

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION



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

THE THIRD SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

Sunday, January 25, 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: Paula Smith,

LEMs: Nan Barganier,
Terryn Abner, Matt Clower

VERGER: Tim Lewis

ACOLYTES: TEAM MATTHEW:

Margie Anne Prescott, Kayla Bledsoe,
John Harrison, Claire Harrison

CHILDREN'S CHURCH:

Gina & Brad Curvin

VESTRY GREETER: Daniel Hughes

AV CREW: Jason Pate, Camera

ALTAR GUILD: Debbie Hackett,
Stacia Bailey

FLOWER GUILD: Tuttie Voltz

USHERS: Wilbur Hill,
Hunter Groce, Billy Young

HOLY EUCHARIST RITE II ~ 10:30 AM LIVESTREAM

Voluntary *Prélude sur l'Introit de l'Épiphanie* (M. Duruflé)
 Introit *Will you come and follow me* (M. Alexandra)

Hymn 381 *Thy strong word did cleave the darkness* (*Ton-y-Botel*)

The Alleluias in stanzas 1-3 may be sung antiphonally.

Words: Martin H. Franzmann (1907-1976). From *Worship Supplement*. Copyright © 1969, Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission. Music: *Ton-y-Botel*, Thomas John Williams (1869-1944).

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 Hymn 280 *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
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.

Give us grace, O Lord, to answer readily the call of our Savior Jesus Christ and proclaim to all people the Good News of his salvation, that we and the whole world may perceive the glory of his marvelous works; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

THE FIRST LESSON: ISAIAH 9:1-4

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

There will be no gloom for those who were in anguish. In the former time he brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he will make glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations.

The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness--
on them light has shined.

You have multiplied the nation,
you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you
as with joy at the harvest,
as people exult when dividing plunder.

For the yoke of their burden,
and the bar across their shoulders,
the rod of their oppressor,
you have broken as on the day of Midian.

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

PSALM 27:1, 5-13

William Felton
(1715-1769)

1 *The Lord is my light and my salvation;
whom then / shall I / fear? **
*the Lord is the strength of my life;
of / whom then • shall / I be a- / fraid?*

5 *One thing have I asked of the Lord;
one / thing I / seek; **
that I may dwell in the house of the / Lord all • the / days of• my / life;

6 *To behold the fair / beauty of• the / Lord **
and to / seek him / in his / temple.

7 *For in the day of trouble he shall keep me / safe in • his / shelter; **
*he shall hide me in the secrecy of his dwelling
and set me / high up- / on a / rock.*

8 *Even now he / lifts up • my / head **
above my / ene- • mies / round a- / bout me.

9 *Therefore I will offer in his dwelling an oblation
with / sounds of• great / gladness; **
I will sing and make / mu - sic / to the / Lord.

10 *Hearken to my voice, O / Lord, when • I / call; **
have / mercy on me • and / an - swer / me.

11 *You speak in my heart and say, / "Seek my / face." **
*Your face, / **Lord**, / will I / seek.*

12 *Hide not your / face from / me, **
nor turn away your / ser - vant / in dis- / pleasure.

13 *You have been my helper;
cast me / not a- / way; **
do not forsake me, O / God of / my sal- / vation.

THE EPISTLE: 1 Corinthians 1:10-18

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

Now I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you be in agreement and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same purpose. For it has been reported to me by Chloe's people that there are quarrels among you, my brothers and sisters. What I mean is that each of you says, "I belong to Paul," or "I belong to Apollos," or "I belong to Cephas," or "I belong to Christ." Has Christ been divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, so that no one can say that you were baptized in my name. (I did baptize also the household of Stephanas; beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized anyone else.) For Christ did not send me to baptize but to proclaim the gospel, and not with eloquent wisdom, so that the cross of Christ might not be emptied of its power.

