



**EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION**

Fifth Sunday of Easter, Year A  
Holy Eucharist Rite II  
10 am  
May 3, 2026

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

# ORDER OF SERVICE

## *THE WORD OF GOD*

Prelude

Processional Hymn

“I Danced In the Morning”

*Maroon Hymnal 689*

Opening Acclamation

*Book of Common Prayer p. 355*

“Glory to God”

*Blue Hymnal S-280*

Collect and Lessons

*Book of Common Prayer p. 357*

### **The Collect**

Almighty God, whom truly to know is everlasting life: Grant us so perfectly to know your Son Jesus Christ to be the way, the truth, and the life, that we may steadfastly follow his steps in the way that leads to eternal life; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

### **The New Testament**

**Acts 7:55-60**

Filled with the Holy Spirit, Stephen gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. “Look,” he said, “I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!” But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him; and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, “Lord, do not hold this sin against them.” When he had said this, he died.

The Word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

## The Psalm

Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16

- 1 In you, O LORD, have I taken refuge;  
let me never be put to shame; \*  
deliver me in your righteousness.
- 2 Incline your ear to me; \*  
make haste to deliver me.
- 3 Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe,  
for you are my crag and my stronghold; \*  
for the sake of your Name, lead me and guide me.
- 4 Take me out of the net that they have secretly set for me, \*  
for you are my tower of strength.
- 5 Into your hands I commend my spirit, \*  
for you have redeemed me,  
O LORD, O God of truth.
- 15 My times are in your hand; \*  
rescue me from the hand of my enemies,  
and from those who persecute me.
- 16 Make your face to shine upon your servant, \*  
and in your loving-kindness save me.

## The New Testament Epistle

1 Peter 2:2-10

Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation— if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For it stands in scripture:

“See, I am laying in Zion a stone,  
a cornerstone chosen and precious;  
and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.”

To you then who believe, he is precious; but for those who do not believe,

“The stone that the builders rejected  
has become the very head of the corner”,

and

“A stone that makes them stumble,  
and a rock that makes them fall.”

They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation,  
God’s own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty  
acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous  
light.

Once you were not a people,  
but now you are God’s people;  
once you had not received mercy,  
but now you have received mercy.

The Word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

Sequence Hymn

“All Praise To Thee, For Thou, O King Divine” vs. 1-3 *Blue Hymnal 477*

## The Gospel

**John 14:1-14**

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

*Glory to you, Lord Christ*

Jesus said, "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going." Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him."

Philip said to him, "Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied." Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it."

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 III	<i>Book of Common Prayer p. 387</i>

## **The Ascension Discernment Prayer**

(Recited together at the end of the Prayers of the People)

O God of wisdom and guidance,  
We ask that you lead our parish in this season of discernment.  
Bless our Search Committee with clarity,  
Bless our Vestry with faithfulness,  
And bless our whole congregation with patience and hope.  
May the Holy Spirit guide and instill in the people of Ascension a  
glorious vision of the future.  
And finally, we ask that You prepare the priest You are calling  
to join us,  
and prepare us to welcome them and serve together in your name.  
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Confession and Absolution	<i>Book of Common Prayer p. 359</i>
The Peace	<i>Book of Common Prayer p. 360</i>

## *Holy Communion*

Offertory

“O Day Of Peace”

*Blue Hymnal 597*

Eucharistic Prayer A

*Book of Common Prayer p. 361*

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\*

Communion Hymn

“Humbly I Adore Thee” vs. 1-3

*Blue Hymnal 314*

Post Eucharistic Prayer

*Book of Common Prayer p. 366*

Recessional Hymn

“Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life”

*Blue Hymnal 609*

Dismissal

*Book of Common Prayer p. 366*

Postlude

*\*You may come to the rail to receive communion or a blessing.*

*Communion wine may be received from the common cup or by intinction.*

*If you choose intinction, please hold the bread up for the Lay Eucharistic*

*Minister to take it from you who will dip it in the second cup and return*

*it. If coming for a blessing, or to not receive the communion wine, simply*

*approach the rail and cross your arms over your chest.*

# *In Our Prayers*

Joe Beck, Susan Beers, Gloria Carter, Billy Clark, Linda Day, Marilyn Doughty, Elaine Evans, Diane Forrest, William Grygar, Kate Hien, Rebecca Hirschler, Katie Hughes, Sharon Jones, Donna Killmon, Bryan Knight, Phoebe Montagna, Alessandra Myers, Shana Paul, Sydney Rudolph, Linda Sawyer, Diane Shepheard, Doug Thompson, and Margaret Wynn.

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 give thanks for the blessings of this life.

We give thanks for the birthdays of Clara Dale (5/3), Kris Huddle (5/3), and Elizabeth Jones (5/4).

We give thanks for our pastoral care team.

## **The Ascension Discernment Prayer**

O God of wisdom and guidance,

We ask that you lead our parish in this season of discernment.

Bless our Search Committee with clarity,

Bless our Vestry with faithfulness,

And bless our whole congregation with patience and hope.

May the Holy Spirit guide and instill in the people of Ascension a glorious vision of the future.

And finally, we ask that You prepare the priest You are calling to join us,

and prepare us to welcome them and serve together in your name.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

# Announcements

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

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

**Roy's ROMEOs will return on Monday, May 11<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!

**May 17th - Annual Meeting and Town Hall Event Breakfast**  
*Immediately after the service. Nursery will be available.*  
Please plan to attend this important event.

While we enjoy a breakfast provided by the Vestry and friends, we will have the required but very brief **Annual Meeting** when our Wardens will present the state of the church and its finances and hold the required election of vestry members.

