

# Church of the Ascension

July 26, 2020

The Eighth Sunday  
After Pentecost

10:30am

# *Welcome to the Church of the Ascension*

*We are pleased to have you worship with us. If you are visiting and have not registered, the ushers will ask for your name for contact tracing. All are invited to meet on the front lawn after the service (observing social distancing). Let's get to know each other!*

## **Nursery**

We are not able to offer Nursery care at this time.

*The references on the right side of the bulletin are as follows:*

*BCP indicates the Book of Common Prayer.*

*EOW indicates Enriching our Worship, a supplemental liturgical material.*

*Hymn and "S" numbers indicate the Hymnal 1982*

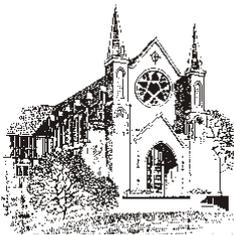
*"S" indicates service music found at the front of the hymnal*

*There is no congregational singing at this time.*

## **Finding Your Way**

**Elevator:** Across from the church office, exiting at the East Entrance. Handicapped parking spaces are near the entrance and in the parking lot.

**Restrooms:** *Upper Level* – Through the door to the left of the altar (NW), past the chapel, past the library, and to the right of the church office.



# Church of the Ascension

July 26, 2020

## The Eighth Sunday After Pentecost

Holy Eucharist, Enriching Our Worship,  
10:30am

*Please note that in our liturgy when we refer to God we cannot adequately verbalize the magnitude and comprehensiveness of God's diversity and are always limited by our use of language. We acknowledge that although Jesus was born into history as a man, neither God the Father nor God the Holy Spirit were embodied with human sex. Although our language is often not all inclusive we believe God always is. God made human beings in God's own image with complexity and diversity. Thank you for sharing your diversity and complexity with us as we worship God together.*

### **The Liturgy of the Word**

**Voluntary:** All Who Hunger Gather Gladly Dale Wood

**Opening Hymn:** Hail to the Lord's Anointed H616

#### **Welcome**

**Opening Acclamation** *(The people standing)* BCP 355

*Presider* Blessed be God: most holy, glorious and undivided Trinity.

*People* ***And blessed be God's reign, now and for ever. Amen.***

*Presider* Let us say together the song of praise.

**Song of Praise:** A Song of Christ's Goodness EOW 39  
*Anselm of Canterbury*

*Jesus, as a mother you gather your people to you; \*  
you are gentle with us as a mother with her children.*

*Often you weep over our sins and our pride, \*  
tenderly you draw us from hatred and judgment.*

*You comfort us in sorrow and bind up our wounds, \*  
in sickness you nurse us and with pure milk you feed us.*

*Jesus, by your dying, we are born to new life; \*  
by your anguish and labor we come forth in joy.*

*Despair turns to hope through your sweet goodness; \*  
through your gentleness, we find comfort in fear.*

*Your warmth gives life to the dead, \*  
your touch makes sinners righteous.*

*Lord Jesus, in your mercy, heal us; \*  
in your love and tenderness, remake us.*

*In your compassion, bring grace and forgiveness, \*  
for the beauty of heaven, may your love prepare us.*

### **The Collect for the Eighth Sunday after Pentecost**

*Presider*     The Lord be with you.

*People*       *And also with you.*

*Presider*     Let us pray.

**O** God, the protector of all who trust in you, without whom nothing is strong, nothing is holy: Increase and multiply upon us your mercy; that, with you as our ruler and guide, we may so pass through things temporal, that we lose not the things eternal; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

*People sit for the reading of the lessons*

### **A Reading from 1 Kings**

**3:5-12**

**O**ne night while Solomon was in Gibeon, the LORD God appeared to him in a dream and said, “Solomon, ask for anything you want, and I will give it to you.”

Solomon answered:

My father David, your servant, was honest and did what you commanded. You were always loyal to him, and you gave him a son who is now king. LORD God, I'm your servant, and you've made me king in my father's place. But I'm very young and know so little about being a leader. And now I must rule your chosen people, even though there are too many of them to count.

Please make me wise and teach me the difference between right and wrong. Then I will know how to rule your people. If you don't, there is no way I could rule this great nation of yours.

God said:

Solomon, I'm pleased that you asked for this. You could have asked to live a long time or to be rich. Or you could have asked for your enemies to be destroyed. Instead, you asked for wisdom to make right decisions. So I'll make you wiser than anyone who has ever lived or ever will live.

*Reader*        Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

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

### **Psalm 119:129-136** (*spoken*)

- 129 **Y**our decrees are wonderful; \*  
therefore I obey them with all my heart.
- 130 **W**hen your word goes forth it gives light; \*  
it gives understanding to the simple.
- 131 **I** open my mouth and pant; \*  
I long for your commandments.
- 132 **T**urn to me in mercy, \*  
as you always do to those who love your Name.
- 133 **S**teady my footsteps in your word; \*  
let no iniquity have dominion over me.
- 134 **R**escue me from those who oppress me, \*  
and I will keep your commandments.

