



# The Episcopal Church of the Ascension

Hickory, NC

June 14, 2026—10:30 a.m. | Third Sunday after Pentecost  
+ The Holy Eucharist, Rite II +

## Prelude

Hymn #378 “All people that on Earth do dwell”

OLD 100TH

## Opening Acclamation

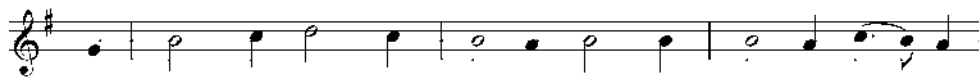
Celebrant: Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit

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. Keep, O Lord, your household the Church in your steadfast faith and love, that through your grace we may proclaim your truth with boldness, and minister your justice with compassion; for the sake of our Savior Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## The First Reading

Exodus 19:2-8a

Lector: A reading from the book of Exodus

The Israelites had journeyed from Rephidim, entered the wilderness of Sinai, and camped in the wilderness; Israel camped there in front of the mountain. Then Moses went up to God; the LORD called to him from the mountain, saying, “Thus you shall say to the house of Jacob, and tell the Israelites: You have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles’ wings and brought you to myself. Now therefore, if you obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession out of all the peoples. Indeed, the whole earth is mine, but you shall be for me a priestly kingdom and a holy nation. These are the words that you shall speak to the Israelites.”

So Moses came, summoned the elders of the people, and set before them all these words that the LORD had commanded him. The people all answered as one: “Everything that the LORD has spoken we will do.”

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm 100

*Jubilate Deo*

*The people say the Psalm together.*

1 Make a joyful noise unto the LORD, all ye lands. \*

Serve the LORD with gladness:  
come before his presence with singing.

2 Know ye that the LORD he is God: \*

it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves;  
we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.

3 Enter into his gates with thanksgiving,  
and into his courts with praise: \*

be thankful unto him, and bless his name.

4 For the Lord is good;

his mercy is everlasting; \*  
and his truth endureth to all generations.

## The Second Reading

Romans 5:1-8

Lector: A reading from the second letter to the Romans.

Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us. For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person-- though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us.

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**Sequence Hymn** “Lord, you give the great commission” (sts. 1-3)

ABBOT’S LEIGH

1. Lord, you give the great com - mis - sion: "Heal the  
 2. Lord, you call us to your ser - vice: "In my  
 3. Lord, you make the com - mon ho - ly: "This my  
 4. Lord, you show us love's true mea - sure: "Fa - ther,  
 5. Lord, you bless with words as - sur - ing; "I am

sick and preach the word." Lest the church ne -  
 name bap - tize and teach." That the world may  
 bod - y, this my blood." Let us all, for  
 what they do, for - give." Yet we hoard as  
 with you to the end." Faith and hope and

glect its mis - sion, and the gos - pel go un -  
 trust your prom - ise, life a - bun - dant meant for  
 earth's true glo - ry, dai - ly lift life heav - en -  
 pri - vate trea - sure all that you so free - ly  
 love re - stor - ing, may we serve as you in -

heard, help us wit - ness to your pur - pose  
 each, give us all new fer - vor, draw us  
 ward, ask - ing that the world a - round us  
 give. May your care and mer - cy lead us  
 tend and, a - mid the cares that claim us,

*Refrain*

with re - newed in - teg - ri - ty.  
 clos - er in com - mun - i - ty.  
 share your chil - dren's lib - er - ty.  
 to a just so - ci - e - ty.  
 hold in mind e - ter - ni - ty. } With the Spir - it's



Words: Jeffery Rowthorn (b. 1934). Music: *Abbot's Leigh*, Cyril Vincent Taylor (1907-1991).

## The Gospel

**Matthew 9:35-10:8**

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

**People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and curing every disease and every sickness. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest."

Then Jesus summoned his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to cure every disease and every sickness. These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon, also known as Peter, and his brother Andrew; James son of Zebedee, and his brother John; Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; Simon the Cananaean, and Judas Iscariot, the one who betrayed him.

These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions: "Go nowhere among the Gentiles, and enter no town of the Samaritans, but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. As you go, proclaim the good news, 'The kingdom of heaven has come near.' Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons. You received without payment; give without payment.

Lector: The Gospel of the Lord.

**People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

**Sequence Hymn** "Lord, you give the great commission" (sts. 4-5)

ABBOT'S LEIGH

## 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.

### **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.**

## **Peace & Announcements**

+ **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,  
 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

#321 “My God, thy table now is spread”

#319 “You, Lord, we praise in songs of celebration”

ROCKINGHAM  
GOTT SEI GELOBET

## 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 #541 “Come, labor on”

ORA LABORA

## Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Postlude** “Festive Trumpet Tune”

David German

*Kendra Williford, trumpet*

*The altar flowers are given to the glory of God and in loving dedication to Father Michael Alford, in thanksgiving for his faithful ministry and for his and Rebecca's unending support of the Ascension family. We wish them Godspeed and many happy years as they continue to serve God.*

## WORSHIP ROSTER

### Sunday, June 14

Crucifer/First Server/Chalice:

