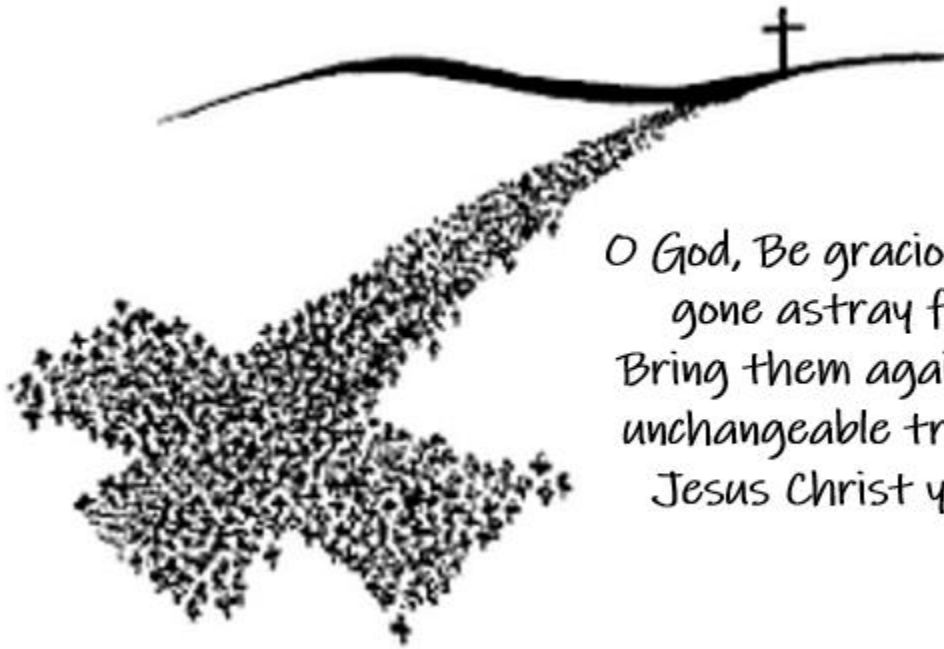




The Second Sunday in Lent
March 1, 2026 **10:15 a.m.**



*O God, Be gracious to all who have
gone astray from your ways.
Bring them again to embrace the
unchangeable truth of your Word,
Jesus Christ your Son. Amen.*

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

“The God of Abraham Praise”

Hymnal #401

1. The God of Abraham praise,
who reigns enthroned above;
Ancient of everlasting days, and God of love;
the Lord, the great I AM,
by earth and heaven confessed:
we bow and bless the sacred Name for ever blest.

4. The God who reigns on high
the great archangels sing,
and “Holy, holy, holy,” cry, “Almighty King!
Who was, and is, the same,
and evermore shall be:
eternal Father, great I AM, we worship thee.”

2. He by himself hath sworn:
we on his oath depend;
we shall, on eagles-wings upborne,
to heaven ascend:
we shall behold his face,
we shall his power adore,
and sing the wonders of his grace for evermore.

5. The whole triumphant host
give thanks to God on high;
“Hail, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost” they ever cry;
hail, Abraham’s Lord divine!
With heaven our songs we raise;
all might and majesty are thine,
and endless praise.

3. There dwells the Lord, our King,
the Lord, our Righteousness,
triumphant o’er the world and sin,
the Prince of Peace;
on Zion’s sacred height
his kingdom he maintains,
and, glorious with his saints in light,
for ever reigns.

Words: Thomas Olivers
Music: *Leoni*

A Penitential Order: Rite II

Celebrant: Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

People: **His mercy endures for ever.**

Jesus said, "The first commandment is this: Hear, O Israel: The Lord your God is the only Lord. Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. The second is this: Love your neighbor as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these." *Mark 12:29-31*

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor. (*Silence*)

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.

Celebrant: 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.**

Kyrie Eleison

“Kyrie #10”

J. Berthier

Ky - ri - e, Ky - ri - e, e - le - i - son; Ky - ri -
 Chri - ste, Chri - ste, e - le - i - son; Chris -
 Ky - ri - e, Ky - ri - e, e - le - i - son; Ky - ri -

5
 e, Ky - ri - e, e - le - i - son.
 te, Chris - te, e - le - i - son.
 e, Ky - ri - e, e - le - i - son.

The Collect

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

O God, whose glory it is always to have mercy: Be gracious to all who have gone astray from your ways, and bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of your Word, Jesus Christ your Son; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The First Lesson: Genesis 12:1-4a

A Reading from the Book of Genesis

The LORD said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

So Abram went, as the LORD had told him; and Lot went with him.

