## **ASCENSION EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

## THE THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

April 14, 2024 10:30 AM Holy Eucharist Rite II



The Rev Mark W. McDonald, Rector

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The Episcopal Diocese of Texas www.epicenter.org *The Rt. Rev. C. Andrew Doyle, Bishop* 

## Welcome You've found home.

A church home, where whatever your background, however you see God today, no matter how challenging your journey is right now, you belong here. At Ascension Episcopal Church, we strive to be a welcoming and safe place for all people to belong. We hope you encounter the radical love of God and the love of His church community right here.

We're a multi-generational spiritual center, with grandparents, parents, singles, teens and children living out the central invitation from Jesus to Love God, Love Others, and Serve the World. We smile a lot around here, and it's authentic!

We believe that people desire relationships over religion; our Sunday services are engaging and hope-filled. And, I believe that fun and church worship are not mutually exclusive. Love and joy are the byproducts of life with God and with each other. Come see and experience the beauty and love of Christ with us.

Welcome home!

The Rev. Mark W. McDonald

#### JOIN US EVERY SUNDAY.

We offer two services; our **8:00 AM WORSHIP SERVICE** is a Rite I Traditional Eucharist Service, without music and our **10:30 AM WORSHIP SERVICE** is a Rite II Contemporary Eucharist Service with organ and choral music.

Our **Nursery** is available from 9:30 to noon on Sunday mornings. The safeguarded staff maintains a healthy and safe environment for your children.

From 9:30am to 10:15am, join us in person in the Church Library for ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL or Upstairs for CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL,

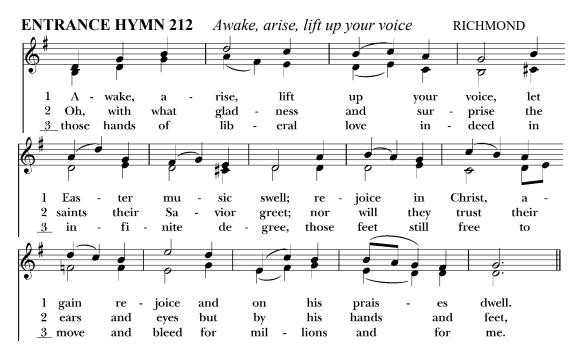
> Voices of small children are always welcome. Please take a moment to silence your cell phone.

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## The Word of God

## **Entrance Rite**



#### **OPENING ACCLAMATION (BCP p. 355)**

The people standing, the Celebrant says

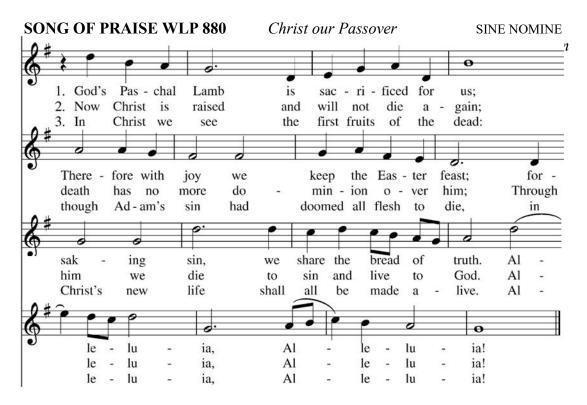
Celebrant Alleluia. Christ is risen.

People The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.

#### **COLLECT FOR PURITY (BCP p. 355)**

The Celebrant may say

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*.



#### THE COLLECT OF THE DAY (BCP p. 357)

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Let us pray.

O God, whose blessed Son made himself known to his disciples in the breaking of bread: Open the eyes of our faith, that we may behold him in all his redeeming work; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen*.

## The Lessons

#### FIRST READING: Acts 3:12-19

The people sit.

A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

<sup>12</sup>[Peter] addressed the people, "You Israelites, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we had made him walk?<sup>13</sup>The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our ancestors has glorified his servant Jesus, whom you handed over and rejected in the presence of Pilate, though he had decided to release him. <sup>14</sup>But you rejected the Holy and Righteous One and asked to have a murderer given to you, <sup>15</sup>and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. <sup>16</sup>And by faith in his name, his name itself has made this man strong, whom you see and know; and the faith that is through Jesus has given him this perfect health in the presence of all of you. <sup>17</sup>"And now, friends, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. <sup>18</sup>In this way God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, that his Messiah would suffer. <sup>19</sup>Repent therefore, and turn to God so that your sins may be wiped out."

