



**Welcome to  
The Episcopal Church of The Ascension  
Vestavia Hills, AL  
Founded 1953**

*Making Christ Known by our Love for All*

**The Holy Eucharist | Rite II  
Seventh Sunday after Pentecost | Proper 12  
July 27, 2025 | 10:30 am**

**Prelude: We Now Implore the Holy Ghost**

**J. G. Walther**

**The Word of God**

**Hymn: Praise my soul, the King of heaven**

**Hymnal 410**

**Opening Acclamation**

**BCP 355**

*Celebrant*      Blessed be God; Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.  
*People*        And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

*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 3<sup>rd</sup> grade are invited to follow the cross to Children's Chapel. They will return at the Peace.*

1. Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and  
peace to his peo - ple on earth. 2. Lord God, heaven - ly  
King, al - might - y 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,  
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.

## Collect of the Day

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

O God, the protector of all who trust in you, without whom nothing is strong, nothing is holy: Increase and multiply upon us your mercy; that, with you as our ruler and guide, we may so pass through things temporal, that we lose not the things eternal; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

*Please be seated.*

## The Lessons

### A Reading from Hosea 1:2-10

When the Lord first spoke through Hosea, the Lord said to Hosea, "Go, take for yourself a wife of whoredom and have children of whoredom, for the land commits great whoredom by forsaking the Lord." So he went and took Gomer daughter of Diblaim, and she conceived and bore him a son.

And the Lord said to him, "Name him Jezreel; for in a little while I will punish the house of Jehu for the blood of Jezreel, and I will put an end to the kingdom of the house of Israel. On that day I will break the bow of Israel in the valley of Jezreel."

She conceived again and bore a daughter. Then the Lord said to him, "Name her Lo-ruhamah, for I will no longer have pity on the house of Israel or forgive them. But I will have pity on the house of Judah, and I will save them by the Lord their God; I will not save them by bow, or by sword, or by war, or by horses, or by horsemen."

When she had weaned Lo-ruhamah, she conceived and bore a son. Then the Lord said, "Name him Lo-ammi, for you are not my people and I am not your God."

Yet the number of the people of Israel shall be like the sand of the sea, which can be neither measured nor numbered; and in the place where it was said to them, "You are not my people," it shall be said to them, "Children of the living God."

*Reader* The Word of the Lord.

*People* Thanks be to God.

### Psalm 85 *Benedixisti, Domine*

- 1 You have been gracious to your land, O LORD, \*  
you have restored the good fortune of Jacob.
- 2 You have forgiven the iniquity of your people \*  
and blotted out all their sins.
- 3 You have withdrawn all your fury \*  
and turned yourself from your wrathful indignation.
- 4 Restore us then, O God our Savior; \*  
let your anger depart from us.
- 5 Will you be displeased with us for ever? \*  
will you prolong your anger from age to age?
- 6 Will you not give us life again, \*  
that your people may rejoice in you?
- 7 Show us your mercy, O LORD, \*  
and grant us your salvation.
- 8 I will listen to what the LORD God is saying, \*  
for he is speaking peace to his faithful people  
and to those who turn their hearts to him.
- 9 Truly, his salvation is very near to those who fear him, \*  
that his glory may dwell in our land.
- 10 Mercy and truth have met together; \*  
righteousness and peace have kissed each other.
- 11 Truth shall spring up from the earth, \*  
and righteousness shall look down from heaven.

- 12 The LORD will indeed grant prosperity, \*  
and our land will yield its increase.  
13 Righteousness shall go before him, \*  
and peace shall be a pathway for his feet.

### **A Reading from Colossians 2:6-15**

As you have received Christ Jesus the Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.

See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the universe, and not according to Christ. For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, and you have come to fullness in him, who is the head of every ruler and authority. In him also you were circumcised with a spiritual circumcision, by putting off the body of the flesh in the circumcision of Christ; when you were buried with him in baptism, you were also raised with him through faith in the power of God, who raised him from the dead. And when you were dead in trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made you alive together with him, when he forgave us all our trespasses, erasing the record that stood against us with its legal demands. He set this aside, nailing it to the cross. He disarmed the rulers and authorities and made a public example of them, triumphing over them in it.

