ASCENSION MEMORIAL CHURCH

A Parish of the Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts

Flourishing - Family - Community

To bear witness to the Spirit of God we see in Jesus as an Episcopal community open to all, centered in worship, Christian education, table fellowship, care for the environment, and compassion for neighbors local and global.

April 21, 2024
The Fourth Sunday of Easter
Holy Eucharist Rite I at 8:00 AM



P.O. 547, 31 County Street
Ipswich, MA 01938
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978-356-2560
www.amcipswich.org

Prelude:

The Tower Bell

Opening Acclamation Alleluia! Christ is risen. *The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!*

The Collect for Purity

Almighty God, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid; Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love thee, and worthily magnify thy holy Name, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Collect

The Lord be with you. And also with you.

O Almighty God, whom truly to know is everlasting life: Grant us so perfectly to know thy Son Jesus Christ to be the way, the truth, and the life, that we may steadfastly follow his steps in the way that leadeth to eternal life; through the same thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen*.

The First Reading: Acts 8:26-40

An angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a wilderness road.) So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this: "Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter, and like a lamb silent before its shearer, so he does not open his mouth. In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth." The eunuch asked Philip, "About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?" He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

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

The Response: Psalm 22:24-30

My praise is of him in the great assembly; *I will perform my vows in the presence of those who worship him.*

The poor shall eat and be satisfied, and those who seek the Lord shall praise him: "May your heart live for ever!"

All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord, and all the families of the nations shall bow before him.

For kingship belongs to the Lord; *he rules over the nations.*

To him alone all who sleep in the earth bow down in worship; all who go down to the dust fall before him.

My soul shall live for him; my descendants shall serve him; they shall be known as the Lord's for ever.

They shall come and make known to a people yet unborn *the saving deeds that he has done.*

The Second Reading: 1 John 4:7-21

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us. By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. So we have known and believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. We love because he first loved us. Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

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

The Gospel: John 15:1-8

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John. *Glory be to thee, O Lord*

Jesus said to his disciples, "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples."

The Gospel of the Lord. *Praise be to thee, O Christ.*

The Homily – The Rev'd Bradford D. Clark

The Nicene Creed

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible; And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of his Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father; by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Ghost of the Virgin Mary, and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried; and the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures, and ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of the Father; and he shall come again, with glory, to judge both the quick and the dead; whose kingdom shall have no end. And I believe in the Holy Ghost the Lord, and Giver of Life, who proceedeth from the Father and the Son; who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified; who spake by the Prophets. And I believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church; I acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins; and I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

The Prayers of the People

In peace, we pray to you, Lord God.
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, for Alan and Carol, our Bishops, and for Brad, our Rector; and for all bishops and other ministers:

For all who serve God in the Church.

We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life. In our own parish family, we pray for Sarah and Eric, our Wardens; for the members of the Vestry, and for the staff of this parish. We give thanks and praise for those who celebrate birthdays this week: Bob Brown, Zachary Godfrey, Jackson Pesce, and Joanne Ventola. We pray for those members of the parish serving in the armed forces: Jared Conway, Christopher Damon, and Aidan Tacheron. Today we offer our prayers in our Diocesan Cycle of Prayer: St. John's Chapel, Groton School, Groton, St. Michael's Church, Holliston, St. Paul's Church, Hopkinton, St. Luke's Church, Hudson, and Congregational Chapters of the Episcopal Church Women. Today we offer prayers for the following Provinces of the worldwide Anglican Communion: The Anglican Church of Melanesia

The Anglican Church of Mexico, and The Church of the Province of Myanmar. I invite your own thanksgivings now, either silently or aloud.

(pause for thanksgivings)

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation. In our own parish family, we pray for: *IRIS*; *DJ* Asmutis-Silvia; *DANNY* Beaman; *JANICE* Bowers; *KRISTEN* Breen; *SARAH ANN* Codding; *MARY ELLEN* Donahue; *MATTHEW* Doolittle; *TALIA* Duff; *LUKAS* Henrik Forslund; *ANDREA* French; *DAVID* French; *BOB* Godbee; *NANCY* Grace; *KATHRYN* Hanauer-Stanton; *CAROL* Horsman Swencki; *KEITH* Humphrey; *CAROL* Kingston; *KRISTEN* Leary; *GLENN* Lohnes; *PHOEBE* Lowell; *MIDGE* Manning; *ELIZABETH* Meffen; *CANDACE* Mesa; *FREDY* Montengro; *PATRICIA* Moody; *MARY* O'Connor; *ANDREW* Parsons; *JEFF* Pickul; *JOE* Pickul; *DEBORAH* Porter; *MARYANN* Rohrer; *WAYNE* Sanborn; *LEVI* Shaw; *TONI* Talas; *SYDNEE* Trimberger; *JULIE* Wilson; *DAVID* Winn; *and FAMILY PROMISE*. I invite your own petitions now, either silently or aloud.

