



The Thirteenth Sunday

After Pentecost • Proper 18 • Year C

Sunday, September 7, 2025 • 10:00 a.m.

Welcome to Church of the Ascension. We are an inclusive community that respects the dignity of every human being. Therefore, whoever you are in terms of race, ethnicity, gender, age, sexual orientation, gender identity, or ability and wherever you are on your faith journey, we welcome you and hope you will give us an opportunity to be your spiritual home.

The lit candle before the altar is “the Peace and Justice Candle.” It stands to proclaim our commitment against any kind of injustice, prejudice, or discrimination based on difference, and also our prayers for an end to war, violence, genocide, and gun violence.

THE HOLY EUCHARIST RITE II

PRELUDE

Where He Leads Me

John S. Norris; Arr. Cindy Berry

Bailey Joy Myers, *piano*


PROCESSIONAL HYMN

HYMNAL 423

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

Words: Walter Chalmers Smith (1824-1908), alt.

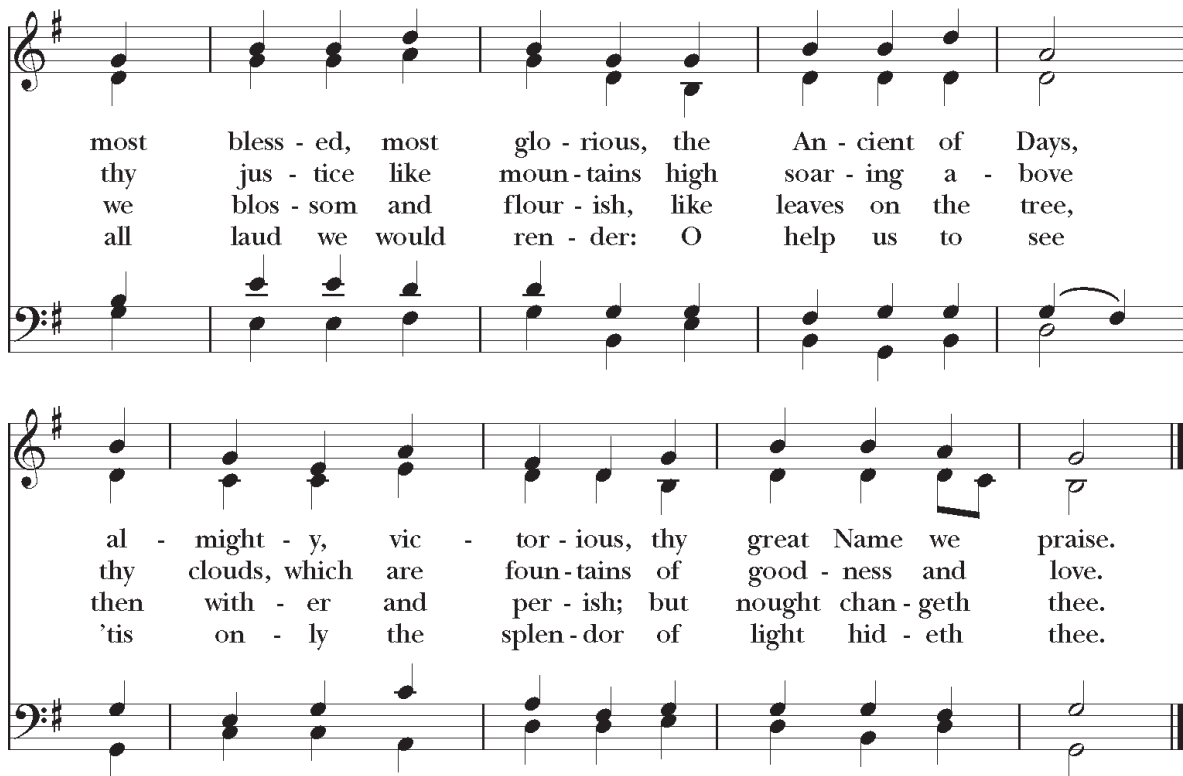
Music: *St. Denio*, Welsh hymn, from *Caniadau y Cyssegr*, 1839; adapt. John Roberts (1822-1877); harm. *The English Hymnal*, 1906, alt.



THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION, SLIGO PARISH

633 Sligo Ave. • Offices: 634 Silver Spring Ave., Silver Spring, MD 20910

301-587-3272 • www.ascensionsilverspring.org



most bless - ed, most glo - rious, the An - cient of Days,
 thy jus - tice like moun - tains high soar - ing a - bove
 we blos - som and flour - ish, like leaves on the tree,
 all laud we would ren - der: O help us to see

al - might - y, vic - tor - ious, thy great Name we praise.
 thy clouds, which are foun - tains of good - ness and love.
 then with - er and per - ish; but nought chan - geth thee.
 'tis on - ly the splen - dor of light hid - eth thee.

The people standing, the Celebrant says

LITURGY OF GOD'S WELCOME

God has shown us what is good, and what then is required of us?

To act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with our God.

Let us welcome our visitors who are here in person and online, and all those who are in the process of seeking a church home.

Jesus says: Anyone who welcomes you welcomes me and anyone who welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me.

The Sweet, Sweet Spirit, says "Come."

Let each of us, proclaim with our lips, "Come" for all are welcome here.

Black, White, and Native American; African and Caribbean; Hispanic and European; Asian and Middle Eastern; native born, immigrants, and refugees, all cultures, and ethnicities.

Whatever your sexual orientation or gender identity is, or your relationship status, single, partnered, married, divorced, or widowed.

You are welcome here.

