



The Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

Proper 27

November 12, 2023

10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist

Welcome to Ascension! For more information about our community, please 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 in the narthex.

Please silence your electronic devices. Beginning ten minutes before the service, please help us create a contemplative space by refraining from cell phone use or loud conversation.

The people's responses are in bold.

PRELUDE

Gentle child Jesus

J.S. Bach

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates

The Hymnal 1982 # 436 Verses 1-3, 5

Truro

1 Lift up your heads, ye might - y gates; be - hold the
 2 O blest the land, the ci - ty blest, where Christ the
 3 Fling wide the por - tals of your heart; make it a
 *4 Re - deem - er, come! I o - pen wide my heart to
 5 So come, my Sov - ereign; en - ter in! Let new and

1 King of glo - ry waits! The King of kings is
 2 ru - ler is con - fessed! O hap - py hearts and
 3 tem - ple, set a - part from earth - ly use for
 4 thee: here, Lord, a - bide! Let me thy in - ner
 5 no - bler life be - gin; thy Ho - ly Spi - rit

1 draw - ing near; the Sa - vior of the world is here.
 2 hap - py homes to whom this King of tri - umph comes!
 3 heaven's em - ploy, a - dorned with prayer and love and joy.
 4 pres - ence feel: thy grace and love in me re - veal.
 5 guide us on, un - til the glo - rious crown be won.

WELCOME

OPENING ACCLAMATION

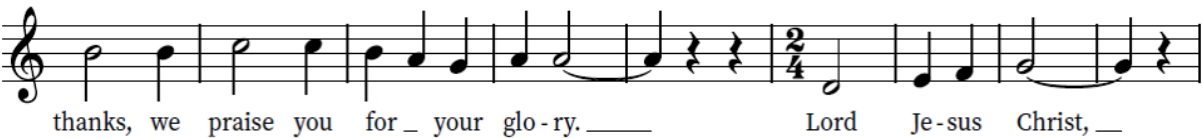
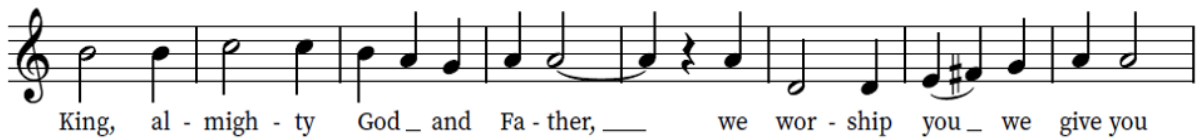
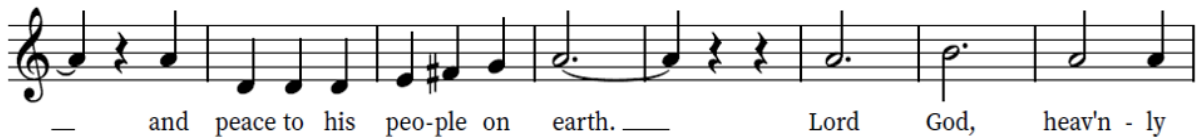
Priest Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
People And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

Priest and people

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.

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS

John Rutter



hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer. For you a - lone are the
 Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord, you a - lone are the
 Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spi - rit,
 in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - - - - men.

THE COLLECT FOR THE DAY

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

Priest and People

O God, whose blessed Son came into the world that he might destroy the works of the devil and make us children of God and heirs of eternal life: Grant that, having this hope, we may purify ourselves as he is pure; that, when he comes again with power and great glory, we may be made like him in his eternal and glorious kingdom; where he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

The people are seated.

THE FIRST READING

Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25

Reader A reading from the Book of Joshua.

Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem, and summoned the elders, the heads, the judges, and the officers of Israel; and they presented themselves before God. And Joshua said to all the people, “Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel: Long ago your ancestors—Terah and his sons Abraham and Nahor—lived beyond the Euphrates and served other gods. Then I took your father Abraham from beyond the River and led him through all the land of Canaan and made his offspring many. Now therefore revere the Lord and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness; put away the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the Lord. Now if you are unwilling to serve the Lord, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served in the region beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.” Then the people answered, “Far be it from us that we should forsake the Lord to serve other gods; for it is the Lord our God who brought us and our ancestors up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, and who did those great signs in our sight. He protected us along all the way that we went, and among all the peoples through whom we passed; and the Lord drove out before us all the peoples, the Amorites who lived in the land. Therefore we also will serve the Lord, for he is our God.” But Joshua said to the people, “You cannot serve the Lord, for he is a holy God. He is a jealous God; he will not forgive your transgressions or your sins. If you forsake the Lord and serve foreign gods, then he will turn and do you harm, and consume you, after having done you good.” And the people

