



We believe in sharing love and grace

*THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE*  
*ASCENSION*

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

**THE FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT**

Sunday, February 22, 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

**MINISTERS SERVING THIS SUNDAY**

**ORGANIST/CHOIRMASTER:**

Rebecca Taylor

**LECTOR:** Richard Norris

**LEMS:** Brad Curvin, Kaye Porter,  
Anne Kimzey

**VERGER:** Bill Garrett

**ACOLYTES:** TEAM MATTHEW:

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

**CHILDREN'S CHURCH:**

Elizabeth & John Goodwyn

**VESTRY GREETER:**

Robert Prescott, Ed Walker

**AV CREW:** Jason Pate

**ALTAR GUILD:** Anne Kimzey,  
Patty McDonald

**FLOWER GUILD:** Patty McDonald





*Officiant* Son of God, we beseech thee to hear us.  
*People* Son of God, we beseech thee to hear us.



O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, Have mer-cy up-on us.  
 O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, Have mer-cy up-on us.



O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, Grant us thy peace.  
 O Christ, hear us. O Christ, hear us.

*When the litany is sung immediately before the Eucharist, the Litany concludes with the Kyries (which may be sung to any setting), and the Eucharist begins with the Salutation and the Collect of the day.*

*On all other occasions, the Litany continues as follows:*



*Officiant* Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.  
*People* Christ, have mer - cy up - on us.  
*Officiant* Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.



Ky - ri - e e - lei - son.  
 Chri - ste e - lei - son.  
 Ky - ri - e e - lei - son.

or

**THE WORD OF GOD**

**Collect of the Day**

BCP 325

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.  
*People* And with thy spirit.  
*Celebrant* Let us pray.

Almighty God, whose blessed Son was led by the Spirit to be tempted by Satan: Make speed to help thy servants who are assaulted by manifold temptations; and, as thou knowest their several infirmities, let each one find thee mighty to save; through Jesus Christ thy Son our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen.*

**THE FIRST READING: Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7**

*A reading from the book of Genesis.*

The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. And the Lord God commanded the man, "You may freely eat of every tree of the garden; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die."

Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God say, 'You shall not eat from any tree in the garden'?" The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.'" But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not die; for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

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

## PSALM 32 *Beati quorum*

Thomas Dupuis  
(1733–1796)



- 1 Happy are they whose trans- / gressions are • for- / given, \*  
and whose / sin is / put a- / way!
- 2 Happy are they to whom the Lord im- / putes no / guilt, \*  
and in whose / spirit • there / is no / guile!
- 3 While I held my tongue, my bones / withered • a- / way, \*  
because of my / groan - ing / all day / long.
- 4 For your hand was heavy upon me / day and / night; \*  
my moisture was dried up as in the / heat of / **sum-** / mer.
- 5 Then I acknowledged my / sin to / you, \*  
and did / not con - / ceal my / guilt.
- 6 I said, " I will confess my / transgressions to • the / Lord." \*  
Then you forgave me the / **guilt** / of my / sin.
- 7 Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in /  
time of / trouble; \*  
when the great waters overflow, they / shall not / **reach** / them.
- 8 You are my hiding-place;  
you pre- / serve me • from / trouble; \*  
you surround me with / **shouts** / of de- / liverance.
- 9 "I will instruct you and teach you in the way that / you should / go; \*  
I will / guide you / with my / eye.
- 10 Do not be like horse or mule, which have / no un- • der / standing; \*  
who must be fitted with bit and bridle,  
or else they / will not / stay near / you."
- 11 Great are the tribu- / lations of • the / wicked; \*  
but mercy embraces / those who / trust in • the / Lord.
- 12 Be glad, you righteous, and re- / joice in • the / Lord; \*  
shout for joy, / all who • are / true of / heart.

## THE EPISTLE: ROMANS 5:12-19

*A reading from the Paul's letter to the Romans.*

As sin came into the world through one man, and death came through sin, and so death spread to all because all have sinned-- sin was indeed in the world before the law, but sin is not reckoned when there is no law. Yet death exercised dominion from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sins were not like the transgression of Adam, who is a type of the one who was to come.

