



**EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION**

Fourth Sunday in Lent, Year A  
Holy Eucharist Rite II  
10 am  
March 15, 2026

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

# ORDER OF SERVICE

Prelude

Processional Hymn

“Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days”

*Blue Hymnal 142*

**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.

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**

Gracious Father, whose blessed Son Jesus Christ came down from heaven to be the true bread which gives life to the world: Evermore give us this bread, that he may live in us, and we in him; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

**Old Testament**

**1 Samuel 16: 1-13**

The Lord said to Samuel, “How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons.” Samuel said, “How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me.” And the Lord said, “Take a heifer with you, and say, ‘I have come to sacrifice to the Lord.’ Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you.” Samuel did what the Lord commanded, and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling, and said, “Do you come peaceably?” He said, “Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the Lord; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice.” And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, "Surely the Lord's anointed is now before the Lord." But the Lord said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the Lord does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart." Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. He said, "Neither has the Lord chosen this one." Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, "Neither has the Lord chosen this one." Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, "The Lord has not chosen any of these." Samuel said to Jesse, "Are all your sons here?" And he said, "There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep." And Samuel said to Jesse, "Send and bring him; for we will not sit down until he comes here." He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and had beautiful eyes, and was handsome. The Lord said, "Rise and anoint him; for this is the one." Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the presence of his brothers; and the spirit of the Lord came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

The Word of the Lord

*Thanks be to God*

The Psalm

Psalm 23

- 1 The LORD is my shepherd; \*  
I shall not be in want.
- 2 He makes me lie down in green pastures \*  
and leads me beside still waters.
- 3 He revives my soul \*  
and guides me along right pathways for his Name's sake.
- 4 Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,  
I shall fear no evil; \*  
for you are with me;  
your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

5 You spread a table before me in the presence of those who  
trouble me; \*  
you have anointed my head with oil,  
and my cup is running over.

6 Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me all the  
days of my life, \*  
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.

**The New Testament**

**Ephesians 5:8-14**

Once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light— for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly; but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says,

“Sleeper, awake!  
Rise from the dead,  
and Christ will shine on you.”

The Word of the Lord

*Thanks be to God*

Sequence Hymn

“Amazing Grace”

*Blue Hymnal 671*

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

*Glory to you, Lord Christ*

As Jesus walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him. We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes, saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, "Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?" Some were saying, "It is he." Others were saying, "No, but it is someone like him." He kept saying, "I am the man." But they kept asking him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" He answered, "The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' Then I went and washed and received my sight." They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know."

They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, "He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see." Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not observe the sabbath." But others said, "How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?" And they were divided. So they said again to the blind man, "What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened." He said, "He is a prophet."

The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" His parents answered, "We know that this is our son, and that he was born

blind; but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself." His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him."

So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, "Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner." He answered, "I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see." They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" He answered them, "I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?" Then they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from." The man answered, "Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing." They answered him, "You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?" And they drove him out.

Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" He answered, "And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him." Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he." He said, "Lord, I believe." And he worshiped him. Jesus said, "I came into this world for judgment so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind." Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him, "Surely we are not blind, are we?" Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, 'We see,' your sin remains."

The Gospel of the Lord

*Praise to you, Lord Christ.*

Sermon

*The Reverend Mimi Lacy*

Nicene Creed

*Book of Common Prayer p. 358*

Prayers of the People Form IV

*Book of Common Prayer p. 388*

## **The Prayer of the Search Committee**

(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.

The Peace

*Book of Common Prayer p. 360*

## *Holy Communion*

Offertory

“The Lord My God My Shepherd Is” vs. 1-3      *Blue Hymnal 663*

Eucharistic Prayer C      *Book of Common Prayer p. 369*

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 Hymn

“Let Thy Blood In Mercy Poured” vs. 1-2      *Blue Hymnal 313*

Post Eucharistic Prayer      *Book of Common Prayer p. 365*

Recessional Hymn

“Now Quit Your Care” vs. 1, 2, and 4      *Blue Hymnal 145*

Dismissal      *Book of Common Prayer p. 366*

Postlude

# *In Our Prayers*

Joe Beck, Susan Beers, Gloria Carter, Billy Clark, Linda Day, Marilyn Doughty, Elaine Evans, Diane Forrest, Kate Hien, Rebecca Hirschler, Katie Hughes, Donna Killmon, Bryan Knight, Pam Maihafer, Phoebe Montagna, Shana Paul, Sydney Rudolph, Diane Shephard, Doug Thompson, and Margaret Wynn.

We pray for Sean our Presiding Bishop, Susan our Bishop, and Mimi, 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 birthday of George Maihafer (3/16).

We give thanks for those who serve on Altar Guild.

## **The Prayer of the Search Committee**

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 Mimi Lacy** as our supply celebrant and preacher this morning.

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

**The CHILI COOKOFF is TODAY after the service!**

Please join us after church today to sample the various chili offerings of our talented chefs! Then vote for your favorite to determine this year's winning entry! We are also providing bread and desserts.

**The Juliets will meet for lunch at Franco's** (6200 N. Military Highway Norfolk, VA, 23518) on Friday, March 27<sup>th</sup> at 11:30am. Please RSVP by calling or texting Donna Killmon at 757-270-5094.

**Easter Lilies:** Please keep in mind that we will be welcoming your contributions of Easter Lilies to decorate the altar area for Easter which is three weeks away. Please plan to deliver them by 10am on Saturday morning April 4th.

**Communion Wine Replenishing:** The Altar Guild noted that the supply of communion wine is running low and is requesting contributions of Taylor Port. This is the only wine we use. A basket will be in the narthex for your contributions.

**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!

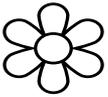
**Facebook Livestream:** Please remember that services are livestreamed to Facebook each week for those who are unable to attend. If you prefer not to appear on the livestream, please choose

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.



## *Sunday Seeds*

Our Outreach Committee has begun the New Year by continuing to share care and support with our surrounding communities.

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

- Each month, members of our church family lovingly prepare 100 sandwiches, which are delivered to Catholic Family Worker for distribution to those experiencing homelessness.
- On Thursday, March 12th, lunch was provided for students at Canterbury House ODU.

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 *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=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.

**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

7:00 pm Vesty 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**

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

4:00 pm Youth Group – 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	<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 Mimi Lacy

**Guest Pianist** Zachary Myers

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