said to Joshua, “No, we will serve the Lord!” Then Joshua said to the people, “You are witnesses against yourselves that you have chosen the Lord, to serve him.” And they said, “We are witnesses.” He said, “Then put away the foreign gods that are among you, and incline your hearts to the Lord, the God of Israel.” The people said to Joshua, “The Lord our God we will serve, and him we will obey.” So Joshua made a covenant with the people that day, and made statutes and ordinances for them at Shechem.

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

PSALM 78:1-7

Hear my teaching, O my people; *
incline your ears to the words of my mouth.

I will open my mouth in a parable; *
I will declare the mysteries of ancient times.

That which we have heard and known, and what our forefathers have told us, *
we will not hide from their children.

We will recount to generations to come the praiseworthy deeds and the power of the Lord, *
and the wonderful works he has done.

He gave his decrees to Jacob and established a law for Israel, *
which he commanded them to teach their children;

That the generations to come might know, and the children yet unborn; *
that they in their turn might tell it to their children;

So that they might put their trust in God, *
and not forget the deeds of God, but keep his commandments;

THE SECOND READING

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

Reader A reading from the first letter of the apostle St. Paul to the Thessalonians.

We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air; and so we will be with the Lord forever. Therefore encourage one another with these words.

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

The people stand as able, and all sing the following hymn.

SEQUENCE HYMN

Jesus came, adored by angels

The Hymnal 1982 # 454

Lowry

Unison or harmony

1 Je - sus came, a - dored by an - gels, came with peace from
 2 Je - sus comes a - gain in mer - cy, when our hearts are
 3 Je - sus comes to hearts re - joic - ing, bring - ing news of
 4 Je - sus comes on clouds tri - um - phant, when the heavens shall

realms on high; Je - sus came for our re - demp - tion,
 bowed with care: Je - sus comes a - gain in an - swer
 sins for - given; Je - sus comes in sounds of glad - ness,
 pass a - way; Je - sus comes a - gain in glo - ry;

low - ly came on earth to die: Al - le - lu - ia,
 to our ear - nest heart - felt prayer; Al - le - lu - ia,
 lead - ing souls re - deemed to heaven; Al - le - lu - ia,
 let us then our hom - age pay: Al - le - lu - ia,

al - le - lu - ia! came in deep hu - mil - i - ty.
 al - le - lu - ia! comes to save us from de - spair.
 al - le - lu - ia! now the gate of death is riven.
 al - le - lu - ia! till the dawn of end - less day.

The people remain standing for the reading of the Gospel.

THE GOSPEL

Matthew 25:1-13

Deacon
People

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

Jesus said, "Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. But at midnight there was a shout, 'Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps

are going out.’ But the wise replied, ‘No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.’ And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, ‘Lord, lord, open to us.’ But he replied, ‘Truly I tell you, I do not know you.’ Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.”

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

SERMON

Tracey Forfa

The people are seated at the invitation of the preacher.

THE NICENE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

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. 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 truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. 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.

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.

Prayers of the People

Form III

Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church;
That we all may be one.

Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;
That your Name may be glorified by all people.

We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons;
That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.

We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;
That there may be justice and peace on the earth.

Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;
That our works may find favor in your sight.

Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;
That they may be delivered from their distress.

Give to the departed eternal rest.
Let light perpetual shine upon them.

We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;
May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.
A brief silence is kept.

We pray for comfort, healing, courage and hope for **Steve** Heinig, **Lucia** Valenzuela, **Robert** Taylor, **Nikka** Hakimi, **Angie** Ricks, **Jean** Isaac, **Crystal** Parmalee, **Jenny** Regalado, **Jeff** Kostka, **Peg** Ruppel, **GG** Somerville, **Frances** Farrah, **Rodolfo** Rodriguez, **Yvonne** McDonald, **Trevor** Walker, **Delita** Rodriguez, **Judy** Conroy, **Benjamin** Hight, and all those who, in this transitory life, are in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness, or any other adversity.

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

We pray for all those affected by, suffering from, and killed by gun violence throughout our country.