We want this to be perfectly clear: All people are welcome here.

Women, men, children, and all kinds of families are welcome here.

You can bring children to worship here. Their chatter and cries are like angelic music to our ears.

All are welcome here.

Let it be known that we take seriously God's welcome, God's invitation, to come,
be forgiven, fed, renewed, healed, and raised up.

Welcome stranger, young and old, rich, poor, seeker and skeptic.

ALL ARE WELCOME HERE.

All are welcome here indeed.

And now let us, welcome our new members, far and near, who have joined this
congregation, and affirm our mutual ministry in Christ.

**We welcome you with joy in the common life of this church. We covenant with you
to equip one another for the work to which we feel called: striving for peace and
justice among all people, protecting and restoring the integrity of all God's creation,
and bringing hope to those most vulnerable.**

And now may all of us here gathered today, go forth, and be vehicles of God's welcome
in the world, wherever the road of life takes us, so we can build a church that reflects
God's heart of love, peace, justice, and hope.

Alleluia. Alleluia. AMEN.

Sources: Adapted from 1) ©2015 More Light Presbyterians. Building a Church that Reflects God's Heart.
2) Liturgy of Welcome of the Center for Progressive Christianity.

SONG OF PRAISE LEVAS 246

Praise, Honor, and Glory

Words & Music: Don Sasser

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To be sung twice.

1.

Praise, praise, hon - or and glo - ry, Praise, praise,

1. hon - or and glo - ry, 2. Hon - or and glo - ry to Christ, our King.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

Grant us, O Lord, to trust in you with all our hearts; for, as you always resist the proud who confide in their own strength, so you never forsake those who make their boast of your mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE FIRST LESSON

Libbie Griffin, Lector

Deuteronomy 30:15-20

A Reading from the Book of Deuteronomy.

Moses said to all Israel the words which the Lord commanded him, "See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, death and adversity. If you obey the commandments of the Lord your God that I am commanding you today, by loving the Lord your God, walking in his ways, and observing his commandments, decrees, and ordinances, then you shall live and become numerous, and the Lord your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to possess. But if your heart turns away and you do not hear, but are led astray to bow down to other gods and serve them, I declare to you today that you shall perish; you shall not live long in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess. I call heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live, loving the Lord your God, obeying him, and holding fast to him; for that means life to you and length of days, so that you may live in the land that the Lord swore to give to your ancestors, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.»

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

PSALM 1

Libbie Griffin, Lector

- 1 Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel of the wicked, *
nor lingered in the way of sinners,
nor sat in the seats of the scornful!**
- 2 Their delight is in the law of the LORD, *
and they meditate on his law day and night.**
- 3 They are like trees planted by streams of water,
bearing fruit in due season, with leaves that do not wither; *
everything they do shall prosper.**
- 4 It is not so with the wicked; *
they are like chaff which the wind blows away.**
- 5 Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when judgment comes, *
nor the sinner in the council of the righteous.**
- 6 For the LORD knows the way of the righteous, *
but the way of the wicked is doomed.**

THE SECOND LESSON

Libbie Griffin, *Lector*

Philemon 1-21

A Reading from The Letter of Paul to Philemon.

Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother,

To Philemon our dear friend and co-worker, to Apphia our sister, to Archippus our fellow soldier, and to the church in your house:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

When I remember you in my prayers, I always thank my God because I hear of your love for all the saints and your faith toward the Lord Jesus. I pray that the sharing of your faith may become effective when you perceive all the good that we may do for Christ. I have indeed received much joy and encouragement from your love, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you, my brother.

For this reason, though I am bold enough in Christ to command you to do your duty, yet I would rather appeal to you on the basis of love-- and I, Paul, do this as an old man, and now also as a prisoner of Christ Jesus. I am appealing to you for my child, Onesimus, whose father I have become during my imprisonment. Formerly he was useless to you, but now he is indeed useful both to you and to me. I am sending him, that is, my own heart, back to you. I wanted to keep him with me, so that he might be of service to me in your place during my imprisonment for the gospel; but I preferred to do nothing without your consent, in order that your good deed might be voluntary and not something forced. Perhaps this is the reason he was separated from you for a while, so that you might have him back forever, no longer as a slave but more than a slave, a beloved brother-- especially to me but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord.

So if you consider me your partner, welcome him as you would welcome me. If he has wronged you in any way, or owes you anything, charge that to my account. I, Paul, am writing this with my own hand: I will repay it. I say nothing about your owing me even your own self. Yes, brother, let me have this benefit from you in the Lord! Refresh my heart in Christ. Confident of your obedience, I am writing to you, knowing that you will do even more than I say.

The Word of the Lord.

People

Thanks be to God.



THE GRADUAL HYMN

EOM 149

Ubi Caritas/Live In Charity

To be sung twice.

U - bi ca - ri - tas et a - mor,
Live in char - i - ty and stead - fast love,
u - bi ca - ri - tas De - us i - bi est.
live in char - i - ty; God will dwell with you.

THE GOSPEL

Luke 14:25-33

Deacon The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Now large crowds were traveling with Jesus; and he turned and said to them, "Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple. Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and estimate the cost, to see whether he has enough to complete it? Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it will begin to ridicule him, saying, 'This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.' Or what king, going out to wage war against another king, will not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to oppose the one who comes against him with twenty thousand? If he cannot, then, while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for the terms of peace. So therefore, none of you can become my disciple if you do not give up all your possessions."

The Gospel of the Lord.

People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

SERMON

The Rev. Dr. Joan E. Beilstein, Rector

A moment of silence for reflection will follow the sermon.

THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We believe in God above us, maker and sustainer of all life,
of sun and moon, of water and earth, of male and female.

We believe in God beside us, Jesus Christ, the word made flesh,
born of a woman, servant of the poor, tortured and
nailed to a tree.

A man of sorrows, he died forsaken.
He descended into the earth to the place of death.
On the third day he rose from the tomb.
He ascended into heaven to be everywhere present,
and his kingdom will come on earth.

We believe in God within us, the Holy Spirit of Pentecostal fire,
Life-giving breath of the church,
Spirit of healing and forgiveness,
Source of resurrection and of eternal life. *Amen.*

From the Abbey of Iona, Scotland (Celtic)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE FORM VI Annie Brown, *Intercessor*

392

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 this community, the nation, and the world;
For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.

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

For Sean our Presiding Bishop; Mariann our Bishop; Joan, our rector; Terri, our deacon; Bailey, our Director of Music Ministries; Ana, Lisa, and Carmen, our parish staff; and our vestry. In our Diocese we pray for all who are seeking that they might find their path to loving and living as Christ. We pray also for The Church of the Holy Communion, DC; Diocesan Youth Ministry; and Diocesan Young Adult Ministry. and all whose passion and work is formation. In the Anglican Communion we pray for The Anglican Church of Southern Africa.

For all who serve God in God's Church.

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation, especially **Peter ... Norma ... Tony ... Cindy ... Ashley ... Christopher ... Mike ... David ... Emily¹ ... Alenda ... *Heidi ... *Vivi ... Judith ... Olivia ... *Keith ... John ... Emily² ... Sean ... Leticia ... Geoff ... Jere ... The Hargraves Family ... The Haines and Harrigan Family ... The Hernan Family ... *Maggie ... *Brandon ... Bruce ... Martina ... The Jennings Family ... Joe ... Linda ... Carlo ... Minda ... Thelma ... Trish ... Roland ... Alex ... *Sharon ... Joy ... *Susan ... Venus ... Carlos ... Barbara ... Astrid ... Robin ... Raymond ... The Seme Family ... Karen ... *Martha ... Ceil ... *Joyce ... *Joan ... The Thomas Family ... *Libby ... and Glenn.**

Hear us, Lord;
For your mercy is great.

We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life. Today we pray for the following members of our parish: Fred Paul; Deborah Percell and Blaise, Dylan, and Blaise Anthony Strandquest; Nelson, Ursula, Marshall and Zora Peters; Susan Poling; and Maria Pracher. We also pray for those celebrating birthdays: Lizzie Cremons (5), Steve Fromyer, Julia Barlow, Arabella Littlepage, and Bob Cosby.

We will exalt you, O God our King;

And praise your Name for ever and ever.

We pray for all who have died, especially Tracy Deiter, member of Ascension, Cathedral Staff, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom.

Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon them;

Who put their trust in you.

I invite you now to offer your petitions or thanksgivings either aloud or in the silence of your hearts.

Silence

Deacon

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

Silence

CONFESSION

God of all mercy, we know that we have fallen short: We turn our backs when we could embrace; we remain silent when we could speak; we speak when we could listen. When we could fling the door open, instead we close it; when we could be open hearted, instead we judge. Forgive us, O God, and strengthen us to grow into the people you created us to be, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE ABSOLUTION

THE PEACE

Celebrant The Peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

WELCOME AND BRIEF ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE HOLY COMMUNION

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Crowded Table

Words & Music: by Natalie Hemby, Lori McKenna, and Brandi Carlile

The Chancel Choir directed by **Bailey Joy Myers**

Arr. Andrea Ramsey

*You can hold my hand
When you need to let go.
I can be a mountain
When you're feeling valley-low.
I can be a streetlight
Showing you the way home,
If you can hold my hand
When you need to let go,

I want a house with a crowded table,
And a place by the fire for everyone.
Let us take on the world while we're young and able,
And bring us back together when the day is done.*

*If we want a garden,
We're gonna have to sow the seed,
Plant a little happiness,
Let the roots run deep.
If it's love that we give,
Then it's love that we reap.
If we want a garden,
We're gonna have to sow the seeds.


The door is always open,
Your picture's on my wall,
Everyone's a little broken,
And everyone belongs.*

OFFERTORY HYMN
LEVAS 148

I'm a-Going to Eat at the Welcome Table

Words: Traditional

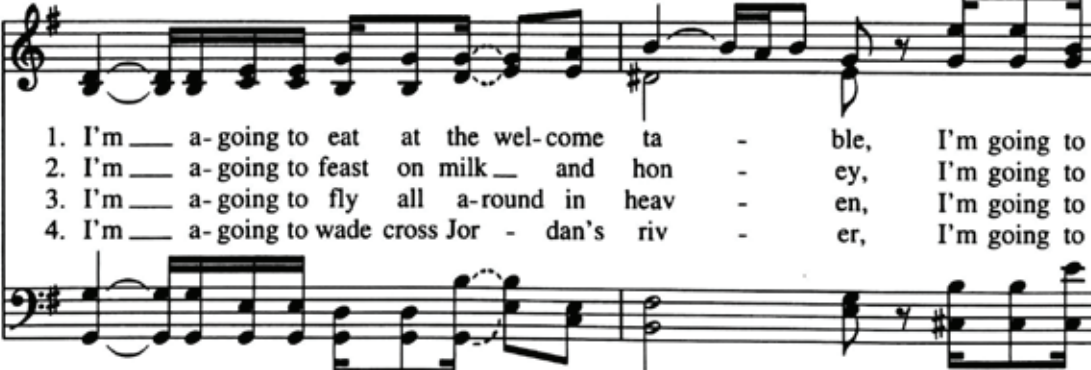
Music: Negro Spiritual; arr. Carl Diton (1886-1969), from *36 South Carolina Spirituals*



