



welcome

**EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION**

Proper 18, Year C  
Holy Eucharist Rite II  
10 am  
September 7, 2025

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

# ORDER OF SERVICE

Prelude

Processional Hymn

"You Walk Along Our Shoreline"

*Maroon Hymnal 679*

Opening Acclamation

*Book of Common Prayer p. 355*

Gloria

*Blue Hymnal S-280*

Collect and Lessons

*Book of Common Prayer p. 357*

## The Collect

Grant us, O Lord, to trust in you with all our hearts; for, as you always resist the proud who confide in their own strength, so you never forsake those who make their boast of your mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

## The First Lesson

**Jeremiah 18:1-11**

The word that came to Jeremiah from the Lord: "Come, go down to the potter's house, and there I will let you hear my words." So I went down to the potter's house, and there he was working at his wheel. The vessel he was making of clay was spoiled in the potter's hand, and he reworked it into another vessel, as seemed good to him.

Then the word of the Lord came to me: Can I not do with you, O house of Israel, just as this potter has done? says the Lord. Just like the clay in the potter's hand, so are you in my hand, O house of Israel. At one moment I may declare concerning a nation or a kingdom, that I will pluck up and break down and destroy it, but if that nation, concerning which I have spoken, turns from its evil, I will change my mind about the disaster that I intended to bring on it. And at another moment I may declare concerning a nation or a kingdom that I will build and plant it, but if it does evil in my sight, not listening to my voice, then I will change my mind

about the good that I had intended to do to it. Now, therefore, say to the people of Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem: Thus says the Lord: Look, I am a potter shaping evil against you and devising a plan against you. Turn now, all of you from your evil way, and amend your ways and your doings.

The Word of the Lord

*Thanks be to God.*

### The Psalm

### Psalm 139:1-5, 12-17

1 Lord, you have searched me out and known me; \*  
you know my sitting down and my rising up;  
you discern my thoughts from afar.

2 You trace my journeys and my resting-places \*  
and are acquainted with all my ways.

3 Indeed, there is not a word on my lips, \*  
but you, O Lord, know it altogether.

4 You press upon me behind and before \*  
and lay your hand upon me.

5 Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; \*  
it is so high that I cannot attain to it.

12 For you yourself created my inmost parts; \*  
you knit me together in my mother's womb.

13 I will thank you because I am marvelously made; \*  
your works are wonderful, and I know it well.

14 My body was not hidden from you, \*  
while I was being made in secret  
and woven in the depths of the earth.

15 Your eyes beheld my limbs, yet unfinished in the womb;  
all of them were written in your book; \*  
they were fashioned day by day,  
when as yet there was none of them.

16 How deep I find your thoughts, O God! \*  
how great is the sum of them!

17 If I were to count them, they would be more in number than  
the sand; \*  
to count them all, my life span would need to be like yours.

## **The Epistle**

## **Philemon 1-21**

Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother,

To Philemon our dear friend and co-worker, to Apphia our sister, to Archippus our fellow soldier, and to the church in your house:

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

When I remember you in my prayers, I always thank my God because I hear of your love for all the saints and your faith toward the Lord Jesus. I pray that the sharing of your faith may become effective when you perceive all the good that we may do for Christ. I have indeed received much joy and encouragement from your love, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you, my brother.

For this reason, though I am bold enough in Christ to command you to do your duty, yet I would rather appeal to you on the basis of love-- and I, Paul, do this as an old man, and now also as a prisoner of Christ Jesus. I am appealing to you for my child, Onesimus, whose father I have become during my imprisonment. Formerly he was useless to you, but now he is indeed useful both to you and to me. I am sending him, that is, my own heart, back to you. I wanted to keep him with me, so that he might be of service to me in your place during my imprisonment for the gospel; but I preferred to do nothing without your consent, in order that your good deed might be voluntary and not something forced. Perhaps this is the reason he was separated from you for a while, so that you might have him back forever, no longer as a slave but more than a slave, a beloved brother-- especially to me but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord.

So if you consider me your partner, welcome him as you would welcome me. If he has wronged you in any way, or owes you anything, charge that to my account. I, Paul, am writing this with

my own hand: I will repay it. I say nothing about your owing me even your own self. Yes, brother, let me have this benefit from you in the Lord! Refresh my heart in Christ. Confident of your obedience, I am writing to you, knowing that you will do even more than I say.

