

Church of the Ascension

July 5, 2020

The Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

To find the video, go to YouTube and search for Ascension Lakewood

Opening Acclamation

Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

The Collect for the Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

Let us pray.

O God, you have taught us to keep all your commandments by loving you and our neighbor: Grant us the grace of your Holy Spirit, that we may be devoted to you with our whole heart, and united to one another with pure affection; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

A reading from Zachariah

9:9-12

Everyone in Jerusalem,
celebrate and shout!
Your king has won a victory,
and he is coming to you.
He is humble
and rides on a donkey;
he comes on the colt
of a donkey.
I, the LORD, will take away
war chariots and horses
from Israel and Jerusalem.
Bows that were made for battle
will be broken.
I will bring peace to nations,
and your king will rule
from sea to sea.

His kingdom will reach
from the Euphrates River
across the earth.

When I made a sacred agreement
with you, my people,
we sealed it with blood.
Now some of you are captives
in waterless pits,
but I will come to your rescue
and offer you hope.
Return to your fortress,
because today I will reward you
with twice what you had.

A reading from Romans

7:15-25a

In fact, I don't understand why I act the way I do. I don't do what I know is right. I do the things I hate. Although I don't do what I know is right, I agree that the Law is good. So I am not the one doing these evil things. The sin that lives in me is what does them.

I know that my selfish desires won't let me do anything that is good. Even when I want to do right, I cannot. Instead of doing what I know is right, I do wrong. And so, if I don't do what I know is right, I am no longer the one doing these evil things. The sin that lives in me is what does them.

The Law has shown me that something in me keeps me from doing what I know is right. With my whole heart I agree with the Law of God. But in every part of me I discover something fighting against my mind, and it makes me a prisoner of sin that controls everything I do. What a miserable person I am. Who will rescue me from this body that is doomed to die? Thank God! Jesus Christ will rescue me.

A reading from Matthew

11:16-19, 25-30

You people are like children sitting in the market and shouting to each other,

“We played the flute,
but you would not dance!
We sang a funeral song,
but you would not mourn!”

John the Baptist did not go around eating and drinking, and you said, “That man has a demon in him!” But the Son of Man goes around eating and drinking, and you say,

“That man eats and drinks too much! He is even a friend of tax collectors and sinners.”
Yet Wisdom is shown to be right by what it does.

At that moment Jesus said:

My Father, Lord of heaven and earth, I am grateful that you hid all this from wise and educated people and showed it to ordinary people. Yes, Father, that is what pleased you.

My Father has given me everything, and he is the only one who knows the Son. The only one who truly knows the Father is the Son. But the Son wants to tell others about the Father, so that they can know him too.

If you are tired from carrying heavy burdens, come to me and I will give you rest. Take the yoke I give you. Put it on your shoulders and learn from me. I am gentle and humble, and you will find rest. This yoke is easy to bear, and this burden is light.

The Sermon

Rev. Vincent Black

Let us pray.

O God, you have made of one blood all the peoples of the earth, and sent your blessed Son to preach peace to those who are far off and to those who are near: Grant that people everywhere may seek after you and find you; bring the nations into your fold; pour out your Spirit upon all flesh; and hasten the coming of your kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

The Blessing

Good and gracious God, we pray for all who have yet to know of your love and mercy. May the Church of the Ascension be so inspired by your Holy Spirit that it may serve as a beacon of hope and a witness to the gospel for all people. Grant that we may continually grow in our own knowledge and love of you as we strive to use all that we have and all that we are to follow and imitate your beloved son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

We go forth in the name of Christ.

† † †

We plan to resume in-person worship on Sunday July 19.

Please call the office at 216-521-8727 to let us know if you are coming and how many in the party. Imagine it is like making reservations at a restaurant for now. This will help us better plan and be prepared. Of course we will also accommodate visitors and others who may not have been able to call ahead. We will also continue to offer a virtual worship opportunity as well.

Please do not come to church if you are not feeling well.

All will be required to wear a mask and keep a social distance of 6 feet. Please bring your own mask. Masks will be available if you forget to bring one.

Hand sanitizer will be provided, and you are asked to use it. It is recommended that you have your own hand sanitizer as well.

There will be no coffee hour following the services at this time. People may socialize at a safe distance outside on the lawn or in the garden.