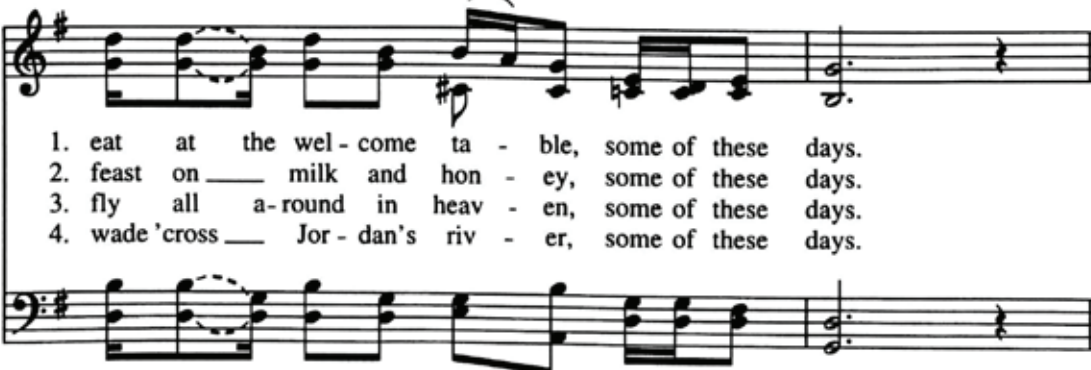
1. I'm ___ a-going to eat at the wel-come ta - ble,
2. I'm ___ a-going to feast on milk ___ and hon - ey,
3. I'm ___ a-going to fly all a-round in heav - en,
4. I'm ___ a-going to wade cross Jor - dan's riv - er,



1. I'm ___ a-going to eat at the wel-come ta - ble, some of these days. ___
2. I'm ___ a-going to feast on ___ milk and hon - ey, some of these days. ___
3. I'm ___ a-going to fly all a-round in heav - en, some of these days. ___
4. I'm ___ a-going to wade cross Jor - dan's riv - er, some of these days. ___



1. I'm ___ a-going to eat at the wel-come ta - ble, I'm going to
2. I'm ___ a-going to feast on milk ___ and hon - ey, I'm going to
3. I'm ___ a-going to fly all a-round in heav - en, I'm going to
4. I'm ___ a-going to wade cross Jor - dan's riv - er, I'm going to



1. eat at the wel - come ta - ble, some of these days.
2. feast on ___ milk and hon - ey, some of these days.
3. fly all a-round in heav - en, some of these days.
4. wade 'cross ___ Jor - dan's riv - er, some of these days.

OFFERTORY WORDS

Celebrant All things come of thee, O Lord.

People **And of thine own have we given thee.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING: EUCHARIST PRAYER B

Celebrant 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 God thanks and praise.**

Then, facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds

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

For by water and the Holy Spirit you have made us a new people in Jesus Christ our Lord, to show forth your glory in all the world.

And so, we join the saints and angels in proclaiming your glory, as we sing,



SANCTUS AND BENEDICTUS

LEVAS 243

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord

Music: Grayson Warren Brown (b. 1948), alt. allr. Val Parker.
© 1979 North American Liturgy Resources, 10802 N. 23rd Ave., Phoenix, AZ 85029. All Rights Reserved.

Ho - ly,

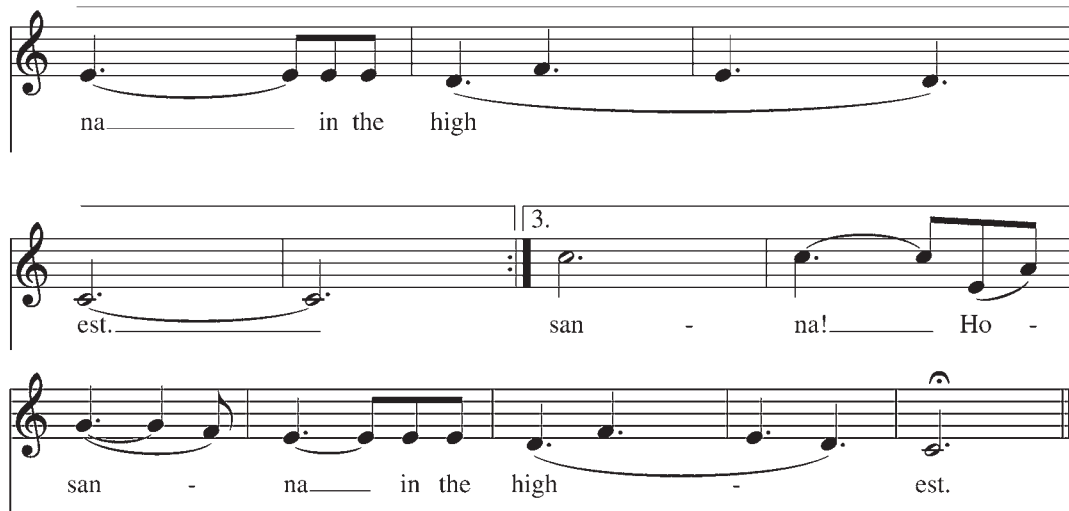
ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, —

God of pow - er and might,

1. Heav - en and earth are full
2.,3. Bless - ed is he who comes

1. of your glo - ry.
2.,3. in the name of the Lord.

