

Jesus said, "From the fig tree learn its lesson ..." German woodcut, late 15th century

The First Sunday of Advent

11 a.m. Solemn High Mass
November 29, 2026
Church of the Ascension

PARISH SCHEDULE

Sun Nov 29 The First Sunday of Advent
9 a.m. Sung Mass
10:15 a.m. Confession
11 a.m. Solemn High Mass
4 p.m. A Service of Advent Lessons and Carols

Sat Dec 5
7 a.m. Rorate Caeli Mass

Experience the beauty and solemnity of the Rorate Caeli Mass, a beloved Advent traditional Votive Mass of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Celebrated by candlelight in the quiet hours before dawn, this special Mass with Cantor offers a moment of stillness amid the busyness of the season. The name *Rorate Caeli* derives from the appointed Marian Advent Mass proper, "Drop down, ye heavens, from above," expressing the Advent longing for the coming of our Savior. All are invited to experience this special opportunity for prayer, reflection, and anticipation, **followed by a breakfast in Wheeler Hall.**

9 a.m. Food Pantry

Sun Dec 6 The Second Sunday of Advent
9 a.m. Sung Mass
10:15 a.m. Confession
11 a.m. Solemn High Mass
3:30 p.m. Organ Recital
4 p.m. Choral Evensong & Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament

Tue Dec 8 Immaculate Conception
8 a.m. Low Mass
7 p.m. Sung Mass with Schola

Weekday Mass Schedule
12 p.m. on Monday & Friday; 8 a.m. on Tuesday & Thursday; 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday

Please join us for Coffee Hour in Wheeler Hall after the Mass.
If you are a Visitor, please consider completing one of the visitor cards in the pews.

ORGAN

Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme BWV 645 Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)
(transcribed for organ, by the composer, from a chorale in Cantata BWV 140)

THE ENTRANCE RITE

Please stand as you are able as the Ministers enter. The Altar, Ministers and People are aspersed, sprinkled with holy water. During the Introit, the Altar is censed.

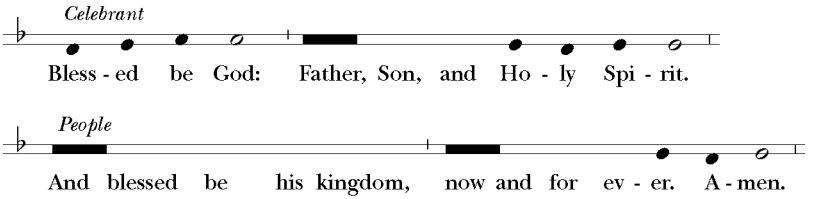
Opening Hymn 61 WACHET AUF

Introit "Ad te levavi" (Ps. 25) Mode VIII

Ad te levavi animam meam: Deus meus in te confido, non erubescam: neque irrideant me inimici mei: etenim universi qui te exspectant, non confundentur. Ps. Vias tuas, Domine, demonstra mihi: et semitas tuas edoce me. V. Gloria Patri, et Filio, et Spiritui Sancto. Sicut erat in principio, et nunc, et semper, et in saecula saeculorum. Amen. Ad te ...

Unto thee, O Lord, will I lift up my soul: my God, I have put my trust in thee, O let me not be confounded: neither let mine enemies triumph over me: for all they that hope in thee shall not be ashamed. Ps. Shew me thy ways, O Lord: and teach me thy paths. V. Glory be to the Father and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be: world without end. Amen. Unto thee ...

The Opening Acclamation



The Collect for Purity

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**.

Kyrie eleison

Kyrie eleison. Christe eleison. Kyrie eleison.

Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy upon us. Lord, have mercy upon us.

Setting: Healey Willan (1880-1968) *Missa Brevis No. 5 in F# minor* (1935)

The Salutation and The Collect of the Day

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

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**.