But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died through the one man's trespass, much more surely have the grace of God and the free gift in the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, abounded for the many. And the free gift is not like the effect of the one man's sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the free gift following many trespasses brings justification. If, because of the one man's trespass, death exercised dominion through that one, much more surely will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness exercise dominion in life through the one man, Jesus Christ.

Therefore just as one man's trespass led to condemnation for all, so one man's act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all. For just as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.

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

### Sequence Hymn 142 *Lord, who throughout these forty days (St. Flavian)*

1 Lord, who through-out these for - ty days for us didst fast and pray,  
2 As thou with Sa - tan didst con - tend, and didst the vic - tory win,  
3 As thou didst hun - ger bear and thirst, so teach us, gra - cious Lord,  
4 And through these days of pen - i - tence, and through thy Pas - sion - tide,  
5 A - bide with us, that so, this life of suf - fering o - ver - past,

1 teach us with thee to mourn our sins, and close by thee to stay.  
2 O give us strength in thee to fight, in thee to con - quer sin.  
3 to die to self, and chief - ly live by thy most ho - ly word.  
4 yea, ev - er - more, in life and death, Je - sus! with us a - bide.  
5 an Eas - ter of un - end - ing joy we may at - tain at last!

Words: Claudia Frances Hernaman (1838-1898). Music: *St. Flavian*, melody from *Day's Psalter*, 1562; adapt, and harm. Richard Redhead (1820-1901).

### HOLY GOSPEL MATTHEW 4:1-11

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

Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished. The tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." But he answered, "It is written,

‘One does not live by bread alone,  
but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.’”

Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down; for it is written,

‘He will command his angels concerning you,’  
and ‘On their hands they will bear you up,  
so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.’”

Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’”

Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor; and he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me." Jesus said to

him, "Away with you, Satan! for it is written,

"Worship the Lord your God,  
and serve only him."

Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

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

## Sermon

The Rev. Candice B. Frazer

## Nicene Creed

We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father.  
Through him all things were made.  
For us and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven:  
by the power of the Holy Spirit  
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,  
and was made man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.  
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.  
He has spoken through the Prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

## The 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; Sean, our Presiding Bishop; Glenda our bishop; Richard our bishop elect; 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 Julia, 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, Ann, 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 pray for The Way, The Truth, and The Life, our capital campaign.

And we also bless thy holy Name for all thy servants departed this life in thy faith and fear, we pray for those in whose memory the altar greenery is given, Martha Jane Dawson, M. T. (Taylor) Dawson, Jr, Ruth Sutherland Dawson, M. T. (Ben) Dawson, James Thomas Hamm, Virginia Foxworth Hamm, Martha Jane Pinson, James Thomas Hamm, Jr., 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**

*Celebrant:* Ye who do truly and earnestly repent you of your sins, and are in love and charity with your neighbors, and intend to lead a new life, following the commandments of God, and walking from henceforth in his holy ways: Draw near with faith, and make your humble confession to Almighty God, devoutly kneeling.

*Silence may be kept.*

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.*

### **Absolution and Comfortable Words**

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.*

*A minister may then say one or more of the following sentences, first saying*  
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**

*Celebrant*            The peace of the Lord be always with you.  
*People*                *And with thy spirit.*

### **Announcements**

*Giving is available on-line by going to [www.coascension.org](http://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** *Depth of mercy* (D. Gustafson)

*Depth of mercy! Can there be Mercy still reserved for me? Can my God His wrath forbear, Me, the chief of sinners, spare? Depth of mercy! I have long withstood his grace, Long provoked him to His face. Would not hearken to His calls, Grieved Him by a thousand falls. Depth of mercy! There for me the Savior stands Holding forth His wounded hands; God is love! I know, I feel, Jesus weeps and loves me still. Love me still. Amen.*

**PRESENTATION** *Doxology Hymn 380, vs. 3 (Old 100th)*  
*All things come of thee, O Lord,*  
*And of thine own have we given thee. Amen.*

## HOLY COMMUNION

### The Great Thanksgiving Prayer I

*The people remain standing. The Celebrant, whether bishop or priest, faces them and sings or says*

	The Lord be with you.
<i>People</i>	<i>And with thy spirit.</i>
<i>Celebrant</i>	Lift up your hearts.
<i>People</i>	<i>We lift them up unto the Lord.</i>
<i>Celebrant</i>	Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.
<i>People</i>	<i>It is meet and right so to do.</i>

*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.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord, who was in every way tempted as we are, yet did not sin; by whose grace we are able to triumph over every evil, and to love no longer unto ourselves, but unto him who dies for us and rose again.

