



**Welcome to
The Episcopal Church of The Ascension
Vestavia Hills, AL**

Making Christ Known by our Love for All

**The Holy Eucharist | Rite II
Fourth Sunday after Pentecost
June 21, 2026 | 10:30 a.m.**

For a hearing assistance device, please ask an usher.

PRELUDE: *Andante, Three Liturgical Improvisations*

George Oldroyd

THE WORD OF GOD

HYMN: *Christ for the world we sing!*

Hymnal 537

OPENING ACCLAMATION

BCP 355

Celebrant says Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
People And blessed be his kingdom, now and forever. Amen.

The Celebrant continues.

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Children ages 3k to 3rd grade are invited to follow the cross to Children's Chapel. They will return at the Peace.

GLORIA

Hymnal S 280

COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People *And also with you.*
Celebrant Let us pray.

O Lord, make us have perpetual love and reverence for your holy Name, for you never fail to help and govern those whom you have set upon the sure foundation of your loving-kindness; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Please be seated.

THE LESSONS

A READING FROM JEREMIAH 20:7-13

O LORD, you have enticed me,
 and I was enticed;
you have overpowered me,
 and you have prevailed.
I have become a laughingstock all day long;
 everyone mocks me.
For whenever I speak, I must cry out,
 I must shout, "Violence and destruction!"
For the word of the LORD has become for me
 a reproach and derision all day long.
If I say, "I will not mention him,
 or speak any more in his name,"
then within me there is something like a burning fire
 shut up in my bones;
I am weary with holding it in,
 and I cannot.
For I hear many whispering:
 "Terror is all around!"
Denounce him! Let us denounce him!"
 All my close friends
 are watching for me to stumble.
"Perhaps he can be enticed,
 and we can prevail against him,
 and take our revenge on him."
But the LORD is with me like a dread warrior;
 therefore my persecutors will stumble,
 and they will not prevail.
They will be greatly shamed,
 for they will not succeed.
Their eternal dishonor
 will never be forgotten.
O LORD of hosts, you test the righteous,
 you see the heart and the mind;
let me see your retribution upon them,
 for to you I have committed my cause.

Sing to the LORD;
praise the LORD!
For he has delivered the life of the needy
from the hands of evildoers.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

PSALM 69: 8-11, 18-20 *Salvum me fac*

8 Surely, for your sake have I suffered reproach, *
and shame has covered my face.
9 I have become a stranger to my own kindred, *
an alien to my mother's children.
10 Zeal for your house has eaten me up; *
the scorn of those who scorn you has fallen upon me.
11 I humbled myself with fasting, *
but that was turned to my reproach.
19 "Hide not your face from your servant; *
be swift and answer me, for I am in distress.
20 Draw near to me and redeem me; *
because of my enemies deliver me.

A READING FROM ROMANS 6:1b-11

Should we continue in sin in order that grace may abound? By no means! How can we who died to sin go on living in it? Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.

For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be destroyed, and we might no longer be enslaved to sin. For whoever has died is freed from sin. But if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. The death he died, he died to sin, once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Please stand as you are able.

HYMN: O Jesus Christ, may grateful hymns be rising

Hymnal 590

THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MATTHEW 10:24-39

Remain standing.

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

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus said to the twelve disciples, "A disciple is not above the teacher, nor a slave above the master; it is enough for the disciple to be like the teacher, and the slave like the master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household!

“So have no fear of them; for nothing is covered up that will not be uncovered, and nothing secret that will not become known. What I say to you in the dark, tell in the light; and what you hear whispered, proclaim from the housetops. Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell. Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. And even the hairs of your head are all counted. So do not be afraid; you are of more value than many sparrows.

“Everyone therefore who acknowledges me before others, I also will acknowledge before my Father in heaven; but whoever denies me before others, I also will deny before my Father in heaven.

“Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth; I have not come to bring peace, but a sword.

For I have come to set a man against his father,
and a daughter against her mother,
and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law;
and one's foes will be members of one's own household.

Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me; and whoever does not take up the cross and follow me is not worthy of me. Those who find their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it.”

Deacon or Priest The Gospel of the Lord.
People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

SERMON

The Reverend Jack Alvey

THE NICENE CREED

BCP 358

Please stand as you are able.

