EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION

Second Sunday After Epiphany, Year A
Holy Eucharist Rite II
10 am
January 18, 2026

405 Talbot Hall Road
Norfolk, Virginia 23505
(757) 423-6715

ORDER OF SERVICE

Prelude
"Romanian Folk Dances, SZ. 68:VI, Little One " *Bela Bartok*
Processional Hymn
"Lead Us, Heavenly Father" *Blue Hymnal 559*
Opening Acclamation *Book of Common Prayer p. 355*
Gloria *Blue Hymnal S-280*
Collect and Lessons *Book of Common Prayer p. 357*

The Collect

Almighty God, whose Son our Savior Jesus Christ is the light of the world: Grant that your people, illumined by your Word and Sacraments, may shine with the radiance of Christ's glory, that he may be known, worshipped, and obeyed to the ends of the earth; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Old Testament Isaiah 49:1-7

Listen to me, O coastlands,
pay attention, you peoples from far away!
The Lord called me before I was born,
while I was in my mother's womb he named me.
He made my mouth like a sharp sword,
in the shadow of his hand he hid me;
he made me a polished arrow,
in his quiver he hid me away.
And he said to me, "You are my servant,
Israel, in whom I will be glorified."
But I said, "I have labored in vain,
I have spent my strength for nothing and vanity;

yet surely my cause is with the Lord,
and my reward with my God."

And now the Lord says,
who formed me in the womb to be his servant,

to bring Jacob back to him,
and that Israel might be gathered to him,

for I am honored in the sight of the Lord,
and my God has become my strength--

he says,

"It is too light a thing that you should be my servant
to raise up the tribes of Jacob
and to restore the survivors of Israel;

I will give you as a light to the nations,
that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth."

Thus says the Lord,
the Redeemer of Israel and his Holy One,

to one deeply despised, abhorred by the nations,
the slave of rulers,

"Kings shall see and stand up,
princes, and they shall prostrate themselves,

because of the Lord, who is faithful,
the Holy One of Israel, who has chosen you."

Here is my servant, whom I uphold,
my chosen, in whom my soul delights;

I have put my spirit upon him;
he will bring forth justice to the nations.

He will not cry or lift up his voice,
or make it heard in the street;

a bruised reed he will not break,
and a dimly burning wick he will not quench;
he will faithfully bring forth justice.

He will not grow faint or be crushed
until he has established justice in the earth;
and the coastlands wait for his teaching.

Thus says God, the LORD,
who created the heavens and stretched them out,
who spread out the earth and what comes from it,
who gives breath to the people upon it
and spirit to those who walk in it:
I am the LORD, I have called you in righteousness,
I have taken you by the hand and kept you;
I have given you as a covenant to the people,
a light to the nations,
to open the eyes that are blind,
to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon,
from the prison those who sit in darkness.
I am the LORD, that is my name;
my glory I give to no other,
nor my praise to idols.
See, the former things have come to pass,
and new things I now declare;
before they spring forth,
I tell you of them.

The Word of the Lord *Thanks be to God*

The Psalm Psalm 40:1-12

1 I waited patiently upon the Lord; *
he stooped to me and heard my cry.

2 He lifted me out of the desolate pit, out of the mire and clay; *
he set my feet upon a high cliff and made my footing sure.

3 He put a new song in my mouth,
a song of praise to our God; *
many shall see, and stand in awe,
and put their trust in the Lord.

4 Happy are they who trust in the Lord! *
they do not resort to evil spirits or turn to false gods.

5 Great things are they that you have done, O Lord my God!
how great your wonders and your plans for us! *
there is none who can be compared with you.

6 Oh, that I could make them known and tell them! *
but they are more than I can count.

7 In sacrifice and offering you take no pleasure *
(you have given me ears to hear you);

8 Burnt-offering and sin-offering you have not required, *
and so I said, "Behold, I come.

9 In the roll of the book it is written concerning me: *
'I love to do your will, O my God;
your law is deep in my heart.'"

10 I proclaimed righteousness in the great congregation; *
behold, I did not restrain my lips;
and that, O Lord, you know.

11 Your righteousness have I not hidden in my heart;
I have spoken of your faithfulness and your deliverance; *
I have not concealed your love and faithfulness from the great congregation.

12 You are the Lord;
do not withhold your compassion from me; *
let your love and your faithfulness keep me safe for ever.

The New Testament 1 Corinthians 1:1-9

Paul, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and our brother Sosthenes,

To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, together with all those who in every place call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind-- just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you-- so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

The Word of the Lord *Thanks be to God*

Sequence Hymn

"They Cast Their Nets" *Blue Hymnal 661*

The Gospel John 1:29-42

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

Glory to you, Lord Christ

John saw Jesus coming toward him and declared, "Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! This is he of whom I said, 'After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me because he was before me.' I myself did not know him; but I came baptizing with water for this reason, that he might be revealed to Israel." And John testified, "I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.' And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Son of God."

The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples, and as he watched Jesus walk by, he exclaimed, "Look, here is the Lamb of God!" The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, "What are you looking for?" They said to him, "Rabbi" (which translated means Teacher), "where are you staying?" He said to them, "Come and see." They came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day. It was about four o'clock in the afternoon. One of the two who heard John speak and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. He first found his brother Simon and said to him, "We have found the Messiah" (which is translated Anointed). He brought Simon to Jesus, who looked at him and said, "You are Simon son of John. You are to be called Cephas" (which is translated Peter).