The People are seated.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

The First Lesson Isaiah 64:1-9a

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence~ as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil~ to make your name known to your adversaries, so that the nations might tremble at your presence! When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence. From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him. You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways. But you were angry, and we sinned; because you hid yourself we transgressed. We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. There is no one who calls on your name, or attempts to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us, and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity. Yet, O LORD, you are our Father; we are the clay,

and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. Do not be exceedingly angry, O LORD, and do not remember iniquity forever.

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

Gradual "Universi qui te exspectant" (Ps. 25) Mode I

Universi qui te exspectant, non confundentur, Domine. V. Vias tuas, Domine, notas fac mihi: et semitas tuas edoce me.

For all they that look for thee shall not be ashamed, O Lord. V. Make known to me thy ways, O Lord: and teach me thy paths.

The Epistle 1 Corinthians 1:1-9

Paul, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and our brother Sosthenes, To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, together with all those who in every place call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind– just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you– so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

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

As the Gospel procession moves towards the pews, the People stand.

Alleluia "Ostende nobis" (Ps. 85) Mode VIII

Alleluia, alleluia. V. Ostende nobis Domine misericordiam tuam: et salutare tuum da nobis. Alleluia.

Alleluia, alleluia. V. Shew us thy mercy, O Lord: and grant us thy salvation. Alleluia.

The Holy Gospel Mark 13:24-37

Deacon The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

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

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

Jesus said to his disciples, "In those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see `the Son of Man coming in clouds' with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven. From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away." But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake~ for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake."

Deacon The Gospel of the Lord.

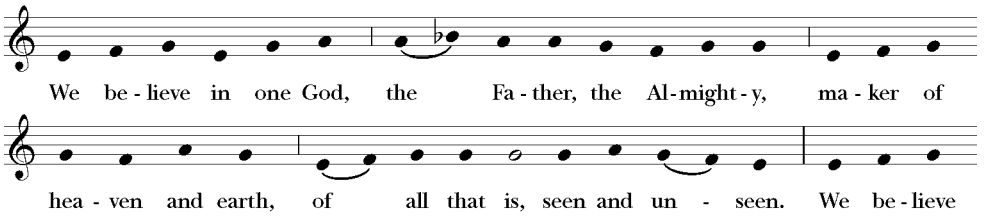
People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

