

Second Sunday after Epiphany

January 18, 2026 10:15 a.m.



*I am honored
in the sight of the Lord,
and my God
has become my strength.*

Isaiah Ch. 49

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

♦Processional Hymn

"In Christ Alone"

1. In Christ alone my hope is found
He is my light my strength my song
This Cornerstone this solid Ground
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm
What heights of love what depths of peace
When fears are stilled when strivings cease
My Comforter my All in All
Here in the love of Christ I stand

2. In Christ alone who took on flesh
Fullness of God in helpless babe
This gift of love and righteousness
Scorned by the ones He came to save
Till on that cross as Jesus died
The wrath of God was satisfied
For every sin on Him was laid
Here in the death of Christ I live

3. There in the ground His body lay
Light of the world by darkness slain
Then bursting forth in glorious Day
Up from the grave He rose again
And as He stands in victory
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me
For I am His and He is mine
Bought with the precious blood of Christ

4. No guilt in life, no fear in death
This is the power of Christ in me
From life's first cry to final breath
Jesus commands my destiny
No power of hell no scheme of man
Can ever pluck me from His hand
Till He returns or calls me home
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand

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The Opening Acclamation

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

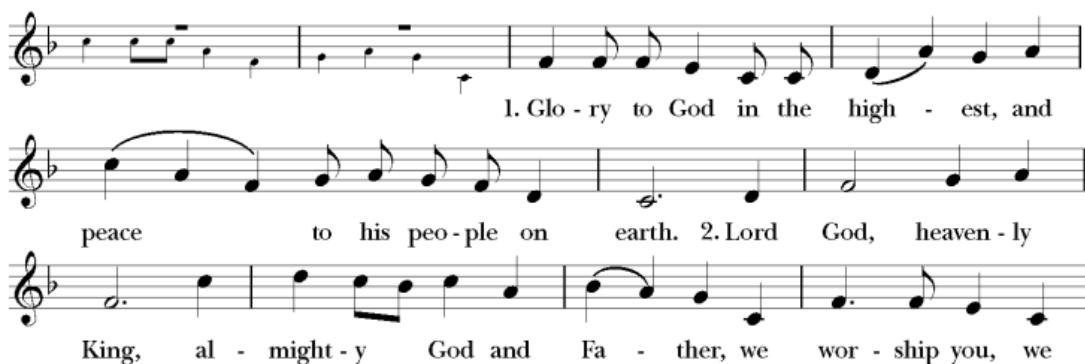
And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

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.

Almighty God, whose Son our Savior Jesus Christ is the light of the world: Grant that your people, illumined by your Word and Sacraments, may shine with the radiance of Christ's glory, that he may be known, worshipped, and obeyed to the ends of the earth; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The First Lesson: Isaiah 49:1-7

A Reading from the Book of Isaiah

Listen to me, O coastlands, pay attention, you peoples from far away! The LORD called me before I was born, while I was in my mother's womb he named me. He made my mouth like a sharp sword, in the shadow of his hand he hid me; he made me a polished arrow, in his quiver he hid me away. And he said to me, "You are my servant, Israel, in whom I will be glorified." But I said, "I have labored in vain, I have spent my strength for nothing and vanity; yet surely my cause is with the LORD, and my reward with my God."

And now the LORD says, who formed me in the womb to be his servant, to bring Jacob back to him, and that Israel might be gathered to him, for I am honored in the sight of the LORD, and my God has become my strength--he says, "It is too light a thing that you should be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob and to restore the survivors of Israel; I will give you as a light to the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth."

Thus says the LORD, the Redeemer of Israel and his Holy One, to one deeply despised, abhorred by the nations, the slave of rulers, "Kings shall see and stand up, princes, and they shall prostrate themselves, because of the LORD, who is faithful, the Holy One of Israel, who has chosen you."

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

Psalm 40:1-12

- 1 I waited patiently upon the LORD; * he stooped to me and heard my cry.
- 2 He lifted me out of the desolate pit, out of the mire and clay; *
 he set my feet upon a high cliff and made my footing sure.
- 3 He put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God; *
 many shall see, and stand in awe, and put their trust in the LORD.
- 4 Happy are they who trust in the LORD! *
 they do not resort to evil spirits or turn to false gods.
- 5 Great things are they that you have done, O LORD my God!
 how great your wonders and your plans for us! *
 there is none who can be compared with you.
- 6 Oh, that I could make them known and tell them! *
 but they are more than I can count.
- 7 In sacrifice and offering you take no pleasure *
 you have given me ears to hear you;
- 8 Burnt-offering and sin-offering you have not required, *
 and so I said, "Behold, I come.
- 9 In the roll of the book it is written concerning me: *
 'I love to do your will, O my God; your law is deep in my heart.'"
- 10 I proclaimed righteousness in the great congregation; *
 behold, I did not restrain my lips; and that, O LORD, you know.
- 11 Your righteousness have I not hidden in my heart;
 I have spoken of your faithfulness and your deliverance; *
 I have not concealed your love and faithfulness from the great congregation.
- 12 You are the LORD; do not withhold your compassion from me; *
 let your love and your faithfulness keep me safe for ever.

The Second Lesson: 1 Corinthians 1:1-9

A Reading from the First Letter of Paul to the Corinthians

Paul, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and our brother Sosthenes, To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, together with all those who in every place call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind-- just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you-- so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

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

Children's Chapel: *Children of all ages are welcome!*

† Sequence Song

Chorus:

Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path. Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path

1. When I feel afraid and I think I've lost my way. Still you're there right beside me.
Nothing will I fear as long as You are near
Please be near me to the end.

