

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION



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

THE FIRST SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY THE BAPTISM OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST Sunday, January 11, 2026

The Rt. Rev. Dr. Glenda Curry, Bishop of the Diocese of Alabama
The Reverend Candice B. Frazer, Rector
The Reverend David Hall, Interim Associate Rector

ORGANIST/CHOIRMASTER:

Becky Taylor

LECTOR: Sharon Massey

LEMS: Robert Prescott, Virginia Humphrey,

Harry Simon, Kaye Porter

VERGER: Susan Copeland

ACOLYTES: TEAM LUKE:

Grady Pate, Natalee Coker,

Harper Mielke, Lily Mielke

CHILDREN'S CHURCH: Julia & Michael McNair

AV CREW: Jason Pate, Camera

ALTAR GUILD: Carol Jones, Virginia Humphrey

FLOWER GUILD: Tuttie Voltz

USHERS: Wilbur Hill,
Hunter Groce, Billy Young

HOLY EUCHARIST RITE II ~ 10:30 AM LIVESTREAM

Voluntary Prelude on *How brightly shines the morning star* (D. Buxtehude)

Introit *Christ, when for us you were baptized* (F. B. Tucker)

Hymn in Procession 497 *How bright appears the morning star* (*Wie schön leuchtet*)

1 How bright ap - pears the Morn - ing Star, with mer - cy beam - ing
2 Though cir - cled by the hosts on high, he deigned to cast a
3 Re - joice, ye heavens; thou earth, re - ply; with praise, ye sin - ners,

from a - far; the host of heaven re - joic - es;
pit - ying eye up - on his help - less crea - ture;
fill the sky, for this his In - car - na - tion.

O right - eous Branch, O Jes - se's Rod! Thou Son of Man and
the whole cre - a - tion's Head and Lord, by high - est ser - a -
In - car - nate God, put forth thy power, ride on, ride on, great

Son of God! We, too, will lift our voic - es:
phim a - dored, as - sumed our ve - ry na - ture;
Con - quer - or, till all know thy sal - va - tion.

Je - sus, Je - sus! Ho - ly, ho - ly, yet most low - ly,
 Je - sus, grant us, through thy mer - it, to in - her - it
 A - men, a - men! Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

draw thou near us; great Em - man - uel, come and hear us.
 thy sal - va - tion; hear, O hear our sup - pli - ca - tion.
 Praise be giv - en ev - er - more, by earth and hea - ven.

Words: William Mercer (1811-1873); after Philipp Nicolai (1556-1608). Music: *Wie schön leuchtet*, melody att. Philipp Nicolai (1556-1608) arr. and harm. Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750).

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.*

A 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 - mighty 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

on us; 5. you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re -

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

High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spi - rit, in the

glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

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

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Let us pray.

Father in heaven, who at the baptism of Jesus in the River Jordan proclaimed him your beloved Son and anointed him with the Holy Spirit: Grant that all who are baptized into his Name may keep the covenant they have made, and boldly confess him as Lord and Savior; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. *Amen.*

THE FIRST LESSON: ISAIAH 42:1-9

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

Here is my servant, whom I uphold,
my chosen, in whom my soul delights;
I have put my spirit upon him;
he will bring forth justice to the nations.
He will not cry or lift up his voice,
or make it heard in the street;
a bruised reed he will not break,
and a dimly burning wick he will not quench;
he will faithfully bring forth justice.
He will not grow faint or be crushed
until he has established justice in the earth;
and the coastlands wait for his teaching.

Thus says God, the LORD,
 who created the heavens and stretched them out,
 who spread out the earth and what comes from it,
 who gives breath to the people upon it
 and spirit to those who walk in it:
 I am the LORD, I have called you in righteousness,
 I have taken you by the hand and kept you;
 I have given you as a covenant to the people,
 a light to the nations,
 to open the eyes that are blind,
 to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon,
 from the prison those who sit in darkness.
 I am the LORD, that is my name;
 my glory I give to no other,
 nor my praise to idols.
 See, the former things have come to pass,
 and new things I now declare;
 before they spring forth,
 I tell you of them.

