



We believe in sharing love and grace with God and one another.

Holy Week

SCHEDULE

Week of April 13 - 19

PALM SUNDAY - APRIL 13

8:00 AM, Rite One

10:30 AM, Liturgy of the Palms

WEEKDAY MORNING PRAYER

8:00 AM, Chapel & On Facebook

MAUNDY THURSDAY - APRIL 17

5:30 PM, Foot washing

6:00PM, Eucharist

8:00PM - 11:00AM, Gethsemane Watch

GOOD FRIDAY - APRIL 18

12:00 PM, Nave

6:00 PM, Stations of the Cross, Sundial Garden

HOLY SATURDAY

9:00 AM, Nave

In the midst of Lent, we look toward the cross and Holy Week. Join us each day in Lent for prayer, reflection, and communication in preparation of Christ's crucifixion and resurrection

From the Rector...

"The hour has come..." (John 12:23)

With these words, Jesus signals a turning point—or at least, John does in his telling of Jesus' story. For the first twelve chapters of John's Gospel, we read about the signs Jesus

performed—healings, exorcisms, miracles, and the raising of Lazarus—often referred to as The Book of Signs. The second half of the Gospel, known as The Book of Glory, shifts focus to Jesus preparing his disciples for what is to come and instructing them on how to carry on his work after he is gone. Together, these two sections form the structure of John’s Gospel and shape much of Christian theology.

The hinge between these two "books" is marked by Jesus' mention of “the hour” in chapter twelve. At this moment, Jesus is speaking with two of his disciples who are trying to arrange a meeting between him and some Greeks who have heard about him. We never learn whether the meeting happens, but we do learn something pivotal: Jesus realizes that the time has come—his hour is here.



We’ve been waiting for this hour, whether we realized it or not. John subtly foreshadows it at the very beginning of Jesus’ public ministry. In chapter two, at a wedding feast in Cana, Jesus performs his first miracle—turning water into wine—after some coaxing from his mother. He hesitates at first, not because he doubts his power, but because, as he says, “My hour has not yet come.”

From there, we follow him through Galilee, to Jerusalem three times, up mountains and into valleys. We witness meals of fish and loaves, storms at sea, fear before authority, and hope among the hopeless. Finally, we arrive at this moment: the hour has come. Even Jesus’ final words on the cross are spoken in the context of this “hour.”

They say timing is everything. God exists beyond time, yet uses timing to guide us—to help us grow in knowledge and love of him. God chose the perfect moment for Jesus to be born of a virgin, to enter a world steeped in darkness and empire, to bring light, hope, and Good News. The timing of the cross is no different. It’s understood through the lens of heartbreak and despair among Jesus’ loved ones, the empire’s indifference to the marginalized, and the hope that the worst things are never the last things. This is the hour that has now come.

As you prepare for Easter, don’t let the Passion of this hour pass you by unnoticed or without intention. You don’t need to wear sackcloth and ashes or walk around somber and gloomy. There are many ways to mark this hour.

This year, I've discovered a new and meaningful one—through text messages. I signed up last Saturday to receive alerts as the events of Holy Week unfold. Some come labeled as “Urgent Alerts,” others as “Breaking News,” and some as simple “Updates.” It's been a fun, modern way to stay engaged with this sacred season. But more than that, it's prompted me to reflect—to see Holy Week through the lens of my own daily life and ask where I am in relation to Jesus and these unfolding events, as if they were happening right now.

If you'd like to follow along with the events of Jesus' final week, visit www.HolyWeekWithJesus.com or text JESUS to 833-510-5006.

Have a blessed and life-giving Holy Week.

Light and Life,

Candice+

candice@coascension.org

P. S. I just received BREAKING NEWS that “Tension rises! Religious leaders challenge Jesus' authority as crowds gather to hear his teaching. Confrontation brewing.” Things are starting to heat up!

WORSHIP

Maundy Thursday Foot Washing April 17th at 5:30



Foot washing is part of the Maundy Thursday ritual that exemplifies Jesus' call to

servanthood and an expression of how we love one another through humility. It symbolizes a spiritual cleansing and renewal that invites believers to embody the values of compassion and service. At CoA, we offer an opportunity to participate in this act each year before the Maundy Thursday service. It is a time of quiet contemplation in the chapel. All are invited.



The Gethsemane Watch: A Maundy Thursday Vigil

“Could you not keep awake one hour?” were the words of Jesus in reproach to his hapless followers in the first Gethsemane. Ever since, his disciples of subsequent generations have attempted to do better, and in some small way to make up what was lacking in the first bunch.