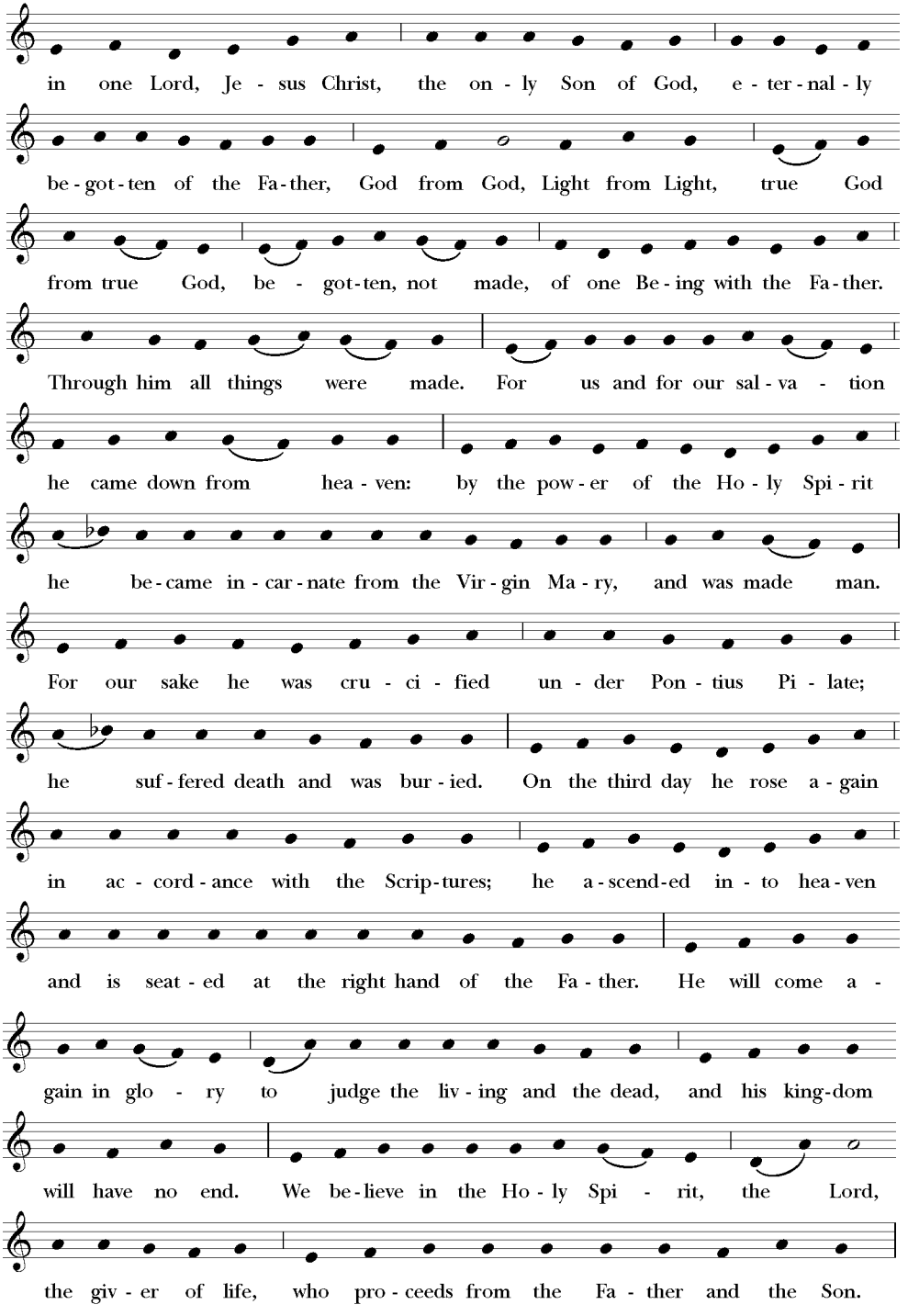
The People are seated.

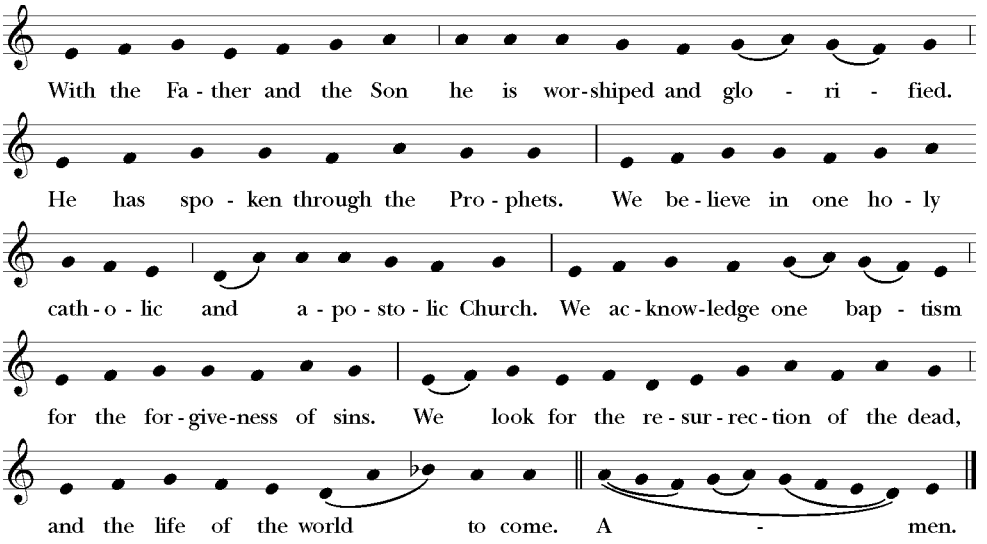
The Sermon The Rev. Carlos de la Torre

The People stand as able.

