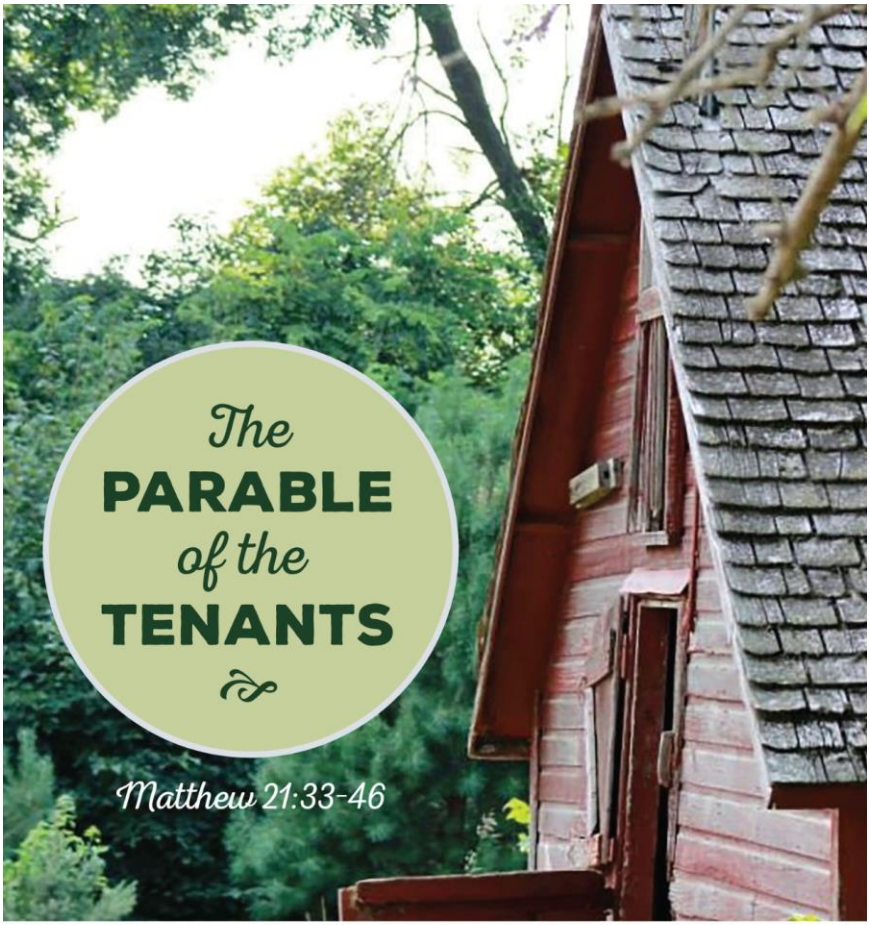


Church of the Ascension

Morning Pryaer
July 1, 2026
Leader - Catherine Maguire

OPENING SENTENCE

Leader If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. *Colossians 3:1*

CONFESSION OF SINS

Leader Let us confess our sins to God.

Silence may be kept.

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

ABSOLUTION

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

THE INVITATORY AND PSALTER

Leader Lord, open our lips.
Response ***And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.***

Response ***Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen. Alleluia.***

Antiphon
Leader The mercy of the Lord is everlasting:
Response ***Come let us adore him.***

Jubilate *Psalm 100*

Be joyful in the Lord, all you lands; *
  serve the Lord with gladness
  and come before his presence with a song.
Know this: The Lord himself is God; *
  he himself has made us, and we are his;
  we are his people and the sheep of his pasture.
Enter his gates with thanksgiving;
go into his courts with praise; *
  give thanks to him and call upon his Name.
For the Lord is good;
his mercy is everlasting; *
  and his faithfulness endures from age to age.

Leader The mercy of the Lord is everlasting:
Response ***Come let us adore him.***

THE PSALTER
Psalm 119 *Qoph Clamavi in toto corde meo*
Said responsively by whole verse

145 I call with my whole heart; *
answer me, O LORD, that I may keep your statutes.

146 ***I call to you;***
oh, that you would save me! *
I will keep your decrees.