Stations of the Cross



Join us for the Stations of the Cross, a meaningful journey through the final moments of Jesus' earthly life. This devotional practice invites us to reflect on Christ's passion and sacrifice, deepening our understanding of his love and compassion. All are welcome to participate in this contemplative walk of prayer and reflection, drawing us closer to the heart of our faith during this sacred season.



Easter Sunday Floral Cross

One of the beautiful expressions of our Easter joy is the flowering of the cross. On Easter Sunday, March 31, bring flowers from your garden and help us prepare a cross overflowing in abundance of color and beauty. The cross will be at the front of the church until the 11:00 a.m. service begins.



Easter Schedule

Saturday April 19

- Easter Vigil (Taize Service)
 - 7:15 PM

Sunday April 20

- Sunrise Service at Oakwood Cemetery
 - 6:30 AM
- Family Festal Eucharist Followed by Easter Egg Hunt
 - 9:00 AM
- Festal Eucharist
 - 11:00 Am

Easter Vigil Taize Service Saturday, April 19 at 7:15 PM



A Taizé service is a contemplative worship experience characterized by simple, repetitive songs and chants, reflective silence, and prayer, designed to foster a spirit of meditation and unity. Originating from the ecumenical Taizé Community in France, the service

encourages participants to encounter God's presence and find peace through communal singing and quiet reflection. The focus on simplicity and inclusivity makes it accessible to people from diverse Christian traditions, promoting reconciliation and spiritual renewal.

This style of worship leads to a fulfilling and contemplative Easter Vigil. It can serve as a quiet and reflective time of worship in contrast to the brightness of the Easter morning service. It is also a helpful way of transitioning from Lent and Holy Week to the joyous time of Easter and Resurrection. The service itself includes icons and candles in helping to prepare our hearts to receive Christ's gift of renewal.

Join us April 27th!



at the 10:30 AM service with covered dish lunch following

All Youth and families are invited!



Attention Venmo Users



As electronic payments become more widely used we ask that anyone who uses Venmo to please add a short summary of what the payment is for in the description field. We now accept Venmo for Wednesday night dinner, Sunday morning breakfast, purchases in The Vineyard Bookstore, as well as for giving. This description will help us allocate the resources appropriately. Thanks!

CONNECT



No WNL this week! Returns after Easter!

WEDNESDAY NIGHTLIVE

STAY CONNECTED AND JOIN US ON
WEDNESDAY NIGHTS!

4:30
REUNION GROUP
RECTOR'S OFFICE

5:15
DINNER
ASCENSION HALL

5:45
THE WORD
SMALL DINING ROOM

6:00
YOUTH ACTIVITIES
3RD FLOOR YOUTH ROOM

6:00
CHILDREN'S CHOIR
4TH FLOOR CHOIR LOFT

6:00
EDUCATION FOR MINISTRY
LIBRARY

6:45
COMPLINE
4TH FLOOR CHOIR LOFT



If you haven't turned in your pledge card please do so as soon as possible. Thanks! If you would like to fill your pledge card out online click [HERE!](#)

