



Service of Healing
Wednesday in the Fourth Week of Lent
March 18, 2026
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.

WELCOME

OPENING ACCLAMATION

Priest The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

People **And also with you.**

Priest Let us pray.

Priest and People

O Lord our God, you sustained your ancient people in the wilderness with bread from heaven: Feed now your pilgrim flock with the food that endures to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

THE FIRST READING

Isaiah 49:8–15

Reader A reading from the Book of the prophet Isaiah.

Thus says the Lord: In a time of favor I have answered you, on a day of salvation I have helped you; I have kept you and given you as a covenant to the people, to establish the land, to apportion the desolate heritages; saying to the prisoners, “Come out,” to those who are in darkness, “Show yourselves.” They shall feed along the ways, on all the bare heights shall be their pasture; they shall not hunger or thirst, neither scorching wind nor sun shall strike them down, for he who has pity on them will lead them, and by springs of water will guide them. And I will turn all my mountains into a road, and my highways shall be raised up. Lo, these shall come from far away, and lo, these from the north and from the west, and these from the land of Syene. Sing for joy, O heavens, and exult, O earth; break forth, O mountains, into singing! For the Lord has comforted his people, and will have compassion on his suffering ones. But Zion said, “The Lord has forsaken me, y Lord has forgotten me.” Can a woman forget her nursing-child, or show no compassion for the child of her womb? Even these may forget, yet I will not forget you.

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

People **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 145:8–19

The Lord is gracious and full of compassion, *
slow to anger and of great kindness.

The Lord is loving to everyone *
and his compassion is over all his works.

All your works praise you, O Lord, *
and your faithful servants bless you.

They make known the glory of your kingdom *
and speak of your power;

That the peoples may know of your power *
and the glorious splendor of your kingdom.

Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom; *
your dominion endures throughout all ages.

The Lord is faithful in all his words *
and merciful in all his deeds.

The Lord upholds all those who fall; *
he lifts up those who are bowed down.

The eyes of all wait upon you, O Lord, *
and you give them their food in due season.

You open wide your hand *
and satisfy the needs of every living creature.

The Lord is righteous in all his ways *
and loving in all his works.

The Lord is near to those who call upon him, *
to all who call upon him faithfully.

Deacon The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St. John.
People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Jesus said to the Jews, “Very truly, I tell you, the Son can do nothing on his own, but only what he sees the Father doing; for whatever the Father does, the Son does likewise. The Father loves the Son and shows him all that he himself is doing; and he will show him greater works than these, so that you will be astonished. Indeed, just as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, so also the Son gives life to whomever he wishes. The Father judges no one but has given all judgment to the Son, so that all may honor the Son just as they honor the Father. Anyone who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent him. Very truly, I tell you, anyone who hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life, and does not come under judgment, but has passed from death to life. “Very truly, I tell you, the hour is coming, and is now here, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live. For just as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son also to have life in himself; and he has given him authority to execute judgment, because he is the Son of Man. Do not be astonished at this; for the hour is coming when all who are in their graves will hear his voice and will come out—those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation.”

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

A LITANY OF HEALING

Celebrant Let us name before God those for whom we offer our prayers.

People audibly name those for whom they are interceding.

Reader God the Creator, your will for all people is health and salvation;
People **We praise you and thank you, O God.**
Reader God the Son, you came that we might have life, and might have it more abundantly;
People **We praise you and thank you, O God**
Reader God the Holy Spirit, you make our bodies the temple of your presence;
People **We praise you and thank you, O God.**
Reader Holy Trinity, one God, in you we live and move and have our being;
People **We praise you and thank you, O God.**
Reader Lord, grant your healing grace to all who are sick, injured, or disabled,
 that they may be made whole;
People **Hear us, O God of life.**
Reader Grant to all who seek your guidance, and to all who are lonely, anxious, or
 despondent, a knowledge of your will and an awareness of your presence;
People **Hear us, O God of life.**
Reader Mend broken relationships, and restore those in emotional distress to
 soundness of mind and serenity of spirit;
People **Hear us, O God of life.**
Reader Bless physicians, nurses, and all others who minister to the suffering,
 granting them wisdom and skill, sympathy and patience;
People **Hear us, O God of life.**

Reader Grant to the dying peace and a holy death, and uphold by the grace and consolation of your Holy Spirit those who are bereaved;

People **Hear us, O God of life.**

Reader Restore to wholeness whatever is broken by human sin, in our lives, in our nation, and in the world;

People **Hear us, O God of life.**

Reader You are the God who does wonders:

People **You have declared your power among the peoples.**

Reader With you, O God, is the well of life:

People **And in your light we see light.**

Reader Hear us, O God of life:

People **Heal us, and make us whole.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

A period of silence follows.