1.,2.
Ho - san - na! Ho - san -



The people stand, kneel, or sit.

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 all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."



Therefore, according to his command, O God,

**We remember his death,
We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory;**

And we offer this 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 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.**

And now, in hope and confidence, let us pray as our Savior Christ has taught us,

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. *Amen.*

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.
Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia!

FRACTION ANTHEM

Eat This Bread

Taizé.

Eat this bread, drink this cup, come to me and nev-er be hun-gry.

Eat this bread, drink this cup, trust in me and you will not thirst.

THE INVITATION

The Gifts of God for you the beloved people of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ lived, died, and rose for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

*No matter where you are on your walk of faith, this is Christ's table and all are welcome to the Feast.
Gluten-free wafers available upon request.*

THE ADMINISTRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

I Shall Not Leave from by your Side

Words: Chris Shelton

Tune: *Prospect, Southern Harmony*, harm. David N. Johnson. © 2018 Chris Shelton

1. I shall not leave from by your side;
 2. Your peo - ple, I shall call my own;
 3. And when, at last, you close your eyes,
 4. May God who binds us heart to heart,

where you will live, I shall a - bide.
 flesh of my flesh, and bone of bone;
 and an - gels with us, your soul ne - ver rise, part.

Where you will go, I'll walk with you.
 and to your heart shall God fly praise,
 my heart joy or pain may heaven round my with you,
 Though joy or pain may heaven round us roll,

Where you will sleep, I'll slum - ber too.
 the One whose love not shall fill our days.
 for death can - not such love un - do.
 the love of God shall make us whole.

Will You Come and Follow Me

Words: John L. Bell & Graham Maule
Music: Kelvingrove, Scottish Traditional Words and arrangement © WGRG, Iona Community, Glasgow, UK, 2003. ONE LICENSE, License #A-729163



1. Will you come and fol - low me if I but call your name? ____ Will you
2. Will you leave your-self be - hind if I but call your name? ____ Will you
3. Will you let the blind - ed see if I but call your name? ____ Will you
4. Will you love the 'you' you hide if I but call your name? ____ Will you
5. Lord, your sum - mons ech - oes true when you but call my name. ____ Let me



go where you don't know and ne - ver be the same? ____ Will you let my
care for cruel and kind and ne - ver be the same? ____ Will you risk the
set the pris - 'ners free and ne - ver be the same? ____ Will you kiss the
quell the fear in - side and ne - ver be the same? ____ Will you use the
turn and fol - low you and ne - ver be the same. ____ In your com - pan-



love be shown, ____ will you let my name be known, ____ Will you
hos - tile stare ____ should your life at - tract or scare? ____ Will you
le - per clean, ____ and do such as this un - seen, ____ and ad -
faith you've found ____ to re - shape the world a - round ____ through my
y I'll go ____ where your love and foot - steps show. ____ Thus I'll



let my life be grown in you and you in me? ____
let me ans - wer prayers in you and you in me? ____
mit to what I mean in you and you in me? ____
sight and touch and sound in you and you in me? ____
move and live and grow in you and you in me. ____

THE PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

God of mercy, by whose grace alone we are accepted and equipped for your service: stir up in us the gifts of your Holy Spirit and make us worthy of our calling; that we may bring forth the fruit of the Spirit in love and joy and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

THE BLESSING

DISMISSAL



PROCESSION INTO THE WORLD

HYMNAL 594

God of Grace and God of Glory

Words: Harry Emerson Fosdick (1878-1969), alt.
Music: *Cwm Rhondda*, John Hughes (1873-1932)

1 God of grace and God of glo - ry, on thy peo - ple pour thy power;
2 Lo! the hosts of e - vil round us scorn thy Christ, as - sail his ways!
3 Cure thy chil - dren's war - ring mad - ness, bend our pride to thy con - trol;
4 Save us from weak res - ig - na - tion to the e - vils we de - plore;

crown thine an - cient Church's sto - ry; bring her bud to glo - rious flower.
From the fears that long have bound us free our hearts to faith and praise:
shame our wan - ton, self - ish glad - ness, rich in things and poor in soul.
let the gift of thy sal - va - tion be our glo - ry ev - er - more.

Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age, for the fac - ing of this
grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age, for the liv - ing of these
Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age, lest we miss thy king - dom's
Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age, serv - ing thee whom we a -

hour, for the fac - ing of this hour.
days, for the liv - ing of these days.
goal, lest we miss thy king - dom's goal.
dore, serv - ing thee whom we a - dore.

POSTLUDE

Take Up Your Cross

Bailey Joy Myers, organ

Edward Broughton
Tune: *Bourbon*, attr. to Freeman Lewis

Announcements • September 7, 2025



September Sundays!

TODAY – Welcome Back Sunday and Sunday School Starts!

September 14 – Rector Search All-Parish Town Hall in Parish Hall 11:30 am.
Lunch provided. Childcare and lunch provided for children in Lower Level.

September 21 – Ministry Fair – come see what you're called to do - info sheets provided and questions answered one-on-one! Parish Hall 11:30 am.

September 28 – Baby Shower for Bailey and Kevin! Parish Hall 11:30 am.



Baby Shower for Bailey, our Director of Music Ministries, and her husband, Kevin Grasel (baby's due date early November) Sunday, September 28 at Coffee Hour



This casual community event is **OPEN TO ALL**. No presents required.
For those who are interested, a gift link: <https://my.babylist.com/mrpsauvuf>
or open your camera app and scan the QR code to access the link



Want to contribute drinks/food??

