



The First Sunday in Lent

12 March AD 2017

11:15 a.m. Holy Eucharist

(The Rev.) Randy Lord-Wilkinson, *Rector*
The Rev. Javier García Ocampo, *Assistant to the Rector*
Jason Cutshall, *Seminarian*
Jerrold Tidwell, *Minister of Music*

Welcome to Ascension!

*For more information about our community, fill out a welcome card, found at either end of the pews,
or take one of our welcome packets from a member of the Welcome Team
or the table by the Church Office door.*

A nursery for children up through age three is available all morning in the Main Building, Room 2.

Please silence your audible devices.

*Within the service, the people read the parts in **bold print**.*

Welcome and Announcements

Gather 380

The Lord is here.
God's Spirit is with us.
Let us pray.

Glory and Praise to Our God

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.

Romans 4:1-5, 13-17

So what are we going to say? Are we going to find that Abraham is our ancestor on the basis of genealogy? Because if Abraham was made righteous because of his actions, he would have had a reason to brag, but not in front of God. What does the scripture say? *Abraham had faith in God, and it was credited to him as righteousness.* Workers' salaries aren't credited to them on the basis of an employer's grace but rather on the basis of what they deserve. But faith is credited as righteousness to those who don't work, because they have faith in God who makes the ungodly righteous. The promise to Abraham and to his descendants, that he would inherit the world, didn't come through the Law but through the righteousness that comes from faith. If they inherit because of the Law, then faith has no effect and the promise has been canceled. The Law brings about wrath. But when there isn't any law, there isn't any violation of the law. That's why the inheritance comes through faith, so that it will be on the basis of God's grace. In that way, the promise is secure for all of Abraham's descendants, not just for those who are related by Law but also for those who are related by the faith of Abraham, who is the father of all of us. As it is written: *I have appointed you to be the father of many nations.* So Abraham is our father in the eyes of God in whom he had faith, the God who gives life to the dead and calls things that don't exist into existence.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.
Thanks be to God.

Gather 290

Deep Within

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.
Glory to you, Lord Christ.

There was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a Jewish leader. He came to Jesus at night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for no one could do these miraculous signs that you do unless God is with him." Jesus answered, "I assure you, unless someone is born anew, it's not possible to see God's kingdom." Nicodemus asked, "How is it possible for an adult to be born? It's impossible to enter the mother's womb for a second time and be born, isn't it?" Jesus answered, "I assure you, unless someone is born of water and the Spirit, it's not possible to enter God's kingdom. Whatever is born of the flesh is flesh, and whatever is born of the Spirit is spirit. Don't be surprised that I said to you, 'You must be born anew.' God's Spirit blows wherever it wishes. You hear its sound, but you don't know where it comes from or where it is going. It's the same with everyone who is born of the Spirit." Nicodemus said, "How are these things possible?" Jesus answered, "You are a teacher of Israel and you don't know these things? I assure you that we speak about what we know and testify about what we have seen, but you don't receive our testimony. If I have told you about earthly things and you don't believe, how will you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? No one has gone up to heaven except the one who came down from heaven, the Human One. Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so must the Human One be lifted up so that everyone who believes in him will have eternal life. God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him won't perish but will have eternal life. God didn't send his Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through him.

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Meditation

(The Rev.) Randy Lord-Wilkinson

The Affirmation of Faith

**You, O God, are supreme and holy,
You create our world and give us life.
Your purpose overarches everything we do.
You have always been with us.
You are God.**

**You, O God, are infinitely generous,
Good beyond all measure.
You came to us before we came to you.
You have revealed and proved
Your love for us in Jesus Christ,
Who lived and died and rose again.
You are with us now.
You are God.**

**You, O God, are Holy Spirit.
You empower us to be your gospel in the world.
You reconcile and heal; you overcome death.
You are our God. We worship you.**

The Prayers of the People

Prayers are invited, either silently or aloud. After each spoken prayer, a gong will sound.

Concluding Prayer

O God, whose glory it is always to have mercy: Be gracious to all who have gone astray from your ways, and bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of thy Word, Jesus Christ thy Son; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Gather 585

Let Us Be Bread

The Holy Communion

The Lord is here.