The Nicene Creed (Contemporary)




in one Lord, Je - sus Christ, the on - ly Son of God, e - ter - nal - ly
be - got - ten of the Fa - ther, God from God, Light from Light, true God
from true God, be - got - ten, not made, of one Be - ing with the Fa - ther.
Through him all things were made. For us and for our sal - va - tion
he came down from hea - ven: by the pow - er of the Ho - ly Spi - rit
he be - came in - car - nate from the Vir - gin Ma - ry, and was made man.
For our sake he was cru - ci - fied un - der Pon - tius Pi - late;
he suf - fered death and was bur - ied. On the third day he rose a - gain
in ac - cord - ance with the Scrip - tures; he a - scend - ed in - to hea - ven
and is seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther. He will come a -
gain in glo - ry to judge the liv - ing and the dead, and his king - dom
will have no end. We be - lieve in the Ho - ly Spi - rit, the Lord,
the giv - er of life, who pro - ceeds from the Fa - ther and the Son.



Prayers of the People **Form VI** (BCP p. 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 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 Sean our Presiding Bishop, and Paula our Bishop; and for all bishops and other ministers;
For all who serve God in his Church.

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation.

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, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom.

Silence
The People may add their own petitions

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
The People kneel as able.

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 Priest 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.**

Then the Ministers and People greet one another in the name of the Lord.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

The People remain standing as the oblations are brought forward.

Offertory "Ad te Domine levavi" (Ps. 25) Mode II
Ad te Domine levavi animam meam: Deus meus, in te confido, non erubescam: neque irrideant me inimici mei: etenim universi qui te exspectant, non confundentur.

Unto thee, O Lord, will I lift up my soul: my God, I have put my trust in thee, O let me not be confounded: neither let mine enemies triumph over me: for all they that hope in thee shall not be ashamed.

The People are seated.

Offertory Motet
Almighty God, give us grace that we may cast away the works of darkness, and put upon us the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which thy Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the quick and dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Setting: Richard John Samuel Stevens (1757-1837) *Almighty God, give us grace* (1807)
Collect for the first Sunday of Advent (1662 BCP)

The People stand as able.

Offertory Hymn 73 ST. STEPHEN

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING *Eucharistic Prayer B* (BCP p. 367)

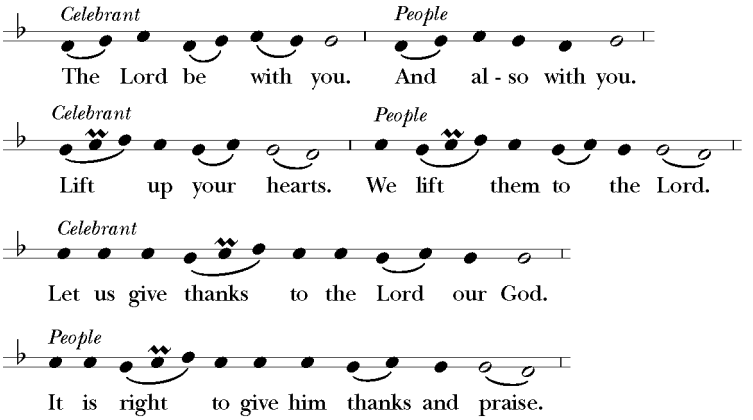
Orate Fratres

Celebrant Pray, beloved, that this my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God the Father Almighty.

People **May the Lord receive this sacrifice at your hands, to the praise and glory of his Name, both to our benefit and that of all his holy Church.**

Celebrant Amen.

