

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

Making Christ Known by Our Love for All

**The Holy Eucharist | Rite I
Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost
October 25, 2026 | 8:00 a.m.**

For a hearing assistance device, please ask a member of the clergy.

The Word of God

Opening Sentences	BCP 323
Kyrie	BCP 324
The Collect of the Day	Bulletin 2
The Lessons	
Leviticus 19:1-2,15-18	Bulletin 2
Psalms 1	Bulletin 3
1 Thessalonians 2:1-8	Bulletin 4
Matthew 22:34-46	Bulletin 5
The Sermon	The Rev. Emily Collette
Nicene Creed	BCP 326
Prayers of the People	BCP 328
Confession and Absolution	BCP 330
Comfortable Words	BCP 332
The Peace	BCP 332

The Holy Communion

The Offertory	
The Great Thanksgiving	
Eucharistic Prayer II	BCP 340
The Breaking of the Bread	BCP 337

All baptized persons are invited to receive Holy Communion. Those who wish to receive the wine may do so by drinking from the common cup or by intinction (dipping) – both options will be offered. Gluten free wafers are available upon request.

Postcommunion Prayer	BCP 339
The Blessing	BCP 339
The Dismissal	BCP 339-340

Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People *And with thy spirit.*

Celebrant Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, give unto us the increase of faith, hope, and charity; and, that we may obtain that which thou dost promise, make us to love that which thou dost command; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Please be seated.

The Lessons

A Reading from the book of Leviticus 19:1-2, 15-18

The Lord spoke to Moses, saying:

Speak to all the congregation of the people of Israel and say to them: You shall be holy, for I the Lord your God am holy.

You shall not render an unjust judgment; you shall not be partial to the poor or defer to the great: with justice you shall judge your neighbor. You shall not go around as a slanderer among your people, and you shall not profit by the blood of your neighbor: I am the Lord.

You shall not hate in your heart anyone of your kin; you shall reprove your neighbor, or you will incur guilt yourself. You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against any of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the Lord.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People *Thanks be to God.*

Psalm 1 *Beatus vir qui non abiit*

- 1 Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel of the wicked,
*
nor lingered in the way of sinners,
nor sat in the seats of the scornful!
- 2 Their delight is in the law of the LORD, *
and they meditate on his law day and night.
- 3 They are like trees planted by streams of water,
bearing fruit in due season, with leaves that do not wither;
*everything they do shall prosper.
- 4 It is not so with the wicked; *
they are like chaff which the wind blows away.
- 5 Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when judgment
comes, *
nor the sinner in the council of the righteous.
- 6 For the LORD knows the way of the righteous, *
but the way of the wicked is doomed.

A Reading from Paul's First Letter to the Thessalonians 2:1-8

You yourselves know, brothers and sisters, that our coming to you was not in vain, but though we had already suffered and been shamefully mistreated at Philippi, as you know, we had courage in our God to declare to you the gospel of God in spite of great opposition. For our appeal does not spring from deceit or impure motives or trickery, but just as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the message of the gospel, even so we speak, not to please mortals, but to please God who tests our hearts. As you know and as God is our witness, we never came with words of flattery or with a pretext for greed; nor did we seek praise from mortals, whether from you or from others, though we might have made demands as apostles of Christ. But we were gentle among you, like a nurse tenderly caring for her own children. So deeply do we care for you that we are determined to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you have become very dear to us.

<i>Reader</i>	The Word of the Lord.
<i>People</i>	<i>Thanks be to God.</i>

The Holy Gospel According to Matthew 22:34-46

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

People *Glory be to thee, O Lord.*

When the Pharisees heard that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, and one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. "Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?" He said to him, "'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets."

Now while the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them this question: "What do you think of the Messiah? Whose son is he?" They said to him, "The son of David." He said to them, "How is it then that David by the Spirit calls him Lord, saying,

"The Lord said to my Lord,
"Sit at my right hand,
until I put your enemies under your feet"?"

If David thus calls him Lord, how can he be his son?" No one was able to give him an answer, nor from that day did anyone dare to ask him any more questions.

Deacon or Priest The Gospel of the Lord.

People *Praise be to thee, O Christ.*

We invite you to pray for the needs of people around the world and members of our congregation:

Members of this Parish: Kath Smelser, Conny Wedell, Carolyn Woodson, Nancy Brooks, Rona Belser, Ron and Nancy Rowell, Dick Lounsbury, Paula Stringfellow, Barbara Cochran, Donna Miller, and Donna Thompson

Family and Friends of this Parish: Lance, Charles, The Burton Family, Owen, Mary, Keith, Rose, Wes, Ann, The Dixon Family, The James Family, Larry, AnnLee, Audrey, Dave, Maggie, Dixon, Sandy, Mickey, Lynda, Scott, Linda, Joe, Nova, Judy, Dennis, Bob, Maria, Amy, Tony and Rachel, Carole, Rosalie, Peggy, Mark, Lyn, Will, Glenda, Rick, Ginger, Mimi, Billy, Terriann, Paula, Bill, Ralph, Ron, Mary and Van

For Those Who Have Died: Catherine “Kitty” Haberstroh

Celebrating Birthdays This Week: Virginia Holbrook (10/25), Virginia Creamer (10/25), Lissa Lutenbacher (10/29), Doc Porter (10/29) and Nate Campbell (10/31)

Celebrating Anniversaries This Week: Carrie & Robert McDowell (10/30)

Diocesan Cycle of Prayer: for Sean our Presiding Bishop; for Richard, our bishop; for our Companion Diocese of Honduras and their bishop, Lloyd; for All Saints parishes in Aliceville and Birmingham; for Episcopal Place in Birmingham; and for St. Martin's in the Pines in Birmingham

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: for Sarah, Archbishop of Canterbury; and for The Church of the Province of Central Africa

We pray for God's peace to prevail in our hearts, in our country, and throughout the world. We remember all who are in harm's way, especially those affected by war—victims of violence, families who mourn, the displaced, and those serving in the military.

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

If we accidentally left your birthday or anniversary off, please let Olivia know, admin@ascensionepiscopal.org, 205-822-3480

CLERGY

The Right Reverend Richard T. Lawson, III, Bishop of Alabama
The Reverend John “Jack” T. Alvey, Jr., Rector
The Reverend Emily C. Collette, Associate Rector

STAFF

Sam Herman, Youth Minister
Martin Hoerner, Sexton
Kathy Lounsbury, Senior Life Minister
Ashley Monachelli, Director of Family Ministries
Jenny Long, Nursery
Yolanda Myers, Nursery
Paige Reese, Nursery
Olivia Hill, Parish Office Manager
Michael G. Sparks, Organist & Choirmaster
Karyn Watts, Finance & Database Officer

ASCENSION EPISCOPAL DAY SCHOOL

Rebecca Posey, Director
Kelly Gould, Assistant Director

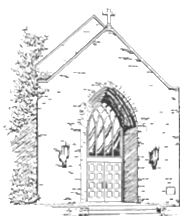
VESTRY

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) – Caralyn McDaniel

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



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