Church of the *Ascension*

Connect. Grow. Serve.

The Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

November 8, 2026 8:00 a.m.



Keep awake therefore, for you know
neither the day nor the hour.

Matthew Ch. 25

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

Officiant: The Reverend Barbara A. Sears

☩*Please stand as you are able.*

☩ Opening Acclamation

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

And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

☩Collect for Purity

Almighty God, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love thee, and worthily magnify thy holy Name; through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

☩Hymn of Praise

Glory be to God on high, and on earth peace, goodwill to all people. We praise thee, we bless thee, we worship thee, we glorify thee, we give thanks to thee for thy great glory, O Lord God, heavenly King, God the Father Almighty. O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ; O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us. Thou that takest away the sins of the world, receive our prayer. Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy upon us. For thou only art holy; thou only art the Lord; thou only, O Christ, with the Holy Ghost, art most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

☩The Collect of the Day

The Lord be with you.

And with thy spirit.

Let us pray.

O God, whose blessed Son was manifested that he might destroy the works of the devil and make us children of God and heirs of eternal life: Grant us, we beseech thee, that, having this hope, we may purify ourselves even as he is pure; that, when he shall appear again with power and great glory, we may be made like unto him in his eternal and glorious kingdom; where with thee, O Father, and thee, O Holy Ghost,
he liveth and reigneth ever, one God, world without end.
Amen.

The Lessons

The First Lesson: *Wisdom 6:12-20*

A Reading from the Wisdom of Solomon

Wisdom is radiant and unfading, and she is easily discerned by those who love her, and is found by those who seek her. She hastens to make herself known to those who desire her. One who rises early to seek her will have no difficulty, for she will be found sitting at the gate. To fix one's thought on her is perfect understanding, and one who is vigilant on her account will soon be free from care, because she goes about seeking those worthy of her, and she graciously appears to them in their paths, and meets them in every thought.

The beginning of wisdom is the most sincere desire for instruction, and concern for instruction is love of her, and love of her is the keeping of her laws, and giving heed to her laws is assurance of immortality, and immortality brings one near to God, so the desire for wisdom leads to a kingdom.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Psalm 119:1-8

1 Happy are those whose way is blameless,
who walk in the law of the Lord.
2 Happy are those who keep his decrees,
who seek him with their whole heart,
3 who also do no wrong
but walk in his ways.
4 You have commanded your precepts
to be kept diligently.
5 O that my ways may be steadfast
in keeping your statutes!
6 Then I shall not be put to shame,
having my eyes fixed on all your commandments.
7 I will praise you with an upright heart,
when I learn your righteous ordinances.
8 I will observe your statutes;
do not utterly forsake me.

The Epistle: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

A Reading from the First Letter of Paul to the Thessalonians

We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ

will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air; and so we will be with the Lord forever. Therefore encourage one another with these words.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

☩The Holy Gospel: Matthew 25:1-13

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew

Glory be to thee, O Lord.

Jesus said, "Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. But at midnight there was a shout, 'Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' But the wise replied, 'No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.' And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.' But he replied, 'Truly I tell you, I do not know you.' Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to thee, O Christ.

The Sermon The Rev. Barbara A. Sears

☩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.

The Prayers of the People

Reader: Let us pray for the whole state of Christ's Church and the world.

Almighty and everliving God, who in thy holy Word hast taught us to make prayers, and supplications, and to give thanks for all people: Receive these our prayers which we offer unto thy divine Majesty, beseeching thee to inspire continually the Universal Church with the spirit of truth, unity, and concord; and grant that all those who do confess thy holy Name may agree in the truth of thy holy Word, and live in unity and godly love.

Give grace, O heavenly Father, to all bishops and other ministers; especially Sarah, Archbishop of Canterbury, Sean, our Presiding Bishop, Carrie, our Bishop, and Chip, our Interim Priest; that they may, both by their life and doctrine, set forth thy true and lively Word, and rightly and duly administer thy holy Sacraments.

And to all thy people give thy heavenly grace, and especially to this congregation here present; that, with meek heart and due reverence, they may hear and receive thy holy Word, truly serving thee in holiness and righteousness all the days of their life.
We beseech thee also so to rule the hearts of those who bear the authority of government in this and every land; especially Donald, our president, that they may be led to wise decisions and right actions for the welfare and peace of the world.

Open, O Lord, the eyes of all people to behold thy gracious hand in all thy works, that, rejoicing in thy whole creation, they may honor thee with their substance, and be faithful stewards of thy bounty.

