



The Annunciation, Dieric Bouts (ca 1420–1475),
National Museum, Kraków, Poland

The Fourth Sunday of Advent

11 a.m. Solemn Mass + December 24, 2023
Church of the Ascension, Chicago

Sun	Dec. 24	The Fourth Sunday of Advent
	9 a.m.	Sung Mass
	10 a.m.	Confession available
	11 a.m.	Solemn Mass
Sun	Dec. 24	The Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ
		10:30 p.m. Organ Voluntaries & Congregational Carols
		11 p.m. Procession to the Crèche and The First Mass of Christmas
Mon	Dec. 25	Christmas Day
		10 a.m. Solemn Mass with Choir
Tues	Dec. 26	12 p.m. Said Mass: St. Stephen, Deacon and Martyr
Wed	Dec. 27	6:30 p.m. Said Mass: St. John, Apostle and Evangelist
Thu	Dec. 28	12 p.m. Said Mass: Holy Innocents
Sun	Dec. 31	The First Sunday after Christmas Day
	9 a.m.	Sung Mass
	10 a.m.	Confession available
	11 a.m.	Solemn Mass
Mon	Jan. 1	7 p.m. Sung Mass: The Most Holy Name of Our Lord Jesus Christ
Wed	Jan. 3	6:30 p.m. Said Mass: Christmas Feria
Sat	Jan. 6	11 a.m. Solemn Mass: The Feast of the Epiphany

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

Please silence all electronic devices that may distract you or others from worship.

Cameras in the church are for the purposes of live-streaming and/or recording our liturgies and music, but anyone in the church may be incidentally viewed.



ORGAN

Chorale-Variations: *Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland* August Hugo Distler (1908-1942)

ENTRANCE RITE

When the sanctuary bell is rung, the People stand as the Ministers enter. The Altar, Ministers and People are aspersed, sprinkled with holy water, a reminder of our baptism as we prepare to worship God. During the Introit, the Altar is censed.

Opening Hymn 54

NUN KOMM, DER HEIDEN HEILAND

Introit "Rorate coeli" (Is. 45) Mode I

Rorate caeli desuper, et nubes pluant iustum: aperiatur terra, et germinet Salvatorem. Ps. 19. Caeli enarrant gloriam Dei: et opera manuum eius annuntiat firmamentum. V. Gloria Patri, et Filio, et Spiritui Sancto. Sicut erat in principio, et nunc, et semper, et in saecula saeculorum. Amen. Rorate caeli ...

Drop down, ye heavens, from above, and let the skies pour down righteousness: let the earth open, and bring forth a Saviour. Ps. 19. The heavens declare the glory of God: and the firmament sheweth his handy-work. 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. Drop down, ye heavens ...

The Opening Acclamation

Celebrant

Bless - ed be God: Father, Son, and Ho - ly Spi - rit.

People

And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ev - er. A - men.

The Celebrant may say

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.

The Salutation and The Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Let us pray.

Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by your daily visitation, that your Son Jesus Christ, at his coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.
Amen.

The People sit.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

The First Lesson

2 Samuel 7:4, 8-16

But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan: Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the LORD of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover the LORD declares to you that the LORD will make you a house. When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your ancestors, I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come forth from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. I will be a father to him, and he shall be a son to me. When he commits iniquity, I will punish him with a rod such as mortals use, with blows inflicted by human beings. But I will not take my steadfast love from him, as I took it from Saul, whom I put away from before you. Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me; your throne shall be established forever.

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Gradual “Prope est Dominus” (Ps. 145) Mode V

Prope est Dominus omnibus invocantibus eum: omnibus qui invocant eum in veritate. V. Laudem Domini loquetur os meum: et benedicat omnis caro Nomen sanctum eius.

The Lord is nigh unto all them that call upon him: yea, all such as call upon him faithfully. V. My mouth shall speak the praise of the Lord: and let all flesh give thanks unto his holy Name.

The Epistle

Romans 16:25-27

Now to God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith—to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever! Amen.

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

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

Alleluia “Veni Domine” (Cant.) Mode III

Alleluia, alleluia. V. Veni, Domine, et noli tardare: relaxa facinora plebis tuae.
Alleluia.

Alleluia, alleluia. V. Come, O Lord, and tarry not: forgive the misdeeds of thy people.
Alleluia.

The Holy Gospel

Luke 1:26-38

Deacon The Lord be with you. People And also with you.

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

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, “Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you.” But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.” Mary said to the angel, “How can this be, since I am a virgin?” The angel said to her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and

the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

Deacon The Gospel of the Lord. *People Praise to you, Lord Christ.*

The Sermon

The Rev. Meghan Murphy-Gill

The Nicene Creed (S-104 Contemporary) *Please stand as you are able.*

We be - lieve in one God, the Fa - ther, the Al-might - y, ma - ker of
hea - ven and earth, of all that is, seen and un - seen. We be - lieve
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.
With the Fa - ther and the Son he is wor - shiped and glo - ri - fied.
He has spo - ken through the Pro - phets. We be - lieve in one ho - ly
cath - o - lic and a - po - sto - lic Church. We ac - know - ledge one bap - tism
for the for - give - ness of sins. We look for the re - sur - rec - tion of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. A - men.