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

PSALM 29 *Afferte Domino*

William Felton
 (1715–1769)



1 Ascribe to the / Lord, you / gods, *
 ascribe to the Lord / glory • and / strength.

2 Ascribe to the Lord the / glory due • his / Name; *
 worship the / Lord in • the / beauty • of / holiness.

3 The voice of the Lord is upon the waters;
 the God of / glo - ry / thunders; *
 the Lord is up- / on the / might - y / waters.

4 The voice of the Lord is a / power- • ful / voice; *
 the voice of the / Lord is • a / voice of / splendor.

5 The voice of the Lord breaks the / ce - dar / trees; *
 the Lord / breaks the / cedars • of / Le - ba - non;

6 He makes Lebanon / skip like • a / calf, *
 and Mount / Hermon like • a / young wild / ox.

7 The voice of the Lord splits the flames of fire;
 the voice of the Lord / shakes the / wilderness; *
 the Lord shakes the / wil - der - ness of / Kadesh.

8 The voice of the Lord makes the / oak trees / writhe *
and / strips the / for - ests / bare.

9 And in the / temple of • the / Lord *
-- / all are / cry - ing, / "Glory!"

10 The Lord sits enthroned a- / bove the / flood; *
the Lord sits enthroned as / King for / ev - er - / more.

11 The Lord shall give / strength to • his / people; *
the Lord shall give his / people • the / blessing • of / peace.

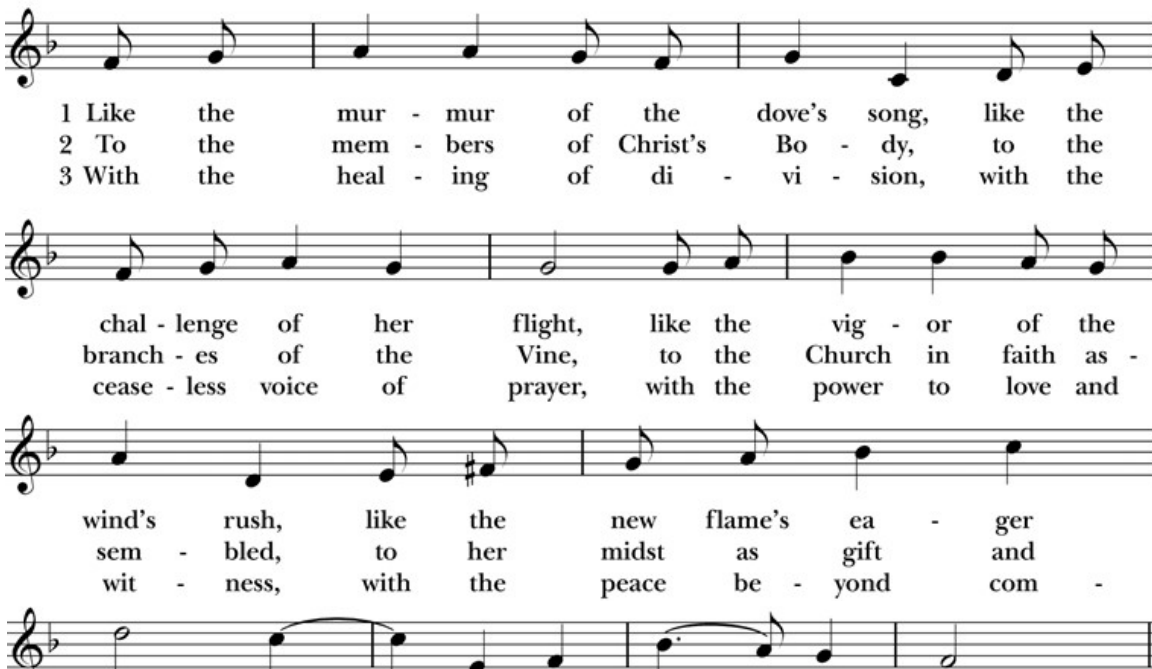
THE EPISTLE: ACTS 10:34-45

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

Peter began to speak to them: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ--he is Lord of all. That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

