



Church of the Ascension

Sermon Discussion Questions
for Sunday, Sept 24, 2023 on
"Stewarding God's Grace in Transition"

READ: Joshua 1:1-9; Psalm 42; 1 Corinthians 3:6-11; and John 14:1-6

DISCUSS

- How did you react when you heard that the rector is going to retire from Ascension, effective July 1, 2024? What did you feel?
- Share how you have experienced God's presence (or absence) during a transition you have been through in your life.
- Re-read Ps 42 together. What encourages you from this Psalm?
- Take a few minutes to remember and share where you have seen God at work at Ascension over the last twenty years (or however long you have been a part of the Ascension community).
- On Sunday the rector described the transition we are now in as being a season of "Extra Grace Required." What are some practical ways that you can practice showing extra grace?

PRAY

- **Adoration:** Give praise to God for who He is as Savior and Lord in the Church and in our lives.
- **Confession:** Acknowledge any harmful feelings you may have experienced such as anxiety, anger, or mistrust, and ask God to help you trust him and to remember that Jesus is the way, and the truth, and the life.
- **Thanksgiving:** Thank God for all that he has done and is doing in our midst.
- **Supplication:** Ask God to supply our needs during this time of transition and in the Search Process for a new Rector.

DO

This week, journal how you are feeling in the light of the transition before us at Ascension and bring your thoughts and feelings to God in prayer.

Meditate on Joshua 1:9: "Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go."