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 Michael 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 may be kept.

Leader and People

Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father;

in your compassion forgive us our sins,

known and unknown,

things done and left undone;

and so uphold us by your Spirit

that we may live and serve you in newness of life,

to the honor and glory of your Name;

through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The 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

Offertory Motet

Ave Maria, gratia plena, Dominus tecum.
Benedicta tu in mulieribus,
et benedictus fructus ventris tui, Jesus.
Sancta Maria, Mater Dei,
ora pro nobis peccatoribus,
nunc et in hora mortis nostrae. Amen.

*Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee.
Blessed art thou among women,
and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.
Holy Mary, Mother of God,
pray for us sinners,
now and in the hour of our death. Amen.*

Setting: Javier Busto (b. 1949) *Ave Maria* (1992)

Offertory Hymn 438

WOODBURY

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Eucharistic Prayer B (BCP p. 367)

Orate Fratres *Please stand as you are able.*

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

Celebrant

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Celebrant

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Celebrant

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People

It is right to give him 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, 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

Sanctus, Sanctus, Sanctus, Dominus Deus Sabaoth. Pleni sunt coeli et terra gloria tua. Hosanna in excelsis. Benedictus qui venit in nomine Domini. Hosanna in excelsis.

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of Hosts: Heaven and earth are full of thy glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Setting: Herbert Howells (1892-1983) *Mass in the Dorian Mode* (1912)

The people stand or 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.”

Celebrant

There - fore, ac - cord - ing to his com - mand, O Fa - ther,

Celebrant and People

We re - mem - ber his death, We pro - claim his re - sur -

rec - tion, We a - wait his com - ing in glo - ry.

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:

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

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

Celebrant

Al - le - lu - ia. Christ our Pass - o - ver is sac - ri - ficed for us;

People

There - fore let us keep the feast. Al - le - lu - ia.

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

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi: miserere nobis.

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi: miserere nobis.

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi: dona nobis pacem.

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: Herbert Howells (1892-1983) *Mass in the Dorian Mode* (1912)

† 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 “Ecce virgo” (Is. 7) Mode I

Ecce virgo concipiet, et pariet filium: et vocabitur nomen eius Emmanuel.

V. Gloria Patri.

Behold, a Virgin shall conceive and bear a Son: and his Name shall be called Emmanuel.

V. Glory be.

Communion Motet

Drop down dew, O heavens, from above, and let the clouds rain down the just one. Let the earth be opened and bud forth a savior. On that day the mountains shall drop down sweetness, and the hills shall flow with milk and honey. Alleluia. All you who thirst, come to the waters. Seek the Lord while he may be found. Alleluia. Behold, the Lord shall come, and all his saints with him. And there shall be a great light on that day. Alleluia.

Setting: Robert Twynham (1930-2011) *Drop down dew, O heavens* (1990)

Communion Hymn

ELM STREET



1. Re - dee - mer of the na - tions, come! Re - veal your - self in vir - gin birth, -
2. You came forth from the'e - ter - nal God, and you re - turned to that same source.
3. With God the Fa - ther you are One, and One with us in hu - man flesh.
4. All praise, O un - be - got - ten God, all praise to you, e - ter - nal Word.

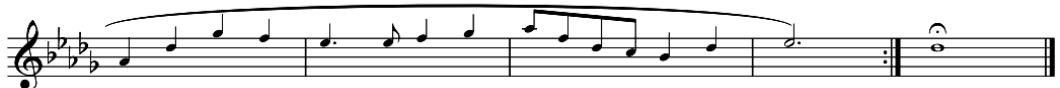


— the birth which a - ges all a - dore, a won - drous birth be fit - ting
— You suf - fered death and harrowed hell, and reigned once more from God's high
— Oh fill our weak and dy - ing frame with god - ly strength which nev - er
— all praise, life - giv - ing Spi - rit, praise, all glo - ry to our God Tri-

Organ Interlude



God,
throne,
fails,
une,
a won - drous birth be - fit - ting. God.
and reigned once more from God's high
with god - ly strength which nev - er
all glo - ry to our God Tri
throne.
fails.
une.



After Communion, 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

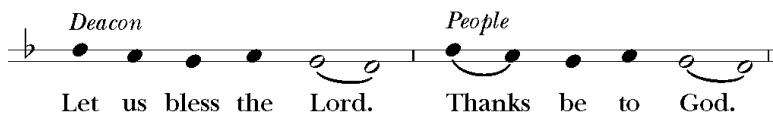
May the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you and scatter the darkness from
before your path; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the
Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Please stand as you are able.