For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

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

Sequence Hymn 707 *Take my life and let it be (Hollingside)*

1 Take my life, and let it be consecrated, Lord, to thee;
2 Take my voice, and let me sing always, on - ly, for my King;
take my moments and my days, let them flow in cease - less praise.
take my in - tel - lect, and use ev - ery power as thou shalt choose.
Take my hands, and let them move at the im-pulse of thy love;
Take my will, and make it thine; it shall be no long - er mine.
take my heart, it is thine own; it shall be thy roy - al throne.
Take my - self, and I will be ev - er, on - ly, all for thee.

THE GOSPEL: Matthew 4:12-23

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

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

When Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew to Galilee. He left Nazareth and made his home in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, so that what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled:

“Land of Zebulun, land of Naphtali,
on the road by the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles—
the people who sat in darkness
have seen a great light,
and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death
light has dawned.”

From that time Jesus began to proclaim, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.”

As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea—for they were fishermen. And he said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you fish for people.” Immediately they left their nets and followed him. As he went from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John, in the boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. Immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed him.

Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness among the people.

Celebrant: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Sermon: *The Rev. David Hall*

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 according to Form IV, found on page 388. (Pause for a count of four.)

Let us pray for the Church and for the world.

Grant, Almighty God, that all who confess your Name may be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world. We pray for Sarah, the Archbishop of Canterbury select; Sean, our Presiding Bishop; Glenda our bishop; and Candice and David, our clergy.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the ways of justice and peace; that we may honor one another and serve the common good. We pray for Donald, our President; Kay, our Governor; Steven, our Mayor.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

Give us all a reverence for the earth as your own creation, that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others and to your honor and glory.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, and grant that we may serve Christ in them, and love one another as he loves us. We pray for the safety of our armed forces both here and abroad, we pray for peace in our country, in our homes, in our hearts, and the world; and we give thanks for Ascension Day School. We pray for our capital campaign The Way, The Truth, and The Life.

We pray for the discernment of the 13 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.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of your salvation. We pray especially for Julia, Bo, Brett Paul, Kenneth, Brittney, Violet and Family, Andi, Janet, George, Sue & Bill, Ann, Betty, Sophie, Hugh, Marion, Ginny, Lila, Bruce, Anne, Ann.

We give thanks for the birth of a son, William Edwards Speaks, Jr, to Elizabeth and William Speaks; grandson of Foy McGowin.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

We command to your mercy all who have died especially for those in whose memory the altar flowers are given: Richard Brent Burk, Charles & Kitty Frazer, Charles (Boo) Frazer, Jr. Eleanor & Robert Woodfin, Carol & Jerry Smith, William Burk & Virginia Burk, Gladys & George Murphy, Tressa Nicewarner that your will for them may be fulfilled; and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

[Stay until the priest has finished the collect.]

CONFESSON OF SIN

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

Or, VENMO @churchoftheascension (look for our logo in color.



Offertory Anthem *The Lord is my light* (B. Cunliffe) *See today's appointed Psalm 27.*

Presentation *The Doxology (Hymn 380, v. 3) (Old 100th)*

Celebrant: All things come of thee, O Lord,

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

Holy Communion

Eucharistic Prayer B

The people remain standing. The Celebrant faces them and says

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 to the Lord our God.