We remember on this day, one year after his death on November 1, 2022, Edgar Neal, a long-time parishioner who contributed much to Ascension over the years.

We give thanks for the flowers on the altar today, given by Kristin and Jerry FitzPatrick in memory of their beloved son, Bryan FitzPatrick.

We give thanks for the recent birthdays of **Jake** Yalley-Ogunro, **Lavina** Williams, **Frances** Farrah, **Curt** Lindsay and **Pamella** Irons-Forth.

Celebrant Almighty God, to whom our needs are known before we ask: Help us to ask only what accords with your will; and those good things which we dare not, or in our blindness cannot ask, grant us for the sake of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Confession of Sin

Deacon: Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence may be kept.

God of all mercy, we confess that we have sinned against you, opposing your will in our lives. We have denied your goodness in each other, in ourselves, and in the world you have created. We repent of the evil that enslaves us, the evil we have done, and the evil done on our behalf. Forgive, restore, and strengthen us through our Savior Jesus Christ, that we may abide in your love and serve only your will. Amen.

Celebrant:

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.**

The people greet one another with a sign of God's peace and are seated.

OFFERTORY SENTENCE

Celebrant Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving, and make good your vows to the Most High.
(Psalm 50:14)

The altar is prepared for Holy Communion and an offering is received to support Ascension's ministry of sharing God's love with the world. To donate electronically, text ASCENSIONMD + donation amount to 73256 or scan the QR Code with your phone or mobile device.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM (Sung by the Choir):

If Ye Love Me

Thomas Tallis

*If ye love me, keep my commandments, and I will pray the Father, and
he shall give you another comforter.
That he shall bide with you forever; e'en the Spirit of Truth.*

The people stand as able, and all sing the Doxology as the gifts are brought forward.

DOXOLOGY

God the Father, Light Creator

The Hymnal 1982 # 381

Tune: *Ton-y-Botel*

4 God the Fa-ther, Light-Cre - a - tor, to thee laud and
hon - or be; to thee, Light of Light be - got - ten,
praise be sung e - ter - nal - ly; Ho-ly Spi-rit, Light-Re -
veal - er, glo - ry, glo - ry be to thee; mor-tals, an-gels,
now and ev - er praise the Ho - ly Tri - ni - ty.

The Holy Communion

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them to the Lord.**

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Celebrant

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

For you are the source of light and life, you made us in your image, and called us to new life in Jesus Christ our Lord.

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

Land of Rest



The people kneel or remain standing.

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."

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

Celebrant and People

**We remember his death,
We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory;**

The Celebrant continues.

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,

Celebrant and People

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, forever and ever. Amen.

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated bread. After a brief silence, all sing the Fraction Anthem.

FRACTION ANTHEM

James E. Moore, Jr.

$\text{♩} = 120$

Taste and see. Taste and see the good - ness of the Lord. _____ O

taste and see. Taste and see the good - ness of the Lord, _____ of the Lord.

Celebrant:

God’s Holy gifts for God’s holy people. Come, when you are fearful, to be made new in love. Come, when you are doubtful, to be made strong in faith. Come, when you are regretful, and be made whole in Christ. Come to Christ’s table, there is room for all.

All are welcome to receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion at Church of the Ascension. Please follow the directions of the Priest. Receive the bread in your hands. You may receive the wine by drinking from the chalice or by taking one of the small cups, drinking from it and returning the cup to the chalice or the cup holder tray. If you wish to receive a blessing, join in the movement to the front of the nave and cross your arms over the front of your chest. After receiving Holy Communion, the people are seated.

PRAYER FOR SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

Lord Jesus, we believe that you are truly present in the Blessed Sacrament of the Altar. We offer you praise and thanksgiving as we proclaim your resurrection. We love you above all, and long for you in our souls. Since we cannot receive you in the Sacrament of your Body and Blood, come spiritually into our hearts. Cleanse and strengthen us with your grace, Lord Jesus, and let us never be separated from you. May we live in you, and you in us, in this life and in the life to come. Amen.

After receiving communion, the people are seated for the hymn.