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. *Amen.*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE FORM VI

BCP 392

The prayers of the people and concluding collect have been adapted in part from the New Zealand prayer book.

Please stand or kneel as you are able.

The Leader and People pray responsively

In peace, we pray to you, Lord God.

Silence.

Eternal and glorious God, you dwell in a high and holy place, yet draw us near in your beloved Son; we humble ourselves before you and pray that we may know your loving presence, Creator, Redeemer, and Life-giver, our one true God for ever.

For all people in their daily life and work;
For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.

For this community, the nation, and the world;
For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.

For the just and proper use of your creation;
For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.

For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble. We lift up the names of those in our parish family for whom intercessions have been requested: Howard Poarch, Devin Dolive, Jill Sidwell, Ruth Snow, Ron and Nancy Rowell, Dick Lounsbury, Cille Spader, Shane Wiley, Paula Stringfellow, Barbara Cochran, Ben Chastain, Donna Miller, and Donna Thompson. We pray also for the friends and family of this parish who have been added to the parish prayer list;
For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.

For the peace and unity of the Church of God. We pray especially for our Companion Diocese of Honduras, and for Lloyd, their bishop; We pray for St. Paul's parishes in Greensboro, Lowndesboro, Minter and Selma, for St. Simon-Peter, Pell City, and for St. Peter's, Talladega; we pray also for the Ministry of the University of the South, for the college, seminary and for Education for Ministry; for the Church of South India;. Through faith, we are all children of God in unison with Christ Jesus;
For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.

For Sean, our presiding bishop, Glenda, our bishop, Richard our bishop-elect, for Sarah, Archbishop of Canterbury, and all bishops and other ministers;
For all who serve God in his Church.

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation.

Silence

The People may add their own petitions.

Hear us Lord;
For your mercy is great.

We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life. We pray especially for those celebrating birthdays and anniversaries this week.

Silence

We will exalt you, O God our King;
And praise your Name for ever and ever.

We pray for all who have died, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom.

Silence

Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon them;
Who put their trust in you.

We pray to you also for the forgiveness of our sins.

Silence may be kept.

Leader and People

Have mercy on us, most merciful Father;
in your compassion forgive us our sins,
known and unknown,
things done and left undone;
and so uphold us by you Spirit
that we may live and serve you in newness of life,
to the honor and glory of your Name;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

The Bishop, when present, or the Priest, stands and says

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

THE PEACE

Celebrant: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: And also with you.

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE HOLY COMMUNION

OFFERTORY: *Christ be with me*

Noel Rawsthorne



Thank you for your generosity! To find out more about how to further support our commitment to make Christ known by our love for all, visit our website at www.ascensionepiscopal.org.

DOXOLOGY: *Praise God from whom all blessings flow*

Thomas Ken, 1709 Geistliche Kirchengesänge, Cologne, 1623

Praise God from whom all bless-ings flow; praise him, all crea-tures here be - low: Al - le -
lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Praise him a-bove ye heav'n-ly host; praise Fa-ther, Son, and Ho-ly
Ghost: O praise him, O praise him, al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia!

Please stand as you are able.

The Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People *And also with you.*

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People *We lift them to the Lord.*

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People *It is right to give him thanks and praise.*

Then, facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

Here a Proper Preface is sung or said on all Sundays, and on other occasions as appointed.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who forever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

SANCTUS

Hymnal S 129

Please stand or kneel as you are able.

Then the Celebrant continues

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself, and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

At the following words concerning the bread, the Celebrant is to hold it, or to lay a hand upon it; and at the words concerning the cup, to hold or place a hand upon the cup and any other vessel containing wine to be consecrated.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Celebrant and People

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

The Celebrant continues

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. AMEN.

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

People and Celebrant

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

A period of silence is kept.

FRACTION ANTHEM

Hymnal S 163

INVITATION TO HOLY COMMUNION

The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

All baptized persons are invited to receive Holy Communion, though no one will be refused the Sacrament. Anyone may also receive a blessing by crossing their arms over their chest. Communion will be offered in both kinds with bread and wine. Those taking bread alone receive the full Sacrament. To receive wine, drink from the common cup or intinct (dip the bread). Parents may intinct for young children.

