



The Second Sunday in Lent

12 March AD 2017

7:45 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**.*

The Word of God

The people stand.

Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.
His compassion endures forever.

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.

Lord, have compassion upon us.
Christ, have compassion upon us.
Lord, have compassion upon us.

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Let us pray.

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.

The people sit for the readings and the psalm.

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.

Psalm 121 *Levavi oculos*

Read responsively.

I lift up my eyes to the hills;
from where is my help to come?

My help comes from the Lord,
the maker of heaven and earth.

He will not let your foot be moved
and he who watches over you will not fall asleep.

Behold, he who keeps watch over Israel
shall neither slumber nor sleep;

The Lord himself watches over you;
the Lord is your shade at your right hand,

So that the sun shall not strike you by day,
nor the moon by night.

The Lord shall preserve you from all evil;
it is he who shall keep you safe.

The Lord shall watch over your going out and your coming in,
from this time forth for evermore.

The people stand.

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.

The people are seated at the invitation of the preacher.

Sermon

(The Rev.) Randy Lord-Wilkinson

The people stand and remain standing through the Peace.

The Nicene Creed

<p>We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.</p> <p>We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, True God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made.</p> <p>For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried.</p>	<p>On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.</p> <p>We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.</p>
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The Prayers of the People

Form IV

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, Mariann our Bishop, Randy and Javier, our clergy, Jason, our seminarian, and all bishops and other ministers;
For all who serve God in his Church.

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation. You may add your own prayers at this time silently or aloud.

The People may add their own petitions

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.

Hear us, Lord;
For your mercy is great.

We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life. You may offer your own prayers of thanksgiving at this time.

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.

All kneel. Silence may be kept.

Leader and People

**Most merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.**

**We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in your will,
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

The Celebrant alone stands and 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

The peace of the Lord be always with you.
And also with you.

Announcements

Please stand at the presentation of the money and food offerings.

The Holy Communion

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The Celebrant continues

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord, who was in every way tempted as we are, yet did not sin; by whose grace we are able to triumph over every evil, and to live no longer unto ourselves, but unto him who died for us and rose again.

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:

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

The people kneel or stand.

The Celebrant continues

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself, and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all. He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, 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."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Celebrant and People

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

The Celebrant continues

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: 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.**

The Lord's Prayer

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

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.

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread.

A period of silence is kept.

Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

Therefore let us keep the feast.

Celebrant

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.

*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.

Administration of the Sacrament: All are welcome to the Lord's Table at Ascension. To receive communion, come to the communion station at the direction of the Welcome Team. 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 beside the pulpit after receiving communion. A healing minister will be there to pray with you.

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.

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

Prayer after Communion

Let us pray.

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

Life is short, and we do not have too much time
to gladden the hearts of those who travel the way with us.
So be swift to love, and make haste to be kind.
And may the blessing of the one who made us,
who journeys with us,
who breathes us into life moment by moment,
Creator, Christ, and Holy Spirit, be upon you
this day and always. *Amen.*

The people stand.

Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

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