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

The Celebrant proceeds

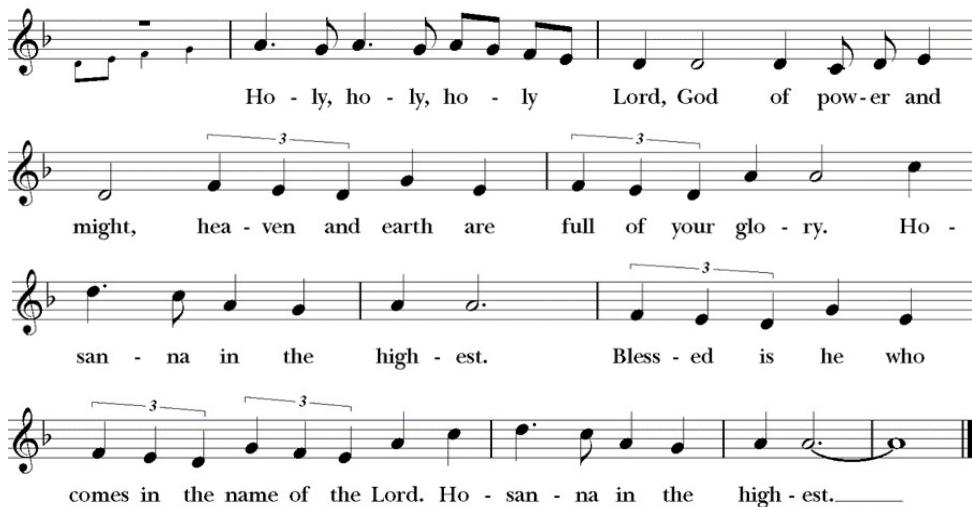
It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

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



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.

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.

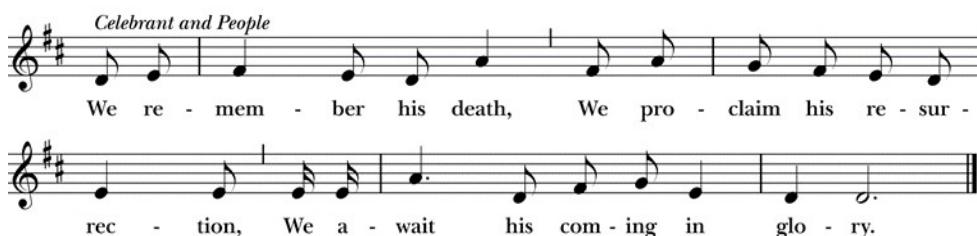
On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

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,

The Holy Eucharist II, Memorial Acclamation: Prayer B

The Hymnal 1982, Service Music, #138



Celebrant and People
We re - mem - ber his death, We pro - claim his re - sur -
rec - tion, We a - wait his com - ing in glo - ry.

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 Lamb of God (R. Powell)

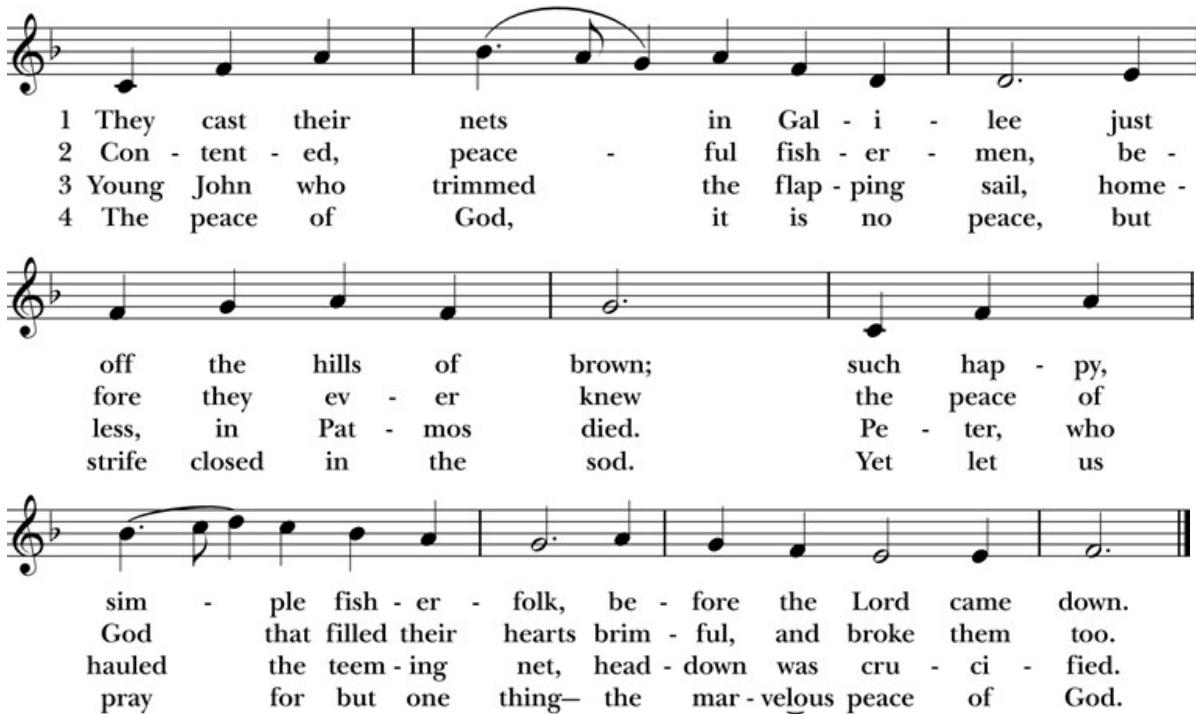
Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sins of the world: have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you
take a - way the sins of the world: have mer - cy on us.
Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the world: grant us peace.