ReaderThe Word of the Lord.PeopleThanks be to God.

#### Silence may follow.

#### **PSALM: Psalm 4**

Remain seated. Please read responsively by half verse at the asterisk.\*

- <sup>1</sup>Answer me when I call, O God, defender of my cause; \* you set me free when I am hard-pressed; have mercy on me and hear my prayer.
- <sup>2</sup>"You mortals, how long will you dishonor my glory; \* how long will you worship dumb idols and run after false gods?"

<sup>3</sup>Know that the LORD does wonders for the faithful; \* *when I call upon the LORD, he will hear me.* 

<sup>4</sup>Tremble, then, and do not sin; \* speak to your heart in silence upon your bed.

<sup>5</sup>Offer the appointed sacrifices, \* *and put your trust in the Lord*.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup>Many are saying, "Oh, that we might see better times!" \* *Lift up the light of your countenance upon us, O LORD.* 

<sup>7</sup>You have put gladness in my heart, \* *more than when grain and wine and oil increase.* 

<sup>8</sup>I lie down in peace; at once I fall asleep; \* for only you, LORD, make me dwell in safety.

#### SECOND READING: 1 John 3:1-7

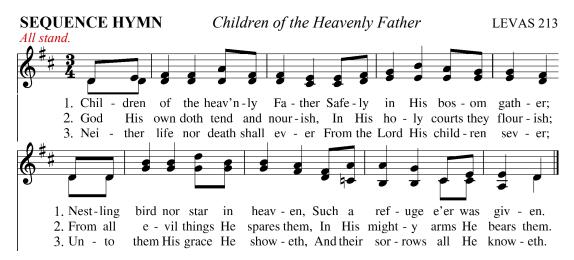
The people sit.

A Reading from the First letter of John.

<sup>1</sup>See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. <sup>2</sup>Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is. <sup>3</sup>And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure. <sup>4</sup>Everyone who commits sin is guilty of lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. <sup>5</sup>You know that he was revealed to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. <sup>6</sup>No one who abides in him sins; no one who sins has either seen him or known him. <sup>7</sup>Little children, let no one deceive you. Everyone who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous.

ReaderThe Word of the Lord.PeopleThanks be to God.

#### Silence may follow.



#### THE HOLY GOSPEL: Luke 24:36b-48

All stand.

PriestThe Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.PeopleGlory to you, Lord Christ.

<sup>36b</sup>Jesus stood among [the disciples] and said to them, "Peace be with you." <sup>37</sup>They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. <sup>38</sup>He said to them, "Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? <sup>39</sup>Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have." <sup>40</sup>And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. <sup>41</sup>While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, "Have you anything here to eat?" <sup>42</sup>They gave him a piece of broiled fish, <sup>43</sup>and he took it and ate in their presence.

<sup>44</sup>Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled." <sup>45</sup>Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, <sup>46</sup>and he said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, <sup>47</sup>and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. <sup>48</sup>You are witnesses of these things."

PriestThe Gospel of the Lord.PeoplePraise to you, Lord Christ.

#### THE SERMON- THE REV. MARK W. MCDONALD+ (BCP p. 358)

## THE NICENE CREED (BCP p. 358) *All stand.*

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 man. 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 and the Son. 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 I (BCP p. 383)

Stand or kneel.

With all our heart and with all our mind, let us pray to the Lord, saying, "Lord, have mercy."

For the peace from above, for the loving-kindness of God, and for the salvation of our souls, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace of the world, for the welfare of the holy Church of God, and for the unity of all peoples, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mercy.

