

WELCOME TO CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION

Fifth Sunday in Lent: April 7, A.D. 2019

What is the Collect, and what is its Purpose?

The Collect (accent on the first syllable) has been a part of Christian worship since at least the eighth century. The word comes from Latin and means the gathering of people. As used in the Anglican Eucharist, the collect is a prayer, a kind of 'getting organized' that gathers the intentions of the people and focuses the day's worship into a succinct prayer from the congregation.

Most of the collects in use today were composed from Latin translations by Archbishop Thomas Cranmer. There is a certain amount of topical allusion to particular feasts or seasons of the year, but it is possible to replace one collect with another as the need arises. You will have noticed that the "collect for purity" is frequently used. All of the collects fit a general pattern that Cranmer employed in the first Book of Common Prayer (1549). There is a poetic, metrical quality to these prayers. In form, the collects are quite simple and short.

There is an address to God, usually God the Father.

There is an acknowledgement of a divine attribute.

There is a request for what we need: guidance, forgiveness, faith, etc.

There is an aspiration (the desired result), invocation and doxology.

The Amen. "Let it be so!" spoken by the people.

Did you notice these attributes of today's collect? I have marked the sections of today's collect with these classic section numbers.

1. Almighty God,
2. you alone can bring into order the unruly wills and affections of sinners;
3. Grant your people grace to love what you command and desire what you promise;
4. that, among the swift and varied changes of the world, our hearts may surely there be fixed where true joys are to be found; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever
5. Amen.

You have probably seen that the language is spare and beautiful; that the petitioner gets right to the point, and that the prayer acknowledges the triune nature of God. This surely shows an economy of language, focused intent, and religious orthodoxy. This collect demonstrates that God is the one who turns us into worshipers, and our purpose is to worship him.

It is certainly possible to write collects in the English of the 21st century, with emphasis on the concerns of our day—
-I invite you to try this! You will find that the effort itself is a form of prayer, and that it will help you to organize your thoughts. You have the recipe; make a beautiful prayer, most meaningful to you.

Blessings,

Javier

TO OUR VISITORS, NEWCOMERS, AND SEEKERS

We thank you for joining us today and hope you will return often.

At Ascension, our mission is to "Represent Jesus Christ wherever we may be." We welcome you to our church family and invite you to fill out a welcome card (located in the rack at the ends of each pew).

TODAY AT ASCENSION

Preacher: The Rev. Javier G. Ocampo

Refreshments and conversation follow every service in the lower atrium.

A place of peace for parents and a beginners Sunday School is available in Room 4.

Please feel free to bring your child.

Seeds

Washing the growth of flower seeds reminds us of the miracle of hope and transformation that is coming in the promise of Eastern. The seeds change; they decay as they transform into a new life—a new life that we can't really imagine when we plant it. Where is the hope in your life? Where is there mystery? What transformation do you hope for during the season of Lent? Read the Parable of the Mustard Seed (Matthew 13:31-32 or Luke 13:20-21) and talk about change. What things can you think of that change? Plan when you will plant your seeds!

LIFE LONG LEARNING

A Joyful Path

The 10:00 Joyful path will learn about Mildred Norman Ryder who answered Jesus's call to leave family and friends and follow him by becoming a "peace Pilgrim". She walked across the United States several times in the 1950's, 60's and 70's teaching people about peace. For this service, all children will meet in the place of peace located in room 4 each week, and then separate by age groups.

A Joyful Path—12:00 p.m.

We will use the story of Harriett Tubman's life We will learn willpower using the story of the life and times of Harriett Tubman. She overcame many obstacles in her life and world and prospered and succeeded.

Godly Play

This week's in Godly Play lessons. The Faces of Easter VII, continue to help us prepare for the Mystery of Easter. We move toward the Mystery of Easter by hearing the stories of Christ's journey toward the cross and resurrection. This week's presentation focuses on Christ's face on the cross and Christ's face on Easter.

