



EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION

Fourth Sunday of Easter, Year A
Holy Eucharist Rite II
10 am
April 26, 2026

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

ORDER OF SERVICE

THE WORD OF GOD

Prelude

Processional Hymn

“The King of Love My Shepherd Is” vs. 1-3

Blue Hymnal 343

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, whose Son Jesus is the good shepherd of your people: Grant that when we hear his voice we may know him who calls us each by name, and follow where he leads; who, with you and the Holy Spirit, lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

The New Testament

Acts 2:42-47

Those who had been baptized devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

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 Epistle

1 Peter 2:19-25

It is a credit to you if, being aware of God, you endure pain while suffering unjustly. If you endure when you are beaten for doing wrong, what credit is that? But if you endure when you do right and suffer for it, you have God's approval. For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his steps.

“He committed no sin,
and no deceit was found in his mouth.”

When he was abused, he did not return abuse; when he suffered, he did not threaten; but he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly. He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, free from sins, we might live for

righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Sequence Hymn

“My Shepherd Will Supply My Need”

Blue Hymnal 664

The Gospel

John 10:1-10

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

Glory to you, Lord Christ

Jesus said, “Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.” Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

So again Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.”

The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Sermon

The Reverend Canon Carla McCook

Nicene Creed

Book of Common Prayer p. 358

Prayers of the People Form III

Book of Common Prayer p. 387

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.

The Peace

Book of Common Prayer p. 360

Holy Communion

Offertory

“Savior, Like A Shepherd Lead Us” *Blue Hymnal 708*

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 Hymn

“Shepherd of Souls, Refresh and Bless” vs. 1-3 *Blue Hymnal 343*

Post Eucharistic Prayer *Book of Common Prayer p. 366*

Recessional Hymn

“Praise My Soul the King of Heaven” *Blue Hymnal 410*

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, 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 Shephard, Doug Thompson, and Margaret Wynn.

We pray for Sean our Presiding Bishop, Susan our Bishop, and Carla, 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 Tim Westfall (4/27) and Pam Todesco (5/1).

We give thanks for the anniversaries of Mark & Courtney Wheeler (4/27) and Cindy & Michael Jones (5/1).

We give thanks for those who keep the church's finances in order.

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 Canon Carla McCook as our supply celebrant and preacher this morning.

We give thanks to Karla Stead for playing the piano for us this morning!

The Annual Meeting will be held after the service on Sunday, May 17th with food provided. The Vestry will present a brief report on the state of the congregation and hold the election for the congregation to vote for the new members. This is an exciting time to be a Vestry member!

To provide stability and continuity while seeking a Priest in Charge and for the beginning of that person's term, the current Vestry has agreed to extend their time of service for an additional year. However, *the Vestry is also welcoming the opportunity to increase their numbers.* If you are interested in being on the Vestry, please contact Senior Warden Susan Meredith or Junior Warden Anji Harris.

Chanco Chatter

EYC Spring Weekend: Friday, May 1st at 7:30pm-Sunday, May 3rd at 11am

Youth in grades 6-12 (and their adult leaders) are invited to gather for a weekend of fun & fellowship exploring what it means that Christ is our Cornerstone, and He is the Way, the Truth, and the Life.

Participants will stay in the summer camp chalets and have the opportunity to grow their faith & take advantage of Chanco summer camp activities. To learn more, visit <https://chanco.org/event/eyc-spring-weekend-2026/>

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/>

PLANNING OUR FUTURE TOGETHER

We have invited you to complete the Church Assessment Tool (CAT), an on-line instrument that will help leaders gauge the strength, vitality, and trends in our church. The information gained from this assessment will be valuable in helping the leaders of the Church of the Ascension as they make decisions about the future of the Church of the Ascension.

On April 13th, you should have received an email with a unique link to the CAT. We are asking you to go online by clicking on the link provided and tell us about your experiences and priorities for our church. Please do not discuss the survey or your answers with others as this may influence their answers.

All answers are strictly anonymous. We have no way of matching any assessment to a particular person, so please feel free to candidly share your perceptions, opinions, and experiences. Our future together is dependent on your participation and honest answers.

If you have questions, please contact Kristan Huddle; kihuddle@gmail or text 757-580-5837.

Thank you,

The Search Team (Kristan Huddle, Courtney Wheeler, Karen Newbern, Pat Duncan, Sherylyn Horton, and Bill Willey, alternate)

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

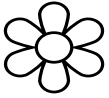
Questions – contact Canon Lynn Farlin at 757-676-6188 or lfarlin@diosova.org



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

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).

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 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

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	merbec@cox.net	757.617.1959
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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 Canon Carla McCook
Canon to the Ordinary

Guest Pianist Karla Stead

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