

# *The Episcopal Church of the Ascension*



**THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER  
SUNDAY, APRIL 21, 2024**

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

## **MINISTERS SERVING THIS SUNDAY**

**ORGANIST/CHOIRMASTER:**

Rebecca Taylor

**LECTOR:** Ed Walker

**LEMs:** Rachel Wisham, Brittany Wade,  
Robert Prescott

**VERGER:** Susan Copeland

**ACOLYTES: TEAM MARK:**

Margie Anne Prescott, Lily Mielke, Harper Mielke

**AV CREW:** Clark Waggoner, Camera

Russell Bush, Sound

**ALTAR GUILD:**

Susan Copeland, Lisa Franklin

**FLOWER GUILD:** Cara Coreale

# HOLY EUCHARIST RITE TWO 11:00 AM

Voluntary *Variations on "The Lord's my Shepherd" (B. Harbach)*

Introit *Excerpt: Greater Love Hath No Man (J. Ireland)*

Hymn 182 *Christ is alive! Let Christians sing (Truro)*

1 Christ is a - live! Let Chris - tians sing. His cross stands  
2 Christ is - a - live! No long - er bound to dis - tant  
3 Not throned a - bove, re - mote - ly high, un - touched, un -  
4 In ev - ery in - sult, rift, and war where co - lor,  
5 Christ is a - live! His Spi - rit burns through this and

1 emp - ty to the sky. Let streets and homes with  
2 years in Pal - es - tine, he comes to claim the  
3 moved by hu - man pains, but dai - ly, in the  
4 scorn or wealth di - vide, he suf - fers still, yet  
5 ev - ery fu - ture age, till all cre - a - tion

1 prais - es ring. His love in death shall nev - er die.  
2 here and now and con - quer ev - ery place and time.  
3 midst of life, our Sa - vior with the Fa - ther reigns.  
4 loves the more, and lives, though ev - er cru - ci - fied.  
5 lives and learns his joy, his jus - tice, love, and praise.

Words: Brian A. Wren (b. 1936), rev. Copyright © 1975 by Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All Rights Reserved. Used by permission. Music: *Truro*, melody from *Psalmodia Evangelica, Part II*, 1789; harm. Lowell Mason (1792-1872), alt.

*Officiant* Alleluia. Christ is risen.

*People* The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.

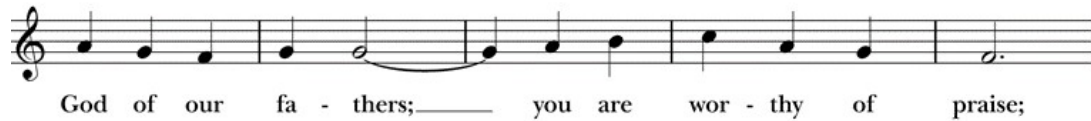
*The Celebrant says*

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.*

A Song of Praise *Benedictus es, Domine S236 (J. Rutter)*



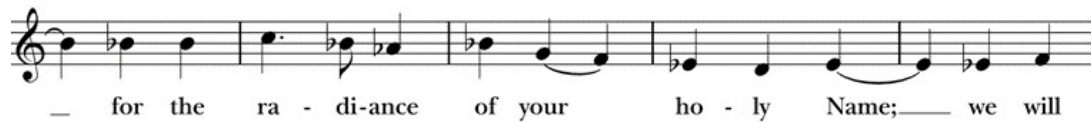
1. Glo - ry to you, Lord



God of our fa - thers; you are wor - thy of praise;



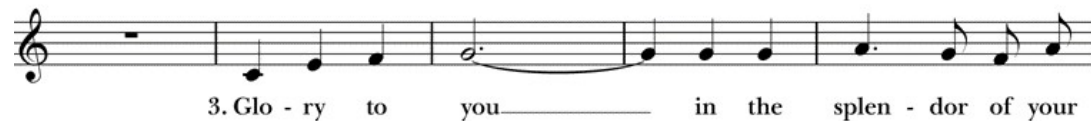
glo - ry to you. 2. Glo - ry to you



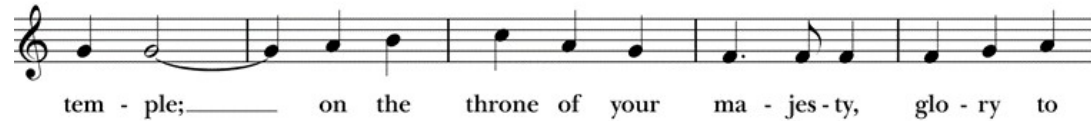
for the ra - di - ance of your ho - ly Name; we will



