



EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION

Seventh Sunday of Easter, Year A
Holy Eucharist Rite II
10 am
May 17, 2026

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

ORDER OF SERVICE

THE WORD OF GOD

Prelude

Processional Hymn

“Hail the Day That Sees Him Rise”

Blue Hymnal 214

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

O God, the King of glory, you have exalted your only Son Jesus Christ with great triumph to your kingdom in heaven: Do not leave us comfortless, but send us your Holy Spirit to strengthen us, and exalt us to that place where our Savior Christ has gone before; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, in glory everlasting. *Amen.*

The New Testament

The Acts of the Apostles 1:6-14

When the apostles had come together, they asked Jesus, “Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?” He replied, “It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”

Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a sabbath day’s journey away. When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where

they were staying, Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

The Psalm

Psalm 68:1-10, 33-36

- 1 Let God arise, and let his enemies be scattered; *
let those who hate him flee before him.
- 2 Let them vanish like smoke when the wind drives it away; *
as the wax melts at the fire, so let the wicked perish at the presence of God.
- 3 But let the righteous be glad and rejoice before God; *
let them also be merry and joyful.
- 4 Sing to God, sing praises to his Name;
exalt him who rides upon the heavens; *
YAHWEH is his Name, rejoice before him!
- 5 Father of orphans, defender of widows, *
God in his holy habitation!
- 6 God gives the solitary a home and brings forth prisoners into freedom; *
but the rebels shall live in dry places.
- 7 O God, when you went forth before your people, *
when you marched through the wilderness,
- 8 The earth shook, and the skies poured down rain,
at the presence of God, the God of Sinai, *
at the presence of God, the God of Israel.
- 9 You sent a gracious rain, O God, upon your inheritance; *
you refreshed the land when it was weary.
- 10 Your people found their home in it; *
in your goodness, O God, you have made provision for the poor.

33 Sing to God, O kingdoms of the earth; *
sing praises to the Lord.

34 He rides in the heavens, the ancient heavens; *
he sends forth his voice, his mighty voice.

35 Ascribe power to God; *
his majesty is over Israel;
his strength is in the skies.

36 How wonderful is God in his holy places! *
the God of Israel giving strength and power to his people!
Blessed be God!

The New Testament Epistle

1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11

Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that is taking place among you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice insofar as you are sharing Christ's sufferings, so that you may also be glad and shout for joy when his glory is revealed. If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the spirit of glory, which is the Spirit of God, is resting on you.

Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt you in due time. Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you. Discipline yourselves, keep alert. Like a roaring lion your adversary the devil prowls around, looking for someone to devour. Resist him, steadfast in your faith, for you know that your brothers and sisters in all the world are undergoing the same kinds of suffering. And after you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, support, strengthen, and establish you. To him be the power forever and ever. Amen.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Sequence Hymn

“They’ll Know We are Christians”

Maroon Hymnal 728

The Gospel

John 17:1-11

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

Glory to you, Lord Christ

Jesus looked up to heaven and said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed.

"I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one."

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

“At the Name of Jesus” vs. 1 and 4

Blue Hymnal 435

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

“We Remember, We Believe” vs. 1

Maroon Hymnal 836

Post Eucharistic Prayer

Book of Common Prayer p. 366

Recessional Hymn

“I Sing the Almighty Power of God”

Blue Hymnal 398

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 if not receiving 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, Bryan Knight, Phoebe Montagna, Alessandra Myers, Shana Paul, Sydney Rudolph, Linda Sawyer, Diane Shephard, Doug Thompson, Courtney Wheeler, 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 Sherlyn Horton (5/17), Donna Killmon (5/17), Robin Kruger (5/19), and Elizabeth Huddle (5/22).

We give thanks for our lawn teams.

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 **Zachary Myers** for playing the piano for us this morning!

Join us immediately following service today for the Annual Meeting and Town Hall Event Breakfast 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 be talking about the CAT (Congregational Assessment Tool) interpretation as well as seeking 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.

Breakfast with Jesus - Beginning today and through the summer, adults will gather at 9am for coffee and goodies to discuss the scripture for the day. We will have a nursery from 9-11am all summer. We will not have Godly Play until the fall.

Food Pantry Sundays – A Message from Carol Evans: The food pantry is slowing slightly, but with the current economic situation, we may be serving more neighbors soon. Our current budget is tight, and we would certainly be short were it not for the generous support of the Pamunkey community. Please consider donating funds or non-

perishable food to our continuing mission on the last Sunday of the month, Food Pantry Sunday. You may designate contributions to Ascension Food Pantry. Also, there is a bin in the Narthex where you may place non-perishable items. We will continue this observance, even though I will be ending my leadership term on June 1st. It's been the best job ever! You meet a lot of fantastic people and work with some of the most amazing workers. If you want to join in on the fun, please call or text me at my number on the back of the bulletin.

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.

Office Closure: The office will be closed on Monday, May 25th in observance of Memorial Day.

The Juliets will meet for lunch at Guads Mexican Restaurant (7515 Granby Street, Norfolk, VA, 23505) on Friday, May 29th at 11:30am. Please RSVP by calling or texting Donna Killmon at 757-270-5094. Thank you!

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

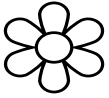
Questions – contact Canon Lynn Farlin at 757-676-6188 or lfarlin@diosova.org



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 tomorrow 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).

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 of 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 or 757-617-1959.

Meeting ID: 832 5615 4914 **Passcode:** 614216

A Look at the Week Ahead:

Monday

12:30pm Outreach Committee Meeting – Conference Room

Tuesday

7:30 am Centering Prayer – Zoom

10:00 am Food Pantry – Pantry

11:30 am Buildings & Grounds – Rose Hall

7:00 pm Vestry Meeting – Conference Room

Thursday

10:00 am Food Pantry – Pantry

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

12:00 pm Re-Imagining Church – Zoom

Sunday

9:00 am Breakfast with Jesus – Hall for Coffee Then Lounge
(Nursery from 9-11am)

10:00 am Pentecost Service – Sanctuary

Reception following with your traditional finger foods in Rose Hall.

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
Anji Harris+	2023-2026	Anjiharris54@gmail.com	757.831.3474
Pat Duncan	2023-2026	Patlduncan2020@gmail.com	478.777.0904
Karen Newbern^	2024-2027	newby0325@gmail.com	757.685.6935
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Robin Kruger	2025-2028	Rekruger54@gmail.com	757.470.9882

*Senior Warden +Junior Warden ^Register

Clergy

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

Guest Pianist Zachary Myers

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