(pause for petitions)

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. We especially remember today Catherine Cordelia McManaway, Antonia Crosby, and Edward & Hazel Crosby in whose memory altar flower have been lovingly given by Sarah McManaway. I invite your own remembrances now, either silently or aloud.

(pause for remembrances)

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

Grant, O God, that your holy and life-giving Spirit may so move every human heart--especially hearts which choose war and self-interest over peace and service to others--that barriers which divide us may crumble, suspicions disappear, and hatreds cease; that our divisions being healed, we may live in justice and peace as your beloved community, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen*.

The Peace The Peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

Announcements

The Offertory

The Doxology

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below; Praise Him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you. *And with thy spirit.*Lift up your hearts. *We lift them up unto the Lord.*Let us give thanks unto our Lord God. *It is meet and right so to do.*

It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto thee, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God. It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and every-where to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. But chiefly are we bound to praise thee for the glorious resurrection of thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord; for he is the way, the truth, and the life, who by his death hath destroyed death, and by his rising to life again hath won for us everlasting life. Therefore with Angels and Archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious Name; evermore praising thee, and saying,

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Hosts:
Heaven and earth are full of thy glory.
Glory be to thee, O Lord Most High.
Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

All glory be to thee, O Lord our God, for that thou didst create heaven and earth, and didst make us in thine own image; and, of thy tender mercy, didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to take our nature upon him, and to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption. He made there a full and perfect sacrifice for the whole world; and did institute, and in his holy Gospel command us to continue, a perpetual memory of that his precious death and sacrifice, until his coming again. For in the night in which he was betrayed, he took bread; and when he had given thanks to thee, 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, he 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 remission of sins. Do this, as oft as ye shall drink it, in remembrance of me." Wherefore, O Lord and heavenly Father, we thy people do celebrate and make, with these thy holy gifts which we now offer unto thee, the memorial thy Son hath commanded us to make; having in remembrance his blessed passion and precious death, his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension; and looking for his coming again with power and great glory. And we most humbly beseech thee, O merciful Father, to hear us, and, with thy Word and Holy Spirit, to bless and sanctify these gifts of bread and wine, that they may be unto us the Body and Blood of thy dearly-beloved Son Jesus Christ.

And we earnestly desire thy fatherly goodness to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, whereby we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, our selves, our souls and bodies. Grant, we beseech thee, that all who partake of this Holy Communion may worthily receive the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son Jesus Christ, and be filled with thy grace and heavenly benediction; and also that we and all thy whole Church may be made one body with him, that he may dwell in us, and we in him; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord; By whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Ghost all honor and glory be unto thee, O Father Almighty, world without end. *Amen.*

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

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.

Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us; Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia! O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us. O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us. O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, grant us thy peace.

We do not presume to come to this thy Table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in thy manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under thy Table. But thou art the same Lord whose property is always to have mercy. Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of thy dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.

The Ministration of Communion

As was the practice of Jesus, Ascension Church observes the practice of open table fellowship. Wherever you are in your spiritual journey, you have a place at the table with Christ. If you desire not to receive the Sacraments, but wish to receive a blessing, please come forward to the communion rail and cross your arms over your chest. The celebrant will pause and share a blessing with you.

Post-Communion Prayer

Almighty and everliving God, we most heartily thank thee for that thou dost feed us, in these holy mysteries, with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and dost assure us thereby of thy favor and goodness towards us; and that we are very members incorporate in the mystical body of thy Son, the blessed company of all faithful people; and are also heirs, through hope, of thy everlasting kingdom. And we humbly beseech thee, O heavenly Father, so to assist us with thy grace, that we may continue in that holy fellowship, and do all such good works as thou hast prepared for us to walk in; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honor and glory, world without end. Amen.

The Blessing

Life is short, and we do not have too much time to gladden the hearts of those who walk the way with us; so be swift to love, make haste to be kind, and may the Blessing of the One who created you, redeemed you, and who walks always with you, be with you and all those you love, this day and always. *Amen*.

