



The Episcopal Church of the Ascension

Hickory, NC

August 2, 2026—10:30 a.m. | Tenth Sunday after Pentecost
+ The Holy Eucharist, Rite II +

Prelude

Opening Sentence

Celebrant: "O send out thy light and thy truth, that they may lead me, and bring me unto thy holy hill, and to thy dwelling." Psalm 43:3

Hymn #48 "O day of radiant gladness"

ES FLOG EIN KLEINS WALDVÖGELEIN

Opening Acclamation

Celebrant: Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit

People: And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

Celebrant: 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.**

Hymn of Praise #421 "All glory be to God on high"

ALLEIN GOTT IN DER HÖH

1 All glo - ry be to God on high, and peace on earth from
2 O Lamb of God, Lord Je - sus Christ, whom God the Fa - ther
3 You on - ly are the Ho - ly One, who came for our sal -

hea - ven, and God's good will un - fail - ing - ly be
gave us, who for the world was sac - ri - ficed up -
va - tion, and on - ly you are God's true Son, who

to all peo - ple giv - en. We bless, we wor - ship you, we raise for
on the cross to save us; and, as you sit at God's right hand and
was be - fore cre - a - tion. You on - ly, Christ, as Lord we own and,

your great glo - ry thanks and praise, O God, Al - might - y Fa - ther.
we for judg - ment there must stand, have mer - cy, Lord, up - on us.
with the Spi - rit, you a - lone share in the Fa - ther's glo - ry.

Words: Nikolaus Decius (1490?-1541); tr. F. Bland Tucker (1895-1984), rev.; para. of *Gloria in excelsis*. Copyright © The Church Pension Fund. Music: *Allein Gott in der Höh*, melody att. Nikolaus Decius (1490?-1541); harm. Hieronymus Praetorius (1560?-1629).

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Let us pray.

Let your continual mercy, O Lord, cleanse and defend your Church; and, because it cannot continue in safety without your help, protect and govern it always by your goodness; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The First Reading

Isaiah 55:1-5

Lector: A reading from the book of Isaiah.

Thus says the LORD:

"Ho, everyone who thirsts,
come to the waters;

and you that have no money,
come, buy and eat!

Come, buy wine and milk
without money and without price.

Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread,
and your labor for that which does not satisfy?

Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good,
and delight yourselves in rich food.

Incline your ear, and come to me;
listen, so that you may live.

I will make with you an everlasting covenant,
my steadfast, sure love for David.

See, I made him a witness to the peoples,
a leader and commander for the peoples.

See, you shall call nations that you do not know,
and nations that do not know you shall run to you,
because of the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel,
for he has glorified you."

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 145:8-9, 15-22

Exaltabo te, Deus

8 The LORD is gracious and full of compassion, *
slow to anger and of great kindness.

9 The LORD is loving to everyone *
and his compassion is over all his works.

15 The LORD upholds all those who fall; *
he lifts up those who are bowed down.

16 The eyes of all wait upon you, O LORD, *
and you give them their food in due season.

17 You open wide your hand *
and satisfy the needs of every living creature.

18 The LORD is righteous in all his ways *

and loving in all his works.
 19 The LORD is near to those who call upon him, *
 to all who call upon him faithfully.
 20 He fulfills the desire of those who fear him; *
 he hears their cry and helps them.
 21 The LORD preserves all those who love him, *
 but he destroys all the wicked.
 22 My mouth shall speak the praise of the LORD; *
 let all flesh bless his holy Name for ever and ever.

The Second Reading

Romans 9:1-5

Lector: A reading from Paul's letter to the Romans.

I am speaking the truth in Christ-- I am not lying; my conscience confirms it by the Holy Spirit-- I have great sorrow and unceasing anguish in my heart. For I could wish that I myself were accursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my own people, my kindred according to the flesh. They are Israelites, and to them belong the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the worship, and the promises; to them belong the patriarchs, and from them, according to the flesh, comes the Messiah, who is over all, God blessed forever. Amen.