Sign up here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080F4EADA82EABFC1-58262812-babyshower>
Or talk with Paula Chiplis or Leticia Read



Saturday, September 13 • 6:00 p.m.

Play Mah Jongg with Mahj 4 Good
at Church of the Ascension Parish Hall

Learn a new game, build community and raise money for AbodesJoy! AbodesJoy trains and empowers diverse learners – women, nonbinary folx, and transgender people – in home repair to build skills, confidence, and community. AbodesJoy trains and empowers diverse learners – women, nonbinary folx, and transgender people – in home repair to build skills, confidence, and community.
mahj4good@gmail.com to purchase tickets, to either play or learn the play the game!



Ladies Night Out

Wednesday, September 24th • 6 p.m.

at Red Maple, at 4 Corners • 10110 Colesville Rd Silver Spring, MD 20901 Website

Please RSVP to Lisa Middleton at office@ascensionsilverspring.org.



October Coffee Hour Hosts Wanted!

Please Spread the joy!



Sign up using the sign-up sheet on the Parish Hall bulletin board or scan the QR code (also includes instructions).
Email or call Lisa Middleton with questions office@ascensionsilverspring.org or 301-587-3272.



Introducing Music Boosters!

Do you love our music program at Ascension? Are you looking for a fun and impactful way to show your support? You don't have to sing a note to make a difference! Ascension Music Boosters is a new group supporting our Music Ministries through planning, organizing, and creative ideas. Whatever your skills — coordination, hospitality, enthusiasm, or arm strength — we need you! Help us keep the music strong. Become a booster!

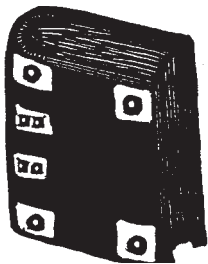
First meeting Sunday, September 21 at noon in the Choir Room!



BEHIND THE SCENES OF THE BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER

Which bishop wrote the majority of the collects in our prayer book?

What even IS a collect?



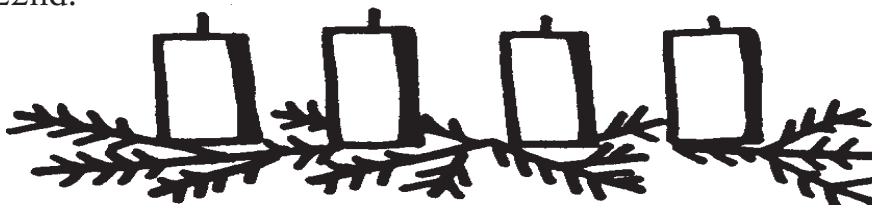
** Join us for a ten-week course using the framework of the book *Praying Shapes Believing* (2016, revised edition) to examine the central document of the Episcopal Church, *The Book of Common Prayer*. We will read the BCP in



manageable pieces, discussing its history, theological context, and what the future holds. We will meet on Monday evenings, beginning at 6 pm with a shared potluck meal, then begin our conversation at 6:30, going until 8 pm.

Email **Anne LeVeque** - anne.leveque@gmail.com - for more information and a schedule of classes. Class begins **September 15th** and goes through **November 17th**.

** **In addition, during Advent**, we will do a special in-depth 4 week course on the Eucharist, following the same format. We will begin on December 1st and go through December 22nd.



Search Committee Update

This summer, the Search Committee (consisting of the elected members of the Vestry) has adopted the **Search Process schedule** you can find on Ascension's website in the Rector Search section (ascensionsilverspring.org/rector-search/). It is subject to change as events and accomplishments impact the timing.

In addition, the Search Committee is developing an **all-parish survey** to be issued in September. Responses to the survey will provide crucial information on Ascension's current strengths, challenges, and growth opportunities. These aspects all impact the kind of next rector and future we envision for Ascension. The Rev. Dr. Anne-Marie Jeffrey, the Diocese's Canon for Congregational Vitality, is actively supporting the Committee in this process. For more information about how we're thinking about parish vitality, please see Vital Signs of Parish Health also in the Rector Search section of Ascension's website

Finally, mark your calendars for a special coffee hour after the **10 am service on Sunday, September 14**, when the Rev. Anna Olson from the Diocese joins us in a all-parish town hall to go over the search process. Lunch will be provided for all and childcare will be provided in the Lower Level during the meeting.

Questions welcome!

Feel free to contact your wardens with any questions or comments you have about the process.

Jane Alperson seniorwarden@ascensionsilverspring.org

Leticia Read juniorwarden@ascensionsilverspring.org



OUR MISSION

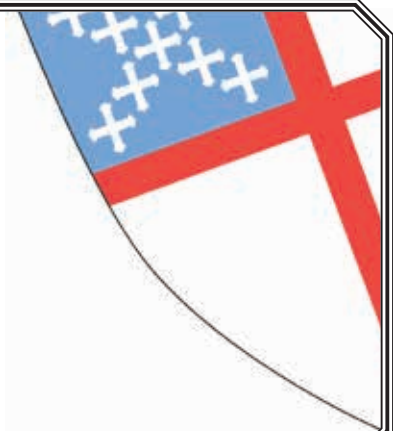
We are an inclusive community of faith grounded in the way of life revealed in Jesus Christ.

OUR VISION

We welcome all.

We join in joyful worship and offer opportunities for everyone to discern and share their spiritual and leadership gifts.

We seek justice and peace, and we build community through prayer, action, and sharing our resources.