135 Let your countenance shine upon your servant \*  
and teach me your statutes.

136 My eyes shed streams of tears, \*  
because people do not keep your law.

## A Reading from Romans

8:26-39

In certain ways we are weak, but the Spirit is here to help us. For example, when we don't know what to pray for, the Spirit prays for us in ways that cannot be put into words. All of our thoughts are known to God. He can understand what is in the mind of the Spirit, as the Spirit prays for God's people. We know that God is always at work for the good of everyone who loves him. They are the ones God has chosen for his purpose, and he has always known who his chosen ones would be. He had decided to let them become like his own Son, so that his Son would be the first of many children. God then accepted the people he had already decided to choose, and he has shared his glory with them.

What can we say about all this? If God is on our side, can anyone be against us? God did not keep back his own Son, but he gave him for us. If God did this, won't he freely give us everything else? If God says his chosen ones are acceptable to him, can anyone bring charges against them? Or can anyone condemn them? No indeed! Christ died and was raised to life, and now he is at God's right side, speaking to him for us. Can anything separate us from the love of Christ? Can trouble, suffering, and hard times, or hunger and nakedness, or danger and death? It is exactly as the Scriptures say,

“For you we face death  
all day long.  
We are like sheep  
on their way  
to be butchered.”

In everything we have won more than a victory because of Christ who loves us. I am sure that nothing can separate us from God's love—not life or death, not angels or spirits, not the present or the future, and not powers above or powers below. Nothing in all creation can separate us from God's love for us in Christ Jesus our Lord!

*Reader* Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

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

*The people stand*

**Sequence Hymn** Spread, O Spread, Thou Mighty Word H530

*Presider* The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according  
to **Matthew** **13:31-33, 44-52**

*People say:* **Glory to you, Lord Christ**

**J**esus told them another story:

The kingdom of heaven is like what happens when a farmer plants a mustard seed in a field. Although it is the smallest of all seeds, it grows larger than any garden plant and becomes a tree. Birds even come and nest on its branches.

Jesus also said:

The kingdom of heaven is like what happens when a woman mixes a little yeast into three big batches of flour. Finally, all the dough rises.

The kingdom of heaven is like what happens when someone finds a treasure hidden in a field and buries it again. A person like that is happy and goes and sells everything in order to buy that field.

The kingdom of heaven is like what happens when a shop owner is looking for fine pearls. After finding a very valuable one, the owner goes and sells everything in order to buy that pearl.

The kingdom of heaven is like what happens when a net is thrown into a lake and catches all kinds of fish. When the net is full, it is dragged to the shore, and the fishermen sit down to separate the fish. They keep the good ones, but throw the bad ones away. That's how it will be at the end of time. Angels will come and separate the evil people from the ones who have done right. Then those evil people will be thrown into a flaming furnace, where they will cry and grit their teeth in pain.

Jesus asked his disciples if they understood all these things. They said, "Yes, we do."

So he told them, “Every student of the Scriptures who becomes a disciple in the kingdom of heaven is like someone who brings out new and old treasures from the storeroom.”

*Presider*     The Gospel of the Lord.

*People:*     ***Praise to you, Lord Christ***

*The people sit*

**The Sermon**

*Rev. Vincent Black*

*All stand*

**The Nicene Creed**

*BCP 358*

*“The Creeds are statements of our basic beliefs about God” (BCP 851).*

*We say these words as a gathered community to affirm our belief in God as creator, redeemer, and sustainer of all creation, as the source of life and holiness. God has blessed humanity with relationships and community which are part of God’s own essence as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. We do not say these words as some sort of litmus test but as an invitation to wrestle with the mystery and complexity of God with generations of Christians who have gone before us and with generations who will come after us.*

***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:***

*was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary,  
and became truly human.  
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.  
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**

*Stand or kneel as the Holy Spirit leads.*

*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.*

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 Michael, our Presiding Bishop; Mark, Arthur, and William our Bishops; Vincent, our Priest; Noah, our deacon; and for all bishops, priests, and deacons;

***For all who serve God in the Church.***

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation (especially... *the names on the long-term prayer list are read*).

*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, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom (especially... *the names of the recently deceased are read*).

*Silence*

*The People may add their own petitions*

Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon them;

***Who put their trust in you.***

*Presider says*

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 Confession of Sin**

*EOW 56*

*The Presider says*

Let us confess our sins to God.

*Silence may be kept.*

*Presider and People*

**God of all mercy,  
we confess that we have sinned against you,  
opposing your will in our lives.  
We have denied your goodness in each other,  
in ourselves, and in the world you have created.  
We repent of the evil that enslaves us,  
the evil we have done, and the evil done on our behalf.  
Forgive, restore, and strengthen us  
through our Savior Jesus Christ,  
that we may abide in your love  
and serve only your will. Amen.**

*The Priest, stands and says*

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through  
the grace of Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the  
power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

## **The Peace**

*EOW 56*

*All stand*

*Presider*      The peace of *Christ* be always with you.

