

Fifth Sunday after Epiphany
February 8, 2026 **10:15 a.m.**



Welcome to Church of the Ascension

Church of the Ascension provides opportunities to
Connect with God and one another,
Grow in faith and understanding, and
Serve the Lord, one another, and the world around us.

We are an active community of faith committed to welcoming all
and sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Christ-centered + Spirit-filled + Mission-minded

The Liturgy of the Word of God

♦Please stand as you are able.

Welcome

Prelude

“Morning Has Broken”

arr. Kevin McChesney

♦Processional Song

1. Light of the world you stepped down into
darkness. Opened my eyes let me see
Beauty that made this heart adore You
Hope of a life spent with You

Chorus

Chorus:

So here I am to worship. Here I am to bow down.
Here I am to say that You're my God.
You're altogether lovely, altogether worthy,
altogether wonderful to me

“Here I Am To Worship”

2. King of all days oh so highly exalted
Glorious in heaven above
Humbly You came to the earth You created
All for love's sake became poor
Chorus

And I'll never know how much it cost
To see my sin upon that cross
And I'll never know how much it cost
To see my sin upon that cross

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The Opening Acclamation

Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

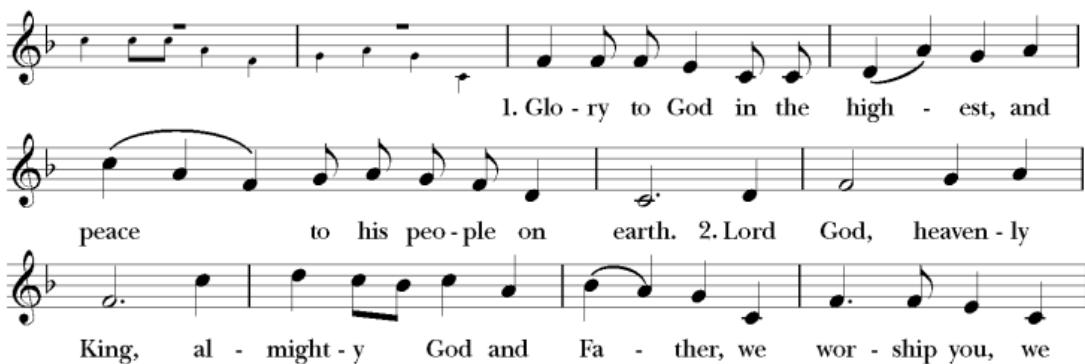
And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

Collect for Purity

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.**

Hymn of Praise

Hymnal #S280



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.

Collect of the Day

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.** Let us pray.

Set us free, O God, from the bondage of our sins, and give us the liberty of that abundant life which you have made known to us in your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The First Lesson: Isaiah 58:1-10

A Reading from the Book of Isaiah

Shout out, do not hold back! Lift up your voice like a trumpet! Announce to my people their rebellion, to the house of Jacob their sins. Yet day after day they seek me and delight to know my ways, as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness and did not forsake the ordinance of their God; they ask of me righteous judgments, they delight to draw near to God.

“Why do we fast, but you do not see? Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?”

Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day, and oppress all your workers.

Look, you fast only to quarrel and to fight and to strike with a wicked fist. Such fasting as you do today will not make your voice heard on high. Is such the fast that I choose, a day to humble oneself? Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush, and to lie in sackcloth and ashes? Will you call this a fast, a day acceptable to the LORD?

Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them, and not to hide yourself from your own kin? Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly; your vindicator shall go before you, the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard. Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer; you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am.

If you remove the yoke from among you, the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil, if you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted, then your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom be like the noonday.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 112:1-9

1 Hallelujah!

Happy are they who fear the Lord *
and have great delight in his commandments!

2 Their descendants will be mighty in the land; *
the generation of the upright will be blessed.

3 Wealth and riches will be in their house, *
and their righteousness will last for ever.

4 Light shines in the darkness for the upright; *
the righteous are merciful and full of compassion.

5 It is good for them to be generous in lending *
and to manage their affairs with justice.

6 For they will never be shaken; *
the righteous will be kept in everlasting remembrance.

7 They will not be afraid of any evil rumors; *
their heart is right;
they put their trust in the Lord.

8 Their heart is established and will not shrink, *
until they see their desire upon their enemies.

9 They have given freely to the poor, *
and their righteousness stands fast for ever;
they will hold up their head with honor.