Sursum Corda



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, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth; because you sent your beloved Son to redeem us from sin and death, and to make us heirs in him of everlasting life; that when he shall come again in power and great triumph to judge the world, we may without shame or fear rejoice to behold his appearing. 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 and Benedictus

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of Hosts: Heaven and earth are full of thy glory. Glory be to Thee, O Lord most High. *Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.*

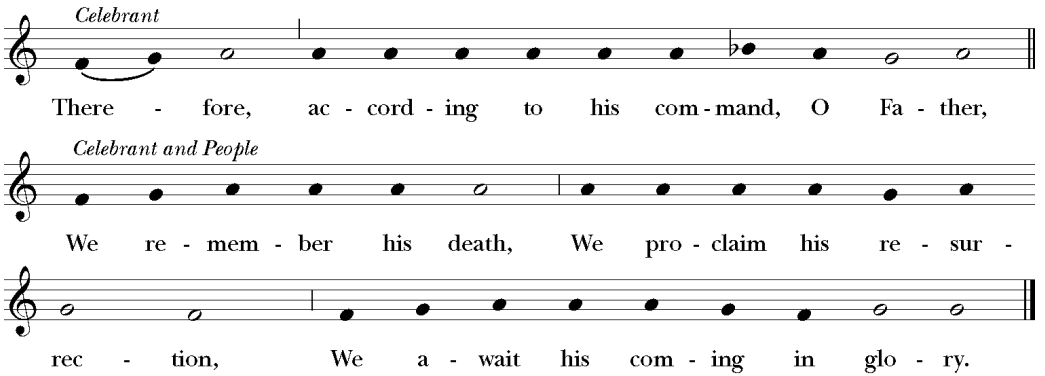
Setting: Healey Willan (1880-1968) *Missa Brevis No. 5 in F# minor* (1935)

The People kneel. Then the Celebrant continues.

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."