COMMUNION HYMN

The Hymnal 1982 # 324

Let all mortal flesh keep silence

Picardy



1 Let all mortal flesh keep silence, and with fear and
2 King of kings, yet born of Ma - ry, as of old on
3 Rank on rank the host of hea - ven spreads its van - guard
4 At his feet the six - winged ser - aph; cher - u - bim with



trem - bling stand; pon - der noth - ing earth - ly -
earth he stood, Lord of lords in hu - man
on the way, as the Light of Light de -
sleep - less eye veil their fac - es to the



mind - ed, for with bless - ing in his hand
ves - ture, in the Bo - dy and the Blood
scend - eth from the realms of end - less day,
Pres - ence, as with cease - less voice they cry,



Christ our God to earth de - scend - eth,
he will give to all the faith - ful
that the powers of hell may va - nish
“Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!”



our full hom - age to de - mand.
his own self for heaven - ly food.
as the dark - ness clears a way.
Al - le - lu - ia, Lord Most High!”

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

Faithful God, in the wonder of your wisdom and love you fed your people in the wilderness with the bread of angels, and you sent Jesus to be the bread of life. We thank you for the Body of Christ, the bread of heaven, and for the offering of Christ's holy presence, the gift of spiritual communion, which feeds us when we must be apart. By the power of the Holy Spirit, may we become One Body in the sacrament of Christ's Body. Transform our lives with your life, for the love we share becomes bread for the world. AMEN.

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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

All are seated for the announcements. For more information about activities and events coming up at Ascension, please refer to the bulletin insert.

At the direction of the Celebrant, the people stand as able, and all sing the hymn.

RECESSIONAL HYMN

Rejoice, rejoice believers, and let your lights appear

The Hymnal 1982 # 68

Llangloffan

1 Re - joice! re - joice, be - liev - ers, and let your lights ap - pear!
2 See that your lamps are burn - ing, re - ple-nish them with oil;
3 Our hope and ex - pec - ta - tion, O Je - sus, now ap - pear;

The eve - ning is ad - vanc - ing, and dark - er night is near.
look now for your sal - va - tion, the end of sin and toil.
a - rise, thou Sun so longed for, a - bove this dark - ened sphere!

The Bride - groom is a - ris - ing, and soon he will draw nigh;
The mar - riage - feast is wait - ing, the gates wide o - pen stand;
With hearts and hands up - lift - ed, we plead, O Lord, to see

up, watch in ex - pec - ta - tion! at mid - night comes the cry.
 rise up, ye heirs of glo - ry, the Bride-groom is at hand!
 the day of earth's re - demp - tion, and ev - er be with thee!

DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE

Little Prelude in F

J.S. Bach

Service Participants:

The Rev. Javier García Ocampo – *Rector*

The Rev. Rosa Briones – *Deacon*

Tracey Forfa – *Lay Eucharistic Minister*

Jesse Velazquez – *Spanish Service Music Director*

The Ascension Choir

The Ascension Tech Team

PERMISSIONS:

Section: Advent Words: Laurentius Laurenti (1660–1722); tr. Sarah B. Findlater (1823–1907), alt. Music: Llangloffan, melody from Hymnau a Thonau er Gwasanaeth yr Eglwys yng Nghymru, 1865 Meter: 76. 76 Section: Holy Eucharist Words: Liturgy of St. James; para. Gerard Moultrie (1829–1885) Music: Picardy, French carol, 17th cent.; melody from Chansons populaires des Provinces de France, 1860; harm. after The English Hymnal, 1906 Meter: 87. 87. 87 Section: Jesus Christ our Lord Words: Georg Weisell (1590–1635); tr. Catherine Winkworth (1827–1878) Music: Truro, melody from Psalmodia Evangelica, Part II, 1789; harm. Lowell Mason (1792–1872), alt. Meter: LM Section: Jesus Christ our Lord Words: Godfrey Thring (1823–1903), alt. Music: Lowry, Gerald Near (b. 1942) Meter: 87. 87 with Alleluia Section: Eucharist Title: Taste and see Words: James E. Moore, Jr., para. of Psalm 34 Music: James E. Moore, Jr. Copyright: © 1992 GIA Publications Inc. Meter: Irr. Section: Service Music: Sanctus and Benedictus Title: Holy, holy, holy Lord [Sanctus] Music: American folk melody; arr. Marcia Pruner, harm. Annabel Morris Buchanan (1889–1983) Section: Service Music: Canticles Title: Glory to God [Gloria in excelsis] Canticle 20 Music: John Rutter (b. 1945) Copyright © Oxford University Press The Holy Eucharist: Rite Two is from the Book of Common Prayer © 1979 Church Publishing, Inc. Scripture readings are from the New Revised Standard Version of The Bible, copyright © 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.