



The Episcopal Church of the Ascension

Hickory, NC

April 19, 2026—10:30 a.m. | Third Sunday of Easter
+ The Holy Eucharist, Rite II +

Prelude

Hymn #492 “Sing, ye faithful, sing with gladness”

FINNIAN

Opening Acclamation

Celebrant: Alleluia. Christ is risen.

People: The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.

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.**

Gloria “Glory to God”

S-280

1. Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and
 peace to his peo - ple on earth. 2. Lord God, heaven - ly
 King, al - mighty God and Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we
 give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry. 3. Lord Je - sus
 Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, 4. you
 take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy
 on us; 5. you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re -
 ceive our prayer. 6. For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One,

Continued next page

you a-lone are the Lord, 7. you a-lone are the Most
High. Je-sus Christ, with the Ho-ly Spi-rit, in the
glo-ry of God the Fa-ther. A-men.

Music: Robert Powell (b. 1932), rev. Setting: Copyright © Church Publishing Inc.

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Let us pray. O God, whose blessed Son made himself known to his disciples in the breaking of bread: Open the eyes of our faith, that we may behold him in all his redeeming work; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The First Reading

Acts 2:14a, 36-41

Lector: A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd, “Let the entire house of Israel know with certainty that God has made him both Lord and Messiah, this Jesus whom you crucified.”

Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and to the other apostles, “Brothers, what should we do?” Peter said to them, “Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him.” And he testified with many other arguments and exhorted them, saying, “Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.” So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added.

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 116:1-3, 10-17

Dilexi, quoniam

*The people sing the verses in **bold type**. The choir sings the verses in regular type.*

1 I love the LORD, because he has heard the voice of my /suppli-/cation, *
because he has inclined his ear to me when/ever I /called up-/on him.
2 The cords of death entangled me;
the grip of the grave took /hold of /me; *
I /came to /grief and /sorrow.

1 I love the LORD, because he has heard the voice of my /suppli-/cation, *

because he has inclined his ear to me when/ever I /called up-/on him.

2 The cords of death entangled me;

the grip of the grave took /hold of /me; *

I /came to /grief and /sorrow.

†3 Then I called upon the /Name of the /LORD: *
 "O LORD, I /pray you, /save my /life."
 10 How shall I re-/pay the /LORD *
 for all the /good things /he has /done for me?
 11 I will lift up the /cup of sal-/vation *
 and call upon the /Näme /of the /LORD.
 12 **I will fulfill my /vows to the /LORD ***
in the presence of all his people.
 13 **Precious in the /sight of the /LORD ***
is the /deäth /of his /servants.
 14 O LORD, /I am your /servant; *
 I am your servant and the child of your handmaid;
 you have /freed me /from my /bonds.
 15 I will offer you the sacrifice of /thänks-/giving *
 and call upon the /Näme /of the /LORD.
 16 **I will fulfill my /vows to the /LORD ***
in the /presence of /all his /people,
 17 **In the courts of the /LORD'S /house, ***
in the midst of you, O Jerusalem.
 /Halle-/lü-/jah!

The Second Reading

1 Peter 1:17-23

Lector: A reading from First Peter.

If you invoke as Father the one who judges all people impartially according to their deeds, live in reverent fear during the time of your exile. You know that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your ancestors, not with perishable things like silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without defect or blemish. He was destined before the foundation of the world, but was revealed at the end of the ages for your sake. Through him you have come to trust in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are set on God.

Now that you have purified your souls by your obedience to the truth so that you have genuine mutual love, love one another deeply from the heart. You have been born anew, not of perishable but of imperishable seed, through the living and enduring word of God.

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sequence Hymn #306 "Come, risen Lord, and deign to be our guest" (St. 1-2) SURSUM CORDA

The Gospel

Luke 24:13-35

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

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Now on that same day two of Jesus' disciples were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. And he said to them, "What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?" They stood still, looking sad. Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, "Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?" He asked them, "What things?" They replied, "The things about Jesus of

Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but they did not see him.” Then he said to them, “Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?” Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.

As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. But they urged him strongly, saying, “Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over.” So he went in to stay with them. When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. They said to each other, “Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?” That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. They were saying, “The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!” Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

Lector: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Sequence Hymn #306 “Come, risen Lord, and deign to be our guest” (St. 3-4) SURSUM CORDA

The Sermon

The Rev. Michael Alford

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.

Peace & Announcements

+ **THE HOLY EUCHARIST** +

Offertory Sentence

Offertory Anthem “This is the feast of victory for our God” Richard Hillert (1923-2010)
The text is found at hymn #417. The people join the choir on the Antiphon where indicated. The antiphon after stanza 3 is omitted.

Doxology

OLD 100TH

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.

The Great Thanksgiving

BCP 372

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 truly right to glorify you, Father, and to give you thanks; for you alone are God, living and true, dwelling in light inaccessible from before time and for ever. Fountain of life and source of all goodness, you made all things and fill them with your blessing; you created them to rejoice in the splendor of your radiance. Countless throngs of angels stand before you to serve you night and day; and, beholding the glory of your presence, they offer you unceasing praise. Joining with them, and giving voice to every creature under heaven, we acclaim you, and glorify your Name, as we sing,

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.