And we most humbly beseech thee, of thy goodness, O Lord, to comfort and succor Naomi, Lianne, Bill, Gail, Bobbie, Jerry, Sean, Jackie, Erin, Bob, Karen, Scott, Barry, Chris, Debbie, Jordan, Reed, Diane, Carolyn, and all those who in this transitory life, are in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness, or any other adversity.

And we also bless thy holy Name for all thy servants departed this life in thy faith and fear, especially Marion Britton, beseeching thee to grant them continual growth in thy love and service; and to grant us grace so to follow the good examples of all thy saints, that with them we may be partakers of thy heavenly kingdom.

Grant these our prayers, O Father, for Jesus Christ's sake, our only Mediator and Advocate. **Amen**.

The Confession of Sin

Celebrant: Let us humbly confess our sins unto Almighty God.

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against thee in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved thee with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of thy Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in thy will, and walk in thy ways, to the glory of thy Name. Amen.

Absolution

The Almighty and merciful Lord grant us absolution and remission of all our sins, true repentance, amendment of life, and the grace and consolation of his Holy Spirit.
Amen.

The Peace: The Peace of the Lord be always with you. **And with thy spirit.**

Stewardship Message Dave Gosnell

Announcements

Birthday and Anniversary Prayer

O God, our times are in your hand: Look with favor, we pray, on your servant(s) *N.* as *they* begin another year. Grant that *they* may grow in wisdom and grace, and strengthen *their* trust in your goodness all the days of *their* lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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

The Celebration of the Holy Communion

The Offertory

Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God. *Ephesians 5:2*

If you brought a pledge card today, please place it in the offering plate.

Offertory and Prayer over the Pledge Cards

Generous and loving God from whom all blessings flow, accept these pledge cards representing our lives and labor, and our dreams for Ascension. We offer them generously, and joyfully, in thanksgiving for all the ways in which thou have blessed us and our church family. Give us courage, insight and grace to use these gifts to nourish thy people and to proclaim thy reconciling work in Christ. Amen.

The Presentation

Deacon: All things come of Thee, O Lord;

People: **And of Thine own have we given Thee.**

The Holy Communion

Deacon: The Lord be with you.

People: **And with thy spirit.**

Deacon: Let us pray.

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, King of the universe. You create the fruit of the vine and bring forth grain from the earth. You give us the bread of life and you refresh us with the cup of salvation in the Body and Blood of your Son Jesus Christ. As we share the bread and wine, grant us the grace to receive these holy mysteries in faith and thanksgiving for Jesus' great sacrifice for us and for all people, so that he may evermore dwell in us and we in him. **Amen.**

Deacon: And now, as our Savior Christ hath 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.

Deacon: 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.

The Communion of the People *All are welcome to receive Holy Communion as the spirit moves you. When directed by an Usher, please come forward to receive Holy Communion kneeling or standing at the Communion Rail. If you would prefer a blessing, please indicate by crossing your arms over your chest.*

Post Communion Prayer: Let us pray. **Almighty and everliving God, we most heartily thank thee for that thou dost feed us, in these holy mysteries, with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and dost assure us thereby of thy favor and goodness towards us; and that we are very members incorporate in the mystical body of thy Son, the blessed company of all faithful people; and are also heirs, through hope, of thine everlasting kingdom. And we humbly beseech thee, O heavenly Father, so to assist us with thy grace, that we may continue in that holy fellowship, and do all such good works as thou hast prepared for us to walk in; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honor and glory, world without end. Amen.**

The Benediction

The Lord bless us and keep us. **Amen**.

The Lord make his face to shine upon us and be gracious to us. **Amen**.

The Lord lift up his countenance upon us and give us peace. **Amen**.

☩The Dismissal:

Deacon: Alleluia, alleluia! Let us go forth into the world rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.

People: **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia!**

Worship Assistants	November 8	November 15
Usher	Bill Sears	Roberta Wilhelm
Lector	Roberta Wilhelm	MaryLou Berg
Chalicist	Jim Fariss	Jim Fariss

November Altar Guild: Janice Hobart, Jill Horn, Emelia Howe, Deb Vana

The Altar Flowers are given to the glory of God by Jeanne Cox, in thanksgiving for blessings received, and in celebration of her daughter's birthday.

Attendance November 1

8:00 am - 36 **10:15 am In-person** – 68 **YouTube** - 3 **Facebook** – 9 **Total**: **116**

Readings for Next Sunday: The Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18 Psalm 90 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11 Matthew 25:14-30

November Worship Notes