The Dismissal

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**



Closing Hymn 265

GABRIEL'S MESSAGE

ORGAN

Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland SwWV 121 Jan Pieterszoon Sweelinck (1562-1621)



Please do remember your financial offerings to the church. At this time, they may be placed in the offering plates as they are passed. You may also write a check and mail it to the church or make a gift by scanning this QR Code.

Ascension Prayer List

For our prayers: Ellen Penrod, Andrew Carlin, Marilyn Labkon, Robert Baily, Lee Gould, Robert Pischke, Derek Petite, Florence Jones Clanton, David Schrader, Leslie Smebak Gormley, Rachel Smolinski, Sarah Reece Glanman, Suzanne Dines, MB Hwang, Juanita Malone, David S. Jones, Richard Francis Tracz, Victor Fernandez, Claire Green, Beth Hall, Sue Lenz, Brenda Martins

Birthdays: Ned Hedley, 12/27; Fletcher Glen Hedley, 12/31

Requiescat in pace: Dorothy Hall, 12/17/2023; Linda Clark; Joan Hedley, 12/26/2021

Many thanks to those who serve:

The Rev. Carlos de la Torre, *Celebrant*; The Rev. Meghan Murphy-Gill, *Deacon and Preacher*; Patrick Johnston, Enrique Vilaseco, Joshua Simpson, Gary Alexander, MB Hwang, David A. Robertson, Nancy Pardee, Victoria Dvonch, *Acolytes*; Michael Vales, *Lector*; Eric Canales, Andrew Smith, *Technology*; Cheryl Peterson, David Reeves, Roberta Dawson, *Ushers*; LaVerne Saunders, *Coffee Hour*

The Choir of the Ascension

Soprano Carolyne DalMonte, Alexandra Olsavsky, Alexia Rivera, Lydia Walsh-Rock

Alto Miya Higashiyama, Amy Johnson, Cassidy Smith

Tenor Damon Cole, James Judd, Aaron Short

Bass Matthew Brennan, Ian Morris, Ian Prichard, Peter Wesoloski

Music Acknowledgements

ELM STREET Words: att. Ambrose of Milan (340-397); tr. The Rev. Charles Price (1920-1999)

Music: David R. White (b. 1959)

The Nicene Creed (S-104) Plainsong Mode 4; Credo I; adapt. Mason Martens © 1984. **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 136);

Alleluia, Christ our Passover (S 152); **Dismissal** (S 174); © 1985 Church Publishing Inc.

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Welcome to worship at the
Church of the Ascension
An Anglican-Episcopal parish in the
city and Diocese of Chicago

SOME WHO HAVE GATHERED HERE TODAY may have traveled from afar and visited before. Church of the Ascension has long been a destination for those who feel blessed by the Anglo-Catholic worship here. Others may have made a shorter trip, and those here for the first time may ask, "What's Anglo-Catholic?" The term refers to two aspects of our history and ongoing faith and worship.

Anglican churches are those in the tradition of, and with ongoing ties to, the Church of England. (In the United States we are mainly called Episcopalians.)

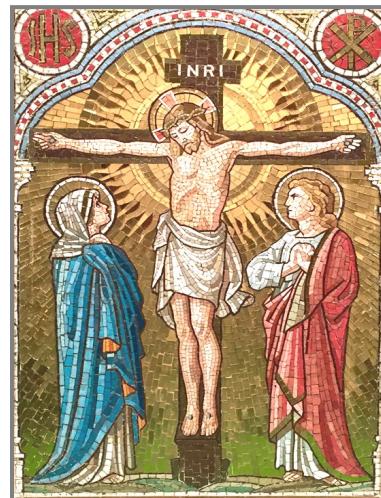
The 'Catholic' part of our identity is evident all around us here, in the church interior and in our worship.

- + We value and relish liturgy and music that engage and nourish the heart the mind and all the senses.
- + Our reverence for the sacrament of the Eucharist, the Mass, Christ's Body and Blood, is emphasized by the architecture of the space and many elements of our worship.
- + We have a strong sense of taking part, as Christ's people, in the Communion of Saints, including Blessed Mary and our patron saint, Michael the Archangel. Our faith is inspired and sustained by remembering the lives and witness of those who are now eternally with God.

We hope and pray that our sense of grateful, divine fellowship translates to our welcome of all and to faithfulness in the ministries that we share beyond our life of worship.

Your questions about our parish community, our worship and other ministries may be found by inquiring with our clergy or parishioners, or on our website – www.ascensionchicago.org.

Thank you and bless you for joining us.



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

- **All baptized Christians are welcomed to receive Communion.** Others are welcomed to come forward at the time of Communion to receive a blessing.
- **Please join us for Coffee Hour in Wheeler Hall** after the Mass.
- **If you are a visitor,** please consider completing one of the blue visitor cards found in the pews.
- **Live-Streaming** of select liturgies is available on Facebook and YouTube. Links for these can be found on our website Home page.
- **Please ask an usher about a parking permit** if your car will be in our parking lot after 1:30 pm today.

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