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

*Please stand as you are able.*

### **Hymn: Seek ye first the kingdom of God**

**Hymnal 711**

### **The Holy Gospel According to Luke 11:1-13**

*Remain standing.*

*Deacon or Priest* The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.  
*People* Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus was praying in a certain place, and after he had finished, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples." He said to them, "When you pray, say:

Father, hallowed be your name.  
Your kingdom come.  
Give us each day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our sins,  
for we ourselves forgive everyone indebted to us.  
And do not bring us to the time of trial."

And he said to them, "Suppose one of you has a friend, and you go to him at midnight and say to him, 'Friend, lend me three loaves of bread; for a friend of mine has arrived, and I have nothing to set before him.' And he answers from within, 'Do not bother me; the door has already been locked, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot get up and give you anything.' I tell you, even though he will not get up and give him anything because he is his friend, at least because of his persistence he will get up and give him whatever he needs.

"So I say to you, Ask, and it will be given you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened. Is there anyone among you who, if your child asks for a fish, will give a snake instead of a fish? Or if the child asks for an egg, will give a scorpion? If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!"

*Deacon or Priest* The Gospel of the Lord.

*People* Praise to you, Lord Christ.

## **Sermon**

**The Reverend Jack Alvey**

## **The Nicene Creed**

**BCP 358**

*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.

*Please stand or kneel as you are able.*

*The Leader and People pray responsively*

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

*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.*

In the cycles of prayer, we pray for those in our parish family for whom intercessions have been requested, especially for Sarah Heaslett, Jean Smith, Ron Rowell, Dick Lounsbury, Greg Clyburn, Cille Spader, Shane Wiley, Paula Stringfellow, Jay Lutenbacher, Jean Smith, Barbara Cochran, Kath Smelser, Ben Chastain, Donna Miller, Virginia Creamer, and Donna Thompson; for the friends and family of this parish, especially Byron, Grace, Justin, Josh, Steve, Mamie, Stacey, Tami, Doug, Brittain, Marian, Ann, Charles, Kathleen, David, Jennifer, Scott, Myrna, Kathy, Lance, Ralph, Ron, Lanny, Christine, Virginia, Mary and Van. We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life. We remember all those celebrating birthdays this week including Wil Sinor, Mae Hoerner, John Pate, Julianne Baird, and Justice Allen and for those celebrating anniversaries, especially Anna & Robby Colvin. In the Diocesan cycle of prayer, we pray for our Companion

Diocese of Honduras and their bishop, Lloyd; for Ministries to Young Adults in Alabama; and for Jubilee Ministry and all Jubilee Centers. In the Anglican cycle of prayer, we pray for The Anglican Church of Papua New Guinea. We pray for peace, especially in Ukraine and the Middle East. We pray for those affected by the floods in Texas.

*Silence*

Lord, in your mercy

*Hear our prayer.*

Almighty God, giver of every good gift: Look graciously on your Church, and so guide the minds of those who shall choose a Bishop for The Diocese of Alabama, that we may receive a faithful pastor who will preach the Gospel, care for your people, equip us for ministry, and lead us forth in fulfillment of the Great Commission; through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

*Silence*

Lord, in your mercy

*Hear our prayer.*

*The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.*

## **Confession of Sin**

**BCP 360**

*The Deacon or Celebrant says*

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*Silence may be kept*

*Minister and 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.

*The Bishop, when present, or the Priest, stands and says*

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.*

*Please stand as you are able.*

## **The Peace**

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

*People:* And also with you.