Celebrant Almighty God, giver of life and health: Send your blessing on all who are sick, and upon those who minister to them, that all weakness may be vanquished by the triumph of the risen Christ; who lives and reigns for ever and ever. Amen.

CONFESSION OF SIN

Deacon Let us confess our sins to God.

Minister and People

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 the grace of Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. Amen.

LAYING ON OF HANDS AND ANOINTING

The minister may invite each person to be anointed to give her or his name and any particular request for prayer. The minister then lays hands upon the sick person [and anoints the person], prays silently, then prays aloud using one of the following forms or similar words.

N., I lay my hands upon you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, praying that our Savior Jesus Christ will sustain you, drive away sickness of body and mind and spirit, and give you that victory of life and peace which will enable you to serve and rejoice in God both now and evermore. Amen.

The minister may add, in these or similar words

As you are outwardly anointed with this holy oil, so may our loving God give you the inward anointing of the Holy Spirit. May God relieve your suffering and restore you in body, mind, and spirit. May all of us in the frailty of our flesh know God's healing power. Amen.

Celebrant May the God who goes before you through desert places by night and by day be your companion and guide; may your journey be with the saints; may the Holy Spirit be your strength, and Christ your clothing of light, in whose name we pray. Amen.

THE PEACE

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

OFFERTORY SENTENCE

Celebrant

If you are offering your gift at the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift. (*Matthew 5:23, 24*)

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. Text ASCENSIONMD + Amount to 73256 to give a donation using your text messaging or scan the QR code

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 God thanks and praise.**

Celebrant God of all power, Ruler of the Universe, you are worthy of glory and praise.
People **Glory to you for ever and ever.**

Celebrant At your command all things came to be: the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses, and this fragile earth, our island home.

People **By your will they were created and have their being.**

Celebrant From the primal elements you brought forth the human race, and blessed us with memory, reason, and skill. You made us the rulers of creation. But we turned against you, and betrayed your trust; and we turned against one another.

People **Have mercy, Lord, for we are sinners in your sight.**

Celebrant Again and again, you called us to return. Through prophets and sages you revealed your righteous Law. And in the fullness of time you sent your only Son, born of a woman, to fulfill your Law, to open for us the way of freedom and peace.

People **By his blood, he reconciled us.
By his wounds, we are healed.**

Celebrant And therefore we praise you, joining with the heavenly chorus, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all those in every generation who have looked to you in hope, to proclaim with them your glory, in their unending hymn:

**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.

Celebrant And so, Father, we who have been redeemed by him, and made a new people by water and the Spirit, now bring before you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ our Lord.

At the following words concerning the bread, the Celebrant is to hold it, or lay a hand upon it, and at the words concerning the cup, to hold or place a hand upon the cup and any other vessel containing wine to be consecrated.

On the night he was betrayed he took bread, said the blessing, broke the bread, and gave it to his friends, 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, gave thanks, 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."

Remembering now his work of redemption, and offering to you this sacrifice of thanksgiving,

All

**We celebrate his death and resurrection,
as we await the day of his coming.**

Celebrant Lord God of our Ancestors: God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; God of Sarah, Rebecca, Rachel and Leah; God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ: Open our eyes to see your hand at work in the world about us. Deliver us from the presumption of coming to this Table for solace only, and not for strength; for pardon only, and not for renewal. Let the grace of this Holy Communion make us one body, one spirit in Christ, that we may worthily serve the world in his name.

People **Risen Lord, be known to us in the breaking of the Bread.**

Celebrant Accept these prayers and praises, Father, through Jesus Christ our great High Priest, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, your Church gives honor, glory, and worship, from generation to generation. **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 BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Celebrant Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People **Therefore let us keep the feast.**

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 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. Intincting ("dipping") is not permitted; only receiving the wine by drinking from the chalice or a cup is allowed.

After receiving communion, the people are seated.

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

Grant, Almighty God, that your people may recognize their weakness and put their whole trust in your strength, so that they may rejoice for ever in the protection of your loving providence; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

DISMISSAL

Deacon Let us bless the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

Service Participants:

The Rev. Tracey Forfa, *Pastoral Associate.*

PERMISSIONS

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