Church of the *Ascension*

Connect. Grow. Serve.

The Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

November 8, 2026 10:15 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.*

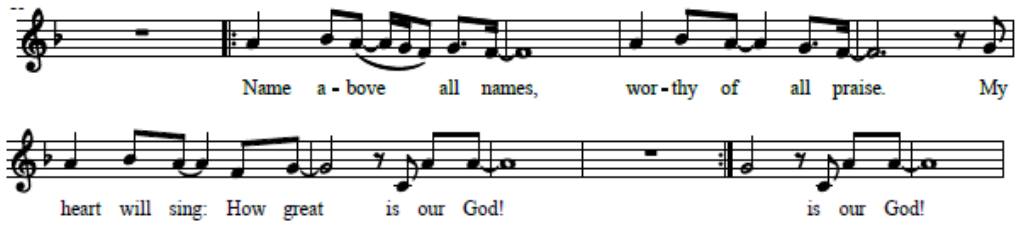
Prelude "Holy and Anointed One"



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✞ **Processional Hymn** "How Great Is Our God"





CCLI Song # 4348399 | Chris Tomlin | Ed Cash | Jesse Reeves
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✞Opening Acclamation

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

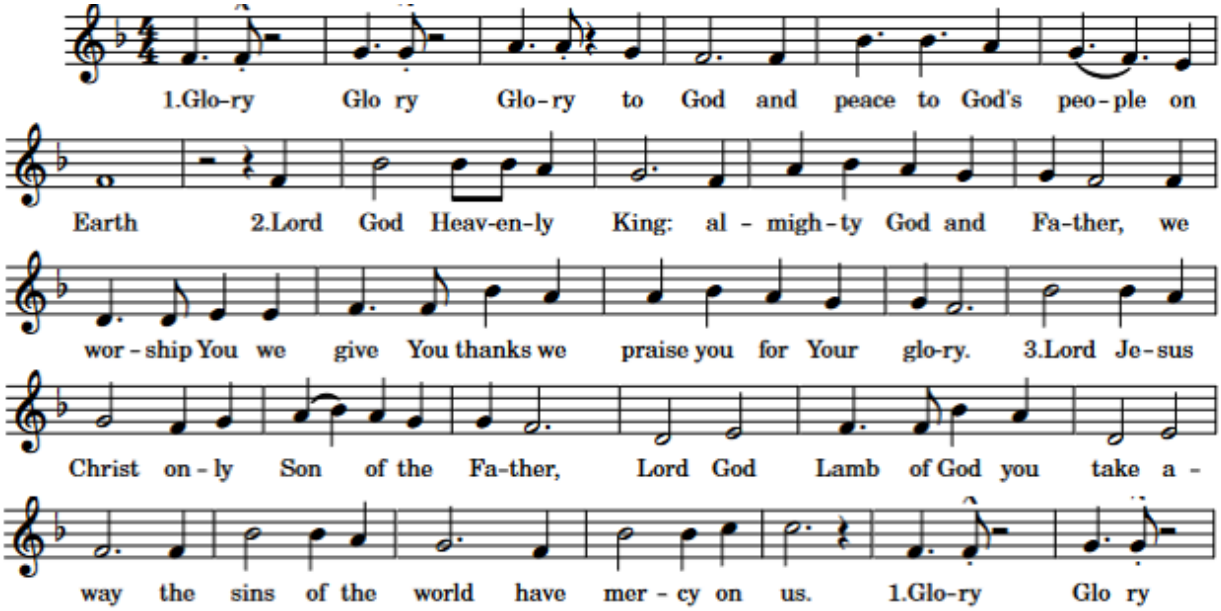
And blessed be his Kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

✞The 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

Mass of Ascension – Donna Parker





℣**The Collect of the Day:** The Lord be with you. **And also with you.** Let us pray.

O God, whose blessed Son came into the world that he might destroy the works of the devil and make us children of God and heirs of eternal life: Grant that, having this hope, we may purify ourselves as he is pure; that, when he comes again with power and great glory, we may be made like him in his eternal and glorious kingdom; where he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **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

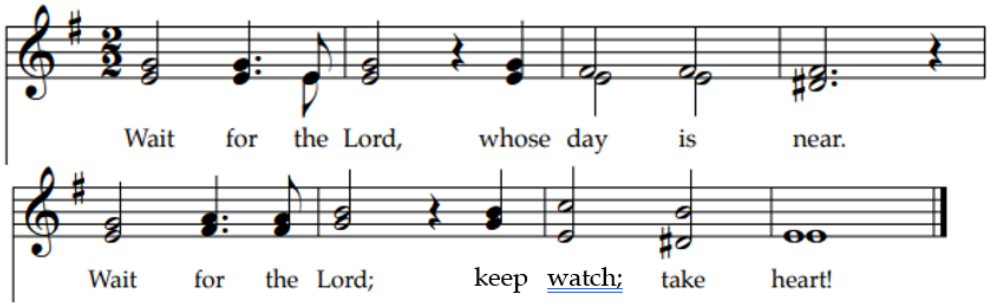
A Reading from the First Letter of Paul to the Thessalonians

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.