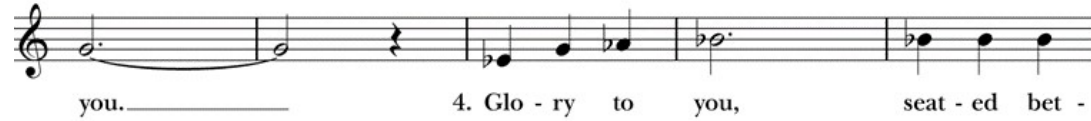
praise you and high - ly ex - alt you for ev - er.




3. Glo - ry to you in the splen - dor of your



tem - ple; on the throne of your ma - jes - ty, glo - ry to



you. 4. Glo - ry to you, seat - ed bet -




ween the Cher - u - bim; we will praise you and



high - ly ex - alt you for ev - er.

*Descant*



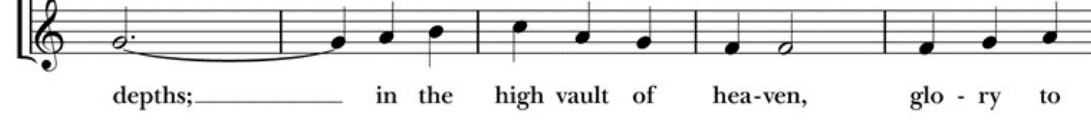
5. Glo - ry to you, be -



5. Glo - ry to you, be - hold - ing the



hold - ing the depths; in the high vault of



depths; in the high vault of hea - ven, glo - ry to

hea - ven, 6. Glo - ry to you, \_\_\_\_\_  
 you. \_\_\_\_\_ 6. Glo - ry to you, \_\_\_\_\_ Fa - ther,  
 — Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Spi - rit; we will  
 Son, and Ho - ly Spi - rit; \_\_\_\_\_ we will praise you and  
 high-ly ex - alt you Glo-ry to you! \_\_\_\_\_  
 high-ly ex - alt you for ev - er. \_\_\_\_\_

Music: John Rutter (b. 1945). Copyright © 1985 Oxford University Press, Inc.

### The Collect of the Day

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

*People* And also with you.

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

O God, whose Son Jesus is the good shepherd of your people: Grant that when we hear his voice we may know him who calls us each by name, and follow where he leads; who, with you and the Holy Spirit, lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

### THE FIRST READING: ACTS 4:5-12

*A reading from the book of the Acts of the Apostles.*

The rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem, with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. When they had made the prisoners stand in their midst, they inquired, "By what power or by what name did you do this?" Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers of the people and elders, if we are questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are asked how this man has been healed, let it be known to all of you, and to all the people of Israel, that this man is standing before you in good health by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead. This Jesus is

`the stone that was rejected by you, the builders;  
 it has become the cornerstone.'

There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved."

*Reader* The Word of the Lord.

*People* Thanks be to God.

**PSALM 23 Hymn: 645** *The King of love my shepherd is (St. Columba)*



1 The King of love my shep-herd is, whose good-ness  
2 Where streams of liv-ing wa-ter flow, my ran-somed  
\* 3 Per-verse and fool-ish oft I strayed, but yet in  
\* 4 In death's dark vale I fear no ill with thee, dear  
5 Thou spread'st a ta-ble in my sight; thy unc-tion  
6 And so through all the length of days thy good-ness



1 The King of love my shep-herd is, whose good-ness  
2 Where streams of liv-ing wa-ter flow, my ran-somed  
\* 3 Per-verse and fool-ish oft I strayed, but yet in  
\* 4 In death's dark vale I fear no ill with thee, dear  
5 Thou spread'st a ta-ble in my sight; thy unc-tion  
6 And so through all the length of days thy good-ness



1 I am his, and he is mine for ev-er.  
2 pas-tures grow, with food ce-les-tial feed-eth.  
3 gent-ly laid, and home, re-joic-ing, brought me.  
4 com-fort still, thy cross be-fore to guide me.  
5 of de-light from thy pure chal-ice flow-eth!  
6 sing thy praise with-in thy house for ev-er.

