



Detail: *The Baptism of Christ*, Pietro Perugino, ca. 1497,
The National Gallery, Trafalgar Square, London

**The First Sunday after The Epiphany:
The Baptism of Our Lord
11 a.m. Solemn High Mass
January 1, 2026
Church of the Ascension**

Parish Schedule

Sun	Jan 11	The First Sunday after the Epiphany: The Baptism of Our Lord
	9 a.m.	Sung Mass
	10:15 a.m.	Confession
		The Holy Rosary
	11 a.m.	Solemn High Mass
	12:45 p.m.	Epiphany Faith Formation - <i>in the Library</i> St. Bede and Christianization: Then and Now The Very Rev. Sarah Foot Dean of Christ Church, Oxford
Sun	Jan 18	The Second Sunday after The Epiphany
	9 a.m.	Sung Mass
	10:15 a.m.	Confession available
	11 a.m.	Solemn High Mass
Sun	Jan 25	The Third Sunday after The Epiphany (One Mass Only)
	10 a.m.	Solemn High Mass followed by Annual Meeting and Luncheon

Regular Schedule of Weekday Masses

Monday and Friday: 12 p.m.

Tuesday and Thursday: 8 a.m.

Wednesday: 6:30 p.m.

† 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.

† Listening assistive devices are available for use in conjunction with a hearing aid or on their own. If you would like to use one, please speak to an Usher.

ORGAN

Christ unser Herr zum Jordan kam BWV 684 Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

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 139

CHRIST UNSER HERR ZUM JORDAN

Introit “Dilexisti iustitiam” (Ps. 45) Mode VIII

Dilexisti iustitiam, et odisti iniquitatem: propterea unxit te Deus, Deus tuus, oleo laetitiae prae consortibus tuis. Ps. Eructavit cor meum verbum bonum: dico ego opera mea regi. V. Gloria Patri, et Filio, et Spiritui Sancto. Sicut erat in principio, et nunc, et semper, et in saecula saeculorum. Amen. Dilexisti...

Thou hast loved righteousness, and hated iniquity: therefore God, even thy God, hath anointed thee with the oil of gladness above thy fellows. Ps. My heart is inditing of a good matter: I speak of the things which I have made unto the King. 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. Thou hast...

The Opening Acclamation

The musical notation consists of two staves. The first staff is labeled "Celebrant" and the second "People". Both staves begin with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The Celebrant's part has a melody of quarter notes: B-flat, D, F, A-flat, B-flat, D, F, A-flat, B-flat, D, F, A-flat, B-flat. The lyrics are: "Bless - ed be God: Father, Son, and Ho - ly Spi - rit." The People's part has a melody of quarter notes: B-flat, D, F, A-flat, B-flat, D, F, A-flat, B-flat, D, F, A-flat, B-flat. The lyrics are: "And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ev - er. A - men."

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. XI (*Missa Sancti Johannis Baptistae*)

Gloria in excelsis

1. Glo - ry be to God on high, and on earth peace,
good will towards men. 2. We praise thee, we bless thee,
we wor - ship thee, we glo - ri - fy thee, we give
thanks to thee for thy great glo - ry, 3. O Lord God, heaven - ly
King, God the Fa - ther Al - might - y.

4. O Lord, the on - ly be - got - ten Son, Je - sus Christ;
5. O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Fa - ther, that
ta - kest a - way the sins of the world, have mer - cy up -
on us. 6. Thou that ta - kest a - way the sins of the
world, re - ceive our prayer. 7. Thou that sit - test at the

right hand of God the Fa - ther, have mer - cy up - on us.

8. For thou on - ly art ho - ly; thou on - ly art the Lord; 9. thou

on - ly, O Christ, with the Ho - ly Ghost, art most

high in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. —

A - - - - - men.

The Salutation and The Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

Father in heaven, who at the baptism of Jesus in the River Jordan proclaimed him your beloved Son and anointed him with the Holy Spirit: Grant that all who are baptized into his Name may keep the covenant they have made, and boldly confess him as Lord and Savior; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. **Amen.**

The People are seated.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

The First Lesson

Isaiah 42:1-9

Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations. He will not cry or lift up his voice, or make it heard in the street; a bruised reed he will not break, and a dimly burning wick he will not quench; he will faithfully bring forth justice.

