

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION



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

THE FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

Sunday, February 8, 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: Harper Curvin

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE: Thomas Tracy

LEMs: Nan Barganier, Virginia Humphrey,
Harry Simon

VERGER: Christopher Turner

ACOLYTES: TEAM LUKE:

Grady Pate, Natalee Coker,
Harper Mielke, Lily Mielke

CHILDREN'S CHURCH:

Camille & Barrett Austin

VESTRY GREETER:

AV CREW: Jason Pate, Camera

ALTAR GUILD: Alice Blake,
Carol Jones, Terryn Abner

FLOWER GUILD: Cara Coreale

HOLY EUCHARIST RITE II ~ 10:30 AM LIVESTREAM

Voluntary *Spiegel im Spiegel* (A. Pärt) Alexei Romanenko, Cello

Introit *Father, we praise thee, now the night is over*

(harm. R. Vaughan Williams)

Hymn 497 *How bright appears the Morning Star* (*Wie schön leuchtet*)

1. How bright appears the Morning Star, with mercy 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-on, ride on, ride on, great 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!

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.*

Song of Praise Hymn 280 *Glory to God in the highest* (R. Powell)

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.

Set us free, O God, from the bondage of our sins, and give us the liberty of that abundant life which you have made known to us in your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

THE FIRST LESSON: ISAIAH 58:1-9A

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

Shout out, do not hold back!
 Lift up your voice like a trumpet!
 Announce to my people their rebellion,
 to the house of Jacob their sins.
 Yet day after day they seek me
 and delight to know my ways,
 as if they were a nation that practiced righteou-
 ness
 and did not forsake the ordinance of
 their God;
 they ask of me righteous judgments,
 they delight to draw near to God.
 "Why do we fast, but you do not see?
 Why humble ourselves, but you do not
 notice?"
 Look, you serve your own interest on your fast
 day,
 and oppress all your workers.
 Look, you fast only to quarrel and to fight
 and to strike with a wicked fist.
 Such fasting as you do today
 will not make your voice heard on high.
 Is such the fast that I choose,
 a day to humble oneself?
 Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush,

and to lie in sackcloth and ashes?
 Will you call this a fast,
 a day acceptable to the LORD?
 Is not this the fast that I choose:
 to loose the bonds of injustice,
 to undo the thongs of the yoke,
 to let the oppressed go free,
 and to break every yoke?
 Is it not to share your bread with the hungry,
 and bring the homeless poor into your
 house;
 when you see the naked, to cover them,
 and not to hide yourself from your own
 kin?
 Then your light shall break forth like the
 dawn,
 and your healing shall spring up quickly;
 your vindicator shall go before you,
 the glory of the LORD shall be your rear
 guard.
 Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer;
 you shall cry for help, and he will say,
 Here I am.

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

PSALM 112:1-9 *Beatus vir*

William Felton
(1715-1769)

1 Hallelujah!

Happy are they who / fear the / Lord *
and have great de- / light in / his com- / mandments!

2 Their descendants will be / mighty in • the / land; *
the generation of the / up - right / will be / blessed.

3 Wealth and riches will / be in • their / house, *
and their / righteousness • will / last for / ever.

4 Light shines in the / darkness for • the / upright; *
the righteous are / merciful • and / full of • com- / passion.

5 It is good for them to be / generous • in / lending *
and to / manage their • af - / fairs with / justice.

6 For they will / never • be / shaken; *
the righteous will be kept in / ev – er- / lasting • re- / membrance.

7 They will not be afraid of any / e - vil / rumors; *
their heart is right;
they / put their / trust in • the / Lord.

8 Their heart is established and / will not / shrink, *
until they see their de- / sire up- / on their / enemies.

9 They have given / freely to • the / poor, *
and their righteousness stands fast for ever;
they will / hold up • their / head with / honor.

THE EPISTLE: 1 Corinthians 2:1-12

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

When I came to you, brothers and sisters, I did not come proclaiming the mystery of God to you in lofty words or wisdom. For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and him crucified. And I came to you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling. My speech and my proclamation were not with plausible words of wisdom, but with a demonstration of the Spirit and of power, so that your faith might rest not on human wisdom but on the power of God.

Yet among the mature we do speak wisdom, though it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are doomed to perish. But we speak God's wisdom, secret and hidden, which God decreed before the ages for our glory. None of the rulers of this age understood this; for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. But, as it is written,

“What no eye has seen, nor ear heard,
nor the human heart conceived,
what God has prepared for those who love him”—

these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. For what human being knows what is truly human except the human spirit that is within? So also no one comprehends what is truly God's except the Spirit of God. Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit that is from God, so that we may understand the gifts bestowed on us by God.