The Dismissal

Go forth now into the world in peace to love and serve God and Neighbor. Alleluia! Alleluia! *Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!*

Postlude

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Assisting at this morning's liturgy:

Altar Guild: Dottie Phillips
Lector/Acolyte: Rick Ostberg
Usher/ Teller: Steve Ventola
Hospitality: Joan Williams
Audio/Visual Technician: Lucas Callahan

Ascension Memorial Church is grateful to all the people who participate in its many active groups and ministries and who serve on the various committees. Below is a complete listing of members of the Committees, Ministries, and Groups, as well as the Staff and Vestry of Ascension. If you would like to know more about Ascension Memorial Church's committees, ministries, and groups, please contact the parish office at 978-356-2560 or amcipswich@verizon.net and we will provide you with the contact information for our leadership team. You may also learn more about our ministries through Realm on our website at amcipswich.org.

THE STAFF

The Rev'd Bradford D. Clark, Rector

Dr. Frank Corbin, Director of Music and Parish Business Administrator Chase Delano, Coordinator of Communications, Community Engagement, and Special Projects & Programming Geraldine Ortez, Bulletin Volunteer

THE VESTRY

Sarah Churchill, Senior Warden ~ Eric Gedstad, Junior Warden Kathy Dallos, *Treasurer* ~ Kristin Hertzig, *Clerk* Lucy Jepsen, Youth Representative Charlie Quimby, Youth Representative

Class of 2024	Class of 2025	Class of 2026
Deborah Couture	Jennifer Clark	Karen Hawkes
Vicki Hughes	Lillian Reilly	Judy Carbrey
Kate Turner	Stephen Ventola	Charles Moore

COMMITTEES, MINISTRIES & GROUPS

Finance	Special Events	Communications
Tom Parkins, <i>Chair</i>	Karen Esperson, Chair	Chase Delano, Cha
Mark Carbrey	Rosemary Attridge	Doug Brendel
Kathy Dallos	Richard Attridge	Lucas Callahan
Karen Esperson	Kitty Bartholomew	Brad Clark
Glenn Roundy	Frank Corbin	Frank Corbin
ex officio:	Kathy Dallos	Ted Flaherty
Brad Clark	Katie Finch	Eric Gedstad
Frank Corbin	Jane Good	Karen Hawkes
Sarah Churchill	Patti Gorman	Paula Jones
	Laura Gresh	Jenna Lees-Rolfe

Jody Huffcut

Paula Jones

Gail Lull

Debbie Moore

Suzanne Nolan

Lillian Reilly

Endowment Glenn Roundy, Chair Kathy Dallos Ralph Johnson

Sam Otis Tom Parkins David Scudder

Stewardship

Brad Clark Joel Barrett Cindy Cedrone Paula Jones Steve Suomi

Ipswich Youth Volunteers (AMC Youth Group)

Brad Clark Kristin Hertzig Charlie Quimby Charlie Jepsen Lucy Jepsen

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Youth Ministry Brad Clark, Chair

Cristin Bradley Doug Brendel Glenn Gibbs Jennifer Godfrey Jon Green Charlie Jepsen Lucy Jepsen Paula Jones Kristin Hertzig Sarah Joss-Green Jenna Lees-Rolfe Charlie Quimby Jennifer Reed Joanna Suomi

Youth Ministry Brad Clark, *Chair*

Cristin Bradley
Doug Brendel
Glenn Gibbs
Jennifer Godfrey
Jon Green
Charlie Jepsen
Lucy Jepsen
Paula Jones
Kristin Hertzig
Sarah Joss-Green
Jenna Lees-Rolfe
Charlie Quimby
Jennifer Reed
Joanna Suomi

Community Outreach Jane Good & Suzanne Nolan, *Chairs*

Dan Alexson
Kitty Bartholomew
Karen Esperson
Katie Finch
Emily Hayes
Jody Huffcut
Debbie Moore
Rick Ostberg

Buildings & Grounds Mark Godin, *Chair*

Rick Attridge
Bob Brown
Brad Clark
Eric Gedstad
John Moberger
Sarah Churchill

Green Initiative Vicki Hughes, *Chair*

Kitty Bartholomew
Karen Esperson
Katie Finch
Erica Fuller
Patti Gorman
Jody Huffcut
Paula Jones
Suzanne Nolan

