor’; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

“I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord.
People *Praise be to thee, O Christ.*

Sermon
Nicene Creed

The Rev. David Hall

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 Sarah the Archbishop of Canterbury select; Sean, our Presiding Bishop; Glenda and Brian our bishops; and Candice and David 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 Donald our President; Kay, our Governor; and Steven, our Mayor, 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 Marvin, Bo, Brett, Paul, Chris, Kenneth, Bob, Brittney, Violet and Family, Andi, Janet, George, Ann, Sue & Bill, Ann, Betty, Sophie, Hugh, Marion, Ginny, Anne, Lila, Bruce, Anne, 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...in the world...in our country...in our homes...and in our hearts.

We give thanks for Ascension Day School.

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 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.

And we also bless thy holy Name for all thy servants departed this life in thy faith and fear, especially those in whose memory the altar flowers are given: William Gordon LeGrand, Aileen Best & Milton Paul LeGrand 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

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

People The peace of the Lord be always with you.
 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 *People, look East (Besancon Carol)*

People, look East. The time is near of the crowning of the year. Make your house fair as you are able, trim the hearth and set the table. People, look East and sing today: Love the guest is on the way.

Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is planted there: Give up your strength the seed to nourish, that in course the flow'r may flourish. People, look East and sing today: Love the rose is on the way.

Birds, though you long have ceased to build, guard the nest that must be filled. Even the hour when wings are frozen God for fledgling time has cho-sen. People, look East and sing today: Love the bird is on the way.

Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim one more light the bowl shall brim, shining beyond the frosty weather, bright as sun and moon together. People, look East and sing today: Love the star is on the way.

Angels, announce with shouts of mirth Christ who brings new life to earth. Set every peak and valley humming with the word, the Lord is coming. People, look East and sing today: Love the Lord is on the way.

People, look East, #724 from Wonder Love and Praise — Words: Eleanor Farjeon (1881-1965). Music: Besançon Carol, harm. John L. Hooker (b. 1944).

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,

Sanctus

Ho - ly Ho - ly Ho - ly Lord God of pow -

er and might Heav'n and earth are full of your

Glo - ry Ho - san - na in the high - est Blessed is He who comes

in the name of the Lord Ho - san - na in the high - est.

*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 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.]

Agnus Dei

O lamb of God who takes _____ a - way the sin _____

of the world _____ have mer - cy up - on _____ us

O lamb of God who takes _____ a - way the sin _____

of the world _____ Grant _____ us thy peace. _____

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 Hymns: *Hymnal 1982* 67



1 Com - fort, com - fort ye my peo - ple, speak ye peace, thus
2 Hark, the voice of one that cri - eth in the des - ert
3 Make ye straight what long was crook - ed, make the rough - er

saith our God; com - fort those who sit in dark - ness
far and near, call - ing us to new re - pent - ance
pla - ces plain; let your hearts be true and hum - ble,

mourn - ing 'neath their sor - rows' load. Speak ye to Je -
since the king - dom now is here. Oh, that warn - ing
as be - fits his ho - ly reign. For the glo - ry

ru - sa - lem of the peace that waits for them;
cry o - bey! Now pre - pare for God a way;
of the Lord now o'er earth is shed a - broad;

tell her that her sins I cov - er,
let the val - leys rise to meet him
and all flesh shall see the to - ken

and her war - fare now is o - ver.
and the hills bow down to greet him.
that the word is nev - er bro - ken.

Words: Johann G. Olearius (1611-1684); tr. Catherine Winkworth (1827-1878), alt. Music: *Psalm 42*, melody and bass Claude Goudimel (1514-1572); harm. *Hymnal 1982*.

Communion Hymn *Hymnal 1982*: 314

1 Let thy Blood in mer - cy poured, let thy gra - cious
2 Thou didst die that I might live; bless - ed Lord, thou
3 By the thorns that crowned thy brow, by the spear-wound
4 Wilt thou own the gift I bring? All my pen - i -

Bo - dy bro - ken, be to me, O gra - cious Lord,
cam'st to save me; all that love of God could give
and the nail - ing, by the pain and death, I now
tence I give thee; thou art my ex - alt - ed King,

Refrain
of thy bound-less love the to - ken.
Jes - us by his sor - rows gave me. Thou didst give thy -
claim, O Christ, thy love un - fail - ing.
of thy match-less love for - give me.

self for me, now I give my - self to thee.