## Welcome & Announcements

## The Holy Communion

Offertory: Pie Jesu

Tahauny Cleghorn, sop

Andrew Lloyd Webber

Presentation: Praise God from whom all blessings flow

Thomas Ken, 1709 Geistliche Kirchengesänge, Cologne, 1623

The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of three staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 3/4 time. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff begins with 'Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here be - low: Al - le -'. The second staff continues with 'lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Praise him a - bove ye heav'n - ly host; praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly'. The third staff concludes with 'Ghost: O praise him, O praise him, al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!'. The score is attributed to Thomas Ken, 1709, and is also found in 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

### Eucharist Prayer B

BCP 367

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

*Here a Proper Preface is sung or said on all Sundays, and on other occasions as appointed.*

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:



*Cantors and Choir*

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and  
might, hea - ven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -  
san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who  
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.\_\_\_\_\_

*Please stand or kneel as you are able.**The Celebrant continues*

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world.

In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

*At the following words concerning the bread, the Celebrant is to hold it, or 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.*

On the night before he died for us, 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, according to his command, O Father,

*Celebrant and People*

We remember his death,  
We proclaim his resurrection,  
We await his coming in glory;

*The Celebrant continues*

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be

acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

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,

*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

### Fraction Anthem

S163

*A period of silence is kept.*

Lamb of God, you take a - way the

sins of the world: have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you

take a - way the sins of the world: have mer - cy on us.

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the world: grant us peace.

*Facing the people, the Celebrant says the following Invitation*

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

*All baptized persons are invited to receive Holy Communion, though no one will be refused the Sacrament. All persons are invited to receive a blessing by a member of the clergy. Please indicate your desire for a blessing by crossing your arms over your chest. The Sacrament will be administered in both kinds (bread and wine) at the communion rail. Those who take the bread alone receive all the benefits of the Sacrament. Those who wish to receive the wine may do so by drinking from the common cup or by intinction (dipping). Please take care not to touch your fingers to the wine. Parents of young children should intinct for their child.*

## **Post Communion Prayer**

**BCP 366**

*After Communion, the Celebrant says*

Let us pray.

*Celebrant and People*

Almighty and everliving God,  
we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food  
of the most precious Body and Blood  
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ;  
and for assuring us in these holy mysteries  
that we are living members of the Body of your Son,  
and heirs of your eternal kingdom.  
And now, Father, send us out  
to do the work you have given us to do,  
to love and serve you  
as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord.  
To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit,  
be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

## **Blessing**

**Hymn: Thy kingdom come!**

**Hymnal 615**

## **Dismissal**

<i>Celebrant</i>	Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
<i>People</i>	<i>Thanks be to God.</i>

*The altar flowers were given to the Glory of God by Scott and Dee Anne Poehler  
in honor of the marriage of their Goddaughter Kate to Nathan Smith.  
Sign up online or in Sign Up Central to sponsor flowers in memory or honor of a loved one.*

## **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.

## **CLERGY**

The Right Reverend Glenda S. Curry, Bishop of Alabama  
The Right Reverend Brian N. Prior, Assisting Bishop  
The Reverend John “Jack” T. Alvey, Jr., Rector  
The Reverend Emily C. Collette, Associate Rector

## **STAFF**

Katherine Barrow, Nursery  
Holly DuBois, Bookkeeper  
Sam Herman, Youth Minister  
Kathy Lounsbury, Parish Life Coordinator  
Ashley Monachelli, Director of Family Ministries  
Paige Reese, Nursery  
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**

Jim Busbin, Sr. Warden (2025); Ann Nelson, Jr. Warden (2026);  
Martin Hoerner: Finance Chair (2025)

Andrew Ault (2025); Ben Mims (2025)  
Kelly Gould (2026); Caralyn McDaniel (2026); Elizabeth Tanner (2026)  
Tim Burke (2027); Shannon George (2027); Ryan Posey (2027); CJ Searcy (2027)

Len Skelton, Treasurer; Jeff Lees, Assistant Treasurer; Brian Denton, Clerk  
Today’s Vestry Person of the Day (VPOD) – Ben Mims



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](http://www.ascensionepiscopal.org).



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