The Second Lesson: 1 Corinthians 2:1-12

A Reading from the First Letter of Paul to the Corinthians

When I came to you, brothers and sisters, I did not come proclaiming the mystery of God to you in lofty words or wisdom. For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and him crucified. And I came to you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling. My speech and my proclamation were not with plausible words of wisdom, but with a demonstration of the Spirit and of power, so that your faith might rest not on human wisdom but on the power of God.

Yet among the mature we do speak wisdom, though it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are doomed to perish. But we speak God's wisdom, secret and hidden, which God decreed before the ages for our glory. None of the rulers of this age understood this; for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. But, as it is written, "What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the human heart conceived, what God has prepared for those who love him" — these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. For what human being knows what is truly human except the human spirit that is within? So also no one comprehends what is truly God's except the Spirit of God. Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit that is from God, so that we may understand the gifts bestowed on us by God.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Sequence Song

This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine

Everywhere I go, I'm gonna let it shine
Everywhere I go, I'm gonna let it shine
Everywhere I go, I'm gonna let it shine
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine

"This Little Light of Mine"

Jesus gave it to me, I'm gonna let it shine
Jesus gave it to me, I'm gonna let it shine
Jesus gave it to me, I'm gonna let it shine
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine

Words: African American spiritual, 19th century
Music: African American spiritual, 19th century; arr. 2025 | LIGHT OF MINE

The Holy Gospel: Matthew 5:13-20

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus said, "You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under foot.

"You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

“Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same, will be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.”

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

Sermon

The Rev. Pierre-Henry Buisson

†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 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

Celebrant: Let us pray to God, whose light has dawned in Jesus Christ, and whose kingdom has come near.

Intercessor: God of light, who called your Son to dwell among the people of Galilee: Shine upon your Church, that we may walk in your truth, proclaim the good news with courage, and follow Christ with joyful obedience. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of unity, whose cross is the power of salvation: Heal the divisions among your people. Where we are tempted by rivalry, pride, or fear, draw us into one mind and one purpose in Christ. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of justice and peace: Guide the leaders of the nations, especially Donald, our President, and the Congress, that they may govern with wisdom, seek peace over conflict, and defend the dignity of every human life.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God who calls ordinary people to holy purpose: Bless this parish of Ascension, our families, and our community. Help us to leave behind whatever keeps us from following you fully, and to serve with generosity, faith, and hope.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of joy and thanksgiving: We give you thanks for the gift of life, especially for those celebrating birthdays and anniversaries this week – Brenna, Maddox, Dave, Lynn K., Nancy, Jeff, James, Jenny L., Gary and Helen. Grant them growth in wisdom, grace, and love all the days of their lives.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God our healer and refuge: Be near to all who suffer in body, mind, or spirit, especially Eddie+, Don, Lianne, Lisa, Jack, Jackie, Dewey, Noah, Karen, Drew, Mary, Warren, Rick, Danny, Darrell, Cathy, Reed, Cheryl, and those we name before you now. [pause] Strengthen them with your presence and surround them with your peace.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of eternal life: Receive into your mercy all who have died. Comfort those who mourn, and grant that all your saints may rest in the light of your eternal kingdom.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Celebrant: Gracious God, receive these our prayers, spoken and unspoken, and by the light of your Son lead us in the way of repentance, unity, and faithful service; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Confession of Sin

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor. *A time of silence is kept.*

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.**

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

The Peace of the Lord be always with you. **And also with you.**

Birthday and Anniversary Prayer

O God, our times are in your hands: look with favor, we pray, on your servants as they begin another year. Grant that they may grow in wisdom and grace. Send your blessings upon them, that their homes may be a haven of peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Announcements



The Celebration of the Holy Communion

Thank you for your financial support! To make an online offering, please scan the QR code.

Offertory

“Come Christians Join to Sing”

arr. Kevin McChesney

†Presentation Hymn

“The Doxology”

Hymnal #380, v. 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. Amen.

