



EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION

First Sunday in Lent, Year A
Holy Eucharist Rite II
10 am
February 22, 2026

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

ORDER OF SERVICE

Prelude

“By the Seaside”

Austen Farrell

Processional Hymn

“O Love, How Deep”

Blue Hymnal 448

A Penitential Order: Rite II

Book of Common Prayer p. 351

Celebrant Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

People His mercy endures for ever.

Decalogue

Book of Common Prayer p. 350

The People kneeling

Celebrant

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 1 John 1:8,9

Confession and Absolution

Book of Common Prayer p. 352

“Lord, have Mercy”

Blue Hymnal S-96

Collect and Lessons

Book of Common Prayer p. 357

The Collect

Almighty God, whose blessed Son was led by the Spirit to be tempted by Satan: Come quickly to help us who are assaulted by many temptations; and, as you know the weaknesses of each of us, let each one find you mighty to save; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

Old Testament

Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7

The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. And the Lord God commanded the man, “You may freely eat of every tree of the garden; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die.”

Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God say, 'You shall not eat from any tree in the garden'?" The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.'" But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not die; for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

- 1 Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven, *
and whose sin is put away!
- 2 Happy are they to whom the Lord imputes no guilt, *
and in whose spirit there is no guile!
- 3 While I held my tongue, my bones withered away, *
because of my groaning all day long.
- 4 For your hand was heavy upon me day and night; *
my moisture was dried up as in the heat of summer.
- 5 Then I acknowledged my sin to you, *
and did not conceal my guilt.
- 6 I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord." *
Then you forgave me the guilt of my sin.
- 7 Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in
time of trouble; *
when the great waters overflow, they shall not reach
them.
- 8 You are my hiding-place;
you preserve me from trouble; *
you surround me with shouts of deliverance.
- 9 "I will instruct you and teach you in the way that you
should go; *
I will guide you with my eye.
- 10 Do not be like horse or mule, which have no
understanding; *
who must be fitted with bit and bridle,
or else they will not stay near you."
- 11 Great are the tribulations of the wicked; *
but mercy embraces those who trust in the Lord.
- 12 Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the Lord; *
shout for joy, all who are true of heart.

The New Testament

Romans 5:12-19

As sin came into the world through one man, and death came through sin, and so death spread to all because all have sinned-- sin was indeed in the world before the law, but sin is not reckoned when there is no law. Yet death exercised dominion from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sins were not like the transgression of Adam, who is a type of the one who was to come.

But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died through the one man's trespass, much more surely have the grace of God and the free gift in the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, abounded for the many. And the free gift is not like the effect of the one man's sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the free gift following many trespasses brings justification. If, because of the one man's trespass, death exercised dominion through that one, much more surely will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness exercise dominion in life through the one man, Jesus Christ.

Therefore just as one man's trespass led to condemnation for all, so one man's act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all. For just as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Sequence Hymn

“Forty Days and Forty Nights”

Blue Hymnal 150

The Gospel

Matthew 4:1-11

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

Glory to you, Lord Christ

Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished. The tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." But he answered, "It is written,

'One does not live by bread alone,
but by every word that comes from the mouth of
God.'

Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down; for it is written,

'He will command his angels concerning you,'
and 'On their hands they will bear you up,
so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.'

Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'"

Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor; and he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me." Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! for it is written,

'Worship the Lord your God,
and serve only him.'

Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Sermon	<i>The Reverend Dr. Stan Sawyer</i>
Nicene Creed	<i>Book of Common Prayer p. 358</i>
Prayers of the People Form IV	<i>Book of Common Prayer p. 388</i>
The Peace	<i>Book of Common Prayer p. 360</i>

Holy Communion

Offertory	
“Now Let Us All, With One Accord” vs. 1-3	<i>Blue Hymnal 147</i>
Eucharistic Prayer C	<i>Book of Common Prayer p. 369</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	
“Lord, Who At Thy First Eucharist” vs. 1-2	<i>Blue Hymnal 315</i>
Post Eucharistic Prayer	<i>Book of Common Prayer p. 365</i>
Recessional Hymn	
“Jesus, Lover Of My Soul”	<i>Blue Hymnal 699</i>
Dismissal	<i>Book of Common Prayer p. 366</i>
Postlude	
“A Mighty Fortress Is Our God”	<i>Martin Luther</i>

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 Shephard, Doug Thompson, Margaret Wynn, and Anne Zobel.

We pray for Sean our Presiding Bishop, Susan our Bishop, 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 the Holy Spirit's guidance for the Discernment Committee members as they seek to find the Priest-in-Charge for our congregation.

We pray for those who have died, including Anne Zobel's father, Palmer St. Clair Rutherford II.

We give thanks for the blessings of this life.

We give thanks for our pastoral care team.

Announcements

We welcome The Reverend Dr. Stan Sawyer as our supply celebrant and preacher this morning.

We give thanks for Amos Brittain for playing the piano for us this morning!

The Juliets will meet for lunch at Captain Groovy's Grill (8101 Shore Drive, Norfolk, VA, 23518) on Friday, February 27th at 11:30am. Please RSVP by emailing, calling, or texting Donna Killmon at 757-270-5094.

Book Club Interest: There are a number of you who have walked a Camino and might be interested in joining the Book Club members in reading our novel selection for March, "Call of the Camino" by Suzanne Redfearn. We will be meeting on Monday, March 9th at 6:30pm for snacks and a lively discussion. You might enjoy it so much you will want to join us regularly. We would love to welcome new members!

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!

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: Due to the colder temps, we are in need of large gloves. Coffee and white socks are always needed. 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).

Re-Imagining Church meets on **Thursdays at 12pm**. 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/88559209322?pwd=BubDI0FA8IXIwryyikkt4Jito7gq0r.1>

Meeting ID: 885 5920 9322 **Passcode:** 346720

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:

Tuesday

7:30 am Centering Prayer – Zoom

10:00 am Food Pantry – Pantry

11:30 am Buildings & Grounds – Rose Hall

Thursday

10:00 am Food Pantry – Pantry

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

12:00 pm Re-Imagining Church – Zoom

Friday

11:30 am Juliets' Lunch – Captain Groovy's Grill

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

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	merbec@cox.net	757.617.1959
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*Senior Warden +Junior Warden ^Register

Clergy

Bishop The Right Reverend Susan Haynes
Supply Priest The Reverend Dr. Stan Sawyer

Guest Pianist Amos Brittain

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