We acclaim you, holy Lord, glorious in power. Your mighty works reveal your wisdom and love. You formed us in your own image, giving the whole world into our care, so that, in obedience to you, our Creator, we might rule and serve all your creatures. When our disobedience took us far from you, you did not abandon us to the power of death. In your mercy you came to our help, so that in seeking you we might find you. Again and again you called us into covenant with you, and through the prophets you taught us to hope for salvation.

Father, you loved the world so much that in the fullness of time you sent your only Son to be our Savior. Incarnate by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, he lived as one of us, yet without sin. To the poor he proclaimed the good news of salvation; to prisoners, freedom; to the sorrowful, joy. To fulfill your purpose he gave himself up to death; and, rising from the grave, destroyed death, and made the whole creation new.

And, that we might live no longer for ourselves, but for him who died and rose for us, he sent the Holy Spirit, his own first gift for those who believe, to complete his work in the world, and to bring to fulfillment the sanctification of all.

When the hour had come for him to be glorified by you, his heavenly Father, having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end; at supper with them he 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."

Father, we now celebrate this memorial of our redemption. Recalling Christ's death and his descent among the dead, proclaiming his resurrection and ascension to your right hand, awaiting his coming in glory; and offering to you, from the gifts you have given us, this bread and this cup, we praise you and we bless you.

We praise you, we bless you, we give thanks to you, and we pray to you, Lord our God.

Lord, we pray that in your goodness and mercy your Holy Spirit may descend upon us, and upon these gifts, sanctifying them and showing them to be holy gifts for your holy people, the bread of life and the cup of salvation, the Body and Blood of your Son Jesus Christ. Grant that all who share this bread and cup may become one body and one spirit, a living sacrifice in Christ, to the praise of your Name.

Remember, Lord, your one holy catholic and apostolic Church, redeemed by the blood of your Christ. Reveal its unity, guard its faith, and preserve it in peace.

Remember Sean our Presiding Bishop, José our own Bishop, and all who minister in your Church.

Remember all your people, and those who seek your truth.

Remember those in positions of authority in this and every land, for Donald our President, Josh our Governor, and Hank our Mayor.

Remember all who have died in the peace of Christ, and those whose faith is known to you alone; bring them into the place of eternal joy and light.

And grant that we may find our inheritance with the patriarchs, prophets, apostles, and martyrs, all the saints who have found favor with you in ages past. We praise you in union with them and give you glory through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, all honor and glory are yours, Almighty God and Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, for ever and 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.

Celebrant: 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

#204 “Now the green blade riseth”

NOËL NOUVELET

#343 “Shepherd of souls, refresh and bless”

ST. AGNES

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 #180 “He is risen, he is risen!”

UNSER HERRSCHER

Dismissal

Let us go forth into the world rejoicing in the power of the Spirit. Alleluia, Alleluia.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia.