He will not grow faint or be crushed until he has established justice in the earth; and the coastlands wait for his teaching. Thus says God, the LORD, who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread out the earth and what comes from it, who gives breath to the people upon it and spirit to those who walk in it: I am the LORD, I have called you in righteousness, I have taken you by the hand and kept you; I have given you as a covenant to the people, a light to the nations, to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness. I am the LORD, that is my name; my glory I give to no other, nor my praise to idols. See, the former things have come to pass, and new things I now declare; before they spring forth, I tell you of them.

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Gradual “Benedictus Dominus Deus” (Ps. 72) Mode VII

Benedictus Dominus Deus Israel, qui facit mirabilia magna solus a saeculo.

V. Suscipiant montes pacem populo tuo, et colles iustitiam.

Blessed be the Lord God, even the God of Israel: which only doeth wondrous things.

V. The mountains also shall bring peace: and the little hills righteousness unto the people.

The Epistle

Acts 10:34-38

Peter began to speak to Cornelius and his relatives and close friends: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ— he is Lord of all. That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him.

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

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

Alleluia "Benedictus qui venit" (Ps. 118) Mode II

Alleluia, alleluia. V. Benedictus qui venit in nomine Domini:
Deus Dominus, et illuxit nobis. Alleluia.

*Alleluia, alleluia. V. Blessed is he that cometh in the Name of the Lord:
God is the Lord, and hath shewed us light. Alleluia.*

The Holy Gospel

Matthew 3:13-17

Deacon The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

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

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

Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. John would have prevented him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now; for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness." Then he consented. And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased."

Deacon The Gospel of the Lord.

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

The People are seated.

The Sermon

The Rev. Christopher Poore

The People stand as able.

THE RENEWAL OF BAPTISMAL VOWS

Celebrant Through the Paschal mystery, dear friends, we are buried with Christ by Baptism into his death, and raised with him to newness of life. Let us renew the vows and promises of Baptism, by which we once renounced Satan and all his works and promised to serve God faithfully in his holy Catholic Church.

The Baptismal Covenant

Celebrant Do you believe in God the Father?

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

Celebrant Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

People **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.

Celebrant Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

People **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.**

Celebrant Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship,
in the breaking of the bread, and in the prayers?

People **I will, with God's help.**

Celebrant Will you persevere in resisting evil, and,
whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

People **I will, with God's help.**

Celebrant Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News
of God in Christ?

People **I will, with God's help.**

Celebrant Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons,
loving your neighbor as yourself?

People **I will, with God's help.**

Celebrant Will you strive for justice and peace among all people,
and respect the dignity of every human being?

People **I will, with God's help.**

The Celebrant says

May Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given us a new birth by water and the Holy Spirit, and bestowed upon us the forgiveness of sins, keep us in eternal life by his grace, in Christ Jesus our Lord. **Amen.**

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 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

The People remain standing as the oblations are brought forward.

Offertory “Benedictus qui venit” (Ps. 118) Mode VIII

Benedictus qui venit in nomine Domini: benediximus vobis de domo Domini:
Deus Dominus, et illuxit nobis, alleluia, alleluia.

Blessed is he that cometh in the Name of the Lord: we have wished you good luck, ye that are of the house of the Lord: God is the Lord, who hath shewed us light, alleluia, alleluia.

The People are seated.

Offertory Motet

Wie der Hirsch schreit nach frischem Wasser,
So schreit meine Seele, Gott, zu dir.

*As the hart cries out for fresh water,
so my soul cries, O God, to you.*

Setting: Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847) *Wie der Hirsch schreit*, from *Der 42. Psalm*

The People stand as able.