Then we will enjoy a **Town Hall** at which our special guest, Liz Villanueva, the Director of Transitional Ministry for the Diocese, will talk about the CAT (Congregational Assessment Tool) interpretation as well as seek additional information from the congregation. Whether you completed a survey or not, this will be your opportunity to let the Search team know your thoughts and opinions, in addition to hearing the results of the survey itself. So, everyone please come! Your input is vital to the success of our search for a new Priest in Charge!"

We will also have a Birthday Cake for our Name Day Celebration in lieu of an Ascension Day event and service.

### **May 24th - Pentecost Service and Reception**

Wear Red and join us for the Celebration of Pentecost! In the spirit of the evangelization that brought the faith to your ancestors, *please bring finger food appetizers and desserts* from your family history to share for the reception table. It will be fun to share the stories that made those treats so important for your families.

### **May 31st Trinity Sunday - Morning Prayer Service (No Eucharist)**

Readings, Prayers, Homily, and Music

Worship Leader Katherine Lawrence will be the officiant.

## **Chanco Chatter**

### **Chanco on the James: 2026 Summer Camp Registration Now Open!**

Summer is almost here, and Camp Chanco is ready for another unforgettable season on the James. For more than 50 years, Chanco has offered a fun, faith-centered camp experience for youth ages 8–16. From zip lines and high ropes to sailing, archery, arts and crafts, and outdoor adventures, every day is filled with opportunities to try something new. Campers build confidence, form lasting friendships, explore God's creation, and grow in Christian community — all in a safe and welcoming environment. To register, visit <https://chanco.org/camps/camp-info/>

## Creation Care

Thanks for participating in our trial recycling program! You can mix all your items together in your collection box. Drop off your items during office hours at DIOSOVA 11832 Rock Landing Drive Suite 100, Newport News (M-F 9-3) or Church of the Ascension 405 Talbot Hall Road, Norfolk (M-Th 9am-12pm). Ascension will also have a small outdoor collection box in their outdoor breezeway beginning April 2026. You can also mail your box to: Attn: Creation Care Team, 405 Talbot Hall Road, Norfolk, VA 23505.

### THE FOLLOWING ITEMS CAN BE RECYCLED

- **BEAUTY PRODUCTS AND PACKAGING** - Empty Cosmetic, Hair & Skin Care Packaging including Aluminized Tubes, Cosmetic Cases & Sticks, Plastic Packaging  
Unacceptable Items: Aerosol & Pressurized Cans, Cardboard, Electronic Items, Nail Polish Bottles & Removers, Partially Full & Full Packaging, Perfume Bottles, Wood & Bamboo, Wooden Eyeliner Pencils
- **PENS, PENCILS & MARKERS** - Pens, Pencils (non-wood), Highlighters, Markers & Caps, Mechanical Pencils, Pen & Pen Caps, Permanent Markers & Caps. Unacceptable Items: Paint Brushes, Wooden Pencils
- **BOTTLE CAPS** – Metal & Plastic Drink Bottle Caps  
Unacceptable Items: Bottles, Packaging, Liquids
- **WATER FILTERS** - Any Brand & Any Size Water Filters  
Unacceptable Items: Air Filters, Oil Filters
- **CONTACT LENSES & PACKAGING** - Contact Lenses, Plastic Film, Pods, And Cardboard Packaging  
Unacceptable Items: Contact Lens Solution, Bottles
- **ORAL CARE WASTE & PACKAGING** - Floss Containers, Toothbrush & Toothpaste Outer Packaging, Toothbrushes, Toothpaste Tubes & Caps  
Unacceptable Items: Floss, Other Oral Waste Care Items
- **COFFEE BAGS** – Empty Coffee Bags  
Unacceptable Items: Capsules, Coffee Grounds, Discs, Filters, Coffee Electronics, Other Coffee Packaging

- **CORKS** – Synthetic Beverage Corks Unacceptable Items: Natural Corks, Aluminum Champagne Twists, Bottle Caps, Bottles, Foil, Screw Tops

- **STRAWS** – Any Size Plastic Straws Unacceptable Items: Paper Straws, Biodegradable Straws

- **DISPOSABLE CUPS & LIDS** – Paper Coated Cups, Plastic Cups, Plastic Lids Disposable Cups

& Lids that have been rinsed and dried Unacceptable Items: Biodegradable Plastic Cups & Lids, Juice Boxes & Pouches. Other Rigid Plastic Containers

- **GLUE STICKS & BOTTLES** – Empty Craft Glue Stick Containers & Empty Glue Bottles

Unacceptable Items: Industrial Adhesive Containers

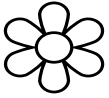
Questions – contact Canon Lynn Farlin at 757-676-6188 or [lfarlin@diosova.org](mailto:lfarlin@diosova.org)



## Outreach, Collections, & Opportunities:

**Catholic Worker Needs:** 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.



## *Sunday Seeds*

Below are just a few of the ways Ascension is serving our community:

- Each month, members of our church family lovingly prepare 100 sandwiches, which are delivered to Catholic Family Worker for distribution to those experiencing homelessness.
- The next Outreach meeting will be held on Monday, May 18<sup>th</sup> at 12:30pm.
- June is Gun Violence Awareness Month. Please look for literature on gun safety from Sally Miller in early June.

Please watch for upcoming volunteer opportunities—we welcome your participation and support!

## 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 *After the Apple: Women in the Bible - Timeless Stories of Love, Lust, and Longing* by Naomi Harris Rosenblatt. 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=BubDI0FA8IXIwryikkt4Jito7gq0r.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
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:lukesuber@yahoo.com">lukesuber@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  
**Supply Priest** The Reverend Dr. Stan Sawyer

**Guest Pianist** Amos Brittain

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