



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

Making Christ Known by our Love for All

The Holy Eucharist | Rite II
Fifth Sunday of Easter
May 3, 2026 | 10:30 a.m.

For a hearing assistance device, please ask an usher.

PRELUDE: *Prelude and Fugue in F*

attr. J. S. Bach

THE WORD OF GOD

HYMN: *We the Lord's people*

Hymnal 51

OPENING ACCLAMATION

Celebrant says Alleluia. Christ is risen.
People The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.

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 204

COLLECT OF THE DAY

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

Almighty God, whom truly to know is everlasting life: Grant us so perfectly to know your Son Jesus Christ to be the way, the truth, and the life, that we may steadfastly follow his steps in the way that leads to eternal life; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Please be seated.

THE LESSONS

A READING FROM ACTS 7:55-60

Filled with the Holy Spirit, Stephen gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. "Look," he said, "I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!" But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him; and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." When he had said this, he died.

Reader The Word of the Lord.
People *Thanks be to God.*

PSALM 31:1-5, 15-16 *In te, Domine, speravi*

Antiphon: Choir, then All; Verses: Choir



- 1 In you, O LORD, have I taken refuge;
let me never be put to shame; *
deliver me in your righteousness.
- 2 Incline your ear to me; *
make haste to deliver me.
- 3 Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe,
for you are my crag and my stronghold; *
for the sake of your Name, lead me and guide me.

Antiphon

- 4 Take me out of the net that they have secretly set for me, *
for you are my tower of strength.
- 5 Into your hands I commend my spirit, *
for you have redeemed me,
O LORD, O God of truth.

15 My times are in your hand; *
rescue me from the hand of my enemies,
and from those who persecute me.

16 Make your face to shine upon your servant, *
and in your loving-kindness save me.

Antiphon

A READING FROM 1 PETER 2:2-10

Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation— if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For it stands in scripture:

“See, I am laying in Zion a stone,
a cornerstone chosen and precious;
and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.”

To you then who believe, he is precious; but for those who do not believe,

“The stone that the builders rejected
has become the very head of the corner”,

and

“A stone that makes them stumble,
and a rock that makes them fall.”

They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

Once you were not a people,
but now you are God's people;
once you had not received mercy,
but now you have received mercy.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Please stand as you are able.

HYMN: *Thru the red sea brought at last*

Hymnal 187

THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO JOHN 14:1-14

Remain standing.

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

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus said, "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going." Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him."

Philip said to him, "Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied." Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it."

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

SERMON

The Reverend Jack Alvey

THE NICENE CREED

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.*

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION FOR EASTER

From the Lutheran Church of Australia's Worship Planning Page

Please stand or kneel as you are able.

The Leader and People pray responsively

Let us pray that the results of Christ's resurrection may be seen throughout the world.

Lord God, our loving heavenly Father, we thank and praise you for the glorious resurrection of our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Your Son, our Passover Lamb, has taken away the sin of the world. Forgive us and all people.

Lord, in your mercy:

Hear our prayer.

Your Son said, 'Peace be with you'. Bring your peace to the world and to our own country. We pray 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.

Lord, in your mercy:

Hear our prayer.

Your Son appeared to Mary Magdalene when she was weeping. Comfort those who are sad, lonely, or grieving. We pray for those in our parish family for whom intercessions have been requested, especially for Marie Graves, Ginger Issinoff, Jill Sidwell, Ruth Snow, the Crowson family, Jean Smith, Ron and Nancy Rowell, Dick Lounsbury, Cille Spader, Shane Wiley, Paula Stringfellow, Barbara Cochran, Ben Chastain, Donna Miller, and Donna Thompson, and for the family and friends of this parish.

Lord, in your mercy:

Hear our prayer.

Your Son rose victorious over death, surprising the world with joy. May we, like those first witnesses, find ourselves unexpectedly grateful for the gift of each new day, for your provision, and for all who give our lives joy and meaning. We pray especially for those celebrating birthdays and anniversaries this week, and ask that you bless them with your continual grace.