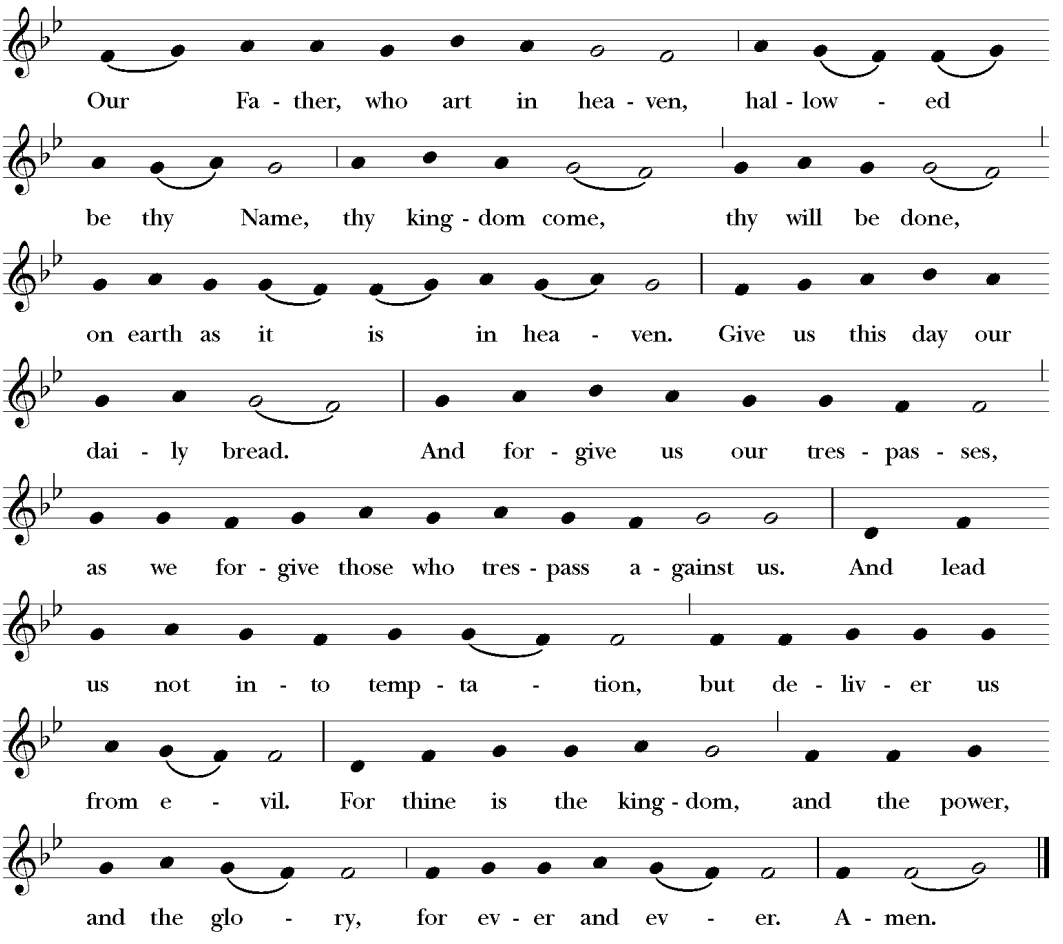


And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

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 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.

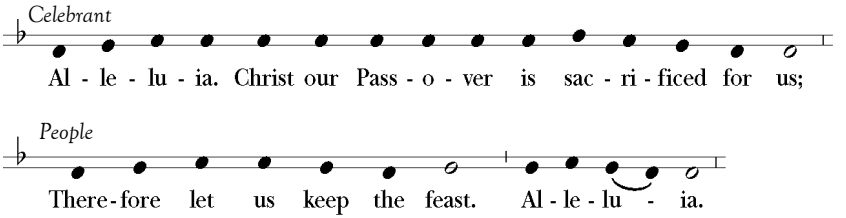
By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **AMEN**.

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say:



The Breaking of the Bread

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept.



Invitation to Communion

Celebrant Behold the Lamb of God; behold him that takes away the sins of the world. Happy are they who are called to his supper.

Lord, I am not worthy that you should come under my roof.

People **But speak the word only, and my soul shall be healed.**

Agnus Dei

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world: have mercy upon us.

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world: have mercy upon us.

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world: grant us thy peace.

Setting: Healey Willan (1880-1968) *Missa Brevis No. 5 in F# minor* (1935)

† *All baptized Christians are welcome to receive Communion, and all may come forward. Those who are not baptized or who do not wish to receive may indicate a desire for a blessing by crossing arms on the chest upon approaching the priest. If you prefer not to receive the Chalice, please cross your arms on your chest and remain until the minister has said the words of reception, "The Blood of Christ, the cup of salvation." If you require a gluten-free host, put your right hand over your heart.*

† *Please alert an usher if you need the Sacrament brought to you in the pew.*

Communion "Dominus dabit" (Ps.85) Mode I

Dominus dabit benignitatem: et terra nostra dabit fructum suum. V. Gloria Patri.

The Lord shall shew loving-kindness: and our land shall give her increase. V. Glory be.

Communion Motet

Ad te levavi animam meam: Deus meus in te confido, non erubescam: neque irrideant me inimici mei: etenim universi qui te exspectant, non confundentur.

Unto thee, O Lord, will I lift up my soul: my God, I have put my trust in thee, O let me not be confounded: neither let mine enemies triumph over me: for all they that hope in thee shall not be ashamed.

Setting: Josef Gabriel Rheinberger (1839-1901) *Ad te levavi animam meam,* op. 176, no. 3

Communion Hymn 454 LOWRY

The People kneel as able. The Celebrant says Let us pray.

