

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE

ASCENSION

We believe in sharing love and grace with God and one another.

THE FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

January 28, 2024

The Rt. Rev. Dr. Glenda Curry, Bishop of the Diocese of Alabama The Rt. Rev. Brian Prior, Assisting Bishop The Reverend Candice B. Frazer, Rector The Reverend Andrew S. Brislin, Associate Rector

MINISTERS SERVING THIS SUNDAY

Rebecca Taylor, Organist and Choirmaster

ORGANIST/CHOIRMASTER:

Rebecca Taylor
LECTOR: Richard Norris
LEMs: Evans Bailey,
Nan Barganier, Ed Walker
VERGER: Bill Garrett
ACOLYTES: TEAM MARK:
Margie Anne Prescott, Lily Mielke,
Harper Mielke, Kayla Bledsoe
CHILDREN'S CHURCH:
Brittany & Jenny Wade

VESTRY GREETER:

Dorman Walker, Philip Sellers

AV CREW: Jason Pate

Will McQueen, Sound

Elizabeth Conner, Camera

ALTAR GUILD: Ellen Brooks,

Katherine Schull

FLOWER GUILD: Tuttie Voltz

USHERS: Wilbur Hill,

Hunter Groce, Billy Young

HOLY EUCHARIST RITE II, 10:30 AM LIVESTREAM

Voluntary *Deck thyself, my soul, with gladness* (J. Brahms)

Introit I come with joy to meet my Lord (American Folk Melody Hymn 437 Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord (Birmingham)



Words: Timothy Dudley-Smith (b. 1926); based on *The Song of Mary*. Copyright © 1962 by Hope Publishing Company Carol Stream, IL 60188. All Rights Reserved. Used by permission. Music: *Birmingham*, from *Repository of Sacred Music, Part II*, 1813; harm. *Songs of Praise*, 1925.

THE WORD OF GOD

Celebrant: Blessed by God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit

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

The Celebrant says

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*.

Gloria S280



Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, you govern all things both in heaven and on earth: Mercifully hear the supplications of your people, and in our time grant us your peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen*.

THE FIRST READING: DEUTERONOMY 18:15-20

A reading from the book of Deuteronomy.

Moses said: The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; you shall heed such a prophet. This is what you requested of the Lord your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly when you said: "If I hear the voice of the Lord my God any more, or ever again see this great fire, I will die." Then the Lord replied to me: "They are right in what they have said. I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their own people; I will put my words in the mouth of the prophet, who shall speak to them everything that I command. Anyone who does not heed the words that the prophet shall speak in my name, I myself will hold accountable. But any prophet who speaks in the name of other gods, or who presumes to speak in my name a word that I have not commanded the prophet to speak—that prophet shall die."

Reader The Word of the Lord.
People Thanks be to God.



- 1 Hallelujah! I will give thanks to the LORD with / my whole / heart, * in the assembly of the / upright, in the / con- gre- / gation.
- 2 Great are the / deeds of the / LORD! *

they are studied by / all who • de- / light in / them.

- 3 His work is full of / majesty and / splendor, * and his / righteousness en- / dures for / ever.
- 4 He makes his marvelous works to / be re- / membered; * the LORD is / gracious and / full of com- / passion.
- 5 He gives food to / those who / fear him; *

he is ever / mindful • of / his / covenant.

- 6 He has shown his people the / power of his / works * in giving them the / lands / of the / nations.
- 7 The works of his hands are / faithfulness and / justice; * all his com- / mand ments / are / sure.
- 8 They stand fast for / ever and / ever, *

because they are / done in / truth and / equity.

9 He sent redemption to his people;

he commanded his / covenant • for / ever; *

holy and / awe - some / is his / Name.

10 The fear of the LORD is the be-/ginning • of / wisdom; * those who act accordingly have a good understanding; his / praise en-/dures for / ever.

THE EPISTLE: 1 CORINTHIANS 8:1-13

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians

Now concerning food sacrificed to idols: we know that "all of us possess knowledge." Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up. Anyone who claims to know something does not yet have the necessary knowledge; but anyone who loves God is known by him.

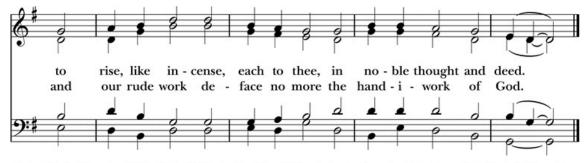
Hence, as to the eating of food offered to idols, we know that "no idol in the world really exists," and that "there is no God but one." Indeed, even though there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth—as in fact there are many gods and many lords—yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist.

