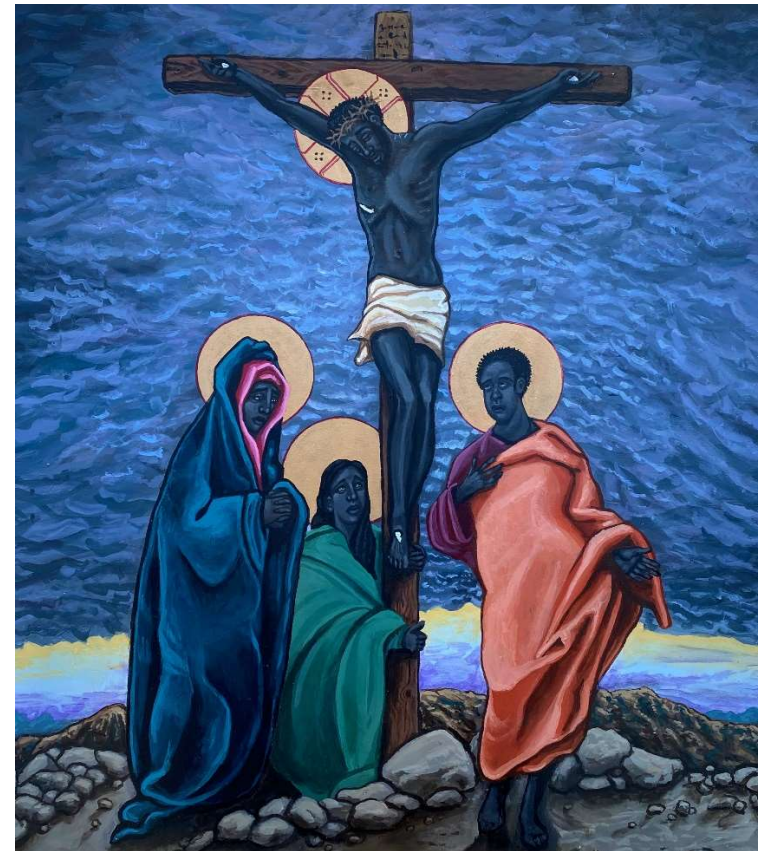


MARCH 30, 2025
4TH SUNDAY IN LENT

9:00 A.M.

WELCOME!

To learn more about what is going on at Ascension and to register for events, scan the QR code below.



Church of the Ascension
An Anglican Church of the ACNA
4729 Ellsworth Avenue
Pittsburgh PA 15213
Phone (412) 621-4361
www.ascensionpittsburgh.org

TODAY'S MINISTERS

Celebrant

The Rev. Lauren Scharf, Staff Priest

Preacher

The Rev. Kevin Antlitz, Assistant Rector

Assisting

The Rev. Wes Williams, Curate

Additional Bread Bearer

The Rev. Ann Tefft, Liturgical Assistant

Cover Art

“Crucifixion” by Kelly Latimore
kellylatimoreicons.com

Attention Parents

Room 105 is available for nursing mothers.

Our nursery is available 15 mins prior to the service for infants–3 yrs
(Rooms 101 & 102). Parents who would like them to receive

Communion are invited to pick them up at the Peace.

After the Children's Talk, children 4 yrs–5th grade may process to
our Kids' Church program in the Children's Chapel (Hunt Rooms).

They will be brought back after the Peace.

The People may stand or kneel

Celebrant and People

Heavenly Father,

**we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food
of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior
Jesus Christ;**

**and for assuring us in these holy mysteries
that we are living members of the body of your Son,
and heirs of your eternal Kingdom.**

And now Father,

**send us out to do the work you have given us to do,
to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord.**

To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit,

be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

THE BLESSING

The Celebrant gives this blessing

The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and
minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our
Lord; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy
Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

THE DISMISSAL

Deacon

Let us go forth in the Name of Christ.

People

Thanks be to God.

Thank you for worshipping with us!

*Please join us after the service for Hospitality Hour
in the Parish Hall.*

Refrain 2 The kingdom's come and built upon
wood and nails gripped with joyfulness,
so send me out within your ways
knowing that the task is finished.

The dead will rise and give you praise—
wood and nails will not hold them down!
These wooden tombs, we'll break them soon
and fashion them into flower beds.
The curse is done, the battle won,
swords bent down into plowshares;
your scar-borne hands, we'll join with them,
serving at the table you've prepared.

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"He Will Hold Me Fast" *Music Supplement p. 14*

1) When I fear my faith will fail, Christ will hold me fast.
When the tempter would prevail, he will hold me fast.
I could never keep my hold through life's fearful path,
for my love is often cold; he must hold me fast.