Lord, in your mercy:

Hear our prayer.

Your Son met the women and asked them to tell the disciples about his resurrection. Guide Christians everywhere to witness to the resurrection in their lives. In the Diocesan cycle of prayer, we pray for Glenda, our bishop; for Richard, our bishop-elect; for our Companion Diocese of Honduras and their bishop, Lloyd; for Seminarians graduating in May; for El Hogar and Farm School, Honduras; and for St. Dunstan's, Auburn. In the Anglican cycle of prayer, we pray for The Church of North India (United) and for Sarah, Archbishop of Canterbury.

Lord, in your mercy:

Hear our prayer.

Your Son proclaimed himself to the two disciples from the Scriptures and made himself known to them in the breaking of the bread. Reveal him to us and all people through the teaching of your word and the celebration of your holy meal.

Lord, in your mercy:

Hear our prayer.

Your Son strengthened the faith of Thomas by telling him to touch his hands and side. Reassure those who are troubled by doubts, and strengthen their faith in your goodness.

Lord, in your mercy:

Hear our prayer.

Your Son conquered death by his death and won the victory by his resurrection. Be with those who are dying and those who have died, and lead them to life with you forever.

Lord, in your mercy:

Hear our prayer.

The Celebrant adds a concluding collect

Heavenly Father, grant that all who now celebrate these joyful holy days here on earth may finally praise you forever, with all the angels and saints in heaven. We ask this through your risen Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen.*

THE PEACE

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

People: *And also with you.*

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE HOLY COMMUNION

OFFERTORY: *With a Voice of Singing*

Martin Shaw



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!

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

BCP 372

Prayer D

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 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,

Please stand or kneel as you are able.

Then the Celebrant continues

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.

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.

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.

Celebrant and People

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

The Celebrant continues

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.

And grant that we may find our inheritance with [the Blessed Virgin Mary, with patriarchs, prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and] 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,

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 155

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.

AT COMMUNION: *Hail, True Body*

Edward Elgar

A PRAYER ATTRIBUTED TO ST. FRANCIS

BCP 833

Celebrant and People

Lord, make us instruments of your peace.
Where there is hatred, let us sow love;
where there is injury, pardon;
where there is discord, union;
where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light;
where there is sadness, joy.

Grant that we may not so much seek
to be consoled as to console;
to be understood as to understand;
to be loved as to love.
For it is in giving that we receive;
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned;
and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen.

BLESSING

RECESSIONAL HYMN: *Christ is made the sure foundation*

Hymnal 518

THE DISMISSAL

Celebrant Alleluia, Alleluia. Let us go forth in the name of Christ.
People Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia.

*The flowers were given to the Glory of God in by Helen & Devin Dolive in loving memory of Anna Marie Cooke.
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: 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: Sally Hoerner, Katie Carrie, Alex Whitfield, Merry Michael Smith, Christopher Lambert, Charles Greene, Mike Eike, Andrew Nelson, Laura Vines, Bailey Taylor, and Anastasia Tatom-Scharer

Celebrating Anniversaries This Week: Virginia & Josh Bennett

In thanksgiving for: the wedding of Kayla Moreland and Conor Shattuck

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



Fifth Sunday of Easter | May 3, 2026

The Chosen | TODAY – May 10

Join us for an Adult Faith Formation series based on *The Chosen*, a powerful portrayal of the life of Jesus. We meet Sundays at 9:30 AM in the Sunshine Room to watch clips and reflect together. All are welcome!

Casual Church | TONIGHT

Join us tonight at 5:00 p.m. in Ware Hall for a Casual Eucharist. Come as you are for an evening of worship and Holy Communion in a relaxed setting. Music will be led by Sam Herman and parish volunteers and will feature hymns and songs from *The Hymnal 1982*, *Alleluia III*, and other contemporary sources.