Melissa Costin

OT Reading/Chalice: Rebecca Alford

Prayers of the People: Tamara Morgan

NT Reader: Dee Hall

Ushers: Robert Miller, Sarah Peters

Counters: Kate Esch, Kathryn Carter

Vestry Contact: Erin Schuermeyer

### Sunday, June 21

OT Reading/Chalice: Erin Schuermeyer

Prayers of the People: Vince Trollan

NT Reader: Suzanne Fogleman

Ushers: Lana Ray, Sue Shoffner

Counters: Stephen Williamson, Bob Meek

Vestry Contact: Erin Schuermeyer

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Please pray for** Sharon Everhart, Jeff and Linda Smith and the Smith Family, 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.
- **Farewell Picnic—Today from 11:30—1:30 PM** Please plan to attend a farewell potluck picnic after the 10:30 AM service to say goodbye and a big “thank you” to Father Mike and Rebecca for their dedication to Ascension these past ten months.
- **2026 Pledge Reminder:** As you enjoy your summer, please don't forget to keep your pledge up to date so we can meet our ongoing monthly financial obligations. If you have any questions about your 2026 pledge to the church, contact Diane Vezmar at [financeascension@gmail.com](mailto:financeascension@gmail.com).
- **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: Shane (1953; PG; 1h 58m).
- **Theology for Thirsty Souls—Wednesday, June 17 at 6:00 PM.** All are welcome to gather with Michael Deckard in the parlor for a casual theological discussion about "Pope LEO XIV's encyclical, 'Magnifica Humanitas', on safeguarding the human person in the time of Artificial Intelligence".
- **Outreach Committee Informational Meeting** Wednesday, June 24 at 6:30 PM. You are invited to join Gillian Cochran, recently appointed chairperson, for a kickoff meeting in which we will collectively imagine the vision and scope of Ascension's outreach ministry in our community.
- **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 Church Women Book Exchange and Sale**—we will be collecting gently read book of all genres as we gear up for a book exchange and sale this summer. If you have books to donate, please drop them off on the designated table in the parish hall. For more information please contact Gloria Shamblin.
- **Vintage Christmas Bazaar—November 14 & 15** With great enthusiasm, the Ascension Arts and Crafts Group is already crafting and preparing for our second annual Christmas Bazaar fundraiser for our Outreach programs. During the summer months please keep us in mind as you decide on items in your home that you plan to donate to charity that would be useful donations for our Bazaar. We would appreciate gently used home décor, art, vintage items, Christmas decorations, pottery and other handcrafted items. Thank you for your consideration and support. For questions contact Lynda Horney or Mary Elizabeth Geitner.
- **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.

- **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 or Michael Deckard.
- **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.



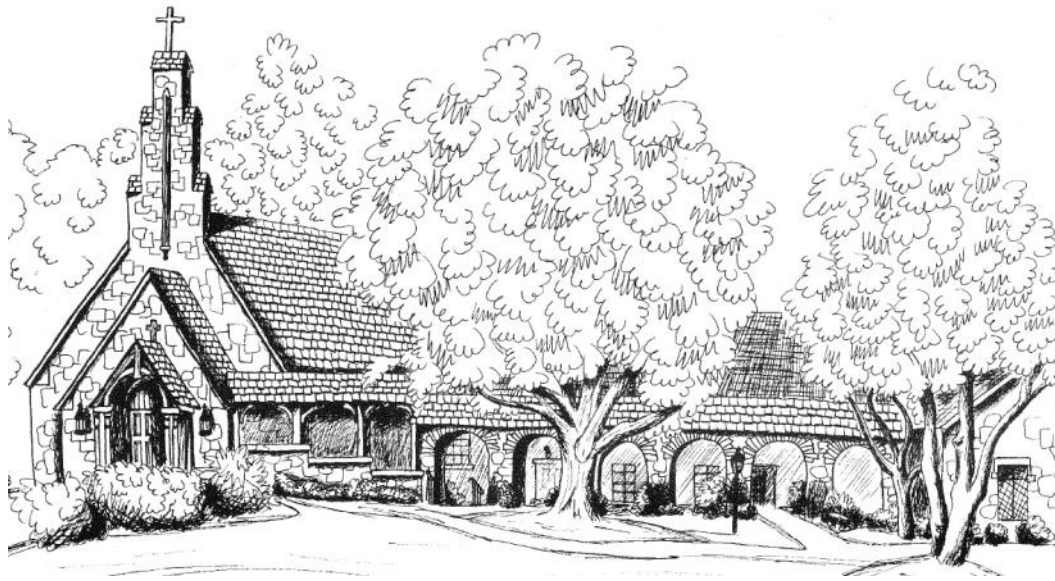
**James Tissot** (1836-1902)  
*The Exhortation to the Apostles*, 1850

## THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION

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<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 &amp; Family Ministry Coordinator</i> .....	Quintin Knight
<i>Parish Administrator</i> .....	Heather Stone
<i>Bookkeeper</i> .....	Diane Vezmar



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