Refrain He will hold me fast, he will hold me fast.
For my Savior loves me so, he will hold me fast.

2) Those he saves are his delight; Christ will hold me fast.
Precious in his holy sight, he will hold me fast.
He'll not let my soul be lost, his promises shall last;
bought by him at such a cost, he will hold me fast. *Refrain*

3) For my life he bled and died; Christ will hold me fast.
Justice has been satisfied, he will hold me fast.
Raised with him to endless life, he will hold me fast
till our faith is turned to sight, when he comes at last. *Refrain*

THE POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Celebrant Let us pray.

THE ORDER FOR A SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

THE PRELUDE

"All Who Are Thirsty" by Brenton Brown and Glenn Robertson

All who are thirsty, all who are weak,
come to the fountain, dip your heart in the stream of life.
Let the pain and the sorrow be washed away
in the waves of his mercy, as deep cries out to deep.
We sing...

Refrain 1 Come, Lord Jesus, come.
Come, Lord Jesus, come.
Repeat

Refrain 2 Holy Spirit, come.
Holy Spirit, come.
Repeat

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THE ACCLAMATION

Celebrant Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.
People **His mercy endures forever.**

THE COLLECT FOR PURITY

Celebrant and People

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.

THE SUMMARY OF THE LAW

Celebrant

Hear what our Lord Jesus Christ says: You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is

the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets. *Matthew 22:37-40*

Please kneel as you are able.

THE KYRIE

“Lord, Have Mercy”
All sing together

Bailey setting
by Chris Massa

Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy upon us.

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THE CONFESSION OF SIN

Deacon Let us humbly confess our sins to Almighty God.

A brief silence will be kept.

Deacon and People

**Almighty and most merciful Father,
we have erred and strayed from your ways like lost sheep.
We have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts.
We have offended against your holy laws.
We have left undone those things which we ought to have done,
and we have done those things which we ought not to have done;
and apart from your grace, there is no health in us.
O Lord, have mercy upon us.
Spare all those who confess their faults.
Restore all those who are penitent, according to your promises
declared to all people in Christ Jesus our Lord;
And grant, O most merciful Father, for his sake,
that we may now live a godly, righteous, and sober life,
to the glory of your holy Name. Amen.**

*Please cup your hands so that the Bread Bearer may
place a wine-dipped wafer into your hands.*

*If for any reason you are not receiving today, you are invited to come
forward to receive a blessing. Simply cross your arms over your chest
and the Minister will know to give you a blessing
instead of the bread and wine.*

COMMUNION MUSIC

“We Do Not Presume”

by Andy Piercy and Dave Clifton

We do not presume to come to your table,
trusting in our own righteousness,
for we are not worthy so much as to gather
the crumbs from under your table;
but trusting, O Lord, in your great and manifold mercies,
for you are the same Lord
whose nature’s always to have mercy.
So cleanse us and feed us with the body and blood of your Son,
that we may live in him,
that he may live in us
for ever and ever. Amen.

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“Wood and Nails”

by Keith Watts, Isaac Wardell
and Madison Cunningham

1) O humble carpenter, down on your hands and knees,
look on your handiwork and build a house so you may dwell in me,
so you may dwell in me.

Refrain 1 The work was done with nothing but
wood and nails in your scar-borne hands.
O show me how to work and praise,
trusting that I am your instrument.

2) O loving laborer with the sweat upon your face,
O build a table that I too may join you in the Father’s place,
oh, in the Father’s place! *Refrain 1*

Continued

Celebrant 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 FRACTION

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated bread.

Celebrant Christ our Passover Lamb has been sacrificed,
once for all upon the cross.

THE MINISTRATION OF COMMUNION

The Celebrant gives this invitation

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.

THE AGNUS DEI
All sing together

Carlucci setting
by Chris Massa

Jesus, Lamb of God, have mercy upon us.
Jesus, bearer of our sins, have mercy upon us.
Jesus, redeemer: grant us your peace.

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The People are seated.

All baptized Christians are invited to come forward to receive the bread and wine. Inform the Bread Bearer if you need a gluten-free wafer.

THE ABSOLUTION

Celebrant

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who in his great mercy has promised forgiveness of sins to all those who sincerely repent and with true faith turn to him, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and bring you to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE COMFORTABLE WORDS

The Celebrant may then say one or more of the following sentences, first saying

Hear the Word of God to all who truly turn to him.

Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.
Matthew 11:28

God so loved the world, that he gave his only-begotten Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.
John 3:16^f

The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.
1 Timothy 1:15

If anyone sins, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world.
1 John 2:1-2^f

SONGS OF WORSHIP

“His Mercy Is More” by Matt Boswell and Matt Papa

Refrain Praise the Lord, his mercy is more,
stronger than darkness, new every morn.
Our sins they are many, his mercy is more.

1) What love could remember no wrongs we have done?
Omniscient, all knowing, he counts not their sum.
Thrown into a sea without bottom or shore,
our sins, they are many, his mercy is more.

Continued

2) What patience would wait as we constantly roam?
What father, so tender, is calling us home?
He welcomes the weakest, the vilest, the poor;
our sins, they are many, his mercy is more.

Refrain Praise the Lord, his mercy is more,
stronger than darkness, new every morn.
Our sins they are many, his mercy is more.

3) What riches of kindness he lavished on us!
His blood was the payment, his life was the cost.
We stood 'neath a debt we could never afford.
Our sins, they are many, his mercy is more. *Refrain*

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“All Things New”

Music Supplement p. 2

1) Come, Lord, and tarry not; bring the long looked for day;
O, why these years of waiting here, these ages of decay?
Come, for thy saints still wait; daily ascends their sigh.
The Spirit and the Bride say, “Come!” Dost thou not hear the cry?

Refrain O, come and make all things new,
come and make all things new.
O, come and make all things new.
Build up this ruined Earth;
come and make all things new, all things new.

2) Come, for creation groans, impatient of thy stay,
worn out with these long years of ill, these ages of delay.
Come, for love waxes cold, its steps are faint and slow;
faith now is lost in unbelief, hope's lamp burns dim and low. *Refrain*

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People **And with your spirit.**
Celebrant Let us pray.

On the night that he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, “Take, eat; this is my Body which is given for you: Do this in remembrance of me.”

Likewise, after supper, Jesus took the cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, “Drink this, all of you; for 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 in remembrance of me.”

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Celebrant and People
Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

The Celebrant continues

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, and we offer you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Word and Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son Jesus Christ. Sanctify us also, that we may worthily receive this holy sacrament, and be made one body with him, so that he may dwell in us and we in him. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us with all your saints into the joy of your heavenly kingdom, where we shall see our Lord face to face.

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 LORD'S PRAYER

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

The Celebrant continues

It is right, our duty and our joy, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. You bid your faithful people cleanse their hearts, and prepare with joy for the Paschal feast; that, fervent in prayer and in works of mercy, and renewed by your Word and Sacraments, they may come to the fullness of grace which you have prepared for those who love you.

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:

THE SANCTUS

All sing together

El Shaddai setting

Holy, Holy,
Holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the Name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

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THE PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

The People may kneel or remain standing.

The Celebrant continues

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and when we had sinned against you and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent your only Son into the world for our salvation. By the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary he became flesh and dwelt among us. In obedience to your will, he stretched out his arms upon the cross and offered himself once for all, that by his suffering and death we might be saved. By his resurrection he broke the bonds of death, trampling Hell and Satan under his feet. As our great high priest, he ascended to your right hand in glory, that we might come with confidence before the throne of grace.

Celebrant and People

Gracious Father, whose blessed Son Jesus Christ came down from heaven to be the true bread which gives life to the world: Evermore give us this bread, that he may live in us, and we in him; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

The People are seated.

THE CHILDREN'S TALK

The Rev. Kevin Antlitz

Children through 5th grade are invited to come forward. Afterwards, parents may bring infants – 3 yrs to the nursery (Rooms 101 and 102). Children 4 yrs – 5th grade are invited to process to our Kids' Church program in the Children's Chapel (Hunt Rooms). They will be brought back after the Peace.

The People stand and sing as the Children process.

“Send Out Your Light”

by Elise Massa
Based on Psalm 43:3

Send out your light and your truth, that they may lead me;
bring me to your holy hill, and to your dwelling,
that I may gaze upon the face of God.

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The People are seated.

THE LESSONS

THE FIRST READING

Joshua 5:1-12

5 ¹When all the kings of the Amorites beyond the Jordan to the west, and all the kings of the Canaanites by the sea, heard that the LORD had dried up the waters of the Jordan for the Israelites until they had crossed over, their hearts melted, and there was no longer any spirit in them, because of the Israelites.