Words: Henry Williams Baker (1821-1877); para. Psalm 23. Music: *St. Columba*, Irish melody, harm. *Hymnal 1982*.

**THE EPISTLE: 1 John 3:16-24**

*A reading from the first book of John.*

We know love by this, that he laid down his life for us-- and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help?

Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him.

And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

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

Sequence Hymn 708 *Savior, like a shepherd lead us (Sicilian Mariners)*

1 Sa - vior, like a shep - herd lead us; much we need thy  
2 Ear - ly let us seek thy fa - vor, ear - ly let us

ten - der care; in thy plea - sant pas - tures feed us;  
learn thy will; do thou, Lord, our on - ly Sa - vior,

for our use thy folds pre - pare. Bless - ed Je - sus!  
with thy love our bos - oms fill. Bless - ed Je - sus!

Bless - ed Je - sus! Thou hast bought us, thine we are.  
Bless - ed Je - sus! Thou hast loved us: love us still.

Words: *Hymns for the Young*, ca. 1830, alt. Music: *Sicilian Mariners*, Sicilian melody, from *The European Magazine and London Review*, 1792.

**HOLY GOSPEL**

**John 10:11-18**

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

Jesus said, "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father."

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

## The Sermon

The Rev. Candice B. Frazer

### 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,  
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who 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 III found in your bulletin or on page 387 in the Book of Common Prayer. You are invited to respond appropriately.

Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church;  
*That we all may be one.*

Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;  
*That your Name may be glorified by all people.*

We pray for Justin, the Archbishop of Canterbury; Michael, our Presiding Bishop; Glenda and Brian our bishops; and Candice and Drew; and all other bishops, priests, and deacons;  
*That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.*

We pray for Joe, our President; Kay, our Governor; Steven, our Mayor; and all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;  
*That there may be justice and peace on the earth.*

Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;  
*That our works may find favor in your sight.*

We pray for : Debbie, Janet, Lila, Rex, Ann, Ryan, Andi, Babette, Bob, Charles, Tad, Brittney, Debbie, Violet, Jean, Ann, Martha Jane, Sue & Bill, Jane, Betty, Sophie, Edith, Hugh, Marion, Ginny, Phil. Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;  
*That they may be delivered from their distress.*

We pray for those who have died especially Dan Hackett and for those in whose memory the altar flowers are given Douglas Carroll Hunt. Give to the departed eternal rest.  
*Let light perpetual shine upon them.*

We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;  
*May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.*

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others. We pray for the safety of our armed forces both here and abroad and we give thanks for Ascension Day School.

We pray for those who have been affected by the war throughout the world.  
We pray to you almighty God, maker of heaven and earth, inspire your people by your creative vision in the growing of your church, that we may partner with you and one another to share in The Way, The Truth, and The Life.

*Silence—the priest will offer a concluding collect.*

Almighty and eternal God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth: Mercifully accept the prayers of your people and strengthen us to do your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

### **The Peace**

*Celebrant*      The peace of the Lord be always with you.  
*People*          And also with you.

### **Announcements**

*Giving is available on-line by going to our website and click on the “Give” link, or text the word “GIVE” to (833)901-2138 and follow as prompted. Or on Venmo: @ChurchoftheAscension-Montgomery,Alabama*

### **Offertory Sentence**

Thine, O Lord, is the greatness, and the power, and the glory, and the victory, and the majesty. For all that is in the heaven and in the earth is thine. Thine is the kingdom, O Lord, and thou art exalted as head above all. *I Chronicles 29:11*

### **Offertory Anthem**      *Little Lamb* (G. Smith)

The Ascension Choristers

*Little Lamb, who made thee? Dost thou know who made thee? Gave thee life, and bid thee feed, By the streams o'er the mead; Gave the clothing of delight, softest clothing, wooly, bright! Gave thee such a tender voice, you make the vales rejoice, All rejoice, rejoice. Little Lamb, who made thee? Dost thou know who made thee? Little Lamb, I'll tell thee, He is called by my name, For He calls Himself a Lamb, He is meek and mild, He became a child, I a child, thou a lamb. We are called by His name,, Little Lamb, God bless thee. William Blake*

### **The Presentation**      *The Doxology Lasst uns erfreuen*

*Celebrant*      All things come of thee, O Lord.  
*People*          And of thine own have we given thee. Amen.