☩Sequence Song "Wait for the Lord" J. Berthier



☩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 to you, Lord Christ.

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: Form VI

In peace, we pray to you, Lord God. *(Silence)*

For all people in their daily life and work;

For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.

For this community, the nation, and the world;

For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.

For the just and proper use of your creation;

For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.

For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble, especially Naomi, Lianne, Bill, Gail, Bobbie, Jerry, Sean, Jackie, Erin, Bob, Karen, Scott, Barry, Chris, Debbie, Jordan, Reed, Diane, Carolyn;

For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.

For the peace and unity of the Church of God;

For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.

For Sarah, Archbishop of Canterbury, Sean, our Presiding Bishop, Carrie, our Bishop, Chip, our Interim Priest, and for all bishops and other ministers;

For all who serve God in his Church.

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation.

(*Silence. The People may add their own petitions.)*

Hear us, Lord;

For your mercy is great.

We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life.

(Silence. The People may add their own thanksgivings.)

We will exalt you, O God our King;

And praise your Name for ever and ever.

We pray for all who have died, especially Marion Britton, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom. *(Silence. The People may add their own petitions.)*

Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon them;
Who put their trust in you.

☩Confession of Sin

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.
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.

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 also with you.**

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* begins another year. Grant that *they* may grow in wisdom and grace, and strengthen *their* trust in your goodness all the days of *their* life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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

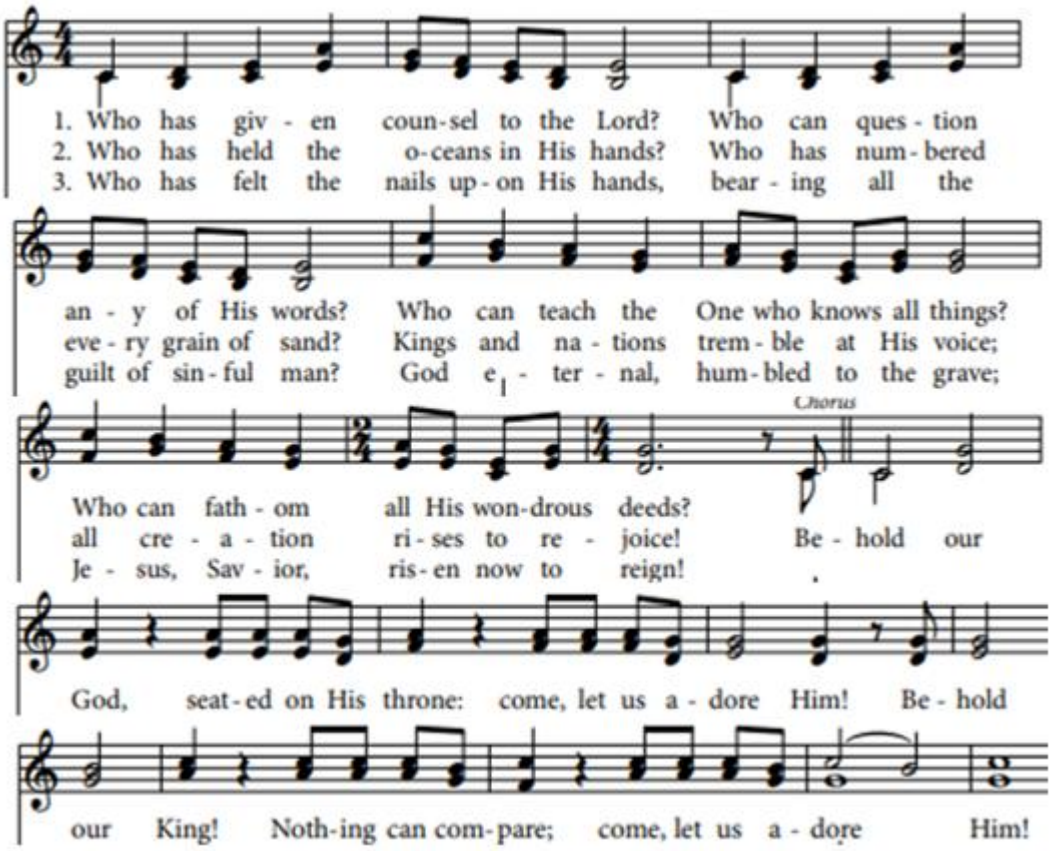
The Celebration of the Holy Communion

Offertory Ascribe to the Lord the honor due his Name;

bring offerings and come into his courts. *Psalm 96:8*

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

"Behold Our God"



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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 you have blessed us and our church family. Give us courage, insight and grace to use these gifts to nourish your people and to proclaim your reconciling work in Christ. Amen.

✞Presentation Hymn "We Plow the Fields and Scatter"*v.3* Hymnal #291



The Holy Communion

Deacon: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Deacon: Let us pray.