*People*        **And also with you.**

*Then the Ministers and People greet one another with a wave, bow, or  
appropriate gesture but keep social distance.*

## **The Announcements**



to live in the fullness of your love.

And so this day we join with Saints and Angels  
in the chorus of praise that rings through eternity,  
lifting our voices to magnify you as we say:

### **Sanctus and Benedictus** (*spoken*)

#### *Presider and People*

***Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.***

***Hosanna in the highest.***

***Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.***

***Hosanna in the highest.***

*The people stand or kneel and the Presider continues*

Glory and honor and praise to you, holy and living God.  
To deliver us from the power of sin and death  
and to reveal the riches of your grace,  
you looked with favor upon Mary, your willing servant,  
that she might conceive and bear a son,  
Jesus the holy child of God.  
Living among us, Jesus loved us.  
He broke bread with outcasts and sinners,  
healed the sick, and proclaimed good news to the poor.  
He yearned to draw all the world to himself  
yet we were heedless of his call to walk in love.  
Then, the time came for him to complete upon the cross  
the sacrifice of his life,  
and to be glorified by you.

On the night before he died for us,  
Jesus was at table with his friends.  
He took bread, gave thanks to you,  
broke it, and gave it to them, and said:  
“Take, eat:  
This is my Body, which is given for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.”

As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine.

Again, he gave thanks to you,  
gave it to them, and said:  
“Drink this, all of you:  
This is my Blood of the new Covenant,  
which is poured out for you and for all  
for the forgiveness of sins.  
Whenever you drink it,  
do this for the remembrance of me.”

Now gathered at your table, O God of all creation,  
and remembering Christ, crucified and risen,  
who was and is and is to come,  
we offer to you our gifts of bread and wine,  
and ourselves, a living sacrifice.

Pour out your Spirit upon these gifts  
that they may be the Body and Blood of Christ.  
Breathe your Spirit over the whole earth  
and make us your new creation,  
the Body of Christ given for the world you have made.

In the fullness of time bring us,  
with all your saints,  
from every tribe and language and people and nation,  
to feast at the banquet prepared  
from the foundation of the world.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
to you be honor, glory, and praise,  
for ever and ever. *AMEN.*

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

**The Lord's Prayer** (*spoken*)

*BCP 364*

*Presider 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.*

### **The Breaking of the Bread**

*A period of silence is kept*

#### **Fraction Anthem (spoken)**

*BCP 337*

*O Lamb of God, that takes away the sins of the world,  
have mercy upon us.*

*O Lamb of God, that takes away the sins of the world,  
have mercy upon us.*

*O Lamb of God, that takes away the sins of the world,  
grant us your peace.*

### **The Invitation to Spiritual Communion**

*Presider:* The Gifts of God for the People of God.

*The Presider takes communion on behalf of the People of God, while the congregation is invited to pray for spiritual communion.*

#### **Prayer for Spiritual Communion**

*from the Prayer Book for the Armed Services*

*In union, O Lord, with your faithful people at every altar of your Church, where the Holy Eucharist is now being celebrated, I desire to offer to you praise and thanksgiving. I remember your*

*death, Lord Christ; I proclaim your resurrection; I await your coming in glory. Since I cannot receive you today in the Sacrament of your Body and Blood, I beseech you to come spiritually into my heart. Cleanse and strengthen me with your grace, Lord Jesus, and let me never be separated from you. May I live in you, and you in me, in this life and in the life to come. Amen.*

**Post Communion Music:** God be in my Head

H694

*After Communion, the Presider says*

Let us pray.

**Postcommunion Prayer** (*said by all, standing*)

*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.*

**Blessing**

**Closing Hymn:** O Worship the King

H388

*Presider* Let us pray.

*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.*

**The Dismissal**

*Presider* Go in peace to be Christ's hands and heart in this world.

*People*      *Thanks be to God.*

**Voluntary:** Postlude on *Holy Manna*

Mark Hayes

***Please do not leave this bulletin in the church.  
If you've used it take it with you.***

† † †

## **The Ministers of the Liturgy**

Presider: Rev. Vincent Black

Organist: Jon Peterson

Soloist: Margie Hildebrandt

Acolyte: Derek Lewallen

Readers: Corky Thacker

Ushers: Roger Barnhard and Jeff Sommer

† † †

**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  
Jeff Black  
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  
Joe Kidwell  
Beverly Kliber  
Kristen Kowalsick  
Delores Kulunigan  
Barbara Kutza  
Susan Latham  
Marilyn Little  
June Madden  
Tina Marcella  
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  
Charles Stahl  
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 Tremlin  
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](http://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](mailto:crowdes@gmail.com).)

## **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 Narthex. As a rule we will enter via the center aisle, and exit via the side aisles 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 worshiping God and bearing witness to the world of God's unwavering love.

### **Church of the Ascension**

13216 Detroit Avenue

Lakewood, Ohio 44107

216.521.8727

[www.ascension-lakewood.org](http://www.ascension-lakewood.org)

[secretary@ascension-lakewood.org](mailto:secretary@ascension-lakewood.org)