Spanish Class

Come and take part in Ascension's Spanish Class on Mondays from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the Library. You don't need to know Spanish to come, because we get together to learn and/or practice. For more information, contact Fr. Javier at ocampo@ascensionmd.org.

Ascension T-shirts

If you are interested in getting T-shirt, please call or email Berenice at 249-281-3736 or berenice.rodriquez.84@gmail.com. T-shirt's are \$10

Wednesday Morning Book Group

Ascension's book group is discussing the book, "Enlightenment Now" by Steven Pinker. This book claims that reason, science, and humanism have brought progress in the sense that health, prosperity, safety, peace, and happiness have tended to rise worldwide. We invite you to participate in our discussions. We meet weekly at 10:00 a.m. in Ascension's library. Please read chapters 8 and 9 for this coming Wednesday.

Thursday Morning Yoga

Yoga classes are offered on Thursdays at 10:00 a.m. in the Chapel, taught by Lucia Pires. The class is multilevel, with an emphasis on gentle yoga, and is appropriate for beginners. Props are offered, but the students are encouraged to bring their own yoga mats.

Tai Chi

Tai Chi class is at 4:00 p.m. on Thursday afternoons in the Chapel; a good time of peace and balance in a lovely place. Please come and join us. Tai Chi is cancelled any Thursday that schools are closed for bad weather this winter. Contact Claire Rosser at 301.275.0617 or Cjrosser@aol.com if you have any questions.

LIFE AT ASCENSION

2019 Lenten Offering (Rice Bowl Recipient)

A Lenten tradition since the tenure of Rector Harry Dalzell (1970-1980), your offering, placed in the wooden bowl in the font as you come forward for Communion, goes toward an outreach ministry. Typically, we alternate between local and domestic or international causes. This year the offering will be destined to end hunger.

Ascension Youth Group

- Ascension Youth Group typically meets on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of the month from 6 pm - 8 pm in the undercroft of the church, unless otherwise noted.
- Ascension YG is open to all Youth in 6th grade and beyond. They need not attend Ascension.
- Typical YG includes dinner, provided by two families, a spiritual lesson and fun games. "Food, Fellowship & Fun"
- The YG meets on April 14 in the Parish Hall.

We need to Update your Information

After the service you will find a tables where we have the 2019 Directories. Please check your information and if there is any change let us know so we can update it. Thank you.

Easter Flowers

If you would like to donate toward our beautiful flowers for Easter, please use one of the Easter flower envelopes in the Narthex. Please annotate the amount of your donation and if it is in honor of or in memory of a loved one, or in thanksgiving. The envelope can be placed in the plate or given to a Welcome team member. If you have questions, please contact Sari Stoddard/Altar Guild Chair, at 301-325-8791 or sari.stoddard@verizon.net. Thank you.

Connection Hour Bible Study on The Women of the Cross

From the Sundays of Lent from March 17th to April 7th, Reverends Eugene Wright and Nan Hildebrand will facilitate a bible study on the steadfast and courageous women who stayed with Jesus during the hours of his crucifixion. Our study and conversation will be a meditation on the role of their caregiving, prayer and their courageous love which led to their revelatory leadership. Our study will direct our thoughts to the anticipatory joy of Easter. Help yourself to some coffee and a treat at the 9am coffee hour and meet us in the library. Prayer and discussion will be from 9:10am to 9:50 am.

Sacred Waters Workshop

Sunday 4/28 at 11am-11:30am "Sacred Waters Workshop" at the Church of the Ascension. Learn about the local waters of our watershed and what our faith teaches about care for God's Creation. Guest speaker will be Kolya Braun-Greiner, MDiv, Religious Educator with Interfaith Partners for the Chesapeake, and she will present about how our church is taking action to heal and restore our waters to good health for all life.