Becoming Better Neighbors *Saturday, October 4 10 am - 3 pm*

Epiphany Episcopal Church • 3111 Ritchie Rd, District Heights, MD 20747

Does your church know its neighbors—really know them?

Are you part of a network of people, institutions, needs, services, and shared hopes?

Or are you just another building most people pass without knowing what you do?

This one-day learning event will explore how to build deep, lasting relationships with those around you—relationships of mutual support and shared vision for the future. Relationships where your church is known for what you do and what you believe, even by people whose lives and beliefs differ from yours.

Who should come?

Churches at any stage of growth or vitality

Congregations seeking deeper ties with their community

Leaders wanting to reach younger generations through authentic engagement

Parishes ready to be known as strong, reliable partners in the neighborhood

What to expect:

Presentations by **Stacy Brungardt** of *Focused Community Strategies*,

sharing proven approaches to sustained community connection

Opportunities to learn from one another, swap ideas, and start planning next steps

Details:

Lunch provided (dietary needs accommodated) • Spanish and ASL interpretation available by request



Join a Silent Retreat at Claggett • October 17-19

Is your spirit silently yearning for an escape from the clatter, commotion, and cacophony of the current times? Where, you wonder, might you find a short, nearby weekend retreat of prayerful peace and beauty for communing with God? EDOW's Fall Silent Retreat October 17-19, 2025 at the Claggett Center is exactly the place.

Come join fellow peace- and God-seekers with our retreat leader, **The Rev. Dominique Peridans**, to explore *The Gospel of John: Close Encounters of the First Kind, Healing and the Heart of God*. Space is limited. For more information and to register, please click here [Fall 2025 Diocesan Retreat - Episcopal Diocese of Washington](#). Scholarships are available. Questions? Please email edowsilentretreat@gmail.com. Hope to see you there.



An Urgent Appeal for HAITI:

Earlier this summer, **Bishop Mariann** sent a donation of \$5000 to Episcopal clergy in Haiti who provide sanctuary for communities threatened by gang violence. Another donation, this time from EDOW members, will be sent in early September. Read more and donate at bit.ly/EDOWHaiti. Additionally, parishes and individuals in EDOW are invited to connect with the *Haiti Advocacy Ministry*, an initiative led by deacons, priests, and lay people with a long history of working in Haiti. This group shares information and resources, offering mutual support and prayers to address the dire situation in a place much loved by those who know it well. For more information, please contact [Karen Wires](#), chair.

Women's Retreat Registration

Claggett Center
February 6-8, 2026

Teresa of Avila:

Deepening One's Spiritual Life



Name: _____

Contact Info: _____

Housing: Single room _____ (\$356.00)

Double room _____ (\$296.00)

Preferred Roommate: _____

*We will try our hardest to place requested roommates together
but there are no guarantees.*

Food sensitivities, allergies: _____

Deposit of \$75 required at time of registration.

Registration paid by check # _____

Registration paid through REALM _____

I would like to make the enclosed donation for those
who need scholarship: _____

Housing will be in the Christianne Inn

Check in for retreat
in lobby of Christianne Inn:

Friday, February 6, 2026 at 4:00 p.m.

Check out from retreat:

Sunday, February 8, 2026 at
2:00 p.m.



All registrations to be
returned to Rev. Terri via
mail or putting them in the
office mail slot





Mustard Seed Ministry Opportunities September 2025

Ascension's Mustard Seed Ministry offers simple moments of ministry that are easy to complete. Don't know what to do to combat the need you see all around you? Choose one or more of the Mustard Seed opportunities below!

- **Homeless Street Ministry:** Please consider donating a \$10 Giant or Safeway gift card to our homeless ministry. Give the homeless the gift of the simple dignity to purchase something without having to ask for a few coins! Place the card in the offering plate or in the mail slot at Ascension House. Donations are also needed to the Deacon's Discretionary Fund to keep this vital ministry going.
- **Help to maintain the beauty of Ascension's grounds** by volunteering to help with yard work, gardening, etc. Please contact leticiatr@verizon.net to volunteer.
- **Little Free Library:** Fill our little library by dropping off books. The box is in front of the church...or drop your donations in the plastic bin in the Gathering Space.
- **Little Free Pantry:** This box is located at the Sunday School entrance. This is a free pantry where non-perishables are left for neighbors in need. Please drop off what you can.
- **Feed the 5,000:** With a \$10 donation to Shepherd's Table. This will help provide casseroles to feed hungry people. Donate at <https://www.shepherdstable.org>
- **PenPal Project for the Incarcerated:** Join Interfaith Action for Human Rights to become involved. Email Rabbi Chuck Feinberg at penpal.iahr@gmail.com for more info.
- **Columbia Lighthouse for the Blind:** Volunteer at their Silver Spring office to assist sight challenged neighbors. For more info call them at 301-589-0894.
- **Diaper Ministry:** Donate diapers and wipes to benefit Silver Spring/Takoma Park Mutual Aid. Drop your diapers and wipes off in the Gathering Space on Sunday mornings, for more info contact Laura at les291@nyu.edu or Drew at drewsnyder@pobox.com
- **Tommy's Pantry:** Volunteer to help at Ascension on Saturdays to prep and distribute food to those in need. For more information contact tommyspantry@gmail.org or Libbie Griffin at libbiegriffin@gmail.

Special Request

I have a special request for this month. Tommy's Pantry has lost a major supplier and resource. They are hard pressed to provide all that is needed as they must pay much more for food now. Please consider making a special donation to Tommy's to help. You can go to their <https://tommyspantry.org/> or write a check to Ascension with Tommy's Pantry on the memo line.