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

SEQUENCE HYMN 513 *Like the murmur of the dove's song (Bridegroom)*



1 Like the mur - mur of the dove's song, like the
2 To the mem - bers of Christ's Bo - dy, to the
3 With the heal - ing of di - vi - sion, with the

chal - lenge of her flight, like the vig - or of the
branch - es of the Vine, to the Church in faith as -
cease - less voice of prayer, with the power to love and

wind's rush, like the new flame's ea - ger
sem - bled, to her midst as gift and
wit - ness, with the peace be - yond com -

might: come, — Ho - ly Spi - rit, come.
sign: come, — Ho - ly Spi - rit, come.
pare: come, — Ho - ly Spi - rit, come.

Phrase 1 of each stanza may be sung by one group, with a contrasted group singing phrase 2, and all joining for the final phrase.

THE GOSPEL: MATTHEW 2:1-12

Celebrant: The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. John would have prevented him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now; for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness." Then he consented. And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased."

Celebrant: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

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

The Baptismal Covenant

Celebrant Do you believe in God the Father?

People I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

Celebrant Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

People I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

Celebrant Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

People I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.

Celebrant Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of the bread, and in the prayers?

People I will, with God's help.

Celebrant Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

People I will, with God's help.

Celebrant Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?

People I will, with God's help.

Celebrant Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?

People I will, with God's help.

Celebrant Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?

People I will, with God's help.

The Prayers of the People Form II

In the course of the silence after each bidding, the People offer their own prayers, either silently or aloud.

I ask your prayers for God's people throughout the world; for Sarah, the Archbishop of Canterbury select; for Sean, our Presiding Bishop; for Glenda, our Bishop; for Candice and David our clergy; for this gathering; and for all ministers and people.
Pray for the Church.

Silence

I ask your prayers for peace; for goodwill among nations; for Donald, our President; for Kay, our Governor; for Steven, our mayor; and for the well-being of all people.
Pray for justice and peace.

Silence

I ask for your prayers for the poor, the sick, the hungry, the oppressed, and those in prison; We pray especially Julia, Bo, Brett Paul, Kenneth, Brittney, Violet and Family, Andi, Janet, George, Sue & Bill, Ann, Betty, Sophie, Hugh, Marion, Ginny, Lila, Bruce, Anne, Ann.
Pray for those in any need or trouble.

Silence

I ask your prayers for all who seek God, or a deeper knowledge of him.
Pray that they may find and be found by him.

Silence

I ask your prayers for the departed, especially Marvin Campbell, and those in whose memory the altar flowers are given Dr. William G. Pappas, Mr. & Mrs. Marshall Evans Bailey, Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Marvin Guthrie, Mr. & Mrs. Carter B. Robertson, John Hunter Pappas, John Bonner Williams, Linda McCook Vaughan,
pray for those who have died.

Silence

I ask your prayers for the safety of our armed forces especially and those serving with them both here and abroad, we pray for the peace in the world...in our country...in our homes...and in our hearts, . We give thanks for Ascension Day School, and for our Capital Campaign, The Way, The Truth, and The Life.

Silence

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.

Praise God for those in every generation in whom Christ has been honored.
Pray that we may have grace to glorify Christ in our own day.

Silence

The Confession

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence may be kept.

Minister and People

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.

The Priest, stands and says

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. *Amen.*

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 and click on the "Give" link

Or, *VENMO @churchoftheascension* (look for our logo)

Offertory Anthem *My Dancing Day* (W. Witherup)

Tomorrow shall be my dancing day: I would my true love did so chance to see the legend of my play, to call my true love to my dance. Sing, O my love, this have I done for my true love. Thus was I born of a Virgin pure, of her, I took fleshly substance; Thus was I knit to human nature, to call my true love to my dance. In a manger laid and wrapped I was, So very poor, This was my chance, Betwixt and ox and a silly poor ass, To call my true love to my dance. Then afterwards baptized I was; The Holy Ghost on me did glance; My Gather's voice heard from above To call my true love to my dance.

