



Fourth Sunday of Easter
April 26, 2026
10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist



Welcome to Ascension! For more information about our community, please 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**.*

Opening Voluntary

Processional Hymn

Sing ye faithful, sing with gladness

The Hymnal 1982 # 492

Finnian



1 Sing, ye faith - ful, sing with glad - ness, wake your no - blest,
2 Sing how he came forth from hea - ven, bowed him - self to
3 So, he tast - ed death for mor - tals, he, of hu - man -
4 Now on high, yet ev - er with us, from his Fa - ther's



sweet - est strain, with the prais - es of your Sa - vior
Beth - lehem's cave, stooped to wear the ser - vant's ves - ture,
kind the head, sin - less one, a - mong the sin - ful,
throne the Son rules and guides the world he ran - somed,



let his house res - ound a - gain; him let all your
bore the pain, the cross, the grave, passed with - in the
Prince of life, a - mong the dead; thus he wrought the
till the ap - point - ed work be done, till he see, re -



mu - sic hon - or, and your songs ex - alt his reign.
gates of dark - ness, thence his ban - ished ones to save.
full re - demp - tion, and the cap - tor cap - tive led.
newed and per - fect, all things gath - ered in - to one.

WELCOME

OPENING ACCLAMATION

Priest Alleluia! Christ is risen!

People The Lord is risen indeed! Alleluia!

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:

Glory to God in the highest

The Hymnal 1982 # S278

William Mathias (1934-1992)




1. Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and



peace to his peo - ple on earth. 2. Lord God, heaven - ly King, al -



might - y God and Fa-ther, we wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we



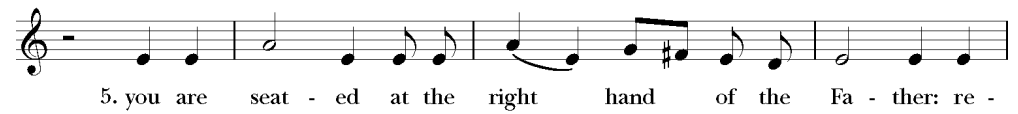
praise you for your glo - ry. 3. Lord Je - sus Christ,



on - ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, 4. you



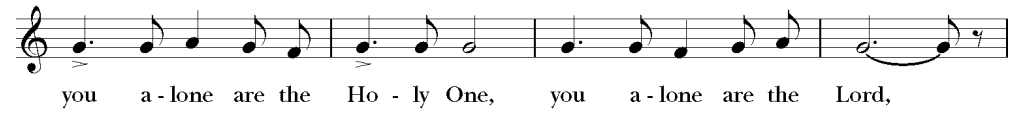
take a-way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us;



5. you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re -



ceive our prayer. 6. For



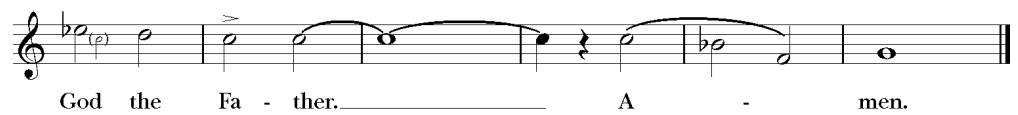
you a-lone are the Ho - ly One, you a-lone are the Lord,



7. 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 Son Jesus is the good shepherd of your people: Grant that when we hear his voice we may know him who calls us each by name, and follow where he leads; who, with you and the Holy Spirit, lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

The people are seated.

THE FIRST READING

Acts 2:42-47

Reader A reading from the book of the Acts of the Apostles.

Those who had been baptized devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

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

PSALM 23

The Lord is my shepherd; *
I shall not be in want.

He makes me lie down in green pastures *
and leads me beside still waters.

He revives my soul *
and guides me along right pathways for his Name's sake.

Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I shall fear no evil; *
**for you are with me;
your rod and your staff, they comfort me.**

You spread a table before me in the presence of those who trouble me; *
**you have anointed my head with oil,
and my cup is running over.**

Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, *
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

Reader A reading from the first letter of the Apostle St. Peter.

It is a credit to you if, being aware of God, you endure pain while suffering unjustly. If you endure when you are beaten for doing wrong, what credit is that? But if you endure when you do right and suffer for it, you have God's approval. For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his steps.

“He committed no sin,
and no deceit was found in his mouth.”

When he was abused, he did not return abuse; when he suffered, he did not threaten; but he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly. He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, free from sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

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

People **Thanks be to God.**

SEQUENCE HYMN

Shepherd of souls, refresh and bless

The Hymnal 1982 # 343

St. Agnes

1 Shep - herd of souls, re - fresh and bless thy cho - sen
 2 We would not live by bread a - lone, but by thy
 3 Be known to us in break - ing bread, and do not
 4 Lord, sup with us in love di - vine thy Bo - dy

pil - grim flock with man - na in the
 word of grace, in strength of which we
 then de - part; Sa - vior, a - bide with
 and thy Blood, that liv - ing bread, that

wil - der - ness, with wa - ter from the rock.
 trav - el on to our a - bid - ing - place.
 us, and spread thy ta - ble in our heart.
 heaven - ly wine, be our im - mor - tal food.

The people remain standing for the reading of the Gospel.

THE GOSPEL

John 10:1-10

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

Jesus said, "Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers." Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

So again Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly."

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

The people are seated at the invitation of the preacher.

SERMON

The Rev. Tracey Forfa.

The people stand.

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, fear 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.

We pray for comfort, healing, courage and hope for **TJ M; Susan A; Tana H; Ben H; Brittany B; Eric H; Kenny P; Santos (Baby); Jay B; Adam A; Sharon W; Pam N; David N; Hudson M; Lynn S; Marie W; Major C II; Adelaide H-W; Tom K; Aaron B; George B;** and all those who, in this transitory life, are in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness, or any other adversity, as well as for all those on our extended healing prayer list.

Extended Prayer List: Keith W; Jean I; Matt C; Jeanie C; Delita R; Alero N; Barbara H; Kirk D; Jacque (Jackie) H; Barbara G; Barbara N; David P; Barbara M; Bobita J; Christine K; Bruce K; Carol G.

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 for David H; and all 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 pray for the well-being of our planet Earth and for all who are affected by and suffering from natural disasters, as well as those who are working to avert the climate crisis, including each of us as we care for God's creation in our own homes and in our own lives.

Altar flowers today are given by Danielle A in celebration of her mother, Constance's, birthday.

We give thanks for the recent birthdays of **John P; James P; Ifeatu U; Ikechukwu N; Luke B; Cheryce C; Alfred W; Susan C; Jennifer C; Etienne Z and Constance A.**

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.

THE PEACE

Celebrant: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: And also with you.

OFFERTORY SENTENCE

Celebrant

Yours, O Lord, is the greatness, the power, the glory, the victory, and the majesty. For everything in heaven and on earth is yours. Yours, O Lord, is the kingdom, and you are exalted as head over all.

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

OFFERTORY ANTHEM:

Now the green blade rises

Noel Nouvelet



DOXOLOGY:


From all that dwell below the skies


The Hymnal 1982 # 380 v3


Old 100th


*3 Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise
him, all creatures here below; praise him above, ye
heavenly host: praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.


THE HOLY COMMUNION


Celebrant 
The Lord be with you.

People 
And al - so 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.

But chiefly are we bound to praise you for the glorious resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; for he is the true Paschal Lamb, who was sacrificed for us, and has taken away the sin of the world. By his death he has destroyed death, and by his rising to life again he has won for us everlasting life.