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

*Celebrant and People*

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Hosts:  
Heaven and earth are full of thy Glory.  
Glory be to thee, O Lord Most High.

*Here may be added*

Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.

*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 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

*A period of silence is kept.*

Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

*Therefore let us keep the feast.*

*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 411 *O bless the Lord, my soul* (St. Thomas (Williams))

1 O bless the Lord, my soul! His grace to thee pro - claim!  
2 O bless the Lord, my soul! His mer - cies bear in mind!  
3 He will not al - ways chide; he will with pa - tience wait;  
4 He par - dons all thy sins, pro - longs thy fee - ble breath;  
5 He clothes thee with his love, up - holds thee with his truth;

1 And all that is with - in me join to bless his ho - ly Name!  
2 For - get not all his ben - e - fits! The Lord to thee is kind.  
3 his wrath is ev - er slow to rise and rea - dy to a - bate.  
4 he heal - eth thine in - fir - mi - ties and ran - soms thee from death.  
5 and like the ea - gle he re - news the vi - gor of thy youth.

6 Then bless his holy Name,  
whose grace hath made thee whole,  
whose loving-kindness crowns thy days:  
O bless the Lord, my soul!

Words: James Montgomery (1771-1854); para. of Psalm 103. Music: *St. Thomas (Williams)*, melody Aaron Williams (1731-1776); harm. Lowell Mason (1792-1872).

*The Bread and the Cup are given to the communicants with these words*

The Body of our Lord Jesus Christ, which was given for thee, preserve thy body and soul unto everlasting life. Take and eat this in remembrance that Christ died for thee, and feed on him in thy heart by faith, with thanksgiving.

The Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, which was shed for thee, preserve thy body and soul unto everlasting life. Drink this in remembrance that Christ's Blood was shed for thee, and be thankful.

## 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.**

*After Communion, the Celebrant says*

Let us pray.

*The People may join in saying this prayer*

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

Grant, Almighty God, that your people may recognize their weakness and put their whole trust in your strength, so that they may rejoice for ever in the protection of your loving providence; and the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost be upon you and remain with you always. Amen

Hymn in Procession 150 *Forty days and forty nights (Aus der Tiefe rufe ich)*

1 For - ty days and for - ty nights thou wast fast - ing in the wild;  
2 Should not we thy sor - row share and from world - ly joys ab - stain,  
3 Then if Sa - tan on us press, Je - sus, Sa - vior, hear our call!  
4 So shall we have peace di - vine: ho - lier glad - ness ours shall be;  
5 Keep, O keep us, Sa - vior dear, ev - er con - stant by thy side;

1 for - ty days and for - ty nights tempt - ed, and yet un - de - filed.  
2 fast - ing with un - ceas - ing prayer, strong with thee to suf - fer pain?  
3 Vic - tor in the wil - der - ness, grant we may not faint nor fall!  
4 round us, too, shall an - gels shine, such as min - is - tered to thee.  
5 that with thee we may ap - pear at the e - ter - nal Eas - ter - tide.

Words: George Hunt Smytton (1822-1870), alt. Music: *Aus der Tiefe rufe ich*, melody att. Martin Herbst (1654-1681), alt.; harm. William Henry Monk (1823-1889).

### Dismissal

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

### THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION

315 CLANTON AVENUE

MONTGOMERY, AL 36104

(334)263-5529 ♦ STAFF@COASCENSION.ORG

[www.coascension.org](http://www.coascension.org)

Like us on Facebook, Instagram, YouTube and your favorite Podcast Channel

The Episcopal Church of the Ascension

@coascension

