



## **EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION**

The Epiphany, Year A  
Holy Eucharist Rite II  
10 am  
January 4, 2026

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



## ORDER OF SERVICE

Prelude

Processional Hymn

“We Three Kings”

*Blue Hymnal 128*

Opening Acclamation

*Book of Common Prayer p. 355*

Gloria

*Blue Hymnal S-280*

Collect and Lessons

*Book of Common Prayer p. 357*

### The Collect

O God, by the leading of a star you manifested your only Son to the peoples of the earth: Lead us, who know you now by faith, to your presence, where we may see your glory face to face; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

### Old Testament

**Isaiah 60:1-6**

Arise, shine; for your light has come,  
and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.

For darkness shall cover the earth,  
and thick darkness the peoples;

but the LORD will arise upon you,  
and his glory will appear over you.

Nations shall come to your light,  
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

Lift up your eyes and look around;  
they all gather together, they come to you;

your sons shall come from far away,  
and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms.

Then you shall see and be radiant;  
your heart shall thrill and rejoice,

because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you,  
the wealth of the nations shall come to you.

A multitude of camels shall cover you,  
the young camels of Midian and Ephah;  
all those from Sheba shall come.

They shall bring gold and frankincense,  
and shall proclaim the praise of the LORD.

The Word of the Lord

*Thanks be to God*

## The Psalm

## Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14

- 1 Give the King your justice, O God, \*  
and your righteousness to the King's Son;
- 2 That he may rule your people righteously \*  
and the poor with justice;
- 3 That the mountains may bring prosperity to the people, \*  
and the little hills bring righteousness.
- 4 He shall defend the needy among the people; \*  
he shall rescue the poor and crush the oppressor.
- 5 He shall live as long as the sun and moon endure, \*  
from one generation to another.
- 6 He shall come down like rain upon the mown field, \*  
like showers that water the earth.
- 7 In his time shall the righteous flourish; \*  
there shall be abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.
- 10 The kings of Tarshish and of the isles shall pay tribute, \*  
and the kings of Arabia and Saba offer gifts.
- 11 All kings shall bow down before him, \*  
and all the nations do him service.
- 12 For he shall deliver the poor who cries out in distress, \*  
and the oppressed who has no helper.
- 13 He shall have pity on the lowly and poor; \*  
he shall preserve the lives of the needy.
- 14 He shall redeem their lives from oppression and violence, \*  
and dear shall their blood be in his sight.

## The New Testament

## Ephesians 3:1-12

This is the reason that I Paul am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles-- for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given me for you, and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: that is, the Gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace that was given me by the working of his power. Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ, and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

The Word of the Lord

*Thanks be to God*

Sequence Hymn

"What Star Is This"

*Blue Hymnal 124*

## The Gospel

## Matthew 2:1-12

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

*Glory to you, Lord Christ*

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

‘And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,  
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;

for from you shall come a ruler  
who is to shepherd my people Israel.'"

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

The Gospel of the Lord

*Praise to you, Lord Christ.*

Sermon	<i>Rev. Stan Sawyer</i>
Nicene Creed	<i>Book of Common Prayer p. 358</i>
Prayers of the People Form VI	<i>Book of Common Prayer p. 392</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	
“A Stable Lamp Is Lighted”	<i>Blue Hymnal 104</i>
Eucharistic Prayer B	<i>Book of Common Prayer p. 367</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	
“Father, We Thank Thee Who Hast Planted”	<i>Blue Hymnal 302</i>
Post Eucharistic Prayer	<i>Book of Common Prayer p. 366</i>
Recessional Hymn	
“Brightest and Best Of the Stars”	<i>Blue Hymnal 117</i>
Dismissal	<i>Book of Common Prayer p. 366</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 Shepheard, Doug Thompson, Nancy Whitman, and Margaret Wynn.

We pray for Sean our Presiding Bishop, Susan our Bishop, 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 the blessings of this life.

We give thanks for the birthdays of John Suber (1/4), Gloria Carter (1/8), Martha Cain (1/9), and Marti Suber (1/10).

We give thanks for the ministry of our lay readers.

# Announcements

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

**Today we will be Undecorating the Church** immediately after the service. If you provided poinsettias to decorate the church, you will be able to take them with you at that time.

**Re-Imagining Church** will resume this Thursday at 12pm. Please reference the “Weekly Studies” page for the updated Zoom codes.

**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](mailto: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=BubDI0FA8IXIwwryikkt4Jito7gq0r.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](mailto:merbec@cox.net) or [757-617-1959](tel: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

### **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	<a href="mailto:merbec@cox.net">merbec@cox.net</a>	757.617.1959
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\*Senior Warden    +Junior Warden    ^Register

### Clergy

**Bishop** The Right Reverend Susan Haynes

**Deacon** The Reverend Genevieve Nelson

**Guest Pianist** Zachary Myers

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