Presentation The Doxology (Old 100th)

All things come of thee, O Lord,
And of thine own have we given thee. Amen.

Eucharistic Prayer B

The people remain standing. The Celebrant faces them and says

People The Lord be with you.

Celebrant ***And also with you.***

People Lift up your hearts.

Celebrant ***We lift them to the Lord.***

People Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

Celebrant ***It is right to give him thanks and praise.***

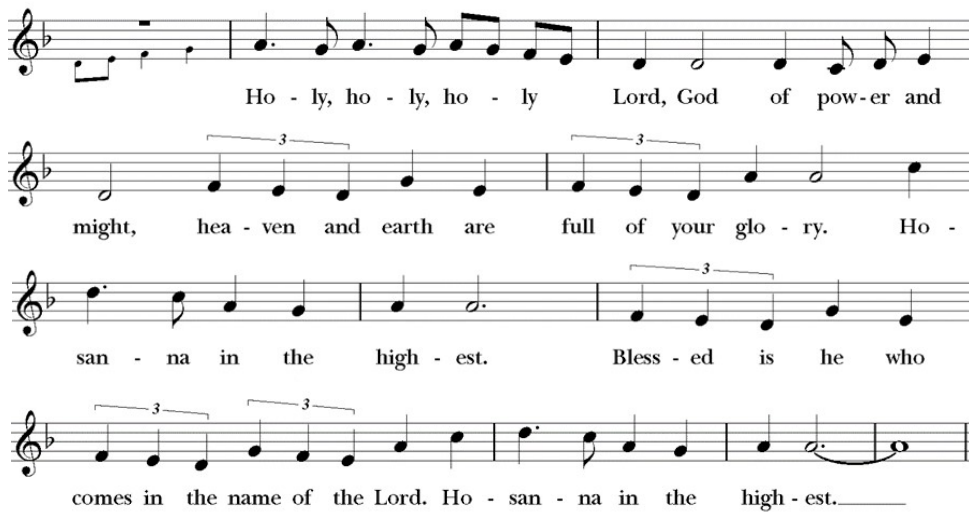
The Celebrant proceeds

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

Because in the mystery of the word made flesh, you have caused a new light to shine in our hearts, to give the knowledge of your glory in the face of your son 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 S129



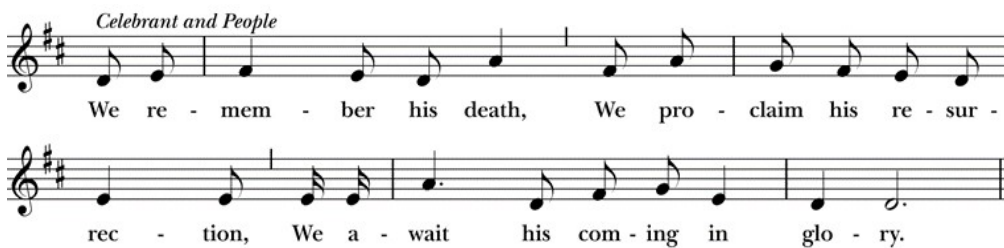
We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the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

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,

Memorial Acclamation S138



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 you, Mary, and 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 (R.Powell)

The musical score is written on four staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It features a melody with various note values including eighth, quarter, and half notes, as well as rests. Trills are indicated by a 'tr' symbol above certain notes. The lyrics are written below the staves, aligned with the corresponding notes.

Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sins of the world: have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you
take a - way the sins of the world: have mer - cy on us.
Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the world: grant us peace.