**The Holy Communion**  
**The Great Thanksgiving**  
**Eucharistic Prayer B**

*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 unto our Lord God.  
*People* It is right to give him thanks and praise.

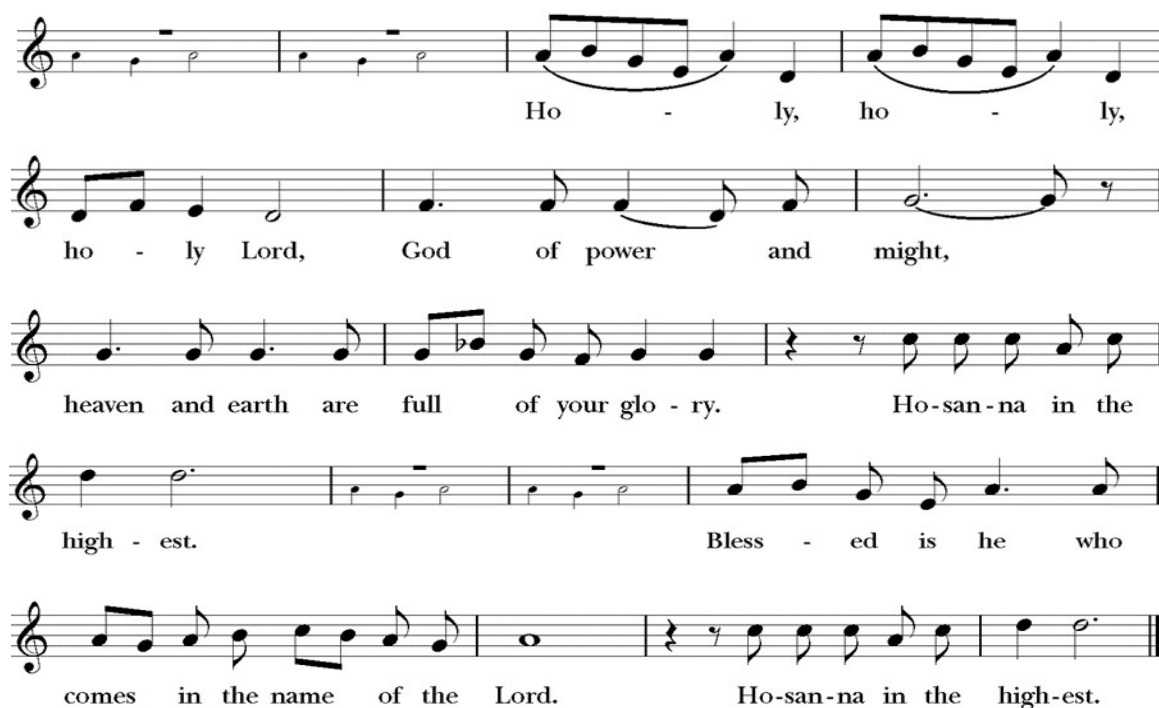
It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

But chiefly are we bound to praise you for the glorious resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; for he is the true Paschal Lamb, who was sacrificed for us, and has taken away the sin of the world. By his death he has destroyed death, and by his rising to life again he has won for us everlasting life.

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:

*Celebrant and People*

**Sanctus Hymn S128** *Holy, holy, holy* (W. Mathias)



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

*The people kneel or stand.*

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.

*At the following words concerning the bread, the Celebrant is to hold it, or to lay a hand upon it; and at the words concerning the cup, to hold or place a hand upon the cup and any other vessel containing wine to be consecrated.*

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,

*Celebrant and People*

The musical score is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of three staves. The first staff is for the Celebrant, with a whole rest in the first measure followed by a melodic line. The second and third staves are for the People, with a melodic line starting in the second measure. The lyrics are: "Therefore, according to his com - mand, O Fa - ther, We re - mem - ber his death, We pro - claim his re - sur - rec - tion, We a - wait his com - ing in glo - ry." The music ends with a double bar line.

