



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



*"This is my Son, the Beloved;  
with him I am well pleased;  
listen to him!"*

*Matthew 17*

**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 "Songs of Thankfulness and Praise"

Hymnal #135

1. Songs of thankfulness and praise,  
Jesus, Lord, to thee we raise,  
Manifested by the star  
to the sages from afar;  
Branch of royal David's stem  
in thy birth at Bethlehem;  
Anthems be to thee addressed,  
God in man made manifest

3. Manifest in making whole  
palsied limbs and fainting soul;  
Manifest in valiant fight,  
quelling all the devil's might;  
Manifest in gracious will,  
ever bringing good from ill;  
Anthems be to thee addressed,  
God in man made manifest.

2. Manifest at Jordan's stream,  
Prophet, Priest, and King supreme;  
And at Cana, wedding-guest,  
in thy Godhead manifest;  
Manifest in power divine,  
changing water into wine;  
Anthems be to thee addressed,  
God in man made manifest.

4. Manifest on mountain height  
Shining in resplendent light;  
Where disciples filled with awe  
Thy transfigured glory saw.  
When from there thou leddest them  
Steadfast to Jerusalem;  
Cross and Easter Day attest  
God in man made manifest.

Words: Christopher Wordsworth & F. Bland Tucker Music: Salzburg

### The Opening Acclamation

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

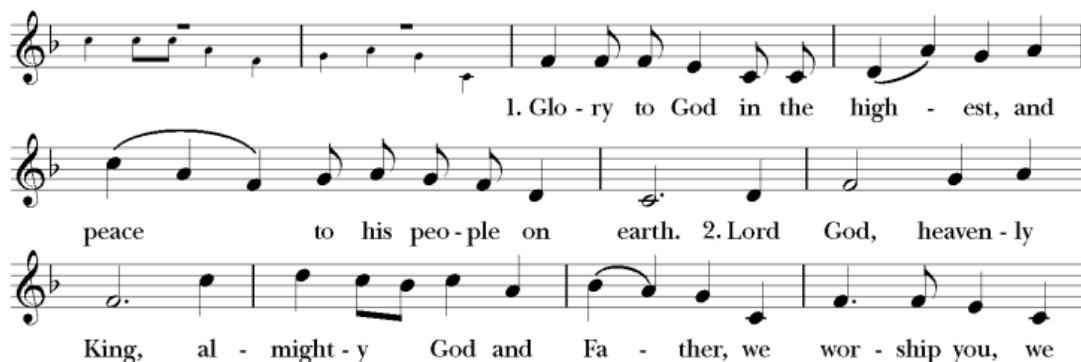
**And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

### 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





### **Collect of the Day**

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

O God, who before the passion of your only begotten Son revealed his glory upon the holy mountain: Grant to us that we, beholding by faith the light of his countenance, may be strengthened to bear our cross, and be changed into his likeness from glory to glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

### **The First Lesson: Exodus 24:12-18**

A Reading from the Book of Exodus

The LORD said to Moses, "Come up to me on the mountain, and wait there; and I will give you the tablets of stone, with the law and the commandment, which I have written for their instruction." So Moses set out with his assistant Joshua, and Moses went up into the mountain of God. To the elders he had said, "Wait here for us, until we come to you again; for Aaron and Hur are with you; whoever has a dispute may go to them."

Then Moses went up on the mountain, and the cloud covered the mountain. The glory of the LORD settled on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it for six days; on the seventh day he called to Moses out of the cloud. Now the appearance of the glory of the LORD was like a devouring fire on the top of the mountain in the sight of the people of Israel. Moses entered the cloud, and went up on the mountain. Moses was on the mountain for forty days and forty nights.

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

### **Psalm 99**

- 1 The LORD is King;  
let the people tremble; \*  
he is enthroned upon the cherubim; let the earth shake.
- 2 The LORD is great in Zion; \*  
he is high above all peoples.
- 3 Let them confess his Name, which is great and awesome; \*  
he is the Holy One.
- 4 "O mighty King, lover of justice, you have established equity; \*  
you have executed justice and righteousness in Jacob."
- 5 Proclaim the greatness of the LORD our God and fall down before his footstool; \*  
he is the Holy One.
- 6 Moses and Aaron among his priests,  
and Samuel among those who call upon his Name, \*  
they called upon the LORD, and he answered them.
- 7 He spoke to them out of the pillar of cloud; \*  
they kept his testimonies and the decree that he gave them.
- 8 O LORD our God, you answered them indeed; \*  
you were a God who forgave them, yet punished them for their evil deeds.
- 9 Proclaim the greatness of the LORD our God and worship him upon his holy hill; \*  
for the LORD our God is the Holy One.

### **The Second Lesson: 2 Peter 1:16-21**

A Reading from the Second Letter of Peter

We did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we had been eyewitnesses of his majesty. For he received honor and glory from God the Father when that voice was conveyed to him by the Majestic Glory, saying, "This is my Son, my Beloved, with whom I am well pleased." We ourselves heard this voice come from heaven, while we were with him on the holy mountain.