It is not everyone, however, who has this knowledge. Since some have become so accustomed to idols until now, they still think of the food they eat as food offered to an idol; and their conscience, being weak, is defiled. "Food will not bring us close to God." We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. But take care that this liberty of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. For if others see you, who possess knowledge, eating in the temple of an idol, might they not, since their conscience is weak, be encouraged to the point of eating food sacrificed to idols? So by your knowledge those weak believers for whom Christ died are destroyed. But when you thus sin against members of your family, and wound their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. Therefore, if food is a cause of their falling, I will never eat meat, so that I may not cause one of them to fall.

Reader The Word of the Lord. People Thanks be to God.

Hymn **566** From thee all skill and science flow (The Church's Desolation)





Words: Charles Kingsley (1819-1875), alt. Music: *The Church's Desolation*, traditional melody; harm. J. T. White (19th cent.); adapt. C. H. Cayce (19th-20th cent.).

HOLY GOSPEL MARK 1:21-28

Celebrant People The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus and his disciples went to Capernaum; and when the sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught. They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, and he cried out, "What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God." But Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Be silent, and come out of him!" And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying with a loud voice, came out of him. They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, "What is this? A new teaching—with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him." At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord.
People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

THE SERMON

The Rev. Andrew S. Brislin

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 are Form VI found on page 392, kneeling as you are able.

The Leader and People pray responsively

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.

<u>For Joe our President, Kay our Governor, and Steven our mayor;</u> 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;

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 <u>Justin</u>, the Archbishop of Canterbury; for Michael, our <u>Presiding Bishop</u>; for Glenda and <u>Brian</u>, our <u>bishops</u>; for Candice and <u>Drew our clergy and Chris our seminary intern</u>; and for all bishops and other ministers:

For all who serve God in his Church.

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation especially: <u>Lila, Rex, Ann, Ryan, Andi, Babette, Bob, Charles, Tad, Brittney, Debbie, Bill, Violet, Jean, Ann, Martha Jane, Sue & Bill, Jane, Betty, Sophie, Edith, Hugh, Marion, Ginny, Phil, Dan.</u>

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, <u>for Ascension Day School</u>, and <u>for our scouts in Pack 1 and Troop 1.</u>

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, <u>especially for those in whose memory the altar flowers are given Richard Brent Burk, Kitty and Charles Frazer, Charles (Boo) Frazer, Jr., Eleanor and Robert Woodfin, Carol and Jerry Smith, William Burk and Virginia Burk, Gladys and George Murphy, Cynthia Smith that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom.</u>

Silence

The People may add their own petitions

We pray for the safety of our armed forces both here and abroad, especially Will McQueen, nephew of Will McQueen.

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

We pray to you also for the forgiveness of our sins. *Silence may be kept.*

Leader and People
Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father;
in your compassion forgive us our sins,
known and unknown,
things done and left undone;
and so uphold us by your Spirit
that we may live and serve you in newness of life,

to the honor and glory of your Name;

The Priest, stands and says

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*.

AnnouncementsGiving is available on-line by going to <u>www.coascension.org</u> and click on the "Give" link

Or, text the word "GIVE" to (833)901-2138 and follow as prompted.
Or, VENMO @churchoftheascension Montgomery, Alabama (look for our logo)

OFFERTORY ANTHEM Christ whose glory fills the skies (P. Ledger)

The text for the Offertory Anthem is found at Hymn 7.

Presentation The Doxology Old 100th

Celebrant: All things come of thee, O Lord,

People: And of thine own have we given thee. Amen.

Holy Communion

Great Thanksgiving, Eucharistic Prayer A

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People And also with you.
Celebrant Lift up your hearts.
People We lift them to the Lord.

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People It is right to give him thanks and praise.

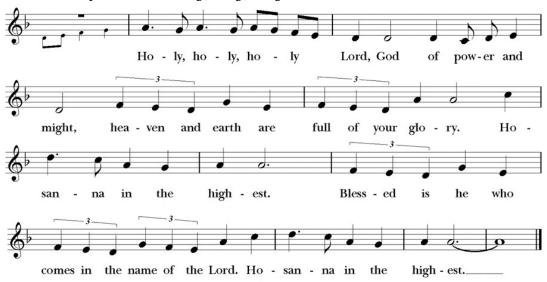
The Celebrant proceeds

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere 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 Hymn S129 Holy, holy, holy (R. Powell)



The Celebrant continues

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 Hymn S135 (J. Hill)



The Celebrant continues

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 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 is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. AMEN.

The Celebrant then continues And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, We are bold to say

Officiant and People

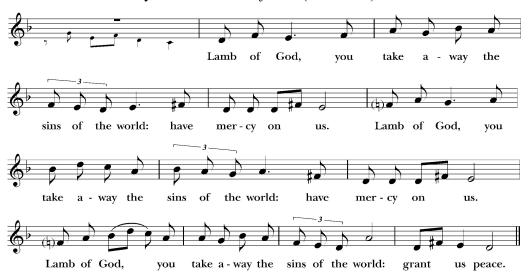
Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those
who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.