Words: Greek; tr. John Brownlie (1859-1925). Music: *Jesus, meine Zuversicht*, melody Johann Cruger (1598-1662); harm. after *The Chorale Book for England*, 1863.

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

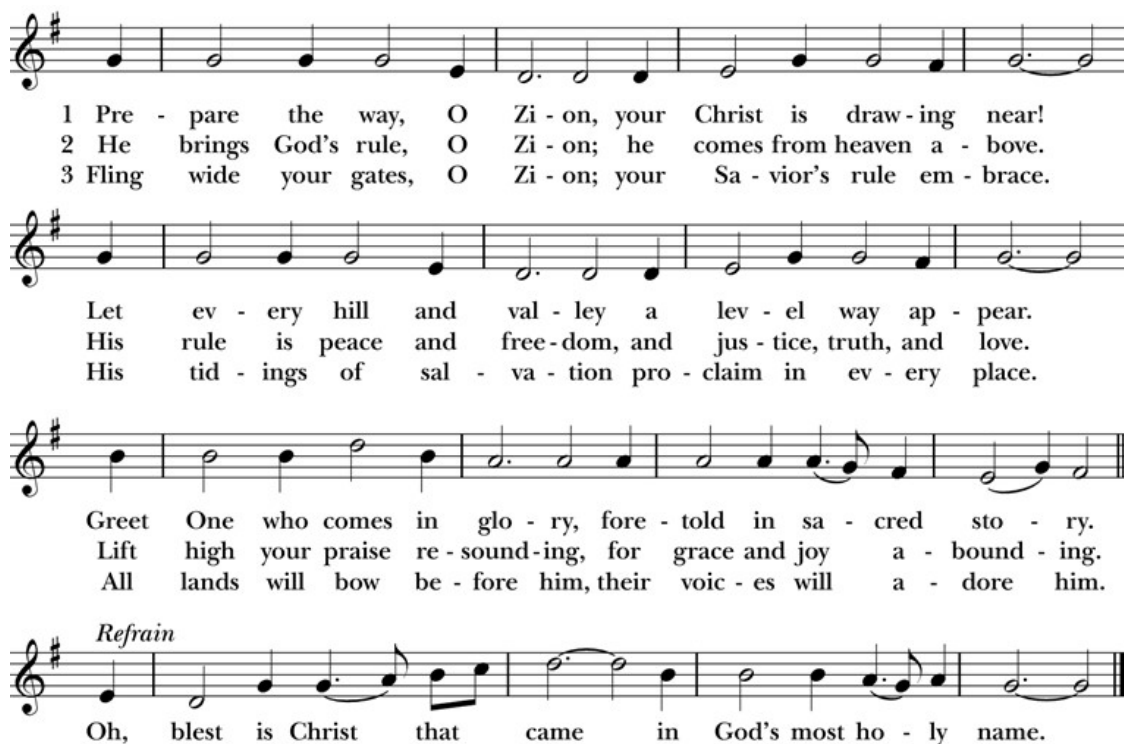
incorporate in the mystical body of thy Son, the blessed company of all faithful people; and are also heirs, through hope, of thy everlasting kingdom. And we humbly beseech thee, O heavenly Father, so to assist us with thy grace, that we may continue in that holy fellowship, and do all such good works 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 **65** *Prepare the way, O Zion* (*Bereden väg för Herran*)



1 Pre - pare the way, O Zi - on, your Christ is draw - ing near!
 2 He brings God's rule, O Zi - on; he comes from heaven a - bove.
 3 Fling wide your gates, O Zi - on; your Sa - vior's rule em - brace.

Let ev - ery hill and val - ley a lev - el way ap - pear.
 His rule is peace and free - dom, and jus - tice, truth, and love.
 His tid - ings of sal - va - tion pro - claim in ev - ery place.

Greet One who comes in glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry.
 Lift high your praise re - sound - ing, for grace and joy a - bound - ing.
 All lands will bow be - fore him, their voic - es will a - dore him.

Refrain
 Oh, blest is Christ that came in God's most ho - ly name.

Words: Frans Mikael Franzen (1772-1847); tr. composite; adapt. Charles P. Price (1920-1999). Copyright © 1982, Charles P. Price. Music: *Bereden väg för Herran*, melody from *Then Svenska Psalmboken*, 1697; harm. *Koralbok för Svenska Kyrkan*, 1939, alt.