Financial Gifts Offered This
Week

\$10,644

Financial Gifts Offered This
Month

\$41,660

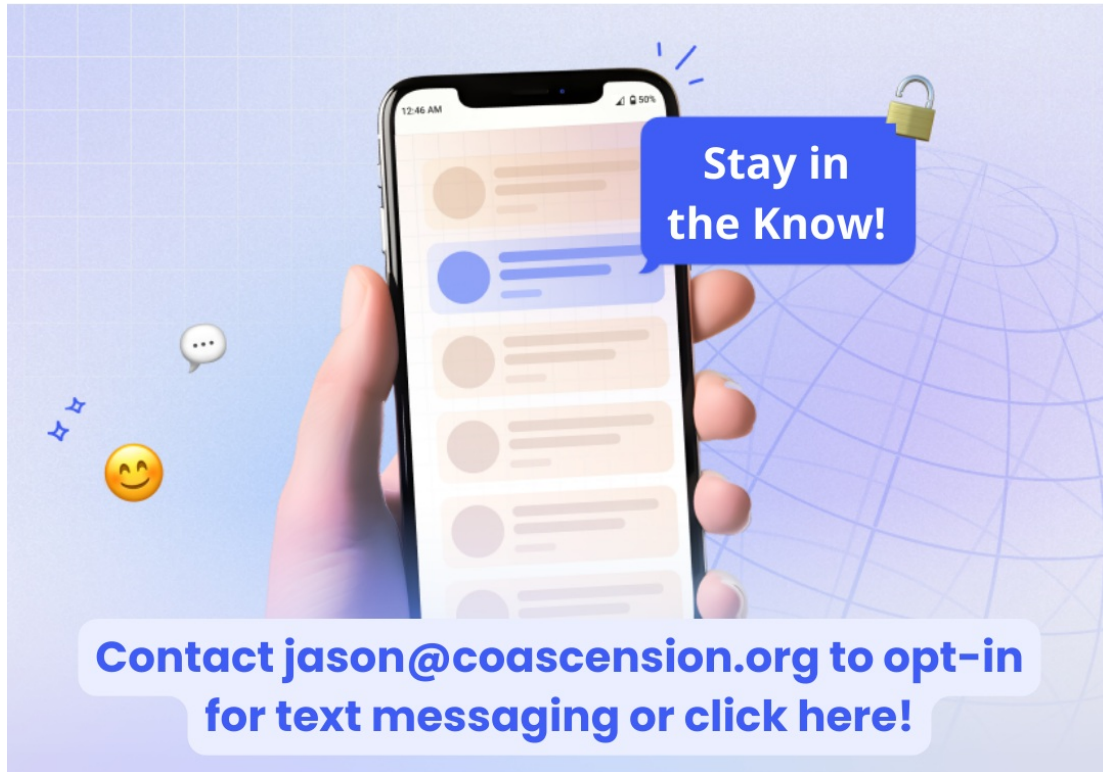
Financial Gift Target
Monthly

\$85,500

Total Pledged Amount for 2025 - \$912,628

Total Collected Amount for 2025 - \$300,640

Opt-In for Text Notifications!



GROW

Vacation Bible School 2025
June 2 – June 5 at Ascension!
8:30 – 12:00 p.m.



Register Your Children
Please register children
by May 12, 2025

Register as a Volunteer
Adults and Youth , part time
and full time help are welcome!

Click either link below and let Laura@coascension know if you have any questions.

It's here! The moment everyone looks forward to that marks the end of another school year and the start of Summer! Vacation Bible School!
This year, our parish will be hosting God's children in Ascension Hall for a journey with Joseph!

Right now, use the links provided below to register children for VBS. Adults and Youth who wish to serve as volunteers, please register and fill out a form also!

More information will follow in the coming days on specific ways you can serve in this ministry. Whether you are gifted in leading a small group, preparing snacks, or "floating" we welcome your talents!

Thank you in advance for making VBS 2025 so special!

[Click here to register your child.](#)

[Click here to register as an adult or Youth Volunteer.](#)

The Weekly WORD




Holy Week

REVERE & REVILE

REVERE and REVILE—the two themes of Holy Week. Jesus enters in to our cheers and joy only to then be crucified by a fickle crowd. When he entered, we lined the streets with palms and sang hosannas as we REVERED him. Now, we reject and REVILE him as he traverses those same streets to Golgotha. We, who once waved palm fronds, now spew saliva upon him.

We cannot know the outcome of the world—how our actions matter whether they are meant for good or for naught. But God will always use our actions for his good. He counts us worthy when we shouldn't count at all. Thanks be to God for his grace and mercy—because ours is too often lacking.

Men's Prayer Breakfast



The Four Quartets
Thursdays at 7:00 am
Ascension Hall
March 13 – April 17

The Four Quartets
Thursdays at 7:00 am
Ascension Hall
March 13 – April 17

T. S. Eliot converted to Anglicanism in 1927 on the eve of the Second World War. His poem, *The Four Quartets*, is a journey of despair and hope through the four primary elements. In this Lenten season, take time to embrace that journey and, like Eliot, find that it leads you closer to God.

SERVE



Contact [Mary Lee](#) if you have any questions about the TLC Ministry. We hope to see you there!



BETHANY'S KIDS MAY 25-28



We welcome all campers in rising 4th-8th grade,
including friends with physical/mental disabilities

All staff arrive on MAY 24!

Camper Buddies: rising 9th-12th grade youth

Adult staff: 19 years old +



SPECIAL SESSION JUNE 1ST-6TH

Adult campers with disabilities: 19 years old +

Counselors: 15-23 years old

Adult staff: 24 +

STAFF ARRIVE ON MAY 30TH!

Get involved with the Ministry of Special Session by dipping your toe in and hosting a Happy Hour or sending love from afar in the form of Welcome packs! If neither of those strike your fancy, come volunteer and/or encourage the members of your Parish/group to do so. There is still one available slot to host a Happy Hour at Special Session this summer! That Happy Hour Host availability is on Tuesday, June 3rd. We are also looking for 4-5 more Parishes to donate 10-20 welcome packs in order to help our campers feel welcomed. Email Jeneva Salter to host a Happy Hour or donate Welcome Packs! bethanycamps@campmcdowell.org

**Volunteering for the Summer Camps at Bethany Village can
accumulate community service hours!**

Register at:

<https://mcdowellsummercamp.campbrainregistration.com/>

A Note from Bishop Curry

Dear Friends,

Below is a [letter](#) from Presiding Bishop Sean Rowe on the tragic bombing of al-Ahli Hospital in Gaza.