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

Psalm 121

- 1 I lift up my eyes to the hills; *
 from where is my help to come?
- 2 My help comes from the LORD, *
 the maker of heaven and earth.
- 3 He will not let your foot be moved *
 and he who watches over you will not fall asleep.
- 4 Behold, he who keeps watch over Israel *
 shall neither slumber nor sleep;
- 5 The LORD himself watches over you; *
 the LORD is your shade at your right hand,

6 So that the sun shall not strike you by day, *
nor the moon by night.

7 The LORD shall preserve you from all evil; *
it is he who shall keep you safe.

8 The LORD shall watch over your going out and your coming in, *
from this time forth for evermore.

The Second Lesson: Romans 4:1-5, 13-17

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans

What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. For what does the scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness." Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. But to one who without works trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness.

For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation.

For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations") – in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

✠ Sequence Song

"Spirit of the Living God"

Spirit of the Living God fall fresh on me. Spirit of the Living God fall fresh on me
Melt me mold me fill me use me. Spirit of the Living God fall fresh on me

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The Holy Gospel: John 3:1-17

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

There was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God." Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above." Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?" Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and

Spirit. What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" Jesus answered him, "Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things? Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him." The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

Children's Sermon and Sermon

The Rev. Dr. William Pugliese

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

✠ 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

Celebrant: In this holy season of self-examination and repentance, as we journey with Christ into the wilderness, let us pray for the Church and for the world.

Intercessor: For the Church throughout the world, that in this Lenten season we may resist the temptations of power, fear, and self-sufficiency, and learn again to trust in God alone; for Sean our Presiding Bishop, Carrie our Bishop, and for all clergy and lay ministers; that the Church may faithfully proclaim the Good News in word and deed, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For this nation and for all nations; for Donald our President, for Congress and the courts, for state and local leaders; that those entrusted with authority may seek justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with God, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For a world wounded by violence, disaster, and division; for those who live in fear; and for the healing of creation itself; that we may learn to depend not on bread alone, but on every word that comes from God, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For all who suffer in body, mind, or spirit, especially Lianne, Jack, Jackie, Dewey, Noah, Karen, Drew, Mary, Steve, Rick, Danny, Darrell, Cathy, Reed, Bob, and those we now name, either silently or aloud (pause); that Christ, who was tested in every way yet without sin, may strengthen and sustain them, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For the poor, the lonely, the hungry, and the homeless; that in denying ourselves this Lent we may grow in compassion and mercy, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For those celebrating birthdays and anniversaries this week: Domenic, Gary, Luke, Sandy, Linda, David and Jill; for the quiet blessings of daily life; that we may recognize God's faithful presence even in the wilderness seasons of our lives, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For those who have died in the hope of the resurrection; that they may rest in peace and rise in glory, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

Celebrant: Gracious God, whose Son fasted forty days in the wilderness and overcame the tempter: strengthen us in our Lenten discipline, sustain us in our weakness, and bring us at last to the joy of Easter; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **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

“Wonderful, Merciful Savior”

1. Wonderful merciful Savior
Precious Redeemer and Friend
Who would have thought that a Lamb
Could rescue the souls of men
Oh You rescue the souls of men

2. Counselor Comforter Keeper
Spirit we long to embrace
You offer hope when our hearts
Have hopelessly lost the way
Oh we hopelessly lost the way

Chorus:

You are the One that we praise
You are the One we adore
You give the healing and grace
Our hearts always hunger for
Oh our hearts always hunger for

3. Almighty infinite Father
Faithfully loving Your own
Here in our weakness You find us
Falling before Your throne
Oh we're falling before Your throne

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8
15

You are the One that we Praise You are the One we a - dore
You give the heal - ing and grace our hearts al - ways hun - ger
for, Oh, our hearts al - ways hun - ger for.

☩ Presentation Hymn

“The Doxology”

Hymnal #380, v. 3

Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; praise him, all crea - tures here be - low; praise
him a - bove ye heav - en - ly host: praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. A - men.
Words: Isaac Watts (1674-1748) Music: Old 100th

The Great Thanksgiving: Eucharistic Prayer A

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 everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth through Jesus Christ our Lord; who was tempted in every way as we are, yet did not sin. By his grace we are able to triumph over every evil, and to live no longer for ourselves alone, but for him who died for us and

rose again. 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

“Holy, Holy, Holy Lord”

Hymnal #S130

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and might, Ho - ly,
 ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and might. Hea - ven and
 Bless - ed is
 earth are full, full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the
 name of the Lord.
 high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself, and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world. On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, 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 we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Memorial Acclamation

Christ has di - ed Christ - is ri - sen Christ will come a - gain

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son,

the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with the ever-Blessed Virgin Mary and all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory are yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever.



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

Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us: **Therefore let us keep the feast.**

Fraction Anthem

Agnus Dei - "Jesus, Lamb of God"

Hymnal #S164



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

“Lord, We Come to You”

1. We come to you on this day
With faith we kneel down to pray
Wash us from our guilt and
free us from our sins
Teach us to love you, O Lord.