Offertory Hymn 120

SOLEMNIS HAEC FESTIVITAS

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 -

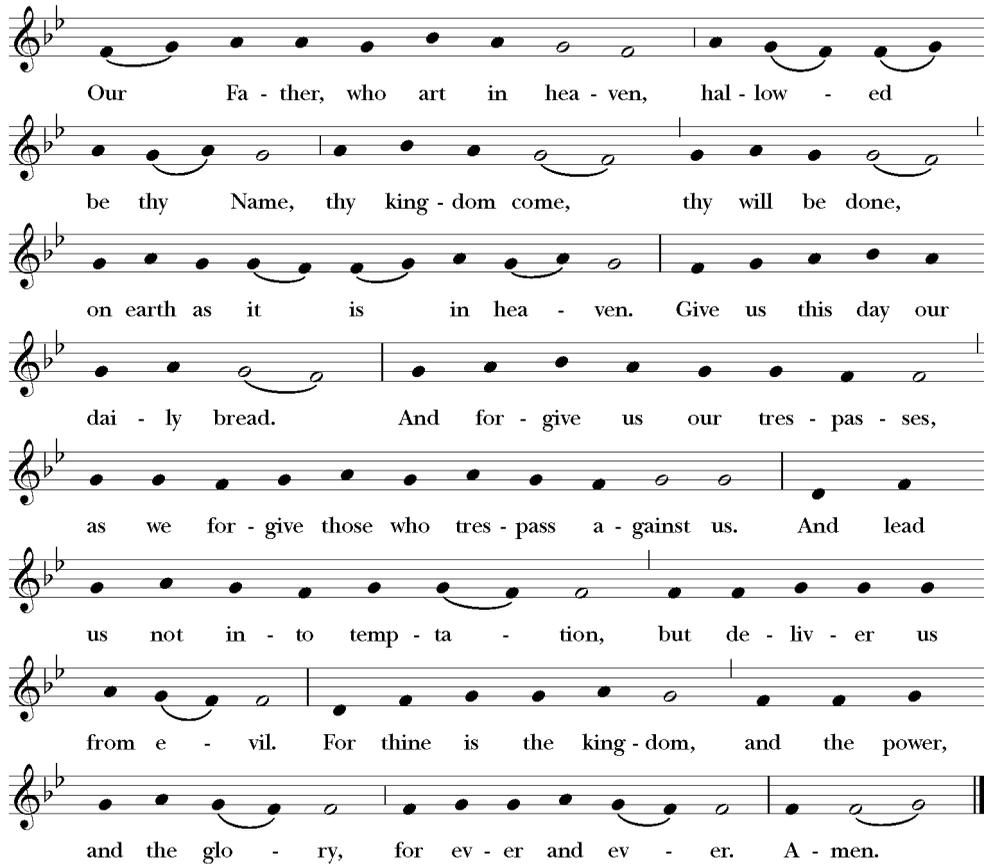
rec - tion, We a - wait his com - ing in glo - ry.

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.**

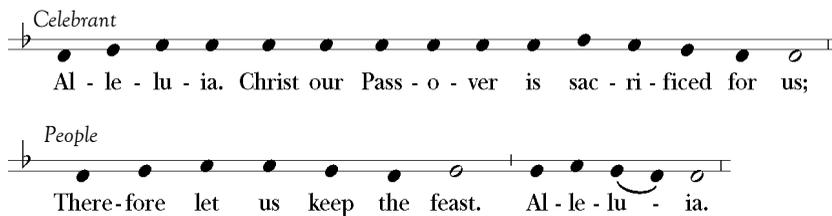
And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say:



Our Fa - ther, who art in hea - ven, hal - low - ed
be thy Name, thy king - dom come, thy will be done,
on earth as it is in hea - ven. Give us this day our
dai - ly bread. And for - give us our tres - pas - ses,
as we for - give those who tres - pass a - gainst us. And lead
us not in - to temp - ta - tion, but de - liv - er us
from e - vil. For thine is the king - dom, and the power,
and the glo - ry, for ev - er and ev - er. A - men.

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

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. XI (*Missa Sancti Johannis Baptistae*)

† *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 "Omnes qui in Christo" (Gal 3) Mode II

Omnes qui in Christo baptizati estis, Christum induistis, alleluia. V. Gloria Patri.

As many of you as have been baptized into Christ, have put on Christ, alleluia. V. Glory be.

Communion Motet

Christus est Stella Matutina
qui nocte saeculi transacta lucem vitae
sanctis promittit et pandit aeternam.

*Christ is the Morning Star
who, when the night of this world is past,
brings to his saints the promise of the light of life
and opens everlasting day.*

Setting: Richard Proulx (1937-2010) *Prayer of the Venerable Bede* (1982)
text from the wall of Galilee Chapel in Durham Cathedral

Communion Hymn 121

CAITHNESS

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 Blessing

The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; 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.**

A musical staff with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The staff is divided into two measures by a bar line. The first measure is labeled "Deacon" and contains a solid black bar. The second measure is labeled "People" and contains a melody. The melody consists of quarter notes: G4, A4, Bb4, G4, F4, E4, D4. The lyrics "Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Thanks be to God." are written below the staff, with "Go in peace to love and serve the" under the first measure and "Lord. Thanks be to God." under the second measure.