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sequence Hymn #472 "Hope of the world, thou Christ of great compassion" (sts. 1-3) **DONNE SECOURS**

The Gospel

Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

Lector: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus put before the crowds another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches."

He told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened."

"The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

"Have you understood all this?" They answered, "Yes." And he said to them, "Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old."

Lector: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Sequence Hymn #472 “Hope of the world, thou Christ of great compassion” (sts. 4-5) DONNE SECOURS

The Sermon

The Rev. Garry Edwards

The Nicene Creed

BCP 358

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 IV*

BCP 388

Leader: Let us pray for the Church and for the world.

Grant, Almighty God, that all who confess your Name may be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world. *Silence*

Lord, in your mercy,

People: Hear our prayer.

Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the ways of justice and peace; that we may honor one another and serve the common good. *Silence*

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Give us all a reverence for the earth as your own creation, that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others and to your honor and glory. *Silence*

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, and grant that we may serve Christ in them, and love one another as he loves us. *Silence*

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of your salvation. *Silence*

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We commend to your mercy all who have died, that your will for them may be fulfilled; and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom. *Silence*

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.

Confession of Sin

Celebrant: Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor. *Silence is kept*

Celebrant & People: Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.

Celebrant: 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.

Then the Ministers and People may greet one another in the name of the Lord. Announcements may then be shared.

+ **THE HOLY EUCHARIST** +

Offertory Sentence

Voluntary at the Offering

Doxology, #11, stanza 4

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise him, all creatures here below;
Praise him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

MORNING HYMN

The Great Thanksgiving

BCP 361

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

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

The Celebrant adds the Proper Preface.

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

Sanctus "Holy, holy, holy Lord"

S-125

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

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.

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:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

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,

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

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept.

Fraction Anthem “Christ our Passover”

S-155

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le -

lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Christ our Pass - o - ver is

sac - ri - ficed for us; There - fore let us keep the feast.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

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.

Communion of the People

All are welcome to receive a blessing if you prefer not to receive communion. Gluten-free wafers are available upon request. Consecrated bread and wine are then distributed to all who desire. While at the altar, a priest will give you a wafer of bread. Wine is available in two ways:

Common Cup—*Drink from the large chalice (it will come first).*

Intinction—*Dip the bread into the wine in the small chalice (it will come last). Do not allow your fingers to touch the wine.*

In One Kind—*You may choose to receive the bread only, which is equal to receiving the bread and the wine.*

Hymns During Communion

#304 “I come with joy to meet my Lord”

LAND OF REST

#309 “O Food to pilgrims given”

O WELT, ICH MUSS DICH LASSEN

Post Communion Prayer

Celebrant and People: Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Blessing

Hymn #690 “Guide me, O thou great Jehovah”

CWM RHONDDA

Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude

If you would like to dedicate the Altar Flowers in memory or honor of someone or an event, please email office@ascensionhickory.org. The donation amount is discretionary; the suggested amount is \$50.

WORSHIP ROSTER

Sunday, August 2

Crucifer/First Server/Chalice: Quintin Knight
OT Reading/Chalice: Dee Hall
Prayers of the People: Erin Schuermeyer
NT Reader: Chad Schuermeyer
Ushers: Dave Zagaroli, Lana Ray
Counters: Sue Shoffner, John Ross
Vestry Contact: Mary Elizabeth Geitner

Sunday, August 9

Crucifer/First Server/Chalice: Quintin Knight
OT Reading/Chalice: Jeff Arditti
Prayers of the People: Michael Deckard
NT Reader: Stephen Williamson
Ushers: Lana Ray, Robert Miller
Counters: Todd Zagaroli, Paul Fogleman
Vestry Contact: Mary Elizabeth Geitner