I encourage us all to direct our [Good Friday offerings](#) to the Diocese of Jerusalem as a tangible sign of our solidarity and support. Let us also continue to hold the people of the Holy Land in our prayers, especially our siblings in the Diocese of Jerusalem, as they bear witness to Christ's love in the midst of suffering.

Blessings,

Bishop G

SPRING WORK DAY SATURDAY, APRIL 12

Come one! Come all! Please come join us as spruce up the campus before Holy Week! We will be cleaning up the new property on Hull Street so if you have them bring gloves, loppers, limb saws, etc. We will also be removing an old fence behind Joshua Commons to open up the property!

- 8:30 AM - 11:00 AM - Meet in Joshua Commons
- Youth and Children will be spring cleaning the 3rd floor and folding palms in Joshua Commons!



Work Day 2025 was a great success. From rehearsals to cleaning up the Hull St. Lot to decorating for Palm Sunday to planting flowers—lots of folks turned out to help keep Ascension beautiful! Thanks everyone!!





Sawyerville In-Gathering

Help us minister to Sawyerville Camp participants by filling the following needs:

- 20 Girls Swimsuits
One Piece Size L (10-12)
- 20 Boys Swimsuits Size L
- 40 Thin Pool Towels
- 40 Pool Noodles

**Donations can be dropped off in
Ascension Hall!**

Deadline April 30th!



It takes a village to make three sessions of Summer Camp happen, welcoming over 500 campers and nearly 300 staff members—and with 80 days left until the first bus unloads those excited campers at the front of Greensboro Elementary School, we have much to do to prepare for their arrival! We need snacks, cleaning supplies, swimsuits, towels, pool noodles, laundry detergent and more.

Our theme this summer will be “**Thanks be to God**”, where we will examine and practice gratitude—gratitude for creation, friendships, family, answered prayers, and even challenges. As we look forward to seeing how you will make an impact at Sawyerville this summer, we want to say, “thanks be to God for **YOU!**”

COME SERVE AT

Mercy House

**Thursdays
11 a.m. - 1 p.m.**

Questions? Call or text
Stephanie Norrell
at 334-467-6989



Mercy House is a day shelter at 2412 Council Street serving Washington Park and West Montgomery, providing access to food, clothing, shower facilities, and laundry. St. John's and Ascension members are working each week at Mercy House to help package and distribute a hot lunch to those in need every Thursday from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. and we would love for you to join us! The staff at Mercy House prepares the food and handles the distribution, but they can always use help getting the prepared meals bagged and out the door. The link [HERE](#) will take you to the sign-up sheet, but if you aren't comfortable with using Sign Up Genius, you can call or text Stephanie Norrell to sign up at 334-467-6989.

The Vineyard Bookstore

Come see what is new at the Vineyard!

You can now Venmo at The Vineyard! Just search for **@ChurchoftheAscension** and look for our logo. Make sure you tell us it is for The Vineyard and offer a brief description of your purchase. All proceeds at The Vineyard go to outreach initiatives.



Staff Directory

The Rev. Candice B. Frazer, Rector candice@coascension.org

The Rev. Drew Brislin, Associate Rector drew@coascension.org

Becky Taylor, Music Ministry beckytaylor@coascension.org

Will McQueen, Facilities Manager will@coascension.org

Tracy Hinton, Parish Administrator thinton@coascension.org

Jason Pate, Director of Communications jason@coascension.org

Laura Mielke, Children Family & Faith Formation Minister laura@coascension.org

Nick Mielke, Youth Family & Faith Formation Minister nick@coascension.org

Fay WorriLOW, Administrative Assistant fay@coascension.org

PRAYER FOR THE ASCENSION

Almighty and everlasting Father, we stand in your presence, awed and silenced by your goodness and wisdom. We rejoice in the outpouring of your Spirit on the Ascension and our ministries. Help each of us to remember that we are walking in your sight, and that you are present with us at every moment. Through your Holy Spirit, guide us in our prayers and enable us to focus our thoughts on you, so that we may be filled with the knowledge of your will. Grant us the wisdom to ask what you would have us do; the strength and courage to carry out your work; and the grace to show our gratitude through good stewardship of your gracious gifts. We ask all things in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

Amen.

[Visit Our Website](#)

Church of the Ascension | 315 Clanton Avenue | Montgomery, AL 36104 US

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



Try email marketing for free today!