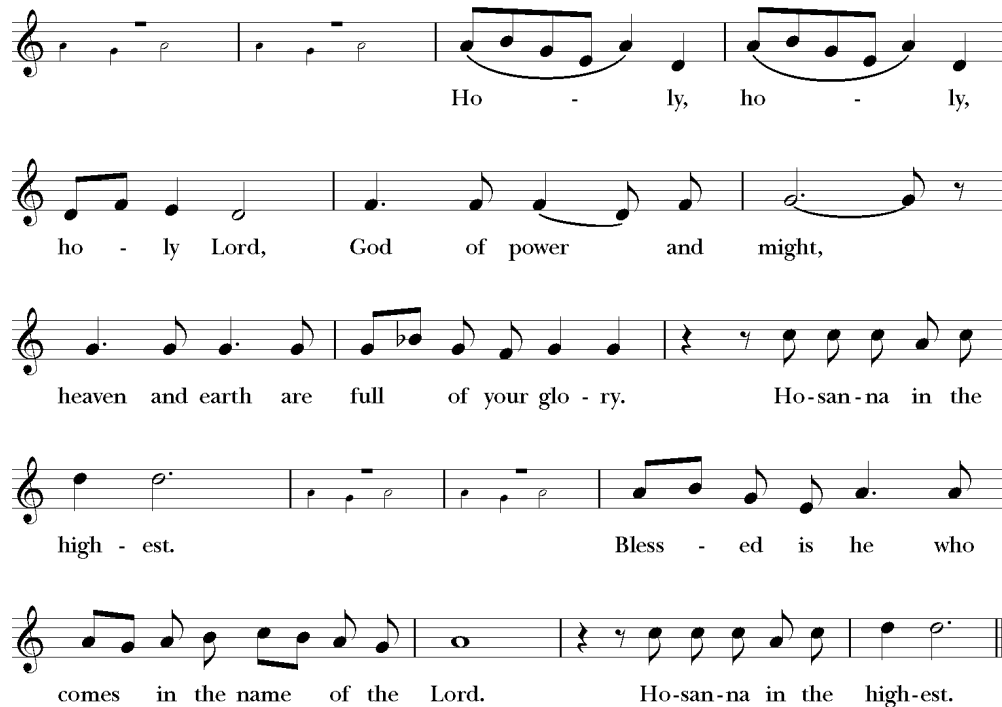
Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

SANCTUS

Holy, holy, holy

The Hymnal 1982 # S 128

William Mathias (b. 1934)



Ho - ly, ho - ly,
ho - ly Lord, God of power and might,
heaven 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.

The people kneel or remain standing. 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.

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.

And now, as our Savior Christ hath 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.