God's Spirit is with us.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

It is right indeed to give you thanks most loving God, through Jesus Christ, our Redeemer, the first born from the dead, the pioneer of our salvation, who is with us always, one of us, yet from the heart of God.

For with your whole created universe, we praise you for your unfailing gift of life. We thank you that you make us human and stay with us even when we turn from you to sin.

God's love is shown to us: While we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

In that love, dear God, righteous and strong to save, you came among us in Jesus Christ, our crucified and living Lord. You make all things new. In Christ's suffering and cross you reveal your glory and reconcile all peoples to yourself, their true and living God.

In your mercy you are now our God. through Christ you gather us, new-born in your Spirit, a people after your own heart. We entrust ourselves to you, for you alone do justice to all people, living and departed.

Now is the acceptable time, now is the day of salvation.

Therefore with saints and martyrs, apostles and prophets, with all the redeemed, joyfully we praise you and sing:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and
 might, heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho -
 san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who
 comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the
 high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est!

The Celebrant continues

All glory to you, Giver of life sufficient and full for all creation. Accept our praises, living God, for Jesus Christ, the one perfect offering for the world, who in the night that he was betrayed, took bread, and when he had given thanks, broke it, gave it to his disciples, and said: Take, eat, this is my body which is given for you; do this to remember me.

After supper he took the cup; 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, to forgive sin. Do this as often as you drink it to remember me.

Therefore, God of all creation, in the suffering and death of Jesus our redeemer, we meet you in your glory. We lift up the cup of salvation and call upon your name. Here and now, with this bread and wine, we celebrate your great acts of liberation, ever present and living in Jesus Christ, crucified and risen, who was and is and is to come.

Amen! Come Lord Jesus.

May Christ ascended in majesty be our new and living way, our access to you, Father, and source of all new life. In Christ we offer ourselves to do your will.

Empower our celebration with your Holy Spirit, feed us with your life, fire us with your love, confront us with your justice, and make us one in the body of Christ with all who share your gifts of love.

Through Christ, in the power of the Holy Spirit, with all who stand before you in earth and heaven, we worship you, Creator God. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

As our Savior Christ has taught us,
we now pray:

Eternal Spirit,
Earth-Maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver,
Source of all that is and that shall be,
Father and Mother of us all.
Loving God, in whom is heaven:
The hallowing of your name echoes through the universe!
The way of your justice be followed by the peoples
of the world!
Your heavenly will be done by all created beings!
Your commonwealth of peace and freedom
sustain our hope and come on earth.
With the bread we need for today, feed us.
In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.
In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.
From trials too great to endure, spare us.
From the grip of all that is evil, free us.
For you reign in the glory of the power that is love,
now and forever. Amen.

From *A New Zealand Prayer Book*, p. 181

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread, and a period of silence is kept.

We break this bread to share in the Body of Christ.
We who are many are one body, for we all share in the one bread.

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

*The ministers receive the Sacrament in both kinds, and then immediately deliver it to the people.
The Bread and the Cup are given with these words*

The Body of Christ, the bread of heaven.
The Blood of Christ, the cup of salvation.

Administration of the Sacrament: All are welcome to the Lord's Table at Ascension. To receive communion, come to the communion station. Receive the bread in the palm of your hand. Eat the bread and then drink from the cup when it is offered to you, or you may hold the bread and dip it into the wine when the cup is offered to you.

Gluten-free wafers are also available. Make your need known to the Clergy by holding up three fingers.

If you wish to receive a blessing rather than receive communion, please join in the movement to the communion station and cross your arms over the front of your chest – this will alert the Clergy of your desire to be blessed.

If you need communion brought to you please let a member of the Welcome Team know.

Healing Prayers: If you would like to receive the laying on of hands for healing for yourself or another, go to the prayer annex to the right of the pulpit after receiving communion. A healing minister will be there to pray with you.

*As our Savior Christ has taught us,
we are bold to say:*

Our Father in heaven,
holy is 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.