Postlude

WORSHIP ROSTER

Sunday, April 19

Crucifer/Chalice: Suzanne Trollan

First Server/Chalice: Quintin Knight

OT Reader/Chalice: JoAnne Reising

Prayers of the People: Suzanne Fogleman

NT Reader: Rebecca Alford

Ushers: Lana Ray, Sue Shoffner

Children’s Chapel: Kathryn Carter, Erin Schuermeyer

Breakfast: Andrea Compton & Tony Clay

Counters: Sue Shoffner, John Ross

Vestry Contact: Kathryn Carter

Sunday, April 26

Crucifer/Chalice: Bob Meek

First Server/Chalice: Melissa Costin

OT Reader/Chalice: Tamara Morgan

NT Reader: Sue Shoffner

Ushers: Robert Miller, Sarah Peters

Children’s Chapel: Elizabeth Arditti, Alice Bishopric

Breakfast: *Volunteer Needed*

Counters: Todd Zagaroli, Paul Fogleman

Vestry Contact: Kathryn Carter

ANNOUNCEMENTS

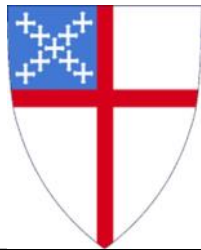
- **Please pray for** Angela Dellinger, Ann Lowery, George Gross, Porter Taylor, Claudia Earle, Jean Atkin, the Evans family, Jordan Robbins, Mary Snooks, Sara Ruth Halperin, Sue Huffman, The Sigmon Family, Jean Bolton, Martha Clark, Dan Meyer, Bobby Regenbogen, Dayle and Linda Smith, and Alice Turner.
- **Have you completed the Parish Survey?** The survey is a vital step in preparing our parish profile for the search for our next rector. We need your feedback! Please complete the survey online through our website, or request a paper copy from the church office, and submit responses by Friday, April 24.
- **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.
- **First Quarter 2026 Pledge Statements** were emailed or mailed via the USPS on April 3rd. If you did not receive your statement or would like a statement please contact Diane Vezmar at financeascension@gmail.com.
- **An Evening with Elaine Pagels Livestreamed** All are welcome to join us for a livestream event in the Parish Hall on Monday, April 20 at 7:00 PM as Washington National Cathedral Dean Randy Hollerith welcomes acclaimed historian and author Elaine Pagels to the Cathedral for a discussion on history and theology through her newest book, *Miracles and Wonder: The Historical Mystery of Jesus*. Dr. Pagels, a renowned scholar of early Christian texts and award-winning author, brings decades of teaching experience and groundbreaking research to this engaging conversation.
- **Theology for Thirsty Souls—Thursday, April 23 at 7:00 PM** All are welcome to gather with Michael Deckard in the parlor for a casual theological discussion about "Learning From Now: How the Church can Reclaim Its Identity as a Politically Weighted Body Separate From the State". All are welcome to bring your favorite beverage or spirit/mix.
- **Family Game Night** Come have some fun with your Ascension family at our first multi-generational event taking place Saturday, April 25th from 5:00-7:00 PM in the parish hall. A variety of games will be available for all ages to enjoy. Pizza will be provided. Please feel free to bring your favorite game to share with others!
- **The *Forward Day by Day* for May-June-July 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 view the daily reflection at <https://prayer.forwardmovement.org/fdd> or you can sign up to have the daily reflection emailed to you each day at <https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/su/tL0oK4F/email>.
- **Centro Latino** is in need of volunteer tutors from 5:00-6:00 PM Mondays-Fridays. If you are interested applications are available in the office. Please see Karla Blakey for any questions.
- **Vintage Cookbook Pre-Order** The Ascension Church Women are selling the vintage cookbook,

Favorite Fare for Hickory Chair. A sign-up sheet has been posted on the bulletin board outside the church office for anyone who would like to pre-order a copy. Copies will be \$10 each. If you are interested in receiving one, please add your name to the list so we can be sure to order enough for everyone.

- **Men's Morning Coffee and Prayer Group** All men are invited to a weekly Coffee & Prayer morning gathering on Thursdays at 6:30 AM in the Chapel. Come enjoy fellowship, coffee, and prayer as we start the day together. If you have any questions, contact Lee Blessum at 828-320-9242 or Michael Deckard at 828-228-1331.
- **Wednesday Walking Group** Join us Wednesday mornings at 7:00 AM and 8:00 AM as we enjoy a refreshing time of exercise and fellowship. Come for one time or both, all are welcome.
- **The Thursday Morning Book Discussion** Please join us on Thursdays from 10:00-11:30 AM in the large conference room as we discuss the book, "Miracles and Wonder: The Historical Mystery of Jesus" by Elaine Pagels.
- **Have a pastoral care concern?** Contact Father Mike by email at mike@ascensionhickory.org or by cell phone at 813-786-6307.



Rembrandt (1606-1669)
Supper at Emmaus, 1648

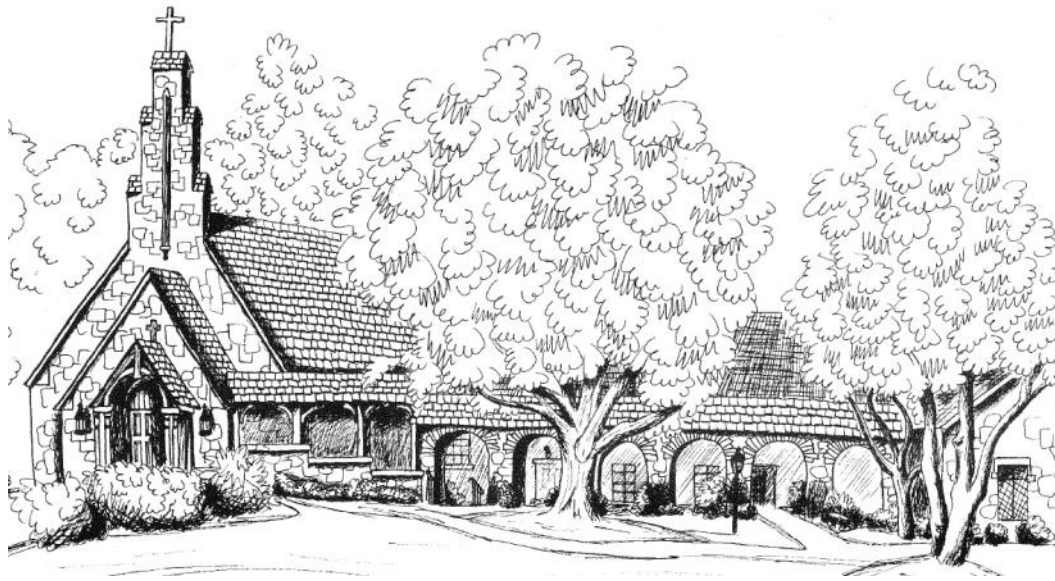


THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION

726 1st Avenue NW, Hickory, North Carolina 28601

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

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



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726 1st Ave NW, Hickory, NC 28601

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

The Rev. Michael Alford, Interim Rector | mike@ascensionhickory.org