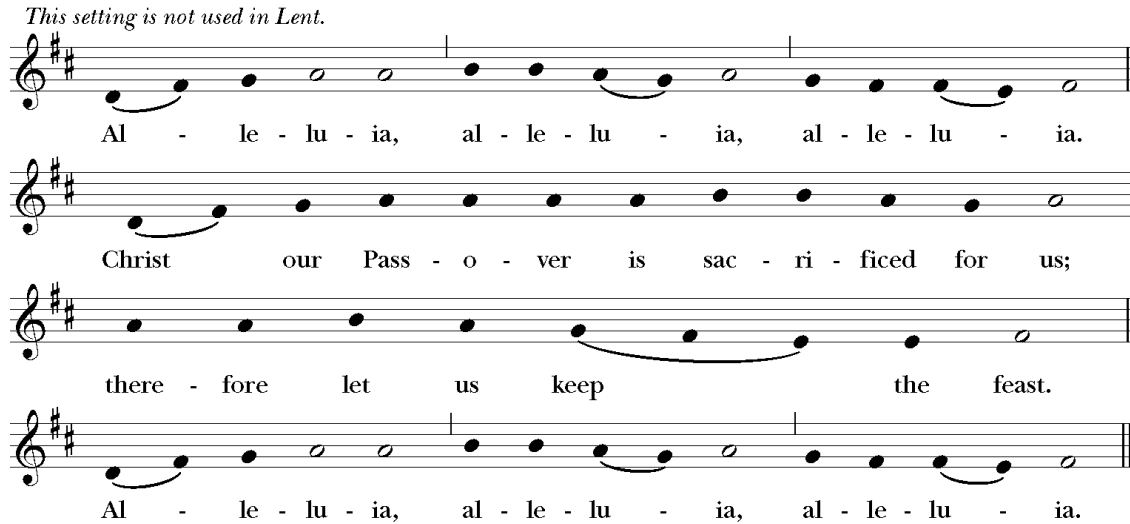
FRACTION ANTHEM

Christ our Passover

The Hymnal 1982 # S154

David Hurd (b. 1950)

This setting is not used in Lent.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.
Christ our Pass - o - ver is sac - ri - ficed for us;
there - fore let us keep the feast.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

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 dropping it into the receptacle. 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 or a blessing, 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 # 304

I come with joy to meet my lord

Land of Rest

Unison or harmony

1 I come with joy to meet my Lord, for -
2 I come with Chris - tians far and near to
3 As Christ breaks bread and bids us share, each
4 And thus with joy we meet our Lord. His
5 To - geth - er met, to - geth - er bound, we'll

1 giv - en, loved, and free, in awe and won - der
2 find, as all are fed, the new com - mu - ni -
3 proud di - vi - sion ends. That love that made us
4 pres - ence, al - ways near, is in such friend - ship
5 go our dif - ferent ways, and as his peo - ple

1 to re - call his life laid down for me.
2 ty of love in Christ's com - mun - ion bread.
3 makes us one, and stran - gers now are friends.
4 bet - ter known: we see, and praise him here.
5 in the world, we'll live and speak his praise.

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

May Almighty God, who has redeemed us and made us his children through the resurrection of his Son our Lord, bestow upon you the riches of his blessing. **Amen.**

May God, who through the water of baptism has raised us from sin into newness of life, make you holy and worthy to be united with Christ for ever. **Amen.**

May God, who has brought us out of bondage to sin into true and lasting freedom in the Redeemer, bring you to your eternal inheritance. **Amen.**

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. **Amen.**

The people are seated for the announcements.

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

He is risen, He is risen!

The Hymnal 1982# 180

Unser Herrscher

1 He is ris - en, he is ris - en! Tell it out with
 2 Come, ye sad and fear - ful - heart - ed, with glad smile and
 *3 Come, with high and ho - ly hymn - ing, hail our Lord's tri -
 4 He is ris - en, he is ris - en! He hath o - pened

joy - ful voice: he has burst his three days' pris - on;
 ra - dian't brow! Death's long sha - dows have de - part - ed;
 um - phant day; not one dark - some cloud is dim - ming
 hea - ven's gate: we are free from sin's dark pris - on,

let the whole wide earth re - joice: death is con - quered,
 Je - sus' woes are o - ver now, and the pas - sion
 yon - der glo - rious morn - ing ray, break - ing o'er the
 ris - en to a ho - lier state; and a bright - er

we are free, Christ has won the vic - to - ry.
 that he bore— sin and pain can vex no more.
 pur - ple east, sym - bol of our Eas - ter feast.
 Eas - ter beam on our long - ing eyes shall stream.

DISMISSAL

Celebrant
People

Let us bless the Lord. Alleluia! Alleluia!
 Thanks be to God! Alleluia! Alleluia!

CLOSING VOLUNTARY

PARTICIPANTS

The Rev. Javier García Ocampo – *Rector*
The Rev. Tracey Forfa – *Pastoral Associate*
The Rev. Rosa Briones – *Deacon*
Etienne Zhou – *Minister of Music*
The Ascension Choir
The Ascension Tech Team

CONGREGATIONAL PARTICIPANTS

Welcomers – Jonathan and James B.
Acolyte – Kay Kolle.
Chalicer – Elizabeth Q.
Scripture Readers – Elizabeth Q; Peg R.
Prayers of the People – Howard H.

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