Celebrant and People

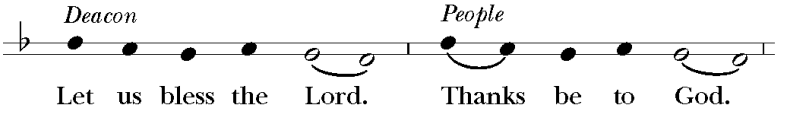
Almighty and everliving God,
we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food
of the most precious Body and Blood
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ;
and for assuring us in these holy mysteries
that we are living members of the Body of your Son,
and heirs of your eternal kingdom.
And now, Father, send us out
to do the work you have given us to do,
to love and serve you
as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord.
To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit,
be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

The Advent Blessing

May the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you and scatter the darkness from before your path; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen**.

The Dismissal

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you.**



The Angelus at the Shrine of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Celebrant The angel of the Lord announced unto Mary;
People **And she conceived by the Holy Ghost.**
Celebrant Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee;
Blessed art thou amongst women,
and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.
People **Holy Mary, Mother of God,**
Pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death.

Celebrant Behold, the handmaid of the Lord;
People **Be it unto me according to thy word.**
Celebrant Hail Mary, ...
People **Holy Mary,** ...

Celebrant And the Word was made flesh;
People **And dwelt among us.**
Celebrant Hail Mary, ...
People **Holy Mary,** ...

Celebrant Pray for us, O holy Mother of God;
People **That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ**.

Celebrant Let us pray. We beseech thee, O Lord, pour thy grace into our hearts: that as we have known the incarnation of thy Son Jesus Christ by the message of an angel, so by his cross and passion we may be brought unto the glory of his resurrection; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**.

Closing Hymn 68 LLANGLOFFAN

ORGAN
Kommst du nun Jesu vom Himmel herunter BWV 650 Johann Sebastian Bach
(transcribed for organ, by the composer, from an aria in Cantata BWV 137)

PARISH NOTICES

Advent Faith Formation
The Four Last Things
Sunday, December 6, 13 & 20 at 12:45 p.m.

Death. Judgement. Hell. And Heaven. Together, these are the Four Last Things, and according to an ancient tradition of the Church, the people of God were to spend the four Sundays of Advent meditating on these last things one by one. This Advent, Ascension will walk in these ancient paths, exploring how our present lives can be reshaped by meditating on the ends that await us. Each of our speakers bring a unique perspective. The wisdom of spiritual direction, the careful attentiveness of art history, the deep compassion of modern theology — these will be our lenses as we try to peer into those things that, for all of us and for now, lay beyond the veil. Join us in St. Michael's Hall for a hearty lunch at 12:45 p.m., followed by a presentation from 1 to 2 p.m.

December 6 - The Four Last Things: Death
Contemplations on Death: Mortality, Grief, and the Practice of Presence
Melissa Tucker, Licensed Professional Counselor, LCPC

December 13 - The Four Last Things: Judgment
Quis ut Deus: Michelangelo's Last Judgement Fresco
David Robertson, sometime Director of the Block Museum of Art at Northwestern University

December 20 - The Four Last Things: Hell and Heaven
For Who Has Known The Mind of the Lord? Reflections on Heaven, Hell, and the Task of Theology
Hank Morris, PhD candidate in Mathematics at the University of Chicago

New Hyde Park Ascension Meetup: Praying with Scripture
Thursday, November 12, 19 & December 3, 10 6:30 - 8 p.m.

In the coming months, Ascension will be launching several small group formation opportunities that meet our people where they live. We're testing things out this November and December in Hyde Park. Over the course of four weeks, we will share a meal together at Brent House in Hyde Park (5540 South Woodlawn Avenue), and then read and discuss Martin Smith's *The Word Is Very Near You: A Guide to Praying with Scripture*. Please plan on purchasing a copy, though if this is a hardship for you, the parish can help. RSVP by emailing Fr. Poore: Cpoore@ascensionchicago.org. While this series is designed to be convenient for our South Side parishioners, all members of the parish are welcome.