Breaking of the Bread

A period of silence is kept.

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

Fraction Anthem Hymn S163 Lamb of God (R. Powell)



The Celebrant says

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.

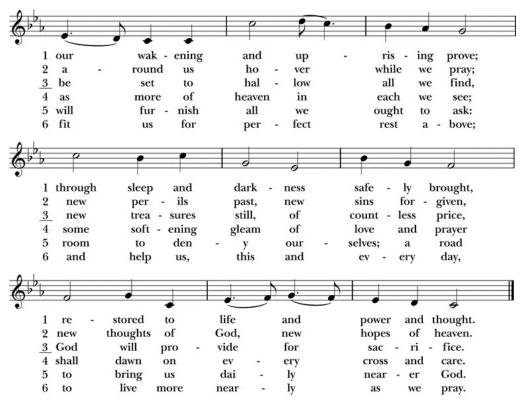
Communion Voluntary: Deck thyself my soul, with gladness (J. Cruger)

The text for the Communion anthem is found at Hymn 339.

Music at Communion: Hymnal 1982: 10

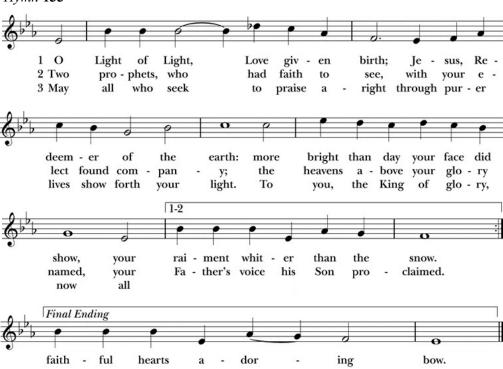


BCP 364



Words: John Keble (1792-1866). Music: Kedron, melody att. Elkanah Kelsay Dare (1782-1826); harm. The Southern Harmony, 1835; adapt. Hymnal 1982.





Words: Latin, 10th cent.; tr. Laurence Housman (1865-1959), alt. Music: Elmhurst, Cary Ratcliff (b. 1953). Copyright © 1982, Cary Ratcliff.

Lay Eucharistic Commission

In the name of this congregation, we 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.

All: We who are many, are one body because we all share in one bread, one cup.

The Post Communion Prayer

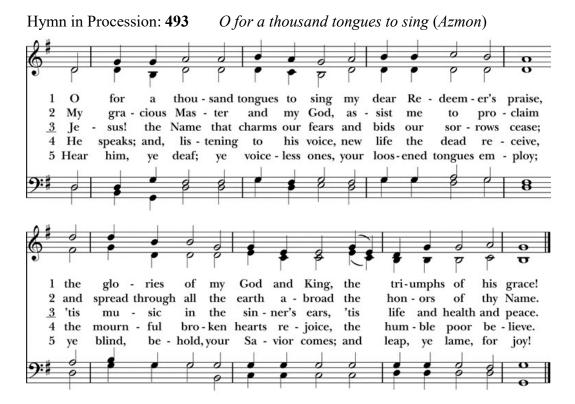
After Communion, the Celebrant says Let us pray.

Celebrant and People

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 to the world; and, the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit be upon you this day and remain with you always. Amen.



 Glory to God and praise and love be now and ever given by saints below and saints above, the Church in earth and heaven.

Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788), alt. Music: Azmon, Carl Gotthilf Gläser (1784-1829); adapt. and arr. Lowell Mason (1792-1872).

Dismissal

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

Voluntary *How bright appears the morning star* (J. Pachelbel)

THIS WEEK AT ASCENSION

SUNDAY, JANUARY 28 THE FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

8:00 am
HOLY EUCHARIST RITE I
8:30 am
BREAKFAST (ASCENSION HALL)
9:15 am
CHRISTIAN FORMATION FOR ALL AGES
10:30 am
HOLY EUCHARIST RITE II (LIVESTREAM)
12 NOON
OUTREACH COMMITTEE (SMALL DINING ROOM)

5:00 PM EYC IN THE YOUTH ROOM

Monday, January 29

8:00 AM MORNING PRAYER (FACEBOOK LIVE) 5:00 PM WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY (LIBRARY) 6:00 PM CULTIVATING COMPASSION

TUESDAY, JANUARY 30

8:00 AM MORNING PRAYER (FACEBOOK LIVE)

12 Noon Finance Committee Meeting (Small Dining Room)

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 31 MARCELLA OF ROME, MONASTIC & SCHOLAR, 410