The Word of the Lord

*Thanks be to God.*

Sequence Hymn

"Open Your Ears, O Faithful People"

*Blue Hymnal 536*

**The Gospel**

**Luke 14:25-33**

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

*Glory to you, Lord Christ.*

Now large crowds were traveling with Jesus; and he turned and said to them, "Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple. Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and estimate the cost, to see whether he has enough to complete it? Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it will begin to ridicule him, saying, 'This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.' Or what king, going out to wage war against another king, will not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to oppose the one who comes against him with twenty thousand? If he cannot, then, while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for the terms of peace. So therefore, none of you can become my disciple if you do not give up all your possessions."

The Gospel of the Lord

*Praise to you, Lord Christ.*

Sermon	<i>The Rev. Stewart Tabb</i>
Nicene Creed	<i>Book of Common Prayer p. 358</i>
Prayers of the People	<i>Book of Common Prayer p. 387</i>
Confession of Sin & Absolution	<i>Book of Common Prayer p. 360</i>
The Peace	<i>Book of Common Prayer p. 360</i>

### ***Holy Communion***

Offertory Sentence	
Offertory	
“They Cast Their Nets”	<i>Blue Hymnal 661</i>
Eucharistic Prayer A	<i>Book of Common Prayer p. 361</i>
Sanctus	<i>Blue Hymnal S-125</i>
The Lord’s Prayer	<i>Book of Common Prayer p. 364</i>
Breaking of the Bread	<i>Book of Common Prayer p. 364</i>
Communion Hymn	
“Balm in Gilead”	<i>Blue Hymnal 676</i>
Post Eucharistic Prayer	<i>Book of Common Prayer p. 365</i>
Recessional Hymn	
“Take Up Your Cross”	<i>Blue Hymnal 675</i>
Dismissal	<i>Book of Common Prayer p. 366</i>

# *In Our Prayers*

Alexander Beamon, Joe Beck, Gloria Carter, Billy Clark, Linda Day, Elaine Evans, Diane Forrest, Sam Hedgecock, Kate Hien, Kris Huddle, Katie Hughes, Paul Joseph, Bryan Knight, Shana Paul, Sydney Ruloph, Diane Shephard, Nancy Whitman, and Margaret Wynn.

We pray for Sean our Presiding Bishop, Susan our Bishop, Stewart our Rector, and Genevieve our Deacon.

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 give thanks for those who keep the church's finances in order.

# Announcements

**We are grateful for Karla Stead** for playing the piano for us today. Thank you, Karla!

**Roy's ROMEOs will return on Monday, September 8<sup>th</sup>** to The Royal Garden Chinese Restaurant, located at 155 W Ocean View Ave, between Duffy's Lane and 1st View St, in the Ocean View Shopping Center. Lunch will start at 11:30AM, as usual. Please come and join us for good food, fun, and fellowship!

**Join us next Sunday, September 14<sup>th</sup>,** for our Gathering as we begin our exploration of Community of Shalom with Rabbi Dr. Michael Panitz who will teach us about the Jewish concept of Shalom; it means so much more than peace as the absence of violence and anxiety. Rabbi Panitz is an engaging speaker and we're sure to learn a lot!

## **An Evening with Margaret Renkl**

Christ & St. Luke's is excited to welcome noted environmental author and New York Times columnist Margaret Renkl for the 2nd Annual Jim Sell Community Conversation on September 20<sup>th</sup> at 5pm. Margaret Renkl is one of the most graceful and powerful authors on our relationship with the natural world working today, and her works have won several literary prizes. Her keynote will focus on the beauty of our world and our desperate need to protect it. This event is free and open to the public. Find more information at: [christandstlukes.org/jimsellcc](http://christandstlukes.org/jimsellcc).

**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.

**Food Pantry Needs!** Every month our food pantry helps over 40 families make ends meet by putting food on their tables. The food is primarily purchased from the Food Bank of Southeast Virginia where the cost to us is the cheapest and then supplemented from local markets where we purchase things like cheese and eggs on sale. It's a tremendous operation and involves both a lot of people power and money. Carol Evans works hard to make sure that the food we provide meets the needs of those we serve.

Right now, we average over \$2000 a month to supply the pantry. The church budgets \$3000 a year, and the Pamunkey Tribe contributes \$6000 – leaving us \$15,000 short. In the past, the pantry has had a surplus, not only because people supported it financially outside of their pledges, but also because during the pandemic, the Food Bank gave us all food for free. We have now used all those funds and are supporting the pantry with money designated for mission. Alas, this is not sustainable in the long term. As prices rise and federal funding decreases, the need for our pantry has grown. We invite you to help us continue to serve those who are hungry in Norfolk by contributing as you can. Thank you!