From *The Book of Common Prayer*, p. 364

When there is a Eucharistic Visitor present

We send you forth bearing these holy gifts that those whom you visit may share with us in the communion of Christ's body and blood.

We who are many are one body because we all share one bread and one cup.

Let us pray.

God of all, we give you thanks and praise, that when we were still far off you met us in Jesus and brought us home. Dying and living, he declared your love, gave us grace and opened the gate of glory. May we who share Christ's body live his risen life; we who drink his cup bring life to others; we whom the Spirit lights give light to the world. Amen.

Gather 378

All the Ends of the Earth

The Peace

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

The Priest and People greet one another in the name of the Lord, then move to the narthex for refreshment and fellowship.

Pray for Comfort, Healing, Courage, and Hope

We pray for all those who, in this transitory life, are in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness, or any other adversity, especially Sandy Boynton, Monica Koenig Caphart, John Carman, Abby FitzPatrick, Diane Goldman, Dotty Pfadenhauer, Sarah Rubin, Wilma Joyce Ruppel, Proscovia Senkeeto, Roz Silver-Marcotte, and Suzanne Winterhalter.

We pray for peace in the world and all who are serving our country here and abroad, especially those in harm's way, and their families.

Equip us and empower us to be witnesses to your love – as advocates and as servants, as ministers of welcome and of hope for refugees and all affected by natural disasters, violence, and war.

We pray for all special intentions, and those on our extended Healing Prayer List.

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Worship Leaders

	Today	Next Sunday
Readers	7:45 a.m. Jean Cohn 9:00 a.m. Gary McLaughlin Susan McLaughlin 11:15 a.m. Sarah Rubin	Enid Cole Andrew Greene Gordon Donnelly Laura Shay
Prayers	7:45 a.m. Jean Cohn 9:00 a.m. Barbara Mansfield	Enid Cole Christian Simpson
Chalicians	7:45 a.m. Wadai Dennis Enid Cole 9:00 a.m. Jason Cutshall Esther Tellu 11:15 a.m. Peg Ruppel Georgana Maines	Sharon Hayden Edna Leake Nancy Carman Cynthia Perley Rimmie Sicard Jason Cutshall
Healing Prayer Ministers	7:45 a.m. Janet King 9:00 a.m. Randy Lord-Wilkinson 11:15 a.m. Alex Langley	Lisa Murdock Paul Whitmore Peg Ruppel
Acolytes	7:45 a.m. Raymond Chin Aidan Douglas 9:00 a.m. Nuelle Johnson Manny Johnson Kofi Kwamena-Poh	Ron Hayden Aidan Douglas Lisa Dickson Alfred Wasikye Richard McFarland
Welcome Team	7:45 a.m. Don Cohn Jean Cohn 9:00 a.m. Dorett Sutherland James Black Jonathan Black 11:15 a.m. Avin Lalmansingh Karl Didavi Clark Didavi	Florence Sirleaf Meredith Horan Nii Armah Akuete Ruby King Charles Dickson Alex Langley Alice Padmore Kendall Anderson
Altar Guild	7:45 a.m. Enid Cole Mardia Dennis 9:00 a.m. Sarah Gallagher Kristen FitzPatrick 11:15 a.m. Laura Shay	Leslie Sanya Wadai Dennis Cynthia Perley Liz Lennon Georgana Maines
Song Leader	11:15 a.m. Betsy Hasegawa	Sue Snay
Hospitality Angels	7:45 a.m. David Burton 9:00 a.m. Nathalie Scott 11:15 a.m. Anthony Lalmansingh	Yvonne Lartey Marjorie Madikoto Peg Ruppel
Altar Guild Unscheduled Services	9:00 a.m. Team	11:15 a.m. Team
Eucharistic Visitor	Javier Ocampo	Jean Cohn
Flower Delivery	Alice Padmore Esther Sawyer	Adoma Baffoe Hawa Clemens



The Episcopal Church of the Ascension
 205 South Summit Avenue
 Gaithersburg, Maryland 20877-2315
 Phone: 301.948.0122 – Fax: 301.926.9012
eca@ascensionmd.org
www.ascensionmd.org