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Please pray for** Debbie Burch, Sharon Everhart, Jared McVey, Angela Dellinger, Ann Lowery, George Gross, Porter Taylor, Jean Atkin, Jordan Robbins, Mary Snooks, Sara Ruth Halperin, The Sigmon Family, Jean Bolton, Martha Clark, Bobby Regenbogen, and Alice Turner.
- **The 2nd Quarter 2026 Pledge Statements** were emailed on July 1st. If you did not receive your statement or would like a paper statement please contact Diane Vezmar. She can be reached at financeascension@gmail.com.
- **Ascension Church Women** will be meeting on Monday, August 3, at 12:00 and 7:00 PM. Our outreach for the month is furnishing pantry items to Women's Resource. All are welcome to attend.
- **Parish Potluck—August 19 at 6:00 PM** Our next parish potluck dinner will be held on Wednesday, August 19 followed by a fun evening of bingo! Last names beginning A-N please bring a main dish and last names beginning O-Z please bring a dessert. This is just a guide, so please feel free to bring whatever dish is your specialty. We look forward to an evening of fun and fellowship!
- **It's time for our next Multi-Generational Adventure!** We are excited to announce that our next multi-generational adventures will take place on Saturday, August 8th at 8:00 PM. We will be watching the performance by Old Colony Players: "From This Day Forward" at the Fred B. Cranford Amphitheatre. This is an exciting new adventure as we will also be able to support one of our own talented parishioners Brian Costin. Tickets can be purchased at: <https://app.arts-people.com/index.php?actions=10&p=2>
- **Vacation Bible School Continues** VBS is underway and will continue to meet each Sunday through August 16 from 10:30-1:00. Our theme for this year's VBS is "Every Living Thing" where we focus on the beauty of creation, and how all of God's creatures work and exist together to create our beautiful world. If you would like to volunteer or donate food please email Quintin at childrensministry@ascensionhickory.org
- **Our Father's Pavilion—Sunday, August 23** Ascension will be providing breakfast for Our Father's Pavilion. Please help fill the "ToGo" bags by donating fruit, apple sauce cups, Vienna sausages, chicken

or tuna salad lunch kits. We have an excess of sandwich crackers, so please refrain from donating this item this time. For more information contact Kate Esch at 828-244-0884

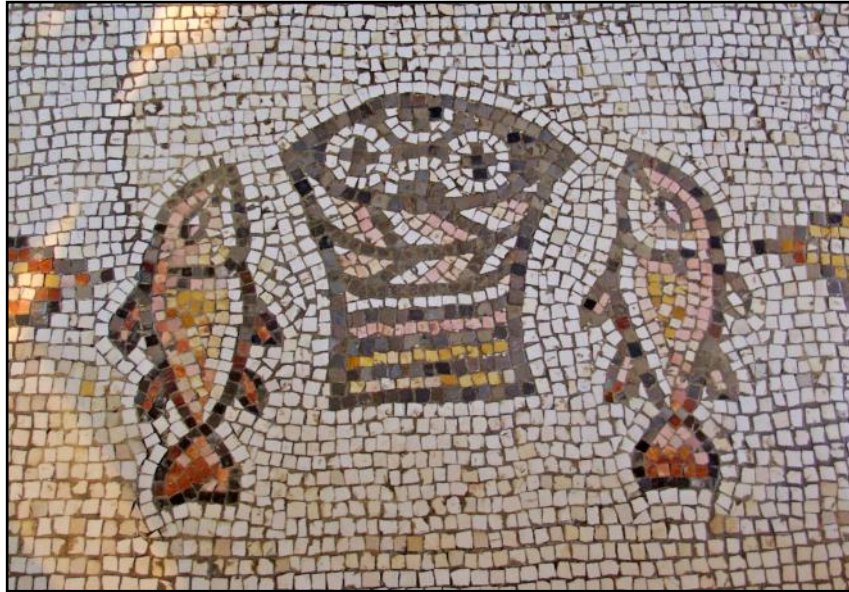
- **The Forward Day by Day for August-September-October has arrived!** The booklet of daily inspirational meditations reflect on a specific Bible passage chosen from the daily lectionary readings. Copies are available in the parish hall lobby. Instead of a printed booklet, you can also view the daily reflection at <https://prayer.forwardmovement.org/fdd>
- **Summer Movies at Ascension—Thursdays, 10:00 AM** Join us for a movie, fellowship, and popcorn. You're welcome to bring a drink or other snacks, and please bring a friend or neighbor. This week's movie: Hamilton (2020; PG-13; 2h 40m -with an intermission).
- **Cookies, Lemonade & Fellowship** Please join us Sundays after the 10:30 AM service for a time of fellowship. If anyone would like to volunteer to host a Sunday, a sign up sheet is located on the bulletin board outside the office.
- **Ascension Cares** is a group of parishioners who make greeting cards at the Tuesday Arts & Crafts gathering. These cards are then sent to individuals within the parish and are also available for purchase. The card display is located in the parish hall near the church office. The proceeds from cards purchased goes to Ascension's Bereavement fund to help pay for reception supplies. Please consider supporting this ministry.
- **Have a pastoral care concern?** Contact Father Garry by email at garry@ascensionhickory.org or by cell phone at 646-232-6916.