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 294



1 Bap - tized in wa - ter, sealed by the Spi - rit,
 2 Bap - tized in wa - ter, sealed by the Spi - rit,
 3 Bap - tized in wa - ter, sealed by the Spi - rit,



cleansed by the blood of Christ our King:
 dead in the tomb with Christ our King:
 marked with the sign of Christ our King:



heirs of sal - va - tion, trust - ing his prom - ise,
 one with his ris - ing, freed and for - giv - en,
 born of one Fa - ther, we are his chil - dren,



faith - ful - ly now God's praise we sing.
 thank - ful - ly now God's praise we sing.
 joy - ful - ly now God's praise we sing.

Words: Michael Saward (b. 1932), alt. Copyright © 1982, by Jubilate Hymns (admin. by Hope Publishing Company Carol Stream, IL 60188.) All Rights Reserved. Used by permission. Music, Copyright © 1983 David Charles Walker. Music: *Point Loma*, David Charles Walker (b. 1938).

Communion Hymn 304

Unison or harmony



1 I come with joy to meet my Lord, for -
 2 I come with Chris - tians far and near to
 3 As Christ breaks bread and bids us share, each
 4 And thus with joy we meet our Lord. His
 5 To - geth - er met, to - geth - er bound, we'll



1 giv - en, loved, and free, in awe and won - der
 2 find, as all are fed, the new com - mu - ni -
 3 proud di - vi - sion ends. That love that made us
 4 pres - ence, al - ways near, is in such friend - ship
 5 go our dif - ferent ways, and as his peo - ple

1 to re - call his life laid down for me.
 2 ty of love in Christ's com - mun - ion bread.
 3 makes us one, and stran - gers now are friends.
 4 bet - ter known: we see, and praise him here.
 5 in the world, we'll live and speak his praise.

Words: Brian A. Wren (b. 1936), alt. Copyright © 1971 by Hope Publishing Company Carol Stream, IL 60188. All Rights Reserved. Used by permission. Music: *Land of Rest*, American folk melody; adapt. and harm. Annabel Morris Buchanan (1889-1983).

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

Processional Hymn 420 *When in our music God is glorified (Engelberg)*



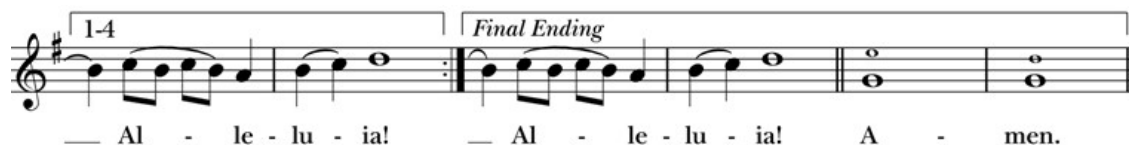
1 When in our mu - sic God is glo - ri - fied, _____
 2 How of - ten, mak - ing mu - sic, we have found _____
 3 So has the Church, in lit - ur - gy and song, _____
 4 And did not Je - sus sing a psalm that night _____
 5 Let ev - ery in - stru - ment be tuned for praise! _____



1 and a - dor - a - tion leaves no room for pride, _____
 2 a new di - men - sion in the world of sound, _____
 3 in faith and love, through cen - tu - ries of wrong, _____
 4 when ut - most e - vil strove a - gainst the Light? _____
 5 Let all re - joice who have a voice to raise! _____



1 it is as though the whole cre - a - tion cried _____
 2 as wor - ship moved us to a more pro - found _____
 3 borne wit - ness to the truth in ev - ery tongue, _____
 4 Then let us sing, for whom he won the fight, _____
 5 And may God give us faith to sing al - ways _____



— Al - le - lu - ia! — Al - le - lu - ia! A - men.

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Dismissal

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

Voluntary *Wie schön leuchtet* (J. S. Bach)

ANNUAL MEETING & VESTRY ELECTIONS

SUNDAY, JANUARY 25 - 9:15 AM
ASCENSION HALL



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