EYC | TONIGHT

Please plan to join us for Casual Church from 5:00-5:45 Sunday evening, followed immediately by EYC until 7:00! After the service, we will have about an hour set aside to hang out with no strict agenda. We'll have pizza in the EYC room and unwind together before the week begins. We might play some games, do an art project, or just enjoy one another's company with good conversation. Hope to see you there! *Episcopal Youth Community (EYC) is for youth in grades 6-12.*

Senior Sunday | May 10

Every year, we recognize and celebrate the accomplishments of our graduating seniors. On Sunday, May 10th, we will honor the following seniors who are graduating this May during the 10:30 service : **Ella Burke, James Colvin, Thomas Downey, Nathan Mann, Amanda Orr, Carrie Ella Smith.** Please join us in praying for them as they take this next big step in their lives!

Rock Solid Bible Club | May 13

The Episcopal Church of the Ascension invites children in grades 3–5 to join us after school on May 13th from 2:45 pm – 3:45 pm as we build a strong foundation of faith. We'll explore stories of Jesus that teach us to trust Him and love others. Questions? Contact Ashley Monachelli, Director of Family Ministries: ashley.monachelli@ascensionepiscopal.org

Men's Breakfast | May 14

Join us for a time of good food and fellowship at our next Men's Breakfast! We'll gather at 8:15 AM at First Watch in Vestavia Hills. Please RSVP through Realm or by reaching out to [Martin Hoerner at mhoerner@gmail.com](mailto:Martin.Hoerner@gmail.com).

Food Truck Festival | May 14

Join us for our Annual Food Truck Festival on May 14 from 5:30–8 PM! Enjoy **Battle Axe, Corazon, Uncle G's Pizza, Roll Cajun Boudin, and Nola Ice**, plus fun for kids including balloon art and face painting. We need lots of volunteers to pull this off. Sign up to help in Terrill Foyer or use sign-up genius located on our website.

Alabama Choral Society Concert | May 16

Join us as we host Alabama Choral Society's concert Saturday May 16 at 2:30 pm at Church of the Ascension. The concert will include Gabriel Fauré's Requiem with instruments as well as C. Hubert Hastings Parry's coronation anthem I Was Glad. Dr. Melinda Doyle is the conductor of the group which is made up of young music professionals. The Concert is free and all are invited.

Ascension Sunday | May 17

Celebrate *Ascension Sunday* on May 17 with Sunday School Olympics for all ages (9:30 - 10:15). After 10:30 church, we'll take our annual Parish Family Photo and then enjoy the end-of-the year cookout. The church will provide the main course (burgers & hotdogs). We just ask that you please bring a side dish or dessert to share.

May Soup Social | May 20

Join us for soup and fellowship, 11:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m. in Ware Hall. No cost—just come and enjoy! Tomato Basil is on the menu! Contact Kathy Lounsbury at lounsbury.k@icloud.com.

News & Notes

Giving Hope May

Let's make a difference by spreading joy through generosity. We're gearing up for our upcoming Vacation Bible School and we need your help. Please consider signing up to donate supplies via Amazon Wish List on our websites and a food sign up is in Terrill Foyer. Go to our website to find out more information and contact ashley.monachelli@ascensionepiscopal.org with any questions.

Breakfast Update

Please note the last hot breakfast of the year is May 3. We will have Continental Breakfast on May 10. Regular hot breakfast to return in September

Camp Chaos VBS | June 15–18

Get ready for Camp Chaos VBS! Children ages 4K–rising 5th grade will spend a fun-filled week discovering how Jesus is our peace in a chaotic world. For questions, contact Ashley Monachelli at ashley.monachelli@ascensionepiscopal.org. Registration is available on our website or via the QR code.



Cursillo

Consider attending Cursillo at Camp McDowell. Upcoming weekends are **May 28–31 and 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.

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
Christy Smith, Parish Life Coordinator
Michael G. Sparks, Organist & Choirmaster
Sarah Stevens, Communications Director
Karyn Watts, Parish Administrative Assistant

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) – Melanie Lee



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