Dismissal

Celebrant
People

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

Voluntary

Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland (J. S. Bach)

ADVENT 2025

TRAWICK-SCOTT ADVENT RECITAL SERIES

DECEMBER 3

ADONIS GONZALEZ, PIANO

12:05 PM

CONTEMPLATIVE MUSIC FOR THE PIANO IS PERFORMED BY INTERNATIONALLY ACCLAIMED PIANIST ADONIS GONZALEZ, PROFESSOR OF PIANO AT ALABAMA STATE UNIVERSITY

DECEMBER 10

MICHAEL DELFIN, HARPSICORD

12:05 PM

VERSATILE AND CELEBRATED EARLY MUSIC SPECIALIST AND PERFORMER OF HISTORICAL AND MODERN KEYBOARD INSTRUMENTS, MICHAEL DELFIN, UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA, PRESENTS MUSIC FOR HARPSICORD.

DECEMBER 17

ADVENT: SING OF HOPE

12:05 PM

THE AUDIENCE SING SONGS, HYMNS AND SPIRITUAL SONGS OF LOVE, JOY, AND HOPE TO A WEARY WORLD.

CHRISTMAS 2025

DECEMBER 4

MESSIAH SINGALONG

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 19

BLUE CHRISTMAS

12:00 PM

SERVICE FOR THOSE WHO ARE EXPERIENCING GRIEF OR STRUGGLING WITH LOSS

DECEMBER 21

THE CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

9:15 AM

JOIN CHILDREN AND YOUTH IN ASCENSION HALL FOR A NEW TELLING OF THE CHRISTMAS STORY, INVITING LOVE TO BE BORN IN OUR HEARTS

DECEMBER 24 CHRISTMAS EVE FAMILY EUCHARIST 5:30 PM

CELEBRATE THE CHRISTMAS EUCHARIST WITH THE ENTIRE FAMILY

FESTIVE CHRISTMAS EUCHARIST

10:15 PM

THE ASCENSION CHOIR WILL OFFER ANTHEMS OF THE MUSIC OF CHRISTMAS BEGINNING AT 10:15 PM. EUCHARIST TO BEGIN AT 11:00 PM

DECEMBER 25

CHRISTMAS EUCHARIST

10:00 AM

THIS SERVICE WILL NOT HAVE MUSIC

DECEMBER 28

CHRISTMAS LESSONS & CAROLS

10:30 AM

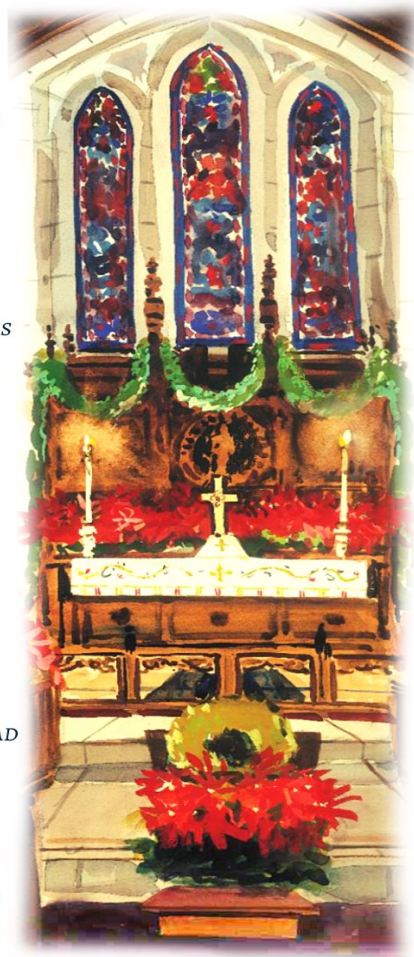
HEAR THE STORY OF GOD'S REDEMPTION WITH CAROLS AND ANTHEMS AND LESSONS READ BY REPRESENTATIVES OF ASCENSION MINISTRIES

JANUARY 6

**FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY
BONFIRE & CHILI COOKOFF**

5:30 PM

CLOSE THE CHRISTMAS SEASON WITH WORSHIP AROUND THE BONFIRE, AND JOIN US IN THE PARKING LOT FOR THE ANNUAL ASCENSION CHILI COOKOFF



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