8am service will be held in the West Garden weather permitting. Otherwise it will be in Ascension Hall. Those attending 8am service are asked to enter the building through the West Entrance unless the assistance of the elevator is required. When calling ahead please specify whether you will bring your own chair or need one to be provided for outdoor worship.

10:30am service will be in the church. Those attending 10:30 service are asked to enter and exit through the front doors in the Nartex. As a rule we will enter via the center isle, and exit via the side isles maintaining social distance. Those requiring the assistance of the elevator are welcome to enter and exit through the East Entrance.

All these things may seem to be a burden and to diminish our experience of worship. The devil, the power of evil, wants us to be discouraged and to give up hope. We need to be mindful that we worship God as our Creator and Redeemer and that all our hope on God is founded! We will not give up gathering as the Body of Christ simply because it is less than ideal. Remember we follow a Lord who was terribly inconvenienced by the crucifixion but in the end rose from the dead and freed us from death and despair. So in this season we gladly bear the burden of keeping each other and ourselves safe while simultaneously worshipping God and bearing witness to the world of God's unwavering love.

Please keep these people in your prayers today and all week long:

Our Spiritual Leaders:

+Michael -our Presiding Bishop; +Mark -our Bishop;
+Bill, and +Arthur -our Assisting Bishops;
+Vincent -our Priest; Noah -our deacon

Those for whom prayers have been requested:

Doug Amberman
Martha Amer
Bobby Armbrust
Debbie Armbrust
Ferdinand Afumbom
Endrit Bala
Tuggie Ballard
Cathy Barbato
Beck family
Jen Black
Raymond Black
Teddi Black
Carolyn Borsini
Larry Carey
Steve Conrad
Karen Cooper
Linda Cramer
Carol Culp
Robert Dibb
Joe Farkas
Don Farrell
Anne Ferguson
Bill Fickinger
Ella Jane Fowerbaugh
Linda Gardner
Martha Hartman
Pat Hendy
Diane Jackson
Lisa Jones
Beverly Kliber

Kristen Kowalsick
Delores Kulunigan
Barbara Kutza
Susan Latham
Marilyn Little
June Madden
MaryAnne
Lois Melchoire
David Meschter
Mueller family
Nancy Murphy
Jim Neal
Mike Neill
Gil Newlands
Corey Niebes
Sabrina Pewitt
Miriam Schantz
Delores Schew
Pat Scheetz
Rachel Sexton
Roselle Sgambellone
Naomi Singer
Wendi Stemple
Jonathan Tallman
Corky Thacker
Jeanette Triplet
Mimi Verberg
Betty Weber
Brenda & Jaimie Wells
Bill Wofford

Those We Know in the Military

Bill Bobowicz
Stephen Cline
Jason Hildebrandt
McDowell (Mac) Jones

Sydney Kline
Jason Strater
Brendon

The Departed

Tom Clark
Nancy Dittebrand
Bonnie O'Donnell
Ron Oleksiak
Mursay Pratt

Keith Robinson
Victor Ruggiero
Bob Tremplin
Ed Watts

Pledges and offerings to the Church.

Please mail in your pledges/financial offerings so we can continue with the ministries of the church as well as meet our financial obligations.

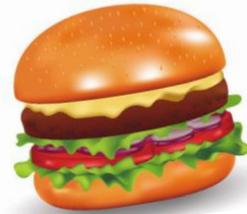
or

YOU CAN USE PLASTIC TO DONATE TO THE CHURCH!

At theascensionshop.com you can use plastic to donate to the church. Credit and debit cards are accepted. One time, Weekly, Bi-Weekly, and Monthly contributions can be entered. All contributions will show on your annual statement. Just take a look! (With thanks to theascensionshop creator Michael Crowdes; send questions to crowdes@gmail.com.)

CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION

FRANKFURTER FRIDAYS ARE BACK... and BIGGER!!!



We will be maintaining social distancing.
If you prefer, you can take your food **to-go**.

Come and join our eighth annual summer lawn parties!
Free with 100% beef hotdogs, hamburgers, bags of chips
and bottled water.

Upcoming Dates:
July 10th | July 24th | August 7th | August 21st
6:30 -7:30 pm

NOW WITH
HAMBURGERS

Church of the Ascension
An Episcopal Church
God Loves You. No Exceptions.®

13216 Detroit Avenue, Lakewood

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