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION

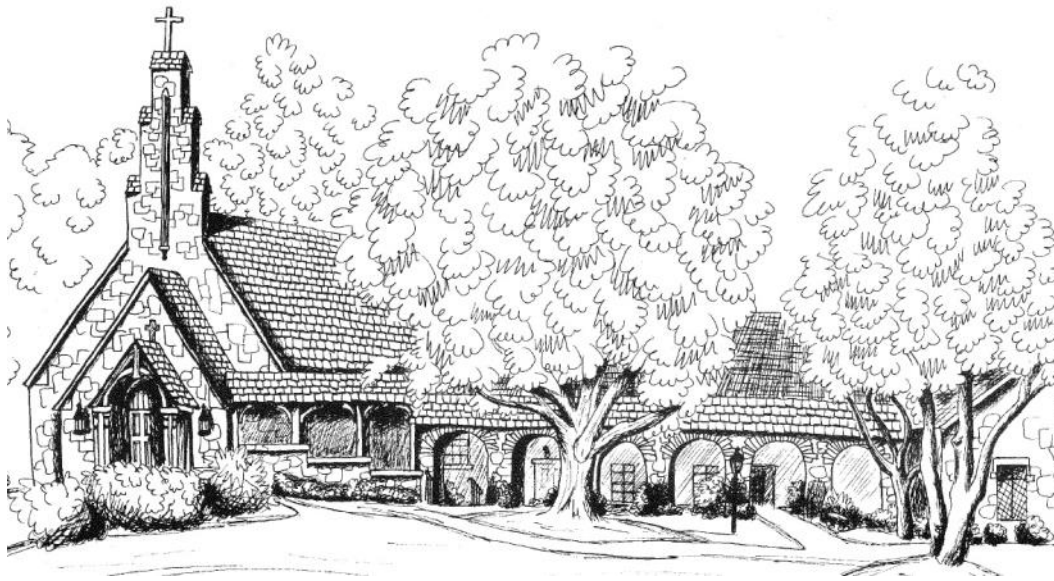
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828-328-5393 | www.ascensionhickory.org | office@ascensionhickory.org

Presiding Bishop	The Most Rev. Sean W. Rowe
Bishop	The Rt. Rev. José A. McLoughlin
Interim Rector	The Rev. Garry Edwards
Director of Music	Cory Westby
Children & Family Ministry Coordinator	Quintin Knight
Parish Administrator	Heather Stone
Bookkeeper	Diane Vezmar



The Bread & the Fish, 5th c.
Tile Mosaic, Church of the Multiplication (Tabgha, Israel)



The Episcopal Church of the Ascension

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