147 Early in the morning I cry out to you, *
for in your word is my trust.

148 ***My eyes are open in the night watches, ****
that I may meditate upon your promise.

149 Hear my voice, O LORD, according to your loving-kindness; *
according to your judgments, give me life.

150 ***They draw near who in malice persecute me; ****
they are very far from your law.

151 You, O LORD, are near at hand, *
and all your commandments are true.

152 ***Long have I known from your decrees ****
that you have established them for ever.

153 Behold my affliction and deliver me, *
for I do not forget your law.

154 ***Plead my cause and redeem me; ****
according to your promise, give me life.

155 Deliverance is far from the wicked, *
for they do not study your statutes.

156 ***Great is your compassion, O LORD; ****
preserve my life, according to your judgments.

157 There are many who persecute and oppress me, *
yet I have not swerved from your decrees.

158 ***I look with loathing at the faithless, ****
for they have not kept your word.

159 See how I love your commandments! *
O LORD, in your mercy, preserve me.

160 ***The heart of your word is truth; ****
all your righteous judgments endure for evermore.

161 Rulers have persecuted me without a cause, *
but my heart stands in awe of your word.

162 ***I am as glad because of your promise ****
as one who finds great spoils.

163 As for lies, I hate and abhor them, *
but your law is my love.

164 ***Seven times a day do I praise you, ****
because of your righteous judgments.

165 Great peace have they who love your law; *
for them there is no stumbling block.

166 ***I have hoped for your salvation, O LORD, ****
and have fulfilled your commandments.

167 I have kept your decrees *
and I have loved them deeply.

168 ***I have kept your commandments and decrees, ****
for all my ways are before you.

169 Let my cry come before you, O LORD; *
give me understanding, according to your word.

170 ***Let my supplication come before you; ****
deliver me, according to your promise.

171 My lips shall pour forth your praise, *
when you teach me your statutes.

172 ***My tongue shall sing of your promise, ****
for all your commandments are righteous.

173 Let your hand be ready to help me, *
for I have chosen your commandments.

174 ***I long for your salvation, O LORD, ****
and your law is my delight.

175 Let me live, and I will praise you, *
and let your judgments help me.

176 ***I have gone astray like a sheep that is lost; ****
search for your servant,
for I do not forget your commandments.

Response Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. ***Amen.***

THE LESSONS
The Old Testament Lesson
Numbers 22:41-23:12

Reader A reading from the Book of Numbers

41 On the next day Balak took Balaam and brought him up to Bamoth-baal; and from there he could see part of the people of Israel.

23 **1** Then Balaam said to Balak, 'Build me seven altars here, and prepare seven bulls and seven rams for me.' **2** Balak did as Balaam had said; and Balak and Balaam offered a bull and a ram on each altar. **3** Then Balaam said to Balak, 'Stay here beside your burnt-offerings while I go aside. Perhaps the LORD will come to meet me. Whatever he shows me I will tell you.' And he went to a bare height.

4 Then God met Balaam; and Balaam said to him, 'I have arranged the seven altars, and have offered a bull and a ram on each altar.' **5** The LORD put a word in Balaam's mouth, and said, 'Return to Balak, and this is what you must say.' **6** So he returned to Balak,[a] who was standing beside his burnt-offerings with all the officials of Moab. **7** Then Balaam[b] uttered his oracle, saying:

'Balak has brought me from Aram,
the king of Moab from the eastern mountains:
"Come, curse Jacob for me;
Come, denounce Israel!"
8 How can I curse whom God has not cursed?
How can I denounce those whom the LORD has not denounced?
9 For from the top of the crags I see him,
from the hills I behold him.
Here is a people living alone,
and not reckoning itself among the nations!
10 Who can count the dust of Jacob,
or number the dust-cloud[c] of Israel?
Let me die the death of the upright,
and let my end be like his!'
11 Then Balak said to Balaam, 'What have you done to me? I brought you to curse my enemies, but now you have done nothing but bless them.' 12 He answered, 'Must I not take care to say what the LORD puts into my mouth?'

Leader The Word of the Lord
Response ***Thanks be to God***

Canticle 13
A Song of Praise
Benedictus es, Domine

Glory to you, Lord God of our fathers; *
you are worthy of praise; glory to you.

