



**EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION**

Ash Wednesday, Year A  
12 pm  
February 18, 2026

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

## ORDER OF SERVICE

*The officiant enters in silence from the sacristy door.*

*Officiant:*

Jesus said, "If anyone would come after me,  
let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me."

### **The Collect**

Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, you hate nothing you have made and forgive the sins of all who are penitent; Create and make in us new and contrite hearts, that we, worthily lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness, may obtain of you, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

### **The Invitatory and Psalter**

*All stand*

*Officiant* Lord, open our lips.

*People* And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

*Officiant and People*

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen

### **The Psalm**

**Psalm 103:8-14**

- 8 The Lord is full of compassion and mercy,\*  
slow to anger and of great kindness.
- 9 He will not always accuse us,\*  
nor will he keep his anger for ever.
- 10 He has not dealt with us according to our sins,\*  
nor rewarded us according to our wickedness.
- 11 For as the heavens are high above the earth,\*  
so is his mercy great upon those who fear him.
- 12 As far as the east is from the west,\*  
so far has he removed our sins from us.

- 13 As a father cares for his children\*  
so does the LORD care for those who fear him.
- 14 For he himself knows whereof we are made,\*  
he remembers that we are but dust.

*Officiant and People*

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen

**Old Testament**

**Isaiah 58:1-12**

Shout out; do not hold back!  
Lift up your voice like a trumpet!  
Announce to my people their rebellion,  
to the house of Jacob their sins.  
Yet day after day they seek me  
and delight to know my ways,  
as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness  
and did not forsake the ordinance of their God;  
they ask of me righteous judgments;  
they delight to draw near to God  
"Why do we fast, but you do not see?  
Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?"  
Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day  
and oppress all your workers.  
Look, you fast only to quarrel and to fight  
and to strike with a wicked fist.  
Such fasting as you do today  
will not make your voice heard on high.  
Is such the fast that I choose,  
a day to humble oneself?  
Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush  
and to lie in sackcloth and ashes?  
Will you call this a fast,  
a day acceptable to the LORD?  
Is not this the fast that I choose:  
to loose the bonds of injustice,

to undo the straps of the yoke,  
to let the oppressed go free,  
and to break every yoke?  
Is it not to share your bread with the hungry  
and bring the homeless poor into your house;  
when you see the naked, to cover them  
and not to hide yourself from your own kin?  
Then your light shall break forth like the dawn,  
and your healing shall spring up quickly;  
your vindicator shall go before you;  
the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard.

Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer;  
you shall cry for help, and he will say, "Here I am."  
If you remove the yoke from among you,  
the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil,  
if you offer your food to the hungry  
and satisfy the needs of the afflicted,  
then your light shall rise in the darkness  
and your gloom be like the noonday.  
The LORD will guide you continually  
and satisfy your needs in parched places  
and make your bones strong,  
and you shall be like a watered garden,  
like a spring of water  
whose waters never fail.  
Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt;  
you shall raise up  
the foundations of many generations;  
you shall be called the repairer of the breach,  
the restorer of streets to live in.

The Word of the Lord.

*Thanks be to God.*

**Canticle 14** A Song of Penitence  
*Read in Unison*

*Book of Common Prayer p. 90*

## New Testament

2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10

We entreat you on behalf of Christ: be reconciled to God. For our sake God made the one who knew no sin to be sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

As we work together with him, we entreat you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. For he says,

"At an acceptable time I have listened to you,  
and on a day of salvation I have helped you."

See, now is the acceptable time; look, now is the day of salvation! We are putting no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: in great endurance, afflictions, hardships, calamities, beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; in purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors and yet are true, as unknown and yet are well known, as dying and look--we are alive, as punished and yet not killed, as sorrowful yet always rejoicing, as poor yet making many rich, as having nothing and yet possessing everything.

The Word of the Lord

*Thanks be to God.*

**Canticle 16** The Song of Zechariah

*Book of Common Prayer p. 92*

*Read in Unison*

**The Gospel**

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

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

*Glory to you, Lord Christ.*

Jesus said, "Beware of practicing your righteousness before others in order to be seen by them, for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven.

"So whenever you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be praised by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your alms may be done in secret, and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

"And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret, and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

"And whenever you fast, do not look somber, like the hypocrites, for they mark their faces to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so that your fasting may be seen not by others but by your Father who is in secret, and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

"Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal, but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

The Gospel of the Lord.

*Praise to you, Lord Christ.*

## Homily

Worship Leader Katherine Lawrence

## Invitation to a Holy Lent

*Book of Common Prayer p. 264*

Please stand for Invitation. Kneel after invitation for silent prayer

Prayer Over the Ashes

Imposition of the Ashes

*Please come to the rail for ashes and then be seated.*

Recitation of Psalm 51

*Book of Common Prayer p. 266*

Officiant and People together

Litany of Penitence

*Book of Common Prayer p. 267*

The Officiant and People together, all kneeling

Prayer for Forgiveness

Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life. *Amen.*

## **The Peace**

*All stand. The Officiant says to the people*

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

*People* And also with you.

Then the Officiant and the People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.

## **The Prayers**

*Book of Common Prayer p. 97*

The people stand or kneel

*Officiant* The Lord be with you.

*People* And also with you

*Officiant* Let us pray.

### *Officiant and People*

The Lord's Prayer

Suffrage A

A Collect for the Renewal of Life

*Book of Common Prayer p. 99*

A Collect for Mission

*Book of Common Prayer p. 101*

The General Thanksgiving

*Book of Common Prayer p.101*

Officiant and People

Concluding Blessings

*Book of Common Prayer p.102*

*Officiant* Let us less the Lord.

*People* Thanks be to God.

*Officiant*

Glory to God whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine: Glory to him from generation to generation in the Church, and in Christ Jesus for ever and ever. *Amen*

## 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  
**Officiant** Worship Leader Katherine Lawrence

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