Holy Week and Easter at Ascension



Palm Sunday 14

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist and Blessing of the Palms—Main Church

10:00 a.m. Liturgy of the Palms and Eucharist—Entrance to High School

12:00 p.m. Liturgy of the Palms and Eucharist—Entrance to High School

Maundy Thursday April 18

7:30 p.m. Holy Eucharist with Foot Washing and Stripping of the Altar—Main Church

Good Friday April 19

12:00 p.m. "Stations to Go" - Main Church and Various Locations in Old Towne Gaithersburg 7:30 p.m. Prayer Book Liturgy—Main Church

The Great Vigil of Easter April 20

8:00 p.m. Easter Vigil— Main Church

Easter April 21

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist—Main Church

10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist—Main Church followed by an Easter Egg Hunt

12:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist—Main Church

12-Month Evaluation for Father Javier

It has been 12 months since Javier accepted the position of Priest-in-Charge at Ascension. Therefore, it is time for the second formal evaluation between Father Javier and the Church. This time, the Vestry will start the process by hosting a series of small meetings to review what we've been working on over the last year, progress made, and to answer your questions. Hopefully this information will help you to fill out an honest and complete evaluation for Padre Javier. The first such meeting will be at 9:00 AM Sunday March 31 in Room 1, before the One Ascension Youth Sunday service. More meetings will take place throughout April, times and locations to be announced. For Javier's evaluations, we will still use a paper form that you may fill out and return to the green and gold box in the narthex-same as last time. As before they will be absolutely confidential and used to make Ascension stronger for all of us. Please participate in this important process for Ascension.

Thank you, Betsy Hasegawa

Senior Warden

Midweek Eucharistic Service

Our Wednesday Midweek Service was another huge success this past week. Twenty seven gathered at the Chapel to hear stories of Mary and Martha, sisters of Lazarus. The gathered folks got to add their comments and ask the questions they have so long held about the story of Mary and Martha. Next week promises extremely interesting information about the almost forgotten woman of the crucifixion of Jesus. Fr Javier promises to share a new perspective of Claudia Procula. And being our final Wednesday session before Easter, you may not want to miss one moment. And for another incentive to attend, this week, soup will be provided by Henry Musiker and Marcia Noble. Bread will be provided by Melanie Mitchell and NiKa Hakimi. See you next Wednesday!

Annual Easter Egg Hunt

Inviting all children, from toddlers to 5th grade, to our annual Easter egg hunt. We will gather in front of the church and the egg hunt will start as soon as Families come out of the 10:00 service (probably around 11:30). Spanish service families are encouraged to arrive by 11:20 and children can participate in an egg-in-spoon race and chalk drawing until the egg hunt starts. We need donations of plastic eggs stuffed with small toys, stickers or candy (preferably a kind that doesn't melt easily in case it's hot that day) Thank you!

Creation Care in the Episcopal Church

The online address for Presiding Bishop Curry's Creation Care project is <https://www.episcopalchurch.org/creation-care> There is a brief video by Bishop Curry about his vision for this project. It includes resources for expanding our awareness of and engagement with environmental issues. There is also an opportunity to pledge to greater service in environmental stewardship. There are several questions associated with the pledge. Please consider taking the pledge, if the suggested responses don't seem to fit your vision, consider using local projects as a starting point.

CONTACT US

205 S. Summit Ave., Gaithersburg, Maryland, 20877
www.ascensionmd.org

- ◆ Office Hours: Monday-Thursday 9:30 a.m. 3:30 p.m.
Friday 10:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m.
- ◆ Phone: 301.948.0122 ☎ Fax: 301.926.9012
- ◆ Fr. Javier's cell: 202.903.6426
- ◆ Prayer requests: Fill out a prayer request card (pink or yellow, on the table in the narthex) or e-mail the office at office@ascensionmd.org.