The Gospel of the Lord *Praise to you, Lord Christ.*

Sermon	*The Reverend Dr. Stan Sawyer*
Nicene Creed	*Book of Common Prayer p. 358*
Prayers of the People Form VI	*Book of Common Prayer p. 392*
Confession of Sin & Absolution	*Book of Common Prayer p. 360*
The Peace	*Book of Common Prayer p. 360*

Holy Communion

Offertory
"Dear Lord and Father of Mankind" *Blue Hymnal 653*

Eucharistic Prayer B	*Book of Common Prayer p. 367*
Sanctus	*Blue Hymnal S-125*
The Lord's Prayer	*Book of Common Prayer p. 364*
Breaking of the Bread	*Book of Common Prayer p. 364*

Communion Hymn
"Shepherd of Souls, Refresh and Bless" *Blue Hymnal 343*

Post Eucharistic Prayer	*Book of Common Prayer p. 366*

Recessional Hymn
"O Jesus, I Have Promised" *Blue Hymnal 655*

Dismissal	*Book of Common Prayer p. 366*

Postlude
"Piano Sonata No.16 in C Major, K. 545, "Allegro"
Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

In Our Prayers

Alexander Beamon, Joe Beck, Susan Beers, Gloria Carter, Billy Clark, Linda Day, Elaine Evans, Diane Forrest, Kate Hien, Katie Hughes, Rick Jones, Donna Killmon, Bryan Knight, Shana Paul, Sydney Rudolph, Diane Shepheard, Doug Thompson, Frank Whitman, and Margaret Wynn.

We pray for Sean our Presiding Bishop, Susan our Bishop, Genevieve our Deacon, and Stan, our Guest Priest.

We pray for the people of Ascension, that formed by our Baptismal promises we might embody God's community of Shalom in the world.

We pray for those who have died, including Nancy Whitman and Don Ewell.

We give thanks for the blessings of this life.

We give thanks for the birthdays of Caroline Suber (1/19), Chris Killmon (1/20), and Cooper Killmon (1/23).

We give thanks for our acolytes.

Announcements

We welcome The Reverend Dr. Stan Sawyer as our supply celebrant and preacher this morning. Stan has a long history with Ascension, and we are glad to have him joining us again.

We give thanks for Zachary Myers for playing the piano for us this morning!

A Friendly Reminder: To help keep everyone safe and comfortable, we kindly ask that no foods containing nuts or nut products be brought into Rose Hall, as some members have severe allergies. Thank you for your cooperation!

Office Closure: The office will be closed tomorrow, Monday January 19th in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

The Juliets will meet for lunch at Freemason Abbey Restaurant (209 West Freemason Street, Norfolk, VA, 23510) on Friday, January 30th at 11:30am. Please RSVP by calling or texting Donna Killmon at 757-270-5094.

Stewardship Pledge Cards A big thank you to everyone who has already turned in their pledge cards! If you haven't had a chance to submit yours already, please do so as soon as possible. Thank you!

Facebook Livestream: Please remember that services are livestreamed to Facebook each week for those who are unable to attend. If you prefer not to appear on the livestream, please choose a seat towards the back of the church. We move the cameras during Communion to avoid filming. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

Outreach, Collections & Opportunities:

Catholic Worker Needs Coffee and white socks are always needed. At this time of the year sleeping bags are needed, new or used. Thank you very much!

Reminder: The deadline for announcements is Tuesday at 5pm. Announcements received after that time may not make it into the bulletin or the emailed announcements.

Weekly Studies:

Tuesday Centering Prayer meets at 7:45am on Tuesdays on Zoom for one hour. The meeting opens at 7:30 for chatting, then at 7:45 we proceed with the reading of a psalm, 20 minutes of silent prayer/meditation followed by a discussion of the reading. The group is currently reading *The Great Search: Turning to Earth and Soul in the Quest for Healing and Home* by John Philip Newell. We are a diverse group with members joining from three countries and various religious backgrounds. You are invited to join us at any time. To get on the Zoom invite list, please contact Anji Harris (anjiharris54@gmail.com) or Sally Miller (757-489-5293 or samiller903@yahoo.com).

Thursday Mid-Morning Seekers' Bible Study will watch a video, read scripture passages, and discuss the questions together. I recommend joining the meeting early in case you have any issues getting connected. I hope to see everyone on Thursday at 10:00 am! If you are not on the email group or have trouble accessing the Zoom, please contact Susan Meredith at merbec@cox.net or 757-617-1959.

Meeting ID: 832 5615 4914 **Passcode:** 614216

A Look at the Week Ahead:

Monday
The office will be closed in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

Tuesday
7:30 am Centering Prayer – Zoom
10:00 am Food Pantry – Pantry
11:30 am Buildings & Grounds – Rose Hall
7:00 pm Vestry Meeting – Conference Room

Thursday
10:00 am Food Pantry – Pantry
10:00 am Mid-Morning Seekers' Bible Study – Zoom

Sunday
8:45 am Godly Play – Parish Hall
8:45 am Coffee & Adult Formation – Hall for Coffee Then Lounge
10:00 am Holy Eucharist Rite II – Sanctuary
4:00 pm Youth Group – Rose Hall

OUR VISION IS

Honoring the Past
Looking Forward in Hope
Be the Face of Healing
Healing is the Core Value

Your Vestry is here to serve you!

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*Senior Warden +Junior Warden ^Register

Clergy
Bishop The Right Reverend Susan Haynes
Deacon The Reverend Genevieve Nelson
Supply Priest The Reverend Dr. Stan Sawyer

Guest Pianist Zachary Myers

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