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 Hymns: *Hymnal 1982*: 661



1 They cast their nets in Gal - i - lee just
2 Con - tent - ed, peace ful fish - er - men, be -
3 Young John who trimmed the flap - ping sail, home -
4 The peace of God, it is no peace, but

off the hills of brown; such hap - py,
fore they ev - er knew the peace of
less, in Pat - mos died. Pe - ter, who
strife closed in the sod. Yet let us

sim - ple fish - er - folk, be - fore the Lord came down.
God that filled their hearts brim - ful, and broke them too.
hauled the teem - ing net, head - down was cru - ci - fied.
pray for but one thing— the mar - velous peace of God.

Words: William Alexander Percy (1885-1942), alt. Copyright by Edward B. Marks Music Corporation. Used with permission.
Music: *Georgetown*, David McKinley Williams (1887-1978). Copyright © The Church Pension Fund.

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

May Almighty God, who sent his Son to take our nature upon him, bless you in this holy season, scatter the darkness of sin, and brighten your heart with the light of his holiness. Amen.

Processional Hymn 539 *O Zion, haste, thy mission high fulfilling (Tidings)*

O Zi - on, haste, thy mis - sion high ful - fill - ing,
 Pro - claim to ev - ery peo - ple, tongue, and na - tion
 Send her - alds forth to bear the mes - sage glo - rious;
 He comes a - gain! O Zi - on, ere thou meet him,

to tell to all the world that God is Light;
 that God, in whom they live and move, is Love;
 give of thy wealth to speed them on their way;
 make known to ev - ery heart his sav - ing grace;

that he who made all na - tions is not will - ing
 tell how he stooped to save his lost cre - a - tion,
 pour out thy soul for them in prayer vic - to - rious
 let none whom he hath ran - somed fail to greet him,

one soul should fail to know his love and might.
 and died on earth that all might live a - bove.
 till God shall bring his king - dom's joy - ful day.
 through thy ne - glect, un - fit to see his face.

Refrain

Pub - lish glad ti - dings: ti - dings of peace,

ti - dings of Je - sus, re - demp - tion and re - lease.

Words: Mary Ann Thomson (1834-1923), alt. Music: *Tidings*, James Walch (1837-1901).

Dismissal

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

Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia!

Voluntary Variations on “An Old Christmas Carol” (Elizabeth Mounsey)

WAYS TO GIVE AT ASCENSION



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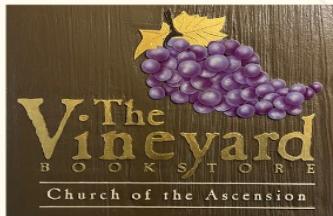
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PAUL'S WISDOM IN A WORLD LIKE OURS

A Preaching Series
Sundays January 18 - February 8



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