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

Sequence Hymn 488 *Be thou my vision (Slane)*

1 Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;
2 Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true word;
3 High King of hea - ven, when vic - tory is won,

all else be noug - to me, save that thou art -
I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord;
may I reach hea - ven's joys, bright hea - ven's Sun!

thou my best thought, by day or by night,
thou my great Fa - ther; thine own may I be;
Heart of my heart, what - ev - er be - fall,

wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.
thou in me dwell - ing, and I one with thee.
still be my vis - ion, O Ru - ler of all.

Words: Irish, ca. 700; versified Mary Elizabeth Byrne (1880-1931); tr. Eleanor H. Hull (1860-1935), alt. Music: *Slane*, Irish ballad melody; adapt. *The Church Hymnary*, 1927; harm. David Evans (1874-1948). By permission of Oxford University Press.

THE GOSPEL: Matthew 5:1-12

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

Jesus said, "You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under foot.

"You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

"Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same, will be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven."

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 Form VI found on page 392. *[Pause for a slow count to three]*

The Leader and People pray responsively

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

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

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

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

For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;
For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.

For the peace and unity of the Church of God;
For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.

For Sarah, the Archbishop of Canterbury; for Sean, our Presiding Bishop; for Glenda, our bishop; Richard, our bishop elect, for Candice and David our clergy; and for all bishops and other ministers;
For all who serve God in his Church.

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation 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.

Silence

The People may add their own petitions.

Hear us, Lord;

For your mercy is great.

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

Silence

The People may add their own thanksgivings

We will exalt you, O God our King;

And praise your Name for ever and ever.

We pray for all who have died, especially for those in whose memory the altar flowers are given Beth M. Grover, H. D. Grover, Carter D. Roberts, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom.

Silence

The People may add their own petitions

We pray for the safety of our armed forces both here and abroad; 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; and we give thanks for Ascension Day School.

Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon them;

Who put their trust in you.

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

Silence may be kept.

Leader and People

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

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

The 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 *Light of the World* (A. Carter)

Behold, I stand at the door and knock: If any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, I will come in to him, and sup with him, and he with me. Jesus said, I am the light of the world: He that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, But shall have the light of life. Jesus said, I am the good shepherd: that giveth his life for the sheep. Jesus said, I am the way, the truth, and the life. Jesus said, I am the resurrection and the life. Behold, I stand and the door and knock: I will come to you, I will come to you, I will come to you. Behold, I stand at the door and knock.

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

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

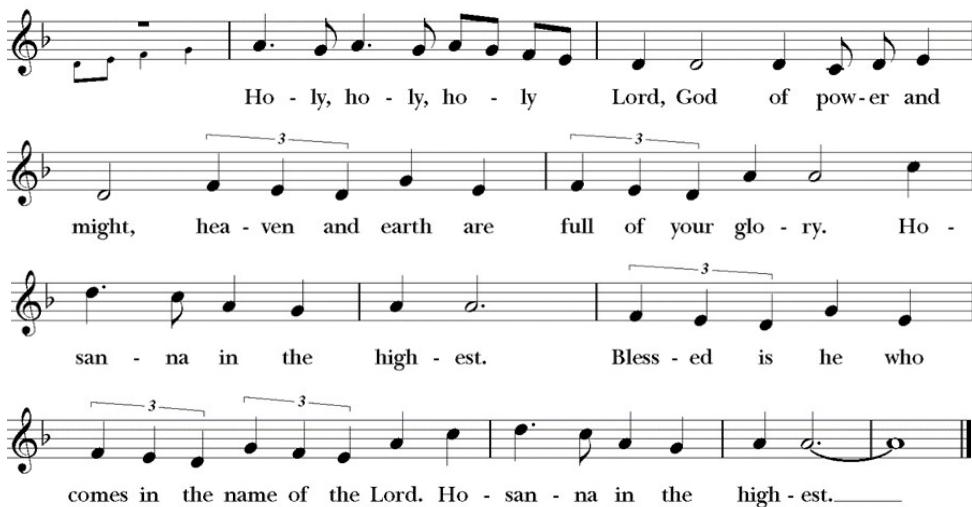
The Celebrant proceeds

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)



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.