2. We open our hearts
and we praise you, Lord.
By your cross you save the world
Forgive us our sins,
have mercy on us
Teach us to love you, O Lord.

“Worthy the Lamb”

Words and Music: R. Gillard

1. Worthy the Lamb that was slain for us
Worthy, worthy the Lamb *(Repeat)*

3. Holy the Lamb that was slain for us.
Holy, holy the Lamb *(Repeat)*

2. Blessed the Lamb that was slain for us
Blessed, blessed the Lamb *(Repeat)*

4. Mighty the Lamb that was slain for us.
Mighty, mighty the Lamb *(Repeat)*

5. Jesus the Lamb that was slain for us
Jesus, Jesus the Lamb *(Repeat)*

✠ 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 Prayer Over The People

During the season of Lent, in place of a final blessing, the presider offers a Prayer over the People.

Let us bow before the Lord.

The people bow. Keep this your family, Lord, with your never-failing mercy, that relying solely on the help of your heavenly grace, they may be upheld by your divine protection; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

✠ Recessional Song

“Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone)”

1. Amazing grace how sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me
I once was lost but now I'm found
Was blind but now I see

3. The Lord has promised good to me
His word my hope secures
He will my shield and portion be
As long as life endures

2. 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear
And grace my fears relieved
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed

4. The earth shall soon dissolve like snow
The sun forbear to shine
But God who called me here below
Will be forever mine. Will be forever mine
You are forever mine

Chorus:

My chains are gone I've been set free
My God my Savior has ransomed me
And like a flood His mercy rains
Unending love amazing grace

CCLI Song # 4768151
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✠ The Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

Worship Assistants	March 1	March 8
Worship Leader	Mary Butler	Mary Butler
Musicians	Praise Ensemble	Adult Ensemble
Ushers	David and Ellen Anderson	<i>2 needed</i>
Lector	Jim Fariss	Buck Lyon-Vaiden
Acolyte	<i>1 needed</i>	<i>1 needed</i>
Worship Slides	Lynn Lyon-Vaiden	Karen Lance
Chalicians	Jim Fariss, John Holbert, Kim Tompkins, <i>1 needed</i>	John Holbert, <i>3 needed</i>
Audio Visual	Allison Lord	Gabriel Hoff

March Altar Guild:

Kim Tompkins, Charlie Aler, Beverly Baker, Helen Lang
In loving memory of Jenny Beeker

Attendance - February 22

8:00 am - 29 10:15 am In-person - 41 YouTube - 7 Facebook - 5 **Total: 82**

Readings for Next Sunday: Third Sunday in Lent - A

Exodus 17:1-7 Psalm 95 Romans 5:1-11 John 4:5-42

Church of the Ascension: Holy Week Worship

Palm Sunday: March 29

8:00 am: Holy Eucharist Rite I

Stone Church

10:15 am: Holy Eucharist Rite II

Holy Cross Hall

This service will begin with a Palm Sunday procession.

Maundy Thursday: April 2

6:00 pm: Holy Eucharist Rite II

Stone Church

Good Friday: April 3

6:00 pm: Good Friday service

Stone Church

Easter Sunday: April 5

8:00 am: Holy Eucharist Rite I

Stone Church

10:15 am: Holy Eucharist Rite II

Holy Cross Hall

Joint Episcopal – United Methodist Prayer for the March 3 Feast Day for Charles and John Wesley
February 25, 2026

The Episcopal Church observes the Feast Day of John and Charles Wesley on March 3 by honoring the brothers as influential priests in the Church of England and founders of the Methodist movement within the Anglican tradition. This year all United Methodists and Episcopalians are invited to mark this day with prayer for each other and our shared relationship. As many in both churches work toward a full communion relationship, we offer this prayer:

Loving God, you inspired your servants Charles and John Wesley to sing and speak boldly the promises of our shared faith. You warmed their hearts and filled them with a passion to care for others and introduce them to you. You endowed them with eloquence, determination, and courage.

Grant those same characteristics to us as well. On this day, we ask you to move us closer to you and closer to each other, even as we speak and sing your truth to a hurting society. May the marking of this day be a means of grace. Kindle within us such fervor that we might be faithful witnesses to your world-changing grace. Open our minds and hearts to recognize you in each other and in the widow, orphan, and foreigner. Fill our hearts with the courage we need to bring both love and justice into our communities.

As we pray for the coming of your kingdom, we seek your guidance for the relationship between The Episcopal Church and the United Methodist Church. We pray for a more visible expression of the bond we share. Make us to be your light and witness to those who have not known Christ. Make us one, for the sake of the Christ who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Pierre-Henry+

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

The Reverend Pierre-Henry Buisson, Rector

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