For Justin, the Archbishop of Canterbury, Michael, the Presiding Bishop, Andy, our Bishop, Hector, our Bishop Assistant, Mark, our Rector, for the Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia in the Anglican Cycle of Prayer, for San Pablo/St. Paul's of Houston, San Pedro/St. Peter's of Pasadena, St. Alban's of Houston, and St. James' of Houston in the Diocese of Texas Cycle of Prayer, for all clergy and people, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For Joe, our President, Greg our Governor, John our mayor, and for the leaders of the nations, and for all in authority, let us pray to the Lord. *Lord, have mercy.* 

For the city of Houston, for every city and community, and for those who live in them, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mercy.

For the good earth which God has given us, and for the wisdom and will to conserve it, let us pray to the Lord. *Lord, have mercy.* 

For the aged and infirm, for the widowed and orphans, and for the sick and the suffering, we especially pray for Vinnie, Phyllis, Todd, Dion, Jim, John, Albert, Cory, Todd, Stephanie, John, Ellen, Greg, Jack, Lucia, Jean, Bobby, Lance, Katy, Don, David, Lucia, Angela, Pat, Olive, Carissa, Laura, Pete, Maria Isabel, C.J., Margaret, Tim, Mary, David, Ann, Valerie, and those known privately to us.

(Prayers are offered at this time, followed by silence)

Let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mercy.

For the poor and the oppressed, for the unemployed and the destitute, for prisoners and captives. Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For all who have died in the hope of the resurrection, and for all the departed, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For deliverance from all danger, violence, oppression, and degradation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

That we may end our lives in faith and hope, without suffering and without reproach, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

In the communion of all the saints, let us commend ourselves, and one another, and all our life, to Christ our God.

To thee, O Lord our God.

Silence

The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.

#### **CONFESSION OF SIN (BCP p. 359)**

The Deacon or Celebrant says

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence may be kept.

Minister 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 Priest 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 (BCP p. 360)

All stand.

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People And also with you.

Then the Ministers and the People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.

#### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Prayers for Birthdays & Anniversaries and those who are Traveling** If you are a visitor or guest, please scan the QR code in the announcements section of this bulletin and give us your contact information. Let us connect with you!

## The Holy Communion

#### **OFFERTORY SENTENCE**

**OFFERTORY ANTHEM** 

With a Voice of Singing

by Martin Shaw

## The Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer A BCP pg. 361 *The People remain standing.* 

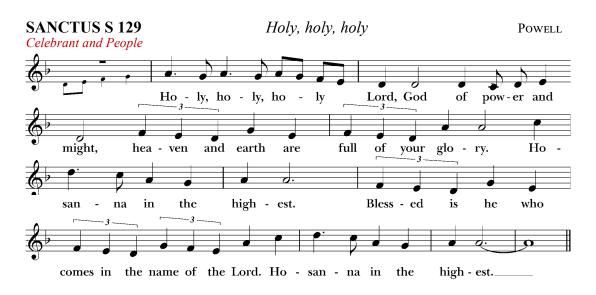
Celebrant	The Lord be with you.	
People	And also with you.	
Celebrant	Lift up your hearts.	
People	We lift them to the Lord.	
Celebrant	Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.	
People	It is right to give our thanks and praise.	

Facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds

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:



#### The People stand or kneel.

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*.

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

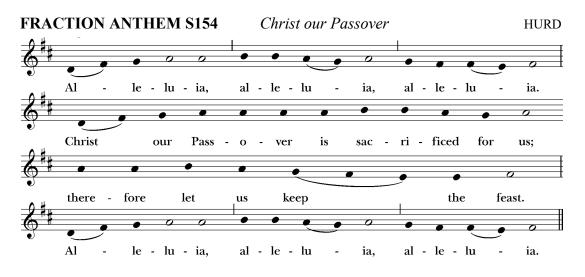
#### THE LORD'S PRAYER (BCP p. 363)

People and Celebrant

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

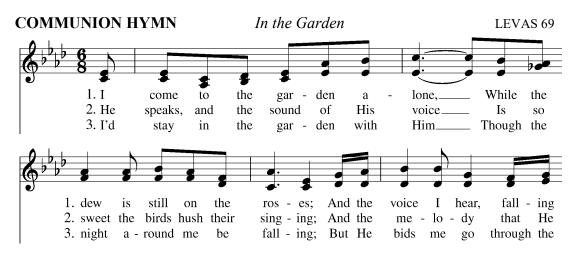
A period of silence is kept.