Bishop of Washington - The Rt. Rev. Mariann Edgar Budde *me-budde@edow.org*, 202.537.6550

Priest in Charge –The Rev. Javier García Ocampo *ocampo@ascensionmd.org*, voice mailbox 12

Pastoral Associate—The Rev. Nan Hildebrand *hildebrandnan@gmail.com*, voice mailbox 13

Deacon—Eugene Wright

Minister of Music—Andrew Kullberg *music@ascensionmd.org*, voice mailbox 11

Parish Administrator - Lin Keene *office@ascensionmd.org*, voice mailbox 10

Communications – Jesse Velazquez *comm@ascensionmd.org*, voice mailbox 14

Altar Guild Directors, Sari Stoddard *sari.stoddard@verizon.net*; Mardia Dennis, *mard908@gmail.com*, Dotty Pfadenhauer, *dottypfa@aol.com* and Georgana Maines, *mainesgnh@verizon.net*

LEADERSHIP AT ASCENSION

Senior Warden: Betsy Hasegawa
Junior Warden: Zadinga Ogada

Vestry:

2020: Gordon Donnelly, Meredith Horan, Luis Pedrón
2021: Berenice Rodriguez, Robert Waters, Susan McLaughlin
2022: James A. Black, Kristen Keating, Wadai Dennis
Danielle Allen, *Clerk of the Vestry*
Avin Lalmansingh, *Treasurer*

Christian Formation for Children: Megan Didavi
Christian Formation for Youth: Angie Hight-Walker
Christian Formation for Adults: Peg Ruppel
Facilities: Ted Bedell & John Pruessner
Finance: Avin Lalmansingh
Mission: Paul Boynton
Pastoral Care: The Rev. Javier Garcia
The Rev. Nan Hildebrand
Personnel: Jean Cohn
Worship: Gary McLaughlin & Curt Lindsay

Delegates to Diocesan Convention:

Mardia Dennis, Gary McLaughlin, Sue Snay
Alternate: Fredy Diaz

Cycles of Prayer

Prayers for those whose lives are closely linked with ours:

Calvary Church, DC
Church of the Atonement, DC

THIS WEEK AT ASCENSION

Monday, April 8, 2019

11:30 a.m. Living with a Chronic Illness - Room 1
1:00 p.m. Al-Anon—Room 1
6:00 p.m. Spanish Class- Library
7:00 p.m. Overeaters Anonymous—Room 1

Tuesday, April 9, 2019

7:00 a.m. Mobile Med
11:00 a.m. Staff Meeting—Library
6:30 p.m. Ensemble—Main Church
7:00 p.m. Stillwater Mindfulness Group—Chapel
7:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal
7:30 p.m. Spanish Bible Study—Library
8:30 p.m. Al-Anon—Room 1

Wednesday, April 10, 2019

10:00 a.m. Book Club- Library
1:00 p.m. Al-Anon—Room 1
6:00 p.m. Lenten Soup- Room 2
7:00 p.m. Midweek Eucharistic Service—Main Church
7:00 p.m. Overeaters Anonymous—Room 1
8:00 p.m. Gamblers' Anonymous—Room 2

Thursday, April 11, 2019

10:00 a.m. Yoga—Chapel
4:00 p.m. Tai Chi—Chapel
7:00 p.m. Al-Anon/Spanish—Room 1

Friday, April 12, 2019

12:00 p.m. Jack- Choir Room
1:00 p.m. Al-Anon—Room 1

Saturday, April 13, 2019

9:00 a.m. Overeaters Anonymous—Room 2
11:00 a.m. Al-Anon—Parish Hall
11:00 a.m. Overeaters Anonymous—Room 1
7:00 p.m. Al-Anon/Spanish- Room 1

Sunday, April 14, 2019 Palm Sunday

Preacher: The Rev. Nan Hildebrand

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist - Main Church
10:00 a.m. Bible School for 3+ year olds and under - Room 4
10:00 a.m. Godly Play- Room 6
10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist - Main Church
10:00 a.m. Joyful Path - Room 2
10:00 a.m. St. Barnabas - Chapel
12:00 p.m. Escuela Dominical Para Niños - Room 2
12:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist (Spanish) - Main Church
1:30 p.m. Maryland Uke Jam—Chapel
6:00 p.m. Youth Group - Parish Hall

Attendance	March 17	March 24	March 31
8:00 am	42	37	
10:00 am	120	142	161
12:00 pm	35	35	
Total:	197	214	161