Glory to you for the radiance of your holy Name; *
we will praise you and highly exalt you for ever.

Glory to you in the splendor of your temple; *
on the throne of your majesty, glory to you.

Glory to you, seated between the Cherubim; *
we will praise you and highly exalt you for ever.

Glory to you, beholding the depths; *
in the high vault of heaven, glory to you.

Response Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. ***Amen.***

The New Testament Lesson
Romans 7:13-25

Reader A reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans

13 Did what is good, then, bring death to me? By no means! It was sin, working death in me through what is good, in order that sin might be shown to be sin, and through the commandment might become sinful beyond measure.

14 For we know that the law is spiritual; but I am of the flesh, sold into slavery under sin.[a] 15 I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. 16 Now if I do what I do not want, I agree that the law is good. 17 But in fact it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me. 18 For I know that nothing good dwells within me, that is, in my flesh. I can will what is right, but I cannot do it. 19 For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I

do not want is what I do. 20 Now if I do what I do not want,
it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me.

21 So I find it to be a law that when I want to do what is good,
evil lies close at hand. 22 For I delight in the law of God in my
inmost self, 23 but I see in my members another law at war
with the law of my mind, making me captive to the law of
sin that dwells in my members. 24 Wretched man that I am!
Who will rescue me from this body of death? 25 Thanks be to
God through Jesus Christ our Lord!

So then, with my mind I am a slave to the law of God, but
with my flesh I am a slave to the law of sin.

Leader The Word of the Lord
Response ***Thanks be to God***

Canticle 18
A Song to the Lamb
Dignus es

Splendor and honor and kingly power *
  are yours by right, O Lord our God,
For you created everything that is, *
  and by your will they were created and have their being;
And yours by right, O Lamb that was slain, *
  for with your blood you have redeemed for God,
From every family, language, people, and nation, *
  a kingdom of priests to serve our God.
And so, to him who sits upon the throne, *
  and to Christ the Lamb,
Be worship and praise, dominion and splendor, *
  for ever and for evermore.

Response ***Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.***

THE GOSPEL
Matthew 21:33-46

Reader A reading from the Gospel according to Matthew

33 'Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who
planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a wine press
in it, and built a watch-tower. Then he leased it to tenants
and went to another country. 34 When the harvest time had
come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his
produce. 35 But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one,
killed another, and stoned another. 36 Again he sent other
slaves, more than the first; and they treated them in the same
way. 37 Finally he sent his son to them, saying, "They will
respect my son." 38 But when the tenants saw the son, they
said to themselves, "This is the heir; come, let us kill him and
get his inheritance." 39 So they seized him, threw him out of
the vineyard, and killed him. 40 Now when the owner of the
vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?' 41 They
said to him, 'He will put those wretches to a miserable
death, and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will give
him the produce at the harvest time.'

42 Jesus said to them, 'Have you never read in the scriptures:
"The stone that the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone;[a]
this was the Lord's doing,
and it is amazing in our eyes"?

43 Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken
away from you and given to a people that produces the
fruits of the kingdom.[b] 44 The one who falls on this stone
will be broken to pieces; and it will crush anyone on whom it
falls.'[c]

45 When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his
parables, they realized that he was speaking about
them. 46 They wanted to arrest him, but they feared the
crowds, because they regarded him as a prophet.

Leader The Word of the Lord
Response ***Thanks be to God***

Silence may be kept after the Reading.

THE APOSTLES' CREED—*Leader and People together*

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

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

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

THE PRAYERS

Leader God be with you.
Response ***And also with you.***

Leader Let us pray.

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your Name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on Earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial,
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power
and the glory are yours,
now and for ever. Amen.