"Thy Word"

2. I will not forget your love for me and yet
My heart forever is wandering
Jesus be my guide and hold me to Your side
I will love You to the end

CCLI Song # 14301 | Amy Grant | Michael W. Smith

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The Holy Gospel: John 1:29-42

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

John saw Jesus coming toward him and declared, "Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! This is he of whom I said, 'After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me because he was before me.' I myself did not know him; but I came baptizing with water for this reason, that he might be revealed to Israel." And John testified, "I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.' And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Son of God."

The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples, and as he watched Jesus walk by, he exclaimed, "Look, here is the Lamb of God!" The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, "What are you looking for?" They said to him, "Rabbi" (which translated means Teacher), "where are you staying?" He said to them, "Come and see." They came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day. It was about four

o'clock in the afternoon. One of the two who heard John speak and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. He first found his brother Simon and said to him, "We have found the Messiah" (which is translated Anointed). He brought Simon to Jesus, who looked at him and said, "You are Simon son of John. You are to be called Cephas" (which is translated Peter).

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 Christ, the Light of the world, who by the leading of a star was revealed to the nations, and who now dwells among us in grace and truth.

Intercessor: Radiant Morning Star, whose glory has risen upon us: Give your Church grace to arise and shine, that she may be a beacon to those in darkness and a faithful witness to the boundless riches of your Gospel. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Righteous King, who rules with justice: Guide the leaders of the nations, especially Donald, our President, and the Congress, that they may defend the needy, rescue the poor, seek that abundance of peace which passes all understanding, and turn from the way of war. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Desire of all nations, who has made us fellow heirs in one body: Break down the walls of division and fear. Draw all peoples into the light of your truth, and lead us into the unity of your reconciling love. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Light of the home, who was worshiped by the Magi in Bethlehem: Bless our families and our community. Grant that we may offer you the gold of our devotion, the frankincense of our prayers, and the myrrh of our daily labor. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Giver of every good gift: We give you thanks for the blessings of this life, especially for those celebrating birthdays and anniversaries: Ted, Gene and Jeanne. Grant that they may grow in wisdom and grace all the days of their lives.

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

Physician of souls: Bring healing and comfort to those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit, especially Jenny, Stephanie, Lianne, Lisa, Jack, Jackie, Dewey, Noah, Karen, Drew, Mary, Warren, Christopher, Rick, Danny, Darrell, Joseph, Deb, and Cheryl, and those we name before you now. *[pause]* Grant them the light of your hope and the peace of your presence. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Eternal Light: Receive into your heavenly kingdom all who have died, especially Pat Miller and Chantal Rodriguez, that they may behold your glory face to face and dwell in the brightness of your joy forever. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Celebrant: Lord Jesus Christ, Light from Light, receive these our prayers, and grant that we, being led by your light, may at last attain to the vision of your glory; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **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

1. Here in this time here in this place
Here we are standing face to face
Here in our hearts here in our lives
Our God is here
Here for the broken here for the strong
Here in this temple we belong
Here in our hearts here in our lives
Our God is here

"Our God Is Here"

2. Here in the Word God is revealed
Here where the wounded can be healed
Here in our hearts here in our lives
Our God is here
Here we become what we receive
Here in this Eucharistic feast
We are His body living as one
Our God is here

Chorus:

And we cry holy holy holy are You
We cry holy holy holy and true
Amen we do believe our God is here
Our God is here

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†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



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"

Setting: Gary James

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

"Do This In Memory Of Me"

1.I am the bread of life

All who believe in Me will have eternal life

I am the bread of life

Come down from heaven

So that all who eat this bread will never die

Chorus

Take the living bread of life

Take the cup of sacrifice

Do this in memory of Me

Take the body and the blood

Given freely out of love

Do this in memory of Me

Do this in memory of Me

2. I am the bread of life

Whoever comes to Me will not hunger again

I am the bread of life

No one can come to Me

Unless the Father draws them near to Him

Amen I say to you

Unless you eat the flesh

Of the Son of Man and drink His blood

You shall not have life

All who will eat My flesh and drink

My blood will have eternal life

And I will raise them up again

Post-Communion Prayer (#69 from *Enriching our Worship*)

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 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 Song

“Mighty to Save”

1. Everyone needs compassion
A love that's never failing, let mercy fall on me
Everyone needs forgiveness
The kindness of a Savior, The hope of nations

2. So take me as you find me
All my fears and failures, and fill my life again
I give my life to follow
Everything I believe in. Now I surrender

Chorus:

Savior, he can move the mountains
My God is mighty to save, He is mighty to save
Forever author of Salvation
He rose and conquered the grave
Jesus conquered the grave

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The Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God, alleluia, alleluia!

Postlude

Worship Assistants	January 18	January 25
Worship Leader	Martin Villanueva	Mary Butler
Musicians	Praise Ensemble	Adult Ensemble
Ushers	David Horn, 1 needed	2 needed
Lector	Buck Lyon-Vaiden	John Holbert
Acolyte	Ellen Anderson	Kat Dittrich
Worship Slides	Jeanne Cox	Jill Horn
Chalicists	John Holbert, Helen Lang, Jill Horn, Jim Fariss	John Holbert, Helen Lang Kim Tompkins, 1 needed
Audio Visual	Gabriel Hoff	Allison Lord

January Altar Guild:

Janice Hobart, Jill Horn, Emelia Howe, Deb Vana

Attendance – January 11:

8:00 am – 24 10:15 am In-person – 78 YouTube – 5 Facebook – 4 **Total: 111**

Readings for Next Sunday: Third Sunday after Epiphany - A

Isaiah 9:1-4 Psalm 27 1 Corinthians 1:10-18 Matthew 4:12-23

Church of the Ascension | 23 North Court Street | Westminster, Maryland 21157

The Reverend Pierre-Henry Buisson, Rector

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