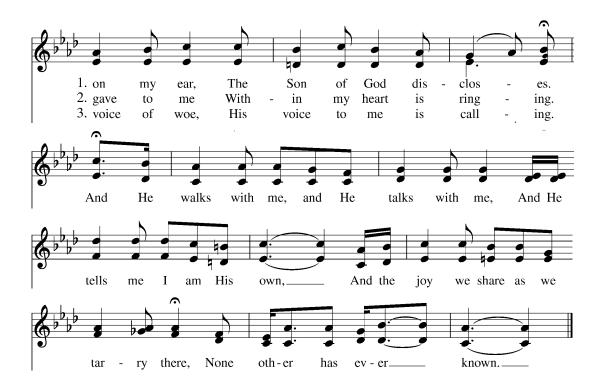


**INVITATION (BCP p. 364)** 

The Celebrant says

The Gifts of God for the People of God. This is the table, not of the Church, but of the Lord. It is made ready for those who love God and for those who hope to love God more. So, come, you who have faith and you who have doubts. Come if you have been here often, and come if you have not been here long. Come if you have followed, and come if you have stumbled, come, because it is the Lord who invites you. It is Christ's will that those who seek him will meet him here at God's table. Come!





#### **POST-COMMUNION PRAYER (BCP p. 365)**

After Communion, the Celebrant says

Let us pray.

#### Celebrant and People

Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.



#### DISMISSAL (BCP p. 366)

PriestLet us go forth in the name of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia.PeopleThanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.

#### POSTLUDE

Festival Fanfare

Douglas Wagner

## **Announcements**

The Altar flowers are given to the glory of the Almighty God in thanksgiving for His many blessings and in immense gratitude for Toyin Agboola and her amazing deep spiritual leadership of the Tuesday Ladies Bible Study.





Help us out! Events like this are only successful because of the amazing people at Ascension!! There are many different tasks, something for everyone. Whether you are an early bird or a late morning riser, there are ways to help. Please see the sign-up sheets in the narthex, or us this QR code to sign-up! We are truly blessed to have so many wonderful souls here!

## **CHILDREN'S CHOIR**

The Organist Choirmaster, Alice Serralta is putting together a children/youth choir to sing on Mother's Day, May 8th. The choir is open to children's/youth grades K through 12. Practice is 15-20 minutes, in the sanctuary immediately following the 10:30 service on 4/7, 4/14, 4/28, 5/5, and they will sing 5/12. Parents are welcome to mingle outside.

#### PARISH LADIES TEA

All ladies of the Parish are cordially invited to Tea on April 27 at the home of Cindy Breton. Come at noon and bring something to share, finger sandwiches, scones, desserts, etc. This is a wonderful time to get to know each other, hope to see you there!!

#### **BOOK FAIR SUNDAY**

Ascension Episcopal School is hosting their spring Book Fair for our avid young readers, so stop by Sunday April 21st after the 10:30 service, or anytime between 9am and 3pm, Monday April 22nd through Friday, April 26th. Come support our school, and pick up some summer reading for the young ones in your life.

#### **CALLING ALL SUPERHEROES!**

Support West Houston Assistance ministries at their Annual Spring Dash on May 18th to run and fight hunger and poverty in Houston! Dress in your fanciest cape and/or superhero outfit and run or walk our 5K/1K. Everyone is invited to this in person race, kids, colleagues, and neighbors! Those who register receive a finisher medal, T-shirt, bib and a swag bag filled with goodies and sponsor gifts! After your heroic run and fight against

poverty (POW!), all superheroes will enjoy food, drinks, fun activities, and raffles that will be available for them. Super Pets on leashes are also welcome. Your support (registration, sponsorship, or donation) helps raise funds to provide critical assistance to individuals and families who need food and financial help and provide individuals with training and education for better job opportunities.



## SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR ALL AGES AT 9:30 AM

Join us for Children's Sunday school, upstairs with Mrs. Allison Garcia and Adult Christian Education, downstairs in the church library. The Adult Class will continue to have an online option for those who are unable to be present in person.

## TUESDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY

We are studying the Book of Acts every Tuesday at 6:30pm in the Church Library, and for those who are unable to join us in person, there is a zoom link, which can be used for ALL of the Tuesday Night Bible Study Classes. The two books needed for this class "Acts for Everyone Study Guide" by N.T. Wright and "Acts for Everyone, Part One" by N. T. Wright are available on Amazon. I hope you join us and do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions. -God's Peace, Fr. Mark+

## WOMEN'S TUESDAY BIBLE STUDY, 1PM

The Women's Tuesday Bible Study is a group of amazing women, led by amazing women. Join them every Tuesday at 1pm! Toyin Agboola guides this study in a safe trustworthy setting as they learn about the Bible. Julie Collins keeps things organized by sending out emails, reminders, and the weekly Zoom link. She will happily get you into the swing of things, (contact her at collins\_collins@comcast.net), or just come by!!

## MAY 19TH IS PENTECOST SUNDAY!!

### WEAR RED!

We will celebrate the gifts of the spirit on Pentecost Sunday on May 19th. Pentecost is the celebration of the giving of the Holy Spirit to the whole church, the breaking down of walls between us and the sustaining grace calling into union with each other all around the world!!! We ask that you wear red to celebrate this day.

#### **BAPTISMS**

Our next baptism will be held on Pentecost Sunday, May 19, during the 10:30 service. If you, your child, or someone you know is ready for Baptism or would like to learn more, please contact Fr. Mark at mark@ascensionepiscopalchurch.org The baptism application can be found on the website or you can have it sent to you; then fill it out and return it by mail, email, or dropping it in the plate. Ascension will be honored to welcome you to a life of grace through Christ our Lord.

#### **PENTECOST CELEBRATION**

We will be celebrating Pentecost Sunday with a fabulous POTLUCK lunch!! Break out your secret recipes and bring a delicious treat to share. Bring savory dishes, casseroles, salads, and desserts . What ever your heart desires! Mark your calendars and be sure to join us in celebration of the descent of the Holy Spirit!

### **WHITSUNDAY**

Pentecost is also Whitsunday. In accordance with Canon 14.2 of the Diocese each parish is asked to make an offering for the Episcopal Endowment Fund on that date. If you would like to contribute, please use the labeled white envelopes designated for this fund. Checks written directly to the Diocese will be forwarded; checks written to Ascension with "Endowment Fund" in the memo line will be recorded and one large check sent from Ascension.

	April 14th	April 21st	April 28th
	Third Sunday of Easter	Fourth Sunday of Easter	Fifth Sunday of Easter
Vestry of the Week	Funmi Falayi and Carol Goulet	Mike Black and Tex Wariboko	Todd Breton and Kathleen Hannah
Altar Guild	Smith	Dipuma	Sutton
Lessons	Acts 3:12-19, Psalm 4, 1 John 3:1-7, Luke 24:36b-48	Acts 4:5-12, Psalm 23, 1 John 3:16-24, John 10:11-18	Acts 8:26-40, Psalm 22:24-30, 1 John 4:7-21, John 15:1-8
Ushers	The Falayi Family	Liz and Chad Goodman	Todd and Cindy Breton
8 am Lect./Intercessor	Ken Kingdon	Glenn Criswell	Ken Kingdon
1030am Lect./Intercessor	Tex Wariboko	Mike Black	Ngozi Adimora
Stream Team	Enoch Falayi	Charlie Goodman	Mike Black
Post Service Coffee	Nifemi & Damisi Falayi and Allison Garcia	Mike and Sharon Black and Isaac Griesbaum	Volunteer



### Welcome Visitors

Please take a moment to let us know who you are!! Scan the QR code to the left and fill out the form. This will allow us to connect with you and get to know you and your family.

### **Giving**

A quick an easy way to give to the church!! If you would like to give your pledge, make a donation, contribute to specialty music or flower campaigns, or any other reason, simply scan the QR code to the right, make your contribution, and leave a message as to what it is for.



# Thank you for worshipping with us. It was great to see you!