Words: Isaac Watts (1674-1748) Music: Old 100th

The Great Thanksgiving: Eucharistic Prayer B

The Lord be with you. And also with you.

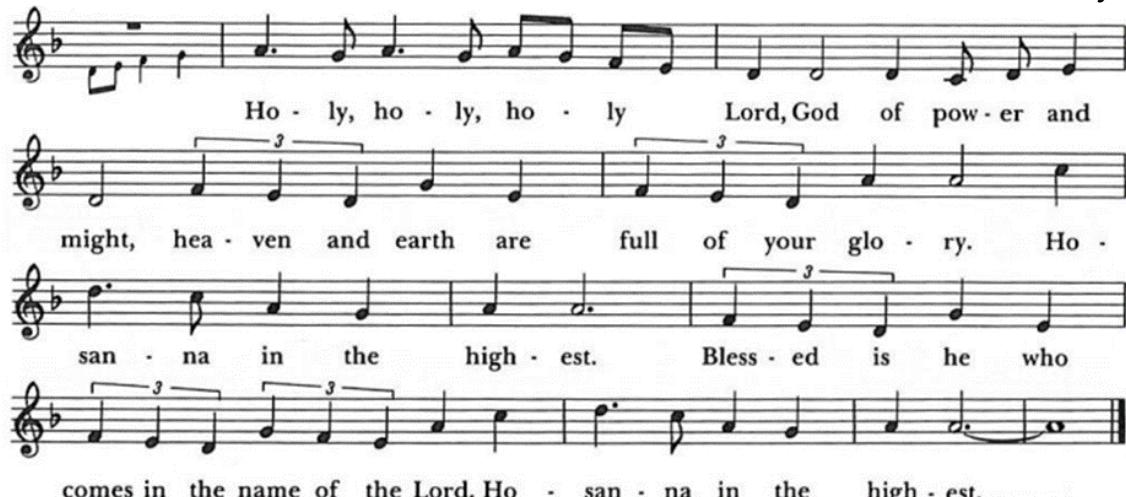
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and every-where to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth; because in the mystery of the Word made flesh, you have caused a new light to shine in our hearts, to give the knowledge of your glory in the face of your son 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

Hymnal #S129



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and

might, hea - ven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -

san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who

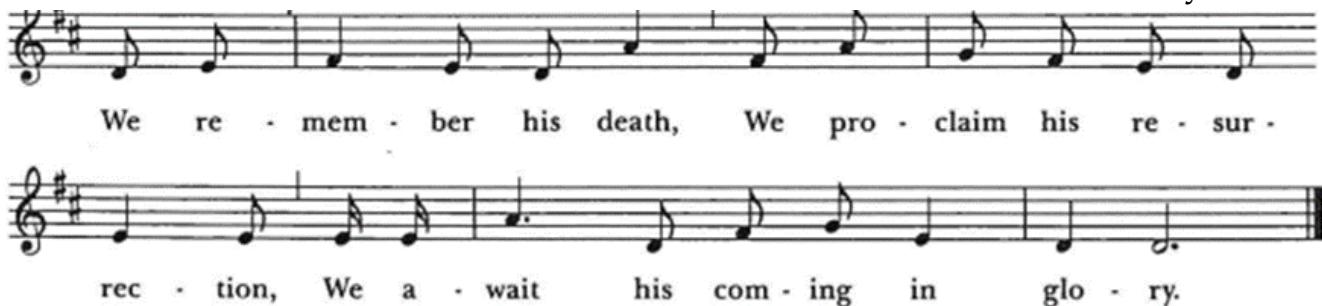
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est. _____

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,

¶Memorial Acclamation

Hymnal #S138

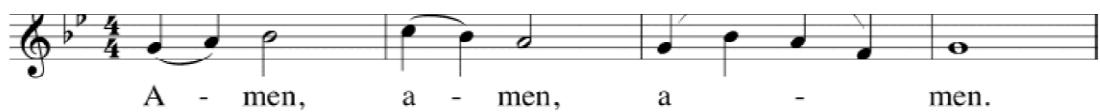


We re - mem - ber his death, We pro - claim his re - sur -
rec - tion, We a - wait his com - ing in glo - ry.