So we have the prophetic message more fully confirmed. You will do well to be attentive to this as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. First of all you must understand this, that no prophecy of scripture is

a matter of one's own interpretation, because no prophecy ever came by human will, but men and women moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.

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

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

✠ **Sequence Song**

**"Open the Eyes of My Heart"**

Open the eyes of my heart Lord  
Open the eyes of my heart  
I want to see You  
I want to see You

Holy holy holy  
Holy holy holy  
Holy holy holy  
I want to see You

To see You high and lifted up  
Shining in the light of Your glory  
Pour out Your power and love  
As we sing holy holy holy

CCLI Song # 2298355

Paul Baloche

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**The Holy Gospel: Matthew 17:1-9**

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew  
**Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became dazzling white. Suddenly there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. Then Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good for us to be here; if you wish, I will make three dwellings here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." While he was still speaking, suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud a voice said, "This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!" When the disciples heard this, they fell to the ground and were overcome by fear. But Jesus came and touched them, saying, "Get up and do not be afraid." And when they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus himself alone.

As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus ordered them, "Tell no one about the vision until after the Son of Man has been raised from the dead."

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 this week – Chris, Mary, Martha and Gene. 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 Lianne, Jack, Jackie, Dewey, Noah, Karen, Drew, Mary, Steve, 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, especially Fr. Eddie Blue and Chris Everich. 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

### "Hallelujah Here Below"

1. We are an altar of broken stones  
But You delight in the offering  
You have the heavens to call Your home  
But You abide in the song we sing

3. And should the fire that once burned bright  
Become an ember my eyes can't see  
I will remember Your sacrifice  
I will abide in Your love for me

2. Ten thousand angels surround Your throne  
To bring You praise that will never cease  
But hallelujah from here below  
Is still Your favorite melody

Jesus Christ our King enthroned  
All the praise is Yours  
Forevermore  
Hallelujah Here below  
All the praise is Yours Forevermore

### Chorus:

We sing Hallelujah  
Hallelujah Hallelujah

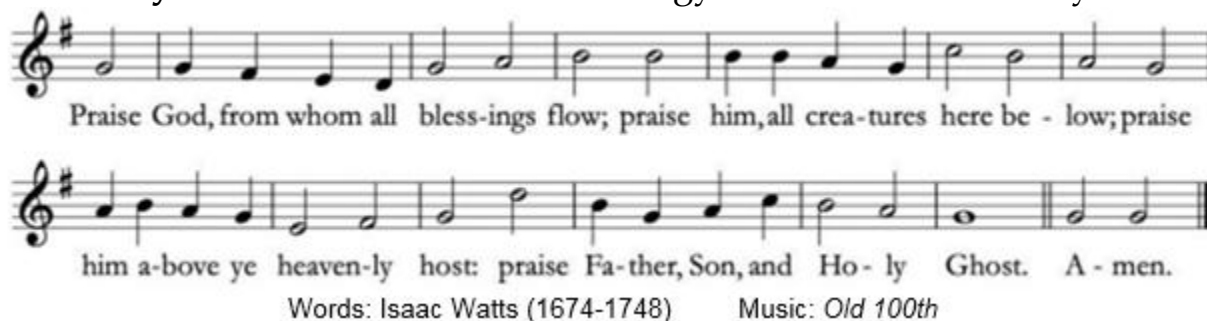
4. Oh what a wonderful day to come  
When every knee bows before Your Name  
But we will not wait until it does  
For here and now shall Your Kingdom reign



# ✦ Presentation Hymn

## "The Doxology"

Hymnal #380, v. 3



## The Great Thanksgiving: Eucharistic Prayer B

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

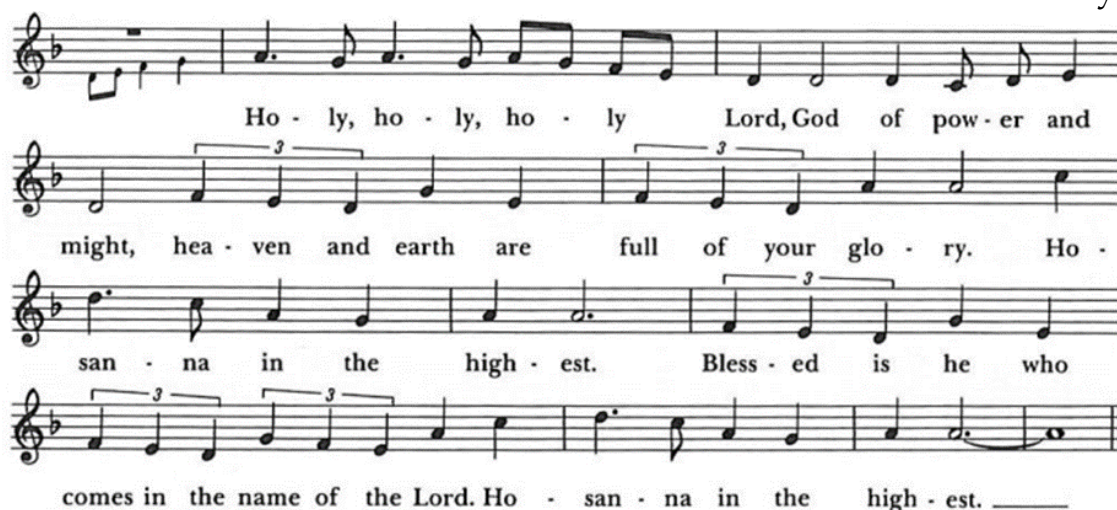
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