Lawn Barbers Eric Gedstad, *Coordinator*

Paul Damon
Karen Esperson
Ted Flaherty
Glenn Gibbs
Mark Godin
Paul Philpy

Hospitality & Coffee Hour

Rosemary Attridge & Richard Attridge Tyler Berube Marge & Bob Brown Deborah Couture Kathy Dallos Karen Esperson Katie Finch Jody Huffcut Ralph Johnson Paula Jones & Robert Spurrier Debbie Moore Suzanne Nolan Alura Ollio & R.J. Ollio Joan Williams David Winn & Kathy Pischke-Winn The Vestry

Becoming Beloved Community Katherine Pischke-Winn, *Chair*

Rev. Brad Clark Debbie Moore Carroll Perry Cary Perry

Bible Study Brad Clark, *Chair*

Gary Freeman Leah Olendzenski Michelle Thibeault

Education for Ministry Vicki Hughes, *Chair*

Women's Group Beth Smith, *Chair*

Men's Group Brad Clark, Chair Rick Attridge Ted Flaherty Eric Gedstad Glenn Gibbs Mark Godin George Gorman Charlie Moore

Mark Godin George Gorman Charlie Moore Bryan Townsend Steve Wilson

Worship Brad Clark, *Chair*

Doug Brendel Sarah Churchill Frank Corbin Arthur Kazianis Dottie Phillips

Tiki's Friends Jennifer Clark, *Chair*

Linda Brown
Christine Day
Ted Flaherty
Erica Fuller
Jody Huffcut
Charlie Moore
Debbie Moore
Ed Rauscher
Lillian Reilly

Judith Grant Scholarships

Brad Clark Trish Everitt Lucy Martineau John Moberger

Helen Ayer Awards

Jennifer Clark Karen Esperson Suzanne Nolan

Book Group Brad Clark, *Chair*

Paula Jones Tricia Moody Charlie Moore Debbie Moore Nora Sanchez

Visioneers

Rosemary Attridge
Kitty Bartholomew
Don Cheney
Kathy Dallos
Chase Delano
James Field
Mark Godin
Lucy Jepsen
Arthur Kazianis
Jenna Lees-Rolfe
Charlie Quimby
Steve Suomi

Music Frank Corbin, *Chair*

Doug Brendel
Brad Clark
Trish Everitt
Sonja Dahlgren Pryor
Kate Turner
Jane Wolff

The Choir Frank Corbin, Lucas Callahan

Lori Coppen Christine Day Trish Everitt Marisa Exelby **Roxy Giddings** Ralph Johnson Penny Jones Carol Kingston Hugh McCall John Moberger R. J. Ollio Tom Parkins Sherrill Pierce Thomas Schmidt Sandy Starr Marion Sokolov Judith Thurston Tanya Tupper

Conceptual Design Team

Sarah Churchill
Brad Clark
Frank Corbin
Kathy Dallos
Chase Delano
Eric Gedstad
Mark Godin
Arthur Kazianis
Catherine Mitchell
Kate Turner
Bryan Townsend

Altar Guild 8:00 Joanne Ventola, *Chair*

Jody Huffcut Paula Jones Dottie Phillips Joan Williams

Acolytes/Lectors 8:00

Richard Ostberg Edward Rauscher Michael Smith Robert Spurrier John Walker

Ushers 8:00

Karen Esperson Margot Hayden Jody Huffcut Rick Ostberg Mike Smith Steve Ventola

Tellers 8:00

Karen Esperson Rick Ostberg Dottie Phillips Stephen Ventola Joan Williams

Altar Guild 10:15 Joanne Ventola, *Chair*

Marge Brown Phyllis Greene Linda Messer Debbie Moore

Acolytes 10:15

Tyler Berube Jane Carolan Charlie Jepsen Caroline Jepsen Lucy Jepsen Ralph Johnson John Moberger Paul Philpy Charlie Quimby

Lectors 10:15

Tyler Berube
Doug Brendel
Jane Carolan
Kathy Dallos
Dawn Edwards
Ted Flaherty
Eric Gedstad
Glenn Gibbs
Vicki Hughes
Ralph Johnson
John Moberger
Jack O'Mara
Paul Philpy

Ushers 10:15

Joel Barrett
Jane Carolan
Jennifer & Tim Clark
Ted Flaherty
Ralph Johnson
Glenn Roundy
Kate Turner

Tellers 10:15

Donald Cheney Jennifer Clark Ted Flaherty Ralph Johnson Kate Turner