Music: McNeil Robinson II (b. 1943). Copyright © 1984 Theodore Presser Co. Used by permission of the publisher.

*The Celebrant continues*

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 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. AMEN.

And now, as our Savior Christ hath taught us, we are bold to say,

*People and Celebrant*

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,  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those  
who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.

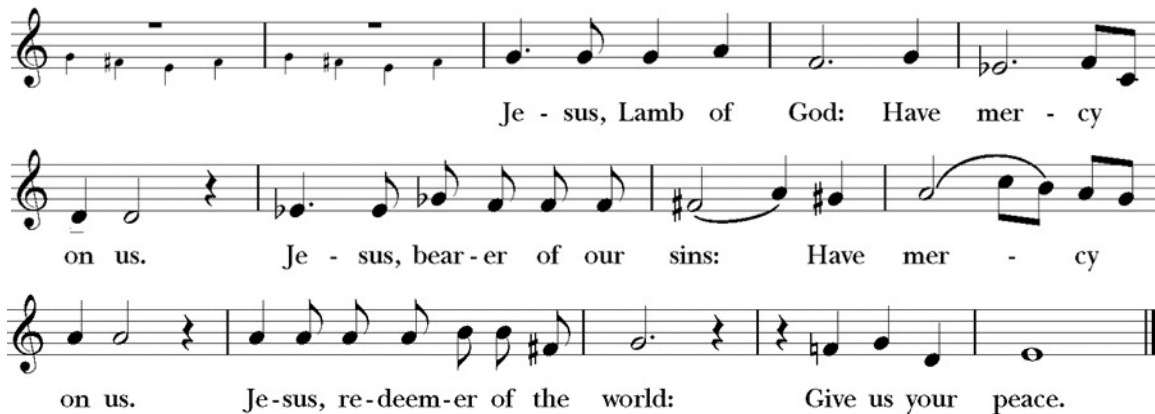
For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
for ever and ever. Amen.

## The Breaking of the Bread

A period of silence is kept.

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

### Agnus Dei Hymn S165 *Jesus, Lamb of God* (W. Mathais)



Je - sus, Lamb of God: Have mer - cy  
on us. Je - sus, bear - er of our sins: Have mer - cy  
on us. Je - sus, re - deem - er of the world: Give us your peace.

#### *Celebrant*

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 Anthem: *Feed My Lambs* (N. Sleeth)  
Rejoice!

*Feed My lambs, tend My sheep, over all a vigil keep; in My name, lead them forth, gently as a shepherd. When they wander, when they stray, their protector be. As ye do unto My flock, thus ye do to me. Unto all who lose the way Hope and comfort be. As ye do unto My flock, thus ye do to me.*

### Hymns during Communion: *Alleluia II*: 88, 137

#### Hymn 88

My holy shepherd, He watches over me.  
He watches over me, everyday hey  
My holy shepherd, He watches over me.  
He watches over me, everyday.

2. My holy shepherd, He meets my every need.
3. My holy shepherd, He holds me in his arms.
4. My holy shepherd, He heals my broken heart.
5. My holy shepherd, He's worthy to be praised.
6. My holy shepherd, He always understands.
7. My holy shepherd, He hears my every prayer.

Hymn 137 *The King of love my shepherd*

- 1 The King of love my shepherd is,  
whose goodness faileth never;  
I nothing lack if I am his,  
and he is mine for ever.
- 2 Where streams of living water flow,  
my ransomed soul he leadeth,  
and where the verdant pastures grow,  
with food celestial feedeth.
- 3 Perverse and foolish oft I strayed,  
but yet in love he sought me,  
and on his shoulder gently laid,  
and home, rejoicing, brought me.
- 4 In death's dark vale I fear no ill  
with thee, dear Lord, beside me;  
thy rod and staff my comfort still,  
thy cross before to guide me.
- 5 Thou spread'st a table in my sight;  
thy unction grace bestoweth;  
and oh, what transport of delight  
from thy pure chalice floweth!
- 6 And so through all the length of days  
thy goodness faileth never:  
Good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise  
within thy house for ever.