After Communion, the Celebrant says

Let us pray.

Enriching Our Worship (EOW)

Celebrant and People

Loving God,
we give you thanks

for restoring us in your image,
and nourishing us with spiritual food,
in the Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood.
Now send us forth
a people, forgiven, healed, renewed;
that we may proclaim your love to the world
and continue in the risen life
of Christ our Savior. *Amen.*

BLESSING

RECESSIONAL HYMN: *Take up your cross, the Savior said*

Hymnal 675

THE DISMISSAL

Celebrant Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.
People Thanks be to God.

The flowers were given to the Glory of God by Len Skelton in loving memory of Ann Skelton.

If you wish to donate flowers for future Sundays in memory or honor of a loved one, sign up online or contact the office.

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CHILDREN'S BLESSING BAGS

The blue cloth bags in the Narthex contain quiet ways for young children to engage with the stories of our faith. Please feel free to borrow a bag and a book for your children during the service.

ADDITIONAL PRAYERS

Family and Friends of this Parish: Maria, Joe, John, Nova, Judy, Dennis, Bob, Gordon, Maria, Bretton, Amy, Livia and her baby, Linda, Tony and Rachel, Rosalie, Nancy, Peggy, Mark, Linda, Lyn, Will, Glenda, Rick, Ginger, Jane, Mimi, Billy, Terry, Terriann, Paula, Doug, Lance, Ralph, Ron, Virginia, Mary and Van

Celebrating Birthdays This Week: Sarah Parker, Liam Dews, James Young, Mary Elizabeth Jourdan, Shep Mims, Matt Tackett, Lars Porter, Helen Dolive and Sloane Sinor

Celebrating Anniversaries This Week: Mary Anne & Jon Hornbuckle, Rebecca & Ryan Posey, Ruth & David Snow, Stacey & Vaughn Sparks, Martha & Bill Oyston, and Mary Elaine & Ben Mims

Prayer requests will remain on prayer list for 2 weeks unless otherwise noted.

weekly announcements

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION
Making Christ Known by our Love for All



The Fourth Sunday After Pentecost | June 21, 2026

On the Road Again Podcast Series | June 23

Tune in *Tuesday* for the third episode of our Summer podcast series, "On the Road Again." We will wrestle with questions about our faith and offer different perspectives, encouraging you to think deeply and strengthen your spiritual life on the road! Listen in the car, on your run or walk, in the gym, or while doing housework/ yard-work. There will be six-episodes. Tomorrow, The Revs, Jack and Emily, will be answering the question, "Who was Jesus, really? And why did he have to die?" Listen on Spotify, Apple Podcasts, Amazon Music or find the link on our website.

Men's Fireside Chat | June 23

Join us for the men's fireside chat on the Ware Hall patio this Tuesday from 7:30-9:00pm. Please contact Martin Hoerner, mhoerner@gmail.com, if you have any questions.

Parish Game Night | June 24

All are invited to Parish Game Night at Ascension. We'll enjoy a pizza dinner together and play games suitable for ALL AGES, and close the evening with An Order for Compline (BCP 127). Enjoy a summer night out with your Ascension family on Wednesday, June 24 from 6-8pm! RSVP in Realm or email Ashley Monachelli (Ashley.monachelli@ascensionepiscopal.org).

EYC Hike at Oak Mountain | June 28

EYC is going to Oak Mountain State Park on June 28th! All rising 6th-12th graders are invited. We will leave immediately after the 10:30 service and will be back at the church by 3:30pm. Register in Realm or email Sam Herman (sam.herman@ascensionepiscopal.org).

Pier 60+ 4th of July Celebration | July 4

All of those in the Pier 60+ group are invited to join us for food, fellowship and fireworks at the home of Carolyn Woodson on July 4th from 6-10pm. Please bring a lawn chair and a side, appetizer, or dessert dish to share. RSVP in Realm or to Margaret Handlin at 205-901-9003. More details can be found in the group on Realm! Please email Olivia (olivia.sheffield@ascensionepiscopal.org) with any questions.