8:00 AM MORNING PRAYER (FACEBOOK LIVE)

5:15 PM DINNER (ASCENSION HALL) 6:00 PM WEDNESDAY NIGHT LIVE

6:00 PM New Beginnings Tutoring Program

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 1 BRIGID OF KILDARE MONASTIC, C.523

7:00 am Men's Prayer Breakfast

8:00 am Morning Prayer (Facebook Live) 6:00 pm Newcomer's Meeting (Upper Room)

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 2 THE PRESENTATION OF OUR LORD IN THE TEMPLE

8:00 AM MORNING PRAYER (FACEBOOK LIVE)

5:00 pm Vestry Retreat

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 3 ANSKAR, BISHOP AND MISSIONARY, 865

8:30 AM VESTRY RETREAT

ALTAR FLOWERS

The flowers on the altar are to the glory of God and in memory of:

Richard Brent Burk,
Kitty and Charles Frazer
Charles (Boo) Frazer, Jr.
Eleanor and Robert Woodfin
Carol and Jerry Smith
William Burk and Virginia Burk
Gladys and George Murphy
Cynthia Smith

PRAYERS FOR ASCENSION

Parishioners: Lila Dryer, Rex Curvin, Ann Barton, Ryan Hall, Andi Silberman, Babette Barmettler, Bob Lewis, Charles Voltz, Tad Davis, Brittney Calhoun, Debbie Steindorff, Bill Wall, Violet Monson, Jean Lewis, Ann Thorington, Martha Jane Dawson, Sue & Bill Hicks, Jane McConnell, Betty Godbold, Sophie Xides, Edith Crook, Hugh Alsabrook, Marion Allison, Ginny White, Phil Murkett, Dan Hackett.

For those serving in the Armed Forces especially, Will McQueen, nephew of Will McQueen.

Families and Friends: Hannah Bear, Trish Harbin, Dylan Logan, Cathey Smith, Tony Wilson, Mary Benedict Steindorff, Melody Merritt, Brenda Davis Roehm, Steve McQueen.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 28, 2024

Who? What? When? Wear? Why? Clergy Forum Sundays at 9:15am January 7 – February 11—Upper Room

Let's take a look at our liturgical vestments. Where did they come from and why and when do we wear them. Beginning this Sunday, January 7th through February 11th Drew will lead a discussion on our peculiar clothing and what it means to our worship.

Difficult Women in the Christian Tradition Meets in the Library

Join us as we look at women from within our faith tradition who have stood up, spoken up, caused trouble, and refused to be ignored. From the Hebrew Scriptures, to the early church, to the Protestant Reformation and beyond, these women have impacted our faith tradition in lasting ways. Bread of Life aims to be a flexible, discussion centered class; this semester we will be reading from the Bible and other sources, but you do not need to purchase a book or read ahead in order to participate in class discussion each week. Bread of Life meets in the library each Sunday morning; discussion starts at 9:25.

All Our Understandings: Loving God With All Our Mind Coming this Lent

Over the six weeks of Lent, we will offer various practices to help each of us examine our use of screens and gathering of the "news" in order to clearly define the information we ingest and help to grow into healthier practices around our screens as individuals, families, and the body of Christ. Follow us on Facebook and check the weekly eTower for tips and practices. Sunday School, Wednesday Night Live, and other formation opportunities will deal with concerns around our screens and intake of information. Candice+ and Drew+ will even offer a preaching series to help us grow as good stewards of our information technology.

Women's Bible Study – The Eyes of Isaiah Mondays at 5:00pm January 22 – March 25

Isaiah speaks to how God is a part of threat, exile, and restoration as the people of Israel experience captivity and their return to a nation in shambles. Though in our Christian tradition, we read Isaiah as foreseeing Jesus, his witness and words were of comfort and hope for a people in the midst of political, religious, cultural, and social anxiety and threat well before the time of Christ. Explore the ancient world of Israel and its neighbors through the eyes of one who keeps his focus on God even in the midst of the chaos around him.

WAYS TO GIVE AT ASCENSION





@ChurchoftheAscensionMontgomery, AL



Text to Give 833-901-2138



Giving envelopes available upon request—contact Tracy Hinton



Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper and ADS Art Show

Tuesday, February 13th 5:00pm - 6:30pm \$5/person or \$20/family

Come support our ADS families and get to know them a little better! All proceeds benefit ADS.



ASH WEDNESDAY

Wednesday, February 14
Services at
7:00AM, 12:05PM, 6:00PM
6:00PM will be livestreamed

The imposition of ashes alongside
Holy Eucharist is designed to
help us remember not simply that
we are dust—but that we are
God's dust



CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION

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