Continued

²At that time the LORD said to Joshua, “Make flint knives and circumcise the Israelites a second time.” ³So Joshua made flint knives, and circumcised the Israelites at Gibeath-haaraloth. ⁴This is the reason why Joshua circumcised them: all the males of the people who came out of Egypt, all the warriors, had died during the journey through the wilderness after they had come out of Egypt. ⁵Although all the people who came out had been circumcised, yet all the people born on the journey through the wilderness after they had come out of Egypt had not been circumcised. ⁶For the Israelites traveled forty years in the wilderness, until all the nation, the warriors who came out of Egypt, perished, not having listened to the voice of the LORD. To them the LORD swore that he would not let them see the land that he had sworn to their ancestors to give us, a land flowing with milk and honey. ⁷So it was their children, whom he raised up in their place, that Joshua circumcised; for they were uncircumcised, because they had not been circumcised on the way. ⁸When the circumcising of all the nation was done, they remained in their places in the camp until they were healed. ⁹The LORD said to Joshua, “Today I have rolled away from you the disgrace of Egypt.” And so that place is called Gilgal to this day.

¹⁰While the Israelites were camped in Gilgal they kept the Passover in the evening on the fourteenth day of the month in the plains of Jericho. ¹¹On the day after the Passover, on that very day, they ate the produce of the land, unleavened cakes and parched grain. ¹²The manna ceased on the day they ate the produce of the land, and the Israelites no longer had manna; they ate the crops of the land of Canaan that year.

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

Please stand and say the psalm as directed.

PSALM 34:1-8

¹ I will always give thanks unto the LORD; *
his praise shall ever be in my mouth.

² My soul shall make its boast in the LORD; *
the humble shall hear this and be glad.

³ O praise the LORD with me, *
and let us magnify his Name together.

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.

4) Through many dangers, toils, and snares, I have already come;
'tis grace that brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.

5) When we've been there ten thousand years, bright shining as the sun,
we've no less days to sing God's praise than when we'd first begun.

The People remain standing and sing as the offerings are brought forward.

DOXOLOGY

“Glory Be to Jesus”

Blue Hymnal #479

1) Glory be to Jesus, who in bitter pains
poured for me the lifeblood from his sacred veins!

2) Grace and life eternal in that blood I find,
blest be his compassion infinitely kind!

3) Blest through endless ages be the precious stream
which from sin and sorrow doth the world redeem!

4) Oft as earth exulting wafts its praise on high,
angel hosts, rejoicing, make their glad reply.

5) Lift ye then your voices; swell the mighty flood;
louder still and louder praise the precious blood. Amen.

THE SURSUM CORDA

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And with your spirit.**

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

After each petition

Intercessor Lord, in your mercy,
People **Hear our prayer.**

The Celebrant concludes

Heavenly Father, grant these our prayers for the sake of Jesus Christ, our only Mediator and Advocate, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Please stand.

THE PEACE

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

The Ministers and People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.

Parents who would like their infant – 3 year olds to receive Communion are invited to pick them up at this time.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE OFFERTORY

The Celebrant says a sentence of Scripture.

The People stand and sing as the offering plates are passed and the Table is prepared.

SONG

“Amazing Grace” Words: John Newton, v5 John Rees
Music: *New Britain*, from *Virginia Harmony*, 1831

1) Amazing grace! How sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost but now am found, was blind but now I see.

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 I sought the LORD, and he heard me; *
he delivered me out of all my fears.

⁵ They looked unto him, and were made glad, *
and their faces were not ashamed.

⁶ Look, the poor man cries, and the LORD hears him, *
and saves him out of all his troubles.

⁷ The angel of the LORD camps round about those who fear him, *
and delivers them in time of need.

⁸ O taste and see how gracious the LORD is; *
blessed is the one who trusts in him.

The People are seated.

THE SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 5:17-21

⁵ ¹⁷Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. ¹⁸All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; ¹⁹that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. ²⁰Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

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

Please stand.

THE GOSPEL

Luke 15:11-32

Assisting Priest The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

¹⁵ ¹¹Then Jesus said, “There was a man who had two sons. ¹²The younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of the property that

will belong to me.’ So he divided his property between them. ¹³A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. ¹⁴When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. ¹⁵So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. ¹⁶He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. ¹⁷But when he came to himself he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! ¹⁸I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; ¹⁹I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.”’

²⁰So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. ²¹Then the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ ²²But the father said to his slaves, ‘Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. ²³And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; ²⁴for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!’ And they began to celebrate.

²⁵“Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. ²⁷He replied, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.’ ²⁸Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. ²⁹But he answered his father, ‘Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. ³⁰But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!’ ³¹Then the father said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. ³²But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.’”

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

THE SERMON
The Rev. Kevin Antlitz

THE NICENE CREED

Celebrant Let us confess our faith in the words of the Nicene Creed:

Celebrant and People

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, visible and invisible.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten 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 from the Holy Spirit and 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.**

Please kneel as you are able.