Closing Hymn 296

ENGELBERG

ORGAN

Toccata con Fuga IJW 26

Johann Gottfried Walther (1684-1748)



Please do remember your financial offerings to the church. At this time, you may place your offering in the collection plate in the narthex as you exit the church. You may also make a gift on your credit card by scanning this QR Code.

Ascension Prayer List

For our prayers: Shannon Ayala, Steve Schell, Dan Cox, Byron Marroquin, Andrew Reeb, Nicholas Stenson, Ernestine Sonsonia, Jose Vargas, Mary Callahan, John Berardi, Lola Soria, Lynette Ngumi, Leslie Sterk, Pamela Turner Greer, LaVerne Saunders, Marcela Simpson, Christina Kimmel, Daynen Heldt, Alfredo Caliva, Nate Cole, Ed Blatz, Marlea Edinger, Elizabeth McLaughlin, MB Hwang, Juanita Malone, Claire Green, Brenda Martins

Birthdays: Robert Devens, 1/13

Requiescat in pace: Georgia Schell, Norman Campbell Robertson, 1/11/1992; DeWayne Williams, 1/11/2018; Robert Warren Rohland, 1/12/2006; Quintin Ebenezer Primo, Bishop, 1/15/1998; Harry R. Carstensen, 1/15/2002; Betty J. Marse, 1/15/2015; John Martensen, 1/15/2018

FLOWERS on the High Altar are given by David Reeves to the glory of God in memory of his mother, Betty Reeves.

Many thanks to those who serve:

The Rev. Carlos de la Torre, *Celebrant*; The Rev. Peter Lane, *Deacon*; The Rev. Christopher Poore, *Preacher*; Victoria Dvovich, MB Hwang, Enrique Vilaseco, Andrew Smith, Jim Wilson, Audrey Robinovitz, Evan Schafer, Nancy Pardee, Kristian Rodriguez, *Acolytes*; Cynthia Perrizo, Lector; Eric Canales, George Panice, *Technology*; James Baran, George Pineda, *Ushers*; Nancy Pardee, *Flowers*

The Choir of the Ascension

Soprano Carolyne DalMonte, Nini Marchese, Alexandra Olsavsky, Alexia Rivera
Alto Miya Higashiyama, Amy Johnson, Cassidy Smith
Tenor Damon Cole, James Judd, Steven Wilson
Bass Evan Bravos, Ian Prichard, Peter Wesoloski

Music Acknowledgements

Gloria in excelsis (S202) From *Missa de Sancta Maria Magdalena*, Healey Willan (1880-1968)
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. All rights reserved. Reprinted under OneLicense.net A-717617

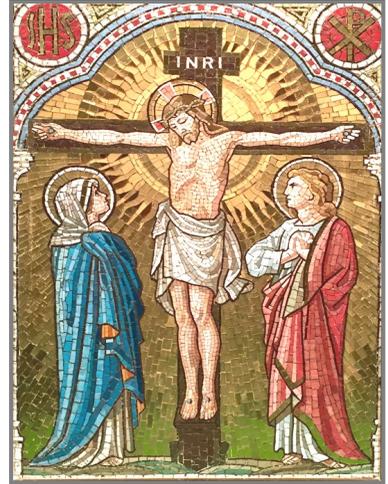
Parish Notices

2025 Annual Meeting Notice

The Rector, Wardens, and Vestry of The Church of the Ascension have called for the Annual Meeting of the Parish to be held on January 25, 2026. There will be one Mass at 10 a.m. on this day. The in-person only meeting will follow in the church continuing with and a lunch in Wheeler Hall.



WELCOME TO THE
CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION
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www.ascensionchicago.org



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

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.

CLERGY & STAFF

The Rt. Rev. Paula Clark, *Bishop of Chicago*

The Rev. Carlos de la Torre, *Rector*
cdelatorre@ascensionchicago.org

Assisting Clergy

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The Rev. Gary Lawler
The Rt. Rev. Daniel Martins
The Rev. Dr. Robert Petite
The Rev. Christopher Poore

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Samuel Sommers (*Clerk*), Nancy Pardee,
Jay Peterson, DiAnne Walsh,
Alexis Sarkisian, Andrew Smith