Advent Donation Drive for St. Leonard's Ministries

As we enter the season of Advent, a time of joyful anticipation and preparation as we await the coming of Our Lord, we invite parishioners to support the work and ministry of St. Leonard's Ministries by donating essential personal care items. Items being collected include:

- Scented body wash and soaps
- Razor blade kits - handle and blade refills
- Battery powered Oral B toothbrushes

How to Participate: Visit Wheeler Hall, where you will find an Angel Tree. Simply select a tag from the tree and purchase the item listed. Once purchased, place your donation in the designated collection box, also located in Wheeler Hall. Please drop off your items by the Fourth Sunday of Advent, December 20. Every donation, big or small, makes a difference. Thank you for helping us care and support the men of St. Leonard's Ministries this Advent season!

Join us this afternoon at 4 p.m. for



A Service of Advent Lessons & Carols

Ascension Prayer List

For our prayers: Trinity & Anneli, Eden Link, Mary Tarnow, Mike Sammer, Patrick Donnell, Richard Rogers, Erin Sura, Teresa Tobilla, Cassie Brasel, Mike Longo, Fred Krieher, Cristina Barillas-McEntee, Christine Callahan, Kirsten Finn, Nat Simpson, Mary Callahan, Lynette Ngumi, Leslie Sterk, Marcela Simpson, Nate Cole, Ed Blatz, Marlea Edinger, Elizabeth McLaughlin, MB Hwang, Juanita Malone, Claire Green

Birthdays Eden Link, 11/30

Requiescat in pace Christina Kimmel; Brenda Martins, 11/12/2026; Arvell Robinson; Eugene H. Smith, 12/1/2000; Richard Clark Taylor, 12/3/1989

Thanks to those who serve: The Rev. Dr. Robert Petite, *Celebrant;* The Rev. Christopher Poore, *Deacon*; The Rev. Carlos de la Torre, *Preacher*; Patrick Johnston, Andrew Smith, Victoria Dvonch, Evan Schafer, Nancy Pardee, Eden Link, *Acolytes;* Christine Callahan, *Lector;* MB Hwang, Melissa Tucker, *Technology;* James Baran, Joseph Dempsey, *Ushers*

The Choir of the Ascension

Soprano	Nini Marchese, Alexandra Olsavsky, Alexia Rivera
Alto	Amy Johnson, Quinn Middleman, Cassidy Smith
Tenor	Damon Cole, Matthew Dean, James Judd
Bass	Matthew Brennan, Matthew Dexter, Ian Prichard, Peter Wesoloski

Music Acknowledgements

Nicene Creed S-104 Plainsong, adapt. Mason Martens; **The Lord's Prayer** (S 119) Plainsong; adapt. C. Winfred Douglas (1867-1944) © 1985, Church Publishing, Inc. **Acclamation** (S 78); **Sursum Corda** (S 120)**; Memorial Acclamation** (S 137); **Alleluia, Christ our Passover** (S 152); **Dismissal** (S 174); © 1985 Church Publishing Inc.

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Welcome to the Church of the Ascension

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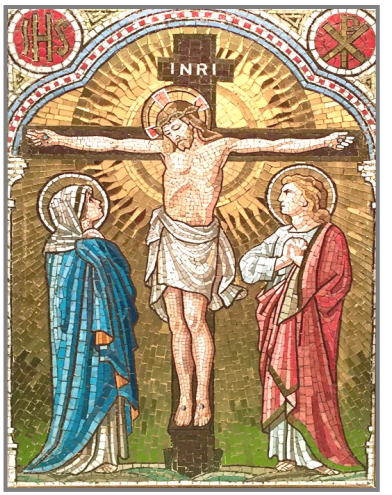
The Church of the Ascension is a parish in the Episcopal Church, a province of the Anglican Communion within the Catholic Church. Our Christian life and worship is rooted in the Anglo-Catholic tradition. As an Anglo-Catholic parish we praise, worship, and adore our Lord Jesus Christ in the Blessed Sacrament, rejoice in the Communion of Saints, and relish in the beauty of liturgy and music. Thank you and bless you for being with us this day.



The mosaic on the door of the Altar tabernacle, Church of the Ascension

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