*After Communion, the Celebrant says*

**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***

**Post Communion Prayer**

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

*The People join in saying this prayer*

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.*

**Blessing**

Life is short and we do not have much time to gladden the hearts of those who travel with us. So be swift to love, make haste to be kind and go in peace to love and serve the Lord. *Henri-Frederic Amiel*

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. *Amen*

Processional Hymn 518 *Christ is made the sure foundation (Westminster Abbey)*

*Descant*

4 Here vouch - safe to all thy serv - ants what they ask of

1 Christ is made the sure foun - da - tion, Christ the head and  
 2 All that ded - i - cat - ed ci - ty, dear - ly loved of  
 3 To this tem - ple, where we call thee, come, O Lord of  
 4 Here vouch - safe to all thy serv - ants what they ask of

thee to gain; what they gain from thee, for ev - er

cor - ner - stone, cho - sen of the Lord, and pre - cious,  
 God on high, in ex - ult - ant ju - bi - la - tion  
 Hosts, to - day; with thy wont - ed lov - ing - kind - ness  
 thee to gain; what they gain from thee, for ev - er

with the bless - ed to re - tain, and here - af - ter

bind - ing all the Church in one; ho - ly Zi - on's  
 pours per - pet - ual mel - o - dy; God the One in  
 hear thy serv - ants as they pray, and thy full - est  
 with the bless - ed to re - tain, and here - af - ter

in thy glo - ry ev - er - more with thee to reign.

help for ev - er, and her con - fi - dence a - lone.  
 Three a - dor - ing in glad hymns e - ter - nal - ly.  
 ben - e - dic - tion shed with - in its walls al - way.  
 in thy glo - ry ev - er - more with thee to reign.

**Dismissal**

*Priest* Let us bless the Lord. Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

*People* Thanks be to God. Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

Voluntary: *Toccata on "The Lord's my Shepherd"* (B. Harbach)

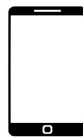
# Coming Soon Non-Toxic Charity

Too often our work of mission to the world perpetuates systems of injustice and even oppression in ways that we are unaware and lack true knowledge to understand. We operate from a heart filled with good intentions recognizing our blessings and desiring to share them with others. Yet, our good intentions can be the “kindest way to destroy people.” As we begin to dream and create a vision around Joshua House, we are inviting the entire parish into study and discussion about how we become better neighbors to the Garden District and beyond. It is our hope you will read the book *Toxic Charity* and participate in one of three church wide discussion opportunities in the Easter season. Check the eTower and stay tuned for more information on meeting dates and how you can be a part of re-imagining mission at the Church of the Ascension.

## WAYS TO GIVE AT ASCENSION



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Giving envelopes available upon  
request—contact Tracy Hinton



HOLY SMOKES<sup>6</sup>  
BARBECUE *and*  
SILENT AUCTION

Sunday, April 21st  
4:00pm - 7:00pm



Use the QR code to purchase tickets:



VBS 2024 is Here!  
For children entering K4  
through 6th Grade!

June 3rd - June 6th

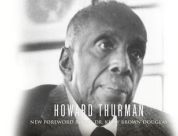
Sign up for  
Children:



Sign up for  
Adult volunteers:



JESUS  
*and the*  
DISINHERITED



**Clergy Forum - Easter Season**  
**Jesus and the Disinherited**  
**Sundays at 9:15 AM - Upper Room**  
**April 7 - May 12**

God's justice prevails in the world only when we are willing to recognize and name the fear, deception, contempt, and need to love one another beyond that differences of color. Howard Thurman inspired Martin Luther King, Jr. and helped shape the Civil Rights Movement. He was the first black dean of a white seminary and the first to found and co-pastor a diverse congregation. His teaching of the Gospel examines the example of Jesus' life and declares that hatred does not empower—it decays. Thurman's gift to us is a faith that thrives in a world that attempts to destroy one's humanity, especially those who are marginalized with their backs against the wall.

**CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION**  
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[www.coascension.org](http://www.coascension.org)

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