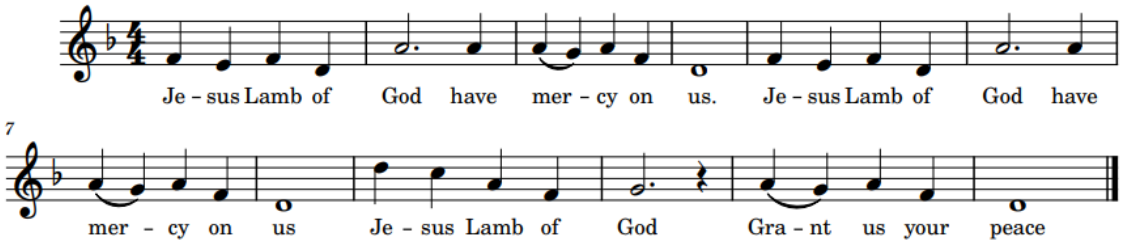
Blessed are you, O Lord our God, King of the universe. You create the fruit of the vine and bring forth grain from the earth. You give us the bread of life and you refresh us with the cup of salvation in the Body and Blood of your Son Jesus Christ. As we share the bread and wine, grant us the grace to 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 sing:

✞The Lord's Prayer



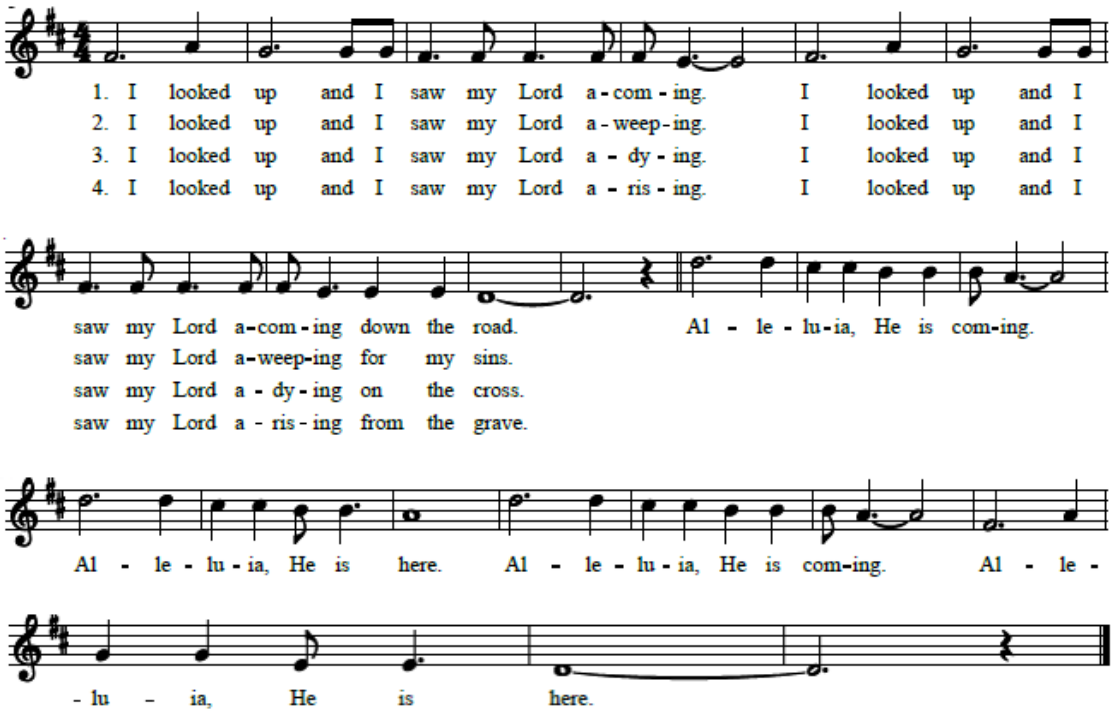
✞Fraction Anthem "Lamb of God" Setting: Mass of Ascension, Donna Parker



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.

<u>The Communion of the People:</u> *All are welcome to receive Holy Communion as the spirit moves you. 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. To receive the wine you can either drink from the common cup or dip your host held by the second Eucharistic minister on both sides of the priest.*

Communion Music "Alleluia, He Is Coming"



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☩**Prayer of Thanksgiving:** 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 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**.

✞Recessional Hymn "Soon and Very Soon" Andraé Crouch



✞<u>The Dismissal:</u>

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

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

Postlude

Worship Assistants	November 8	November 15
Organist	Mary Butler	Mary Butler
Musicians	Choir	Choir
Ushers	*2 needed*	*1 needed*
Lector	Betsy Reinders	John Holbert
Acolyte(s)	Raymond Lui	Ellen Anderson
Chalicists	Sandy White, Helen Lang, Betsy Reinders, Susan Considine	
Worship Slides	John Holbert	
Audio Visual	Nick Hoff	

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