Suffrages A

Officiant Show us your mercy, O Lord;
People ***And grant us your salvation.***

Officiant Clothe your ministers with righteousness;
People ***Let your people sing with joy.***

Officiant Give peace, O Lord, in all the world;
People ***For only in you can we live in safety.***

Officiant Lord, keep this nation under your care;
People ***And guide us in the way of justice and truth.***

Officiant Let your way be known upon earth;
People ***Your saving health among all nations.***

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Sunday – Proper 8

Almighty God, you have built your Church upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief cornerstone: Grant us so to be joined together in unity of spirit by their teaching, that we may be made a holy temple acceptable to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. ***Amen.***

A Collect for Mission

O God and Father of all, whom the whole heavens adore: Let the whole earth also worship you, all nations obey you, all tongues confess and bless you, and men and women everywhere love you and serve you in peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. ***Amen.***

A Collect for Guidance
Heavenly Father, in you we live and move and have our being: We humbly pray you so to guide and govern us by your Holy Spirit, that in all the cares and occupations of our life we may not forget you, but may remember that we are ever walking in your sight; through Jesus Christ our Lord. ***Amen.***

World Cycle of Prayer
We pray for the people of Brazil.

Ecumenical Cycle of Prayer
We pray for our sisters and brothers, members of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church of Egypt Synod of the Nile.

Intercessions
Let us pray now for our own needs and those of others.

For the Human Family
O God, you made us in your own image and redeemed us through Jesus your Son: Look with compassion on the whole human family; take away the arrogance and hatred which infect our hearts; break down the walls that separate us; unite us in bonds of love; and work through our struggle and confusion to accomplish your purposes on earth; that, in your good time, all nations and races may serve you in harmony around your heavenly throne; through Jesus Christ our Lord. ***Amen.***

For Prisons and Correctional Institutions
Lord Jesus, for our sake you were condemned as a criminal: Visit our jails and prisons with your pity and judgment. Remember all prisoners, and bring the guilty to repentance and amendment of life according to your will, and give them hope for their future. When any are held unjustly, bring them release; forgive us, and teach us to improve our justice. Remember those who work in these institutions; keep them humane and compassionate; and save them from becoming brutal or callous. And since what we do for those in prison, O Lord, we do for you, constrain us to improve their lot. All this we ask for your mercy's sake. ***Amen.***

For the Victims of Addiction
Blessed Lord, you ministered to all who came to you: Look with compassion upon all who through addiction have lost their health and freedom. Restore to them the assurance of your unfailing mercy; remove from them the fears that beset them; strengthen them in the work of their recovery; and to those who care for them, give patient understanding and persevering love. ***Amen.***

A Prayer of Self-Dedication
Almighty and eternal God,
so draw our hearts to you,
so guide our minds,
so fill our imaginations,
so control our wills,
that we may be wholly yours,
utterly dedicated unto you;
and then use us, we pray you, as you will,
and always to your glory and the welfare of your people;
through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. ***Amen.***

The General Thanksgiving
Leader and People

Almighty God, Father of all mercies,
we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks
for all your goodness and loving-kindness
to us and to all whom you have made.
We bless you for our creation, preservation,
and all the blessings of this life;
but above all for your immeasurable love
in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ;
for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.
And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies,
that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your
praise, not only with our lips, but in our lives,
by giving up our selves to your service,
and by walking before you
in holiness and righteousness all our days;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,
be honor and glory throughout all ages. Amen.

A Prayer of St. Chrysostom

Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplication to you; and you have promised through your well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his Name you will be in the midst of them: Fulfill now, O Lord, our desires and petitions as may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of your truth, and in the age to come life everlasting. ***Amen.***

Benediction

Leader Let us bless the Lord.
Response ***Thanks be to God.***

Leader Glory to God whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine: Glory to him from generation to generation in the Church, and in Christ Jesus for ever and ever. ***Amen.*** *Ephesians 3:20, 21*


Morning Prayer
August 5
10:00 a.m.
Livestreamed Via
Facebook
Church of the Ascension
3717 Philadelphia Pike
Claymont, DE 19703



Church of the Ascension

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SUNDAY HOLY EUCHARIST—9 AM
OFFICE HOURS: TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY & THURSDAY;
8 AM—12 PM

ASCENSION'S CLERGY
Rev Kije Mugisha Rwamasirabo - Priest Associate

ASCENSION'S VESTRY
Ann Archer, Cathy Harwell (Jr. Warden), James McDaniel, Melissa McQuade, Janet Middleton, Sandra O'Tanyi (Sr. Warden), Steve Stephenson, Genia Thomas