Ascension Family Night at Regions Field | July 17

Come watch the Barons play the Trash Pandas on Friday, July 17, 7pm, at Regions Field! All are welcome! Tickets cost \$15. Register and pay in Realm or email Olivia (olivia.sheffield@ascensionepiscopal.org).

Help Make Crafts for Godly Play | July 22

Joyfully create with us for Godly Play, a Sunday school class for children ages 3K to 2nd Grade. As we prepare for next year, we need your help to make new materials for Godly Play. Join us on Wednesday, July 22, from 6:30-8:00pm. Bring a snack to share! RSVP in Realm and email Ashley (ashley.monachelli@ascensionepiscopal.org) with any questions!

Club 345 & EYC at Vestavia Bowl | July 28

Round out your Summer with a fun night of cosmic bowling! EYC and Club 345 are going to Vestavia Bowl on Friday, July 28th! All rising 3rd - 12th graders are invited. Register in Realm and email Olivia (olivia.sheffield@ascensionepiscopal.org) with any questions.

News & Notes

Giving Hope June

Let's make a difference by spreading joy through generosity. This June we are collecting for **The Abbey**, and we need your help. Please consider signing up to donate supplies via Amazon Wish List by following the QR Code Go to our website to find out more information and contact olivia.sheffield@ascensionepiscopal.org with any questions.



Women's Bible Study Summer Break

The Tuesday Women's Bible Study will not meet during the month of June. We will return to our weekly Tuesday meetings on July 7th. Contact The Rev. Emily Collette at emily.collette@ascensionepiscopal.org with any questions.

Cursillo

Consider attending Cursillo at Camp McDowell. The next weekend will be held in the Fall, October 8–11. Each retreat includes worship, study, fellowship, and fun. There is no cost to attend. If you're interested, contact marybethbasu@gmail.com or Rebecca.p.posey@gmail.com.

Feeding Ministries

Volunteers are always needed for our feeding ministries. During the school year, help pack and distribute weekend food packs for local students. Year-round, **serve our neighbors in Avondale** through sack lunches and breakfast (in partnership with The Abbey), and help provide a monthly meal for the women and children at First Light Shelter. To get involved, contact The Rev. Emily Collette at emily.collette@ascensionepiscopal.org.

Help Prevent the Spread of Ebola

The Episcopal Relief and Development are collecting funds to help prevent the spread of Ebola in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, "The communities most impacted by the outbreak are those that have already been displaced by internal conflict. In addition to developing health infrastructure to detect illness earlier and prevent the spread of diseases within internally displaced communities, we are also bolstering the Anglican Church of the Congo as they continue to support displaced people with financial training, agricultural tools and supplies, and water, hygiene and sanitation projects." Scan the QR Code on the right or visit <https://www.episcopalrelief.org/> to donate. If you have any questions, contact The Rev. Emily Collette at emily.collette@ascensionepiscopal.org.



Scan to see announcements on website



CLERGY

The Right Reverend Glenda S. Curry, Bishop of Alabama
The Reverend John “Jack” T. Alvey, Jr., Rector
The Reverend Emily C. Collette, Associate Rector

STAFF

Holly DuBois, Bookkeeper
Sam Herman, Youth Minister
Martin Hoerner, Sexton
Tiffany Jones, Nursery
Kathy Lounsbury, Senior Life Minister
Ashley Monachelli, Director of Family Ministries
Paige Reese, Nursery
Olivia Hill Sheffield, Parish Office Manager
Michael G. Sparks, Organist & Choirmaster
Karyn Watts, Finance & Database Officer

ASCENSION EPISCOPAL DAY SCHOOL

Rebecca Posey, Director
Kelly Gould, Assistant Director

VESTRY

Elizabeth Tanner, Sr. Warden (2026); Tim Burke (2027) and Ben Mims (2028), Jr. Wardens

Kelly Gould (2026); Caralyn McDaniel (2026); Melanie Lee (2026)
Shannon George (2027); Ryan Posey (2027); CJ Searcy (2027)
Justice Allen (2028); Brian Denton (2028); Merry Michael Smith (2028)

Len Skelton, Treasurer; Jeff Lees, Assistant Treasurer
Today’s Vestry Person of the Day (VPOD) – Merry Michael Smith



Episcopal Church of the Ascension
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