In addition, the Food Pantry has begun its preparations for Thanksgiving when we give out extra food to make a Thanksgiving feast. You can help by bringing in cranberry sauce, canned pumpkin, yams, gravy packets, stuffing mix and other trimmings. Turkeys will, of course, be required closer to November. Thank you!

**Powerful New Small Group Study** Please Join us for a 9-week small group that moves beyond debate and into meaningful dialogue, faith-rooted learning, and actionable steps. Whether you've been impacted personally, care about

your community, or just want to be part of the solution—this is a space for you. Together, we'll explore how to make our homes, neighborhoods, and nation safer for everyone.

The group study will be facilitated by Amanda Pine and Sally Miller. It will take place on Zoom from 6-8pm every Wednesday from September 17<sup>th</sup> until November 19<sup>th</sup>. To sign up, please contact Amanda Pine at [amandanpine@gmail.com](mailto:amandanpine@gmail.com).

**The Diocesan Creation Care Team** is dedicated to the education, action, and advocacy of God's world. They will be showing a creation care-focused documentary film on September 15th. Ascension is hosting! The team will show the film in-person and will follow the film with an invitation for discussion about reactions and take-away thoughts. We are invited to attend.

- **September 15th at 6:30p.m.** – *Virginia's Calling* by Barry Lyons and Linda Nieman. The film “addresses how a woman of faith grapples with the challenge of her flooded home after a hurricane and how she responds within her community to raise awareness about climate change and advocacy.”

## Outreach, Collections, & Opportunities

**Catholic Worker needs** more pairs of men's white socks and granola bars. Thank you!

**Outreach** Steve Baggarly from Catholic Worker is seeking donations to support his ministry during the summer heat. With rising temperatures, staying hydrated is essential, and Gatorade is especially needed for distribution throughout the week. In addition, travel-size deodorant, rain ponchos, and razors are also in high demand. Steve is deeply grateful for the continued generosity of our congregation as we come together to care for our community during this heatwave.

**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](mailto:samiller903@yahoo.com)).

**Re-Imagining Church** meets on **Thursdays at 8am**. The meeting serves as a time of spiritual reflection and planning as we listen for and try to follow God's call to Ascension. Please join us; your perspective may be how God is informing us what we should be doing next.

### Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86978887176?pwd=xI7YlfzPv6WROl0aGIKgWT6z7tYg2c.1>

**Meeting ID:** 869 7888 7176    **Passcode:** 171544

**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](mailto:merbec@cox.net) or 757-617-1959.

**Meeting ID:** 810 7002 6611    **Passcode:** Bible

## **A Look at the Week Ahead:**

### **Monday**

11:30 am Roy's ROMEOs Lunch – Royal Garden Chinese Restaurant

### **Tuesday**

7:30 am Centering Prayer – Zoom

10:00 am Food Pantry - Pantry

11:30 am Building & Grounds – Rose Hall

### **Thursday**

8:00 am Re-Imagining Church - Zoom

10:00 am Food Pantry – Pantry

10:00 am Mid-Morning Seeker's Bible Study – Zoom

### **Sunday**

8:45 am Godly Play – Parish Hall

8:45 am Coffee & Adult Formation

10:00 am Holy Eucharist Rite II - Sanctuary

## 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!**

Susan Meredith*	2024-2026	<a href="mailto:merbec@cox.net">merbec@cox.net</a>	757.617.1959
Anji Harris+	2023-2026	<a href="mailto:Anjiharris54@gmail.com">Anjiharris54@gmail.com</a>	757.831.3474
Pat Duncan	2023-2026	<a href="mailto:Patlduncan2020@gmail.com">Patlduncan2020@gmail.com</a>	478.777.0904
Karen Newbern^	2024-2027	<a href="mailto:newby0325@gmail.com">newby0325@gmail.com</a>	757.685.6935
Luke Suber	2024-2027	<a href="mailto:lukeuber@yahoo.com">lukeuber@yahoo.com</a>	361.779.7216
Carol Evans	2024-2027	<a href="mailto:cevens1017@gmail.com">cevens1017@gmail.com</a>	757.335.1774
Robin Kruger	2025-2028	<a href="mailto:Rekruger54@gmail.com">Rekruger54@gmail.com</a>	757.470.9882

\*Senior Warden    +Junior Warden    ^Register

### Clergy

**Bishop** The Right Reverend Susan Haynes

**Rector** The Reverend Stewart Tabb

**Deacon** The Reverend Genevieve Nelson

**Guest Pianist** Karla Stead

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