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 Mary, Joseph, and 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.

The Great Amen



A - men, a - men, a - men.

And now as our Savior Christ has taught us we are bold to say:
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, for ever and ever. Amen.

The Breaking of Bread

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us:

Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia

Fraction Anthem

“Be Known To Us, Lord Jesus”

Be known to us, Lord Jesus, in the breaking of the bread.

The bread which we break, alleluia, is the
communion of the body of Christ.

One body are we, alleluia, for though many we
share one bread.

The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving. **Amen.**

The Communion of the People

All baptized persons are welcome to receive Holy Communion. When directed by an Usher, please come forward to receive Holy Communion. If you would prefer a blessing, please indicate by crossing your arms over your chest.

Communion Music

1. Longing for light, we wait in darkness
Longing for truth, we turn to You
Make us Your own, Your holy people
Light for the world to see *Refrain*

Refrain:

Christ, be our light. Shine in our hearts.
Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light.
Shine in Your church gathered today.

2. Longing for peace, our world is troubled
Longing for hope, many despair
Your word alone has power to save us
Make us your living voice *Refrain*

“Christ Be Our Light”

by Bernadette Farrell

3. Longing for food, many are hungry
Longing for water, many still thirst
Make us your bread broken for others
Shared until all are fed *Refrain*

4. Longing for shelter, many are homeless
Longing for warmth, many are cold
Make us Your building, sheltering others
Walls made of living stone *Refrain*

5. Many the gifts, many the people
Many the hearts that yearn to belong
Let us be servants to one another
Making Your kingdom come *Refrain*

♦Post-Communion Prayer

Let us pray.

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.

♦The Sending of Lay Eucharistic Visitors

Celebrant: With whom will you share this communion? Lay Eucharistic Visitor answers.

In the name of this congregation, I send you forth bearing these holy gifts, that those to whom you go may share with us in the communion of Christ's Body and Blood.

We who are many are one body, because we all share one bread, one cup. Amen.

⊕ The Blessing

May Christ, the Son of God, be manifest in you, that your lives may be a light for the world; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

¶ Recessional Hymn

“I Want To Walk As A Child Of The Light”

Hymnal #490

I want to walk as a child of the light.
I want to see the brightness of God.
I'm looking for the coming of Christ.

I want to fol - low Je - sus.
I want to look at Je - sus.
I want to be with Je - sus.

God set the star to give light to the world. The star of my life is Je - sus.
Clear sun of righteousness, shine on my path and show me the way to the fa - ther.
When we have run with patience the race, we shall know the joy of Je - sus.

In Him there is no dark-ness at all. The night and the day are both a -

like the lamb is the light of the ci - ty of God. Shine in my heart Lord Je - sus.

⊕ The Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God, alleluia, alleluia!

Postlude

Worship Assistants	February 8	February 15
Worship Leader	Mary Butler	
Musicians	Adult Ensemble, Handbell Choir	Praise Ensemble
Ushers	2 <i>needed</i>	David Horn, Beatrice Howe
Lector	Buck Lyon-Vaiden	Jill Horn
Acolyte	Ellen Anderson	Kat Dittrich
Worship Slides	John Holbert	Lynn Lyon-Vaiden
Chalicists	Kim Tompkins, Susan Considine, Melissa Leahy 1 <i>needed</i>	John Holbert, Jill Horn 2 <i>needed</i>
Audio Visual	Allison Lord	Allison Lord

February Altar Guild:

Ellen Anderson, Dorothy Carpenter, Jennie Grabill, Lisa Jamison, Melissa Leahy

The Altar Flowers are given to the glory of God by David and Jill Horn with thanksgiving for blessings received from the love of our Ascension family, our friends and families.

Attendance - February 1

8:00 am - 27 10:15 am In-person - 52 YouTube - 10 Facebook - 9 **Total: 98**

Readings for Next Sunday: Last Sunday after Epiphany - A

Exodus 24:12-18 Psalm 99 2 Peter 1:16-21 Matthew 17:1-9