Last month's donations:

The Homeless Ministry distributed \$1,940.00 in food cards to the homeless in August

Serving This Week
The Thirteenth Sunday After Pentecost
September 7, 2025 • Proper 18

Celebrant & Preacher: The Rev. Dr. Joan E. Beilstein, *Rector*

The Rev. Terri M. Murphy, *Deacon*

Altar Guild: Hunter Howe, Jeanette Witter,
 Deborah Percell, and Stacy Cooper

8:00 AM Service

Sunday Warden: Brenda Freeman/Tom Jacobson/Leticia Read

Lector/Intercessor: Susan Galvan

LEM: Fred Paul

10:00 AM Service

Sunday Warden: Cathy Eliot

Director of Music Ministries: Bailey Joy Myers

Lector: Libbie Griffin

Intercessor: Annie Brown

LEMs: Kevin Connell and Buck Buckingham

Ushers & Greeters: Drew Snyder & Laura Schattschneider

Tech Team: Barbara Menard and Heidi Clark

Coffee Hour: Welcome Back Sunday, the Vestry

Serving Next Week
The Fourteenth Sunday After Pentecost
September 14, 2025 • Proper 19

Celebrant: The Rev. Dr. Joan E. Beilstein, *Rector*

Preacher: The Rev. Terri M. Murphy, *Deacon*

Altar Guild: Hunter Howe, Jeanette Witter,
 Deborah Percell, and Stacy Cooper

8:00 AM Service

Sunday Warden: Brenda Freeman/Tom Jacobson/Leticia Read

Lector/Intercessor: Susan Poising

LEM: Luz Guiab

10:00 AM Service

Sunday Warden: Leticia Read

Director of Music Ministries: Bailey Joy Myers

Lector: Sandra Sussman

Intercessor: Chuck McCarter

LEMs: Deborah Percell and Bob Cosby

Ushers & Greeters: Jim Wolf and Bill Schauman

Tech Team: Lia Kvatum and Violet Connell Kvatum

Coffee Hour: All-Parish Town Hall, Lunch and child care provided.

PARISH STAFF

Rector: The Rev. Dr. Joan E. Beilstein

240-476-9772 • revdrjeb@comcast.net

Deacon: The Rev. Terri M. Murphy

revterrimurphy@gmail.com • 240-535-3703

Director of Music Ministries: Bailey Joy Myers

music@ascensionsilverspring.org

Administrative Assistant: Lisa Middleton

office@ascensionsilverspring.org

THE VESTRY OF ASCENSION

• Jane Alpersen ('26), *Senior Warden* • Leticia Read ('26), *Junior Warden*
 • Karen MacPherson, *Secretary*

• Cathy Eliot ('27) • Brenda Freeman ('28) • Tom Jacobson ('28)

• Robert Jones ('28) • Anne LeVeque ('26), • Dick Marks ('28)

• Deborah Percell ('27) • Andreas Smith ('27) • Shellie Williams ('28)

• Leona Cosby – *Treasurer* • Fred Paul – *Assistant Treasurer*

treasurer@ascensionsilverspring.org

To submit a prayer request or
 add birthdays, anniversaries, and other thanksgivings
 to the Sunday prayer list, please email:
 Jennifer Woods, knitpick@mac.com

The Rev. Dr. Joan E. Beilstein, revdrjeb@comcast.net



For peace and an end to violence and terrorism everywhere.

Our Parish Cycle of Prayer

Fred Paul

Deborah Percell and Blaise, Dylan,
 and Blaise Anthony Strandquest

Nelson, Ursula, Marshall and Zora Peters

Susan Poling

Maria Pracher

For those celebrating birthdays this week

September 9: Lizzie Cremons (5), Steve Fromyer

September 11: Julia Barlow, Arabella Littlepage

September 13: Bob Cosby

In our Diocese

We pray for all who are seeking that they might find
 their path to loving and living as Christ.

The Church of the Holy Communion, DC

Diocesan Youth Ministry

Diocesan Young Adult Ministry

All whose passion and work is formation.

In the Anglican Communion

The Anglican Church of Southern Africa

For those with HIV/AIDS everywhere, but especially in Africa.

For people in need of healing

(*indicates a member of the parish; italics, new this week):

Peter Amidon, Norma and Tony Argo, Cindy Bean,

Ashley Beilstein, Christopher Blackwall, Mike Cassilo,

David Cato, Emily Cedrone, Alenda Chang, *Heidi Clark,

*Vivi Clayton, Judith Curtis, Olivia DeGuzman, *Keith Ecker,

John Eliot, Emily Fitzsimmons, Sean Fitzsimmons,

Geoff Grub, Jere Herzenberg, The Hargraves Family,

The Haines and Harrigan Family, The Hernan Family,

*Maggie Howard, *Brandon Howe, Bruce Hutton,

Martina Jennings and Family, Joe Liebman, Linda LeVeque,

Carlo Manalo, Minda Manalo, Thelma Manalo,

Trish Martzolf, Roland Maynez, Alex Mercado,

*Sharon Murphy, Joy Orevik, *Susan Poling, Venus Pope,

Carlos Rigor, Barbara Ross-Robey, Astrid Schmidt-Nielson,

Robin Schueneman, The Rev. Greg Seme and Family,

Raymond Sisan, Karen Sisk, *Martha Smith, Ceil Snyder,

*Joyce Sterling, *Joan Thomas and Family, *Libby Williams,

Glenn Woodley

For those who have died:

*Tracy Deiter, member of Ascension, Cathedral Staff

Please take the Prayer List home for use in daily prayers.