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



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

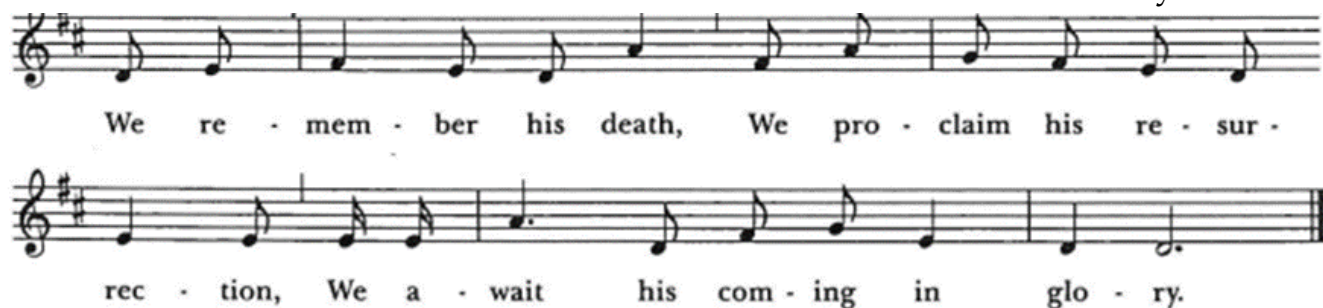


disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

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

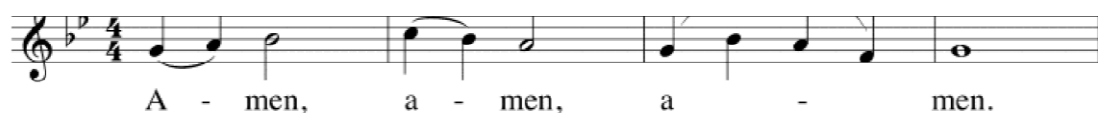
Hymnal #S138



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, 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**

“Alleluia”

Jerry Sinclair

1. Alleluia
2. Jesus is Lord
3. Come Lord Jesus
4. He's my Savior
5. He is worthy
6. He's my Healer

7. He is faithful
8. He's my Jesus
9. He is holy
10. I will praise him
11. Alleluia

## **✠ 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 Song**

1. Soon and very soon,  
We are goin' to see the King,  
Soon and very soon,  
We are goin' to see the King.  
Soon and very soon,  
We are goin' to see the King,  
Hallelujah, hallelujah,  
We are goin' to see the King!

2. No more cryin' there,  
We are goin' to see the King,  
No more cryin' there,  
We are goin' to see the King.  
No more cryin' there,  
We are goin' to see the King,  
Hallelujah, Hallelujah,  
We are goin' to see the King.

## **"Soon and Very Soon"**

Andraé Crouch

3. No more dyin' there,  
We are goin' to see the King,  
No more dyin' there,  
We are goin' to see the King.  
No more dyin' there,  
We are goin' to see the King,  
Hallelujah, Hallelujah,  
We are goin' to see the King.

Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah

4. Soon and very soon,  
We are goin' to see the King,  
Soon and very soon,  
We are goin' to see the King.  
Soon and very soon,  
We are goin' to see the King,  
Hallelujah, hallelujah,  
We are goin' to see the King!

Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah

## **The Dismissal**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia, alleluia!

**Thanks be to God, alleluia, alleluia!**

## **Postlude**

<b>Worship Assistants</b>	<b>February 15</b>	<b>February 22</b>
Worship Leader	Mary Butler	Mary Butler
Musicians	Praise Ensemble	Adult Ensemble
Ushers	David Horn, Beatrice Howe	<i>2 needed</i>
Lector	Jill Horn	John Holbert
Acolyte	Kat Dittrich	<i>1 needed</i>
Worship Slides	Lynn Lyon-Vaiden	Jeanne Cox
Chalicians	John Holbert, Jill Horn, Kim Tompkins <i>1 needed</i>	John Holbert, <i>3 needed</i>
Audio Visual	Allison Lord	Gabriel Hoff

### **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 Ellen Anderson, in loving memory of their son, and in celebration of the birthdays of their daughter and son-in-law.

### **Attendance - February 8**

8:00 am – 26    10:15 am    In-person – 53    YouTube – 7    Facebook – 4    **Total: 90**  
 Annual Parish Meeting – 68

### **Readings for Next Sunday: First Sunday in Lent - A**

Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7    Psalm 32    Romans 5:12-19    Matthew 4:1-11

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

The Reverend Pierre-Henry Buisson, Rector

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