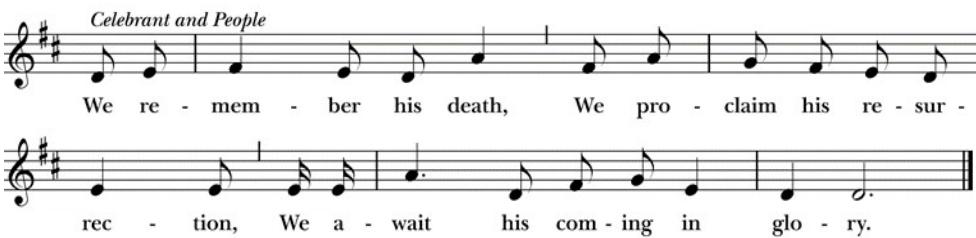
On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

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)

The musical score consists of four staves of music in common time, treble clef, and a key signature of one sharp. The lyrics are integrated into the music, with the first two staves sharing a common melody and the third and fourth staves sharing another. Measure numbers 1, 3, and 5 are indicated above the staves. The lyrics are as follows:

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 Voluntary: Klavier-Trio in Eb: Andante con Moto (F. Schubert)

Communion Hymns: *Hymnal 1982*: 490

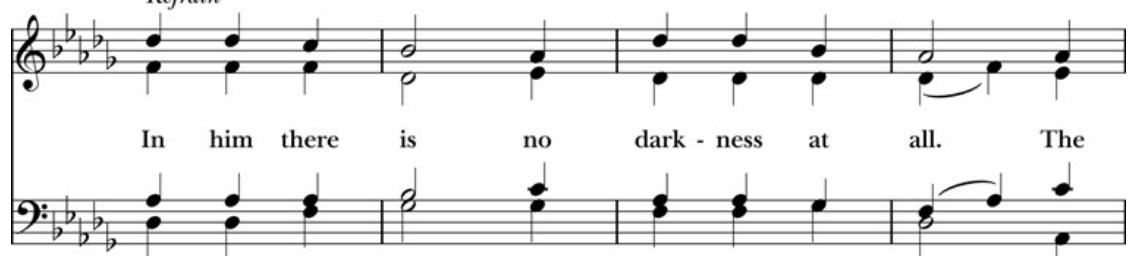
1 I want to walk as a child of the light.
 2 I want to see the brightness of God.
 3 I'm looking for the coming of Christ.

I want to follow Je - sus.
 I want to look at Je - sus.
 I want to be with Je - sus.

God set the stars to give light to the world. The
 Clear sun of right-eous-ness, shine on my path,
 When we have run with pa-tience the and we



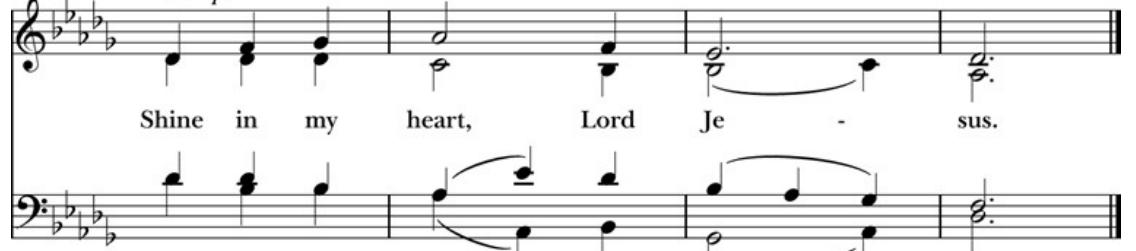
Refrain



night and the day are both a - like. The



a tempo



Words: Kathleen Thomerson (b. 1934). Copyright © 1970, 1975, Celebration, Aliquippa, PA 15001. All Rights Reserved. Used by permission. Music: Houston, Kathleen Thomerson (b. 1934).

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 542 *Christ is the world's true light (St. Joan)*

1 Christ is the world's true Light, its Cap-tain of sal - va - tion,
2 In Christ all rac - es meet, their an-cient feuds for - get - ting,
3 One Lord, in one great Name u - nite us all who own thee;

the Day - star clear and bright of ev - ery race and na - - tion;
the whole round world com - plete, from sun-rise to its set - - ting;
cast out our pride and shame that hin-der to en - throne thee;

new life, new hope a - wakes, for all who own his sway:
when Christ is throned as Lord all shall for - sake their fear,
the world has wait - ed long, has tra - vailed long in pain;

free - dom her bond - age breaks, and night is turned to day.
to plough-share beat the sword, to prun - ing - hook the spear.
to heal its an - cient wrong, come, Prince of Peace, and reign.

Dismissal

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

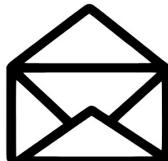
Thanks be to God. Alleluia. Alleluia!

Voluntary**WAYS TO GIVE AT ASCENSION**

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Montgomery, AL



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833-901-2138



Giving envelopes available upon
request—contact Tracy Hinton



venmo



Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper and ADS Art Show

Tuesday, February 17th

4:30pm - 6:30pm

\$5/person or \$20/family

Come support our ADS families and get to know them a little better! All proceeds benefit ADS.



ASH WEDNESDAY

Wednesday, February 18th

Services at

7:00AM, 12:05PM, 5:30PM

5:30PM will be livestreamed

The imposition of ashes alongside Holy Eucharist is designed to help us remember not simply that we are dust—but that we are God's dust



THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION

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