

FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS  
*Celebration of Holy Eucharist*  
December 28, 2025  
9:00 am



EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS AND ASCENSION  
Northwoods, MO

## POURING OF LIBATION

*Presider* We honor the ancestors whose lives call us forward to become who we are

*People* ***We remember the cloud of witnesses, the faithful of the ages and the ages to come.***

*Presider* Saints and sinners alike,

*People* ***Who nurtured and challenged us***

*Presider* The ancestors we claim

*People* ***And the ones we don't***

*Presider* The ancients we know by name

*People* ***And the names lost to history***

*Presider* We honor the ancestors

*People* ***Whose voices are in our throats.***

*Presider* We honor the greatest of our ancestors,

*People* ***First born of many dead, our eldest Brother Jesus.***

*Presider* As`e and Amen!

*People* ***As`e and Amen! Amen! Amen!***

(Taken from "Pour the Libations", We Honor the Ancestors, by Valerie Bridgeman Davis)

### Prayer for the Third Day of Kwanzaa – Ujima (Collective Work & Responsibility)

Today, we honor **Ujima**, the spirit of working together and lifting one another up.

Creator of all,

Bless our hands, that they may build and mend.

Bless our voices, that they may speak truth and encouragement.

Bless our hearts, that they may remain open to the needs of our community.

May we see each other's struggles as our own,

and each other's victories as shared triumphs.

Let our unity be more than words—

let it be action, compassion, and responsibility in motion.

On this day, we commit to walking side by side,

carrying the weight together,

and shaping a future where no one is left behind. As`e and Amen.

## THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

### PROCESSIONAL HYMN

*Music Joy to the World T. 60*

**PSALM 98**

1 Joy to the world! the Lord is come: let earth re - ceive her  
2 Joy to the earth! the Sav - ior reigns: let all their songs em -  
3 No more let sin and sor - row grow nor thorns in - fest the  
4 He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the na - tions

King. Let ev - ery heart pre - pare him room, and  
ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains re -  
ground; he comes to make his bless - ings flow far  
prove the glo - ries of his right - eous - ness and

heaven and na - ture sing, and heaven and na - ture  
peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing  
as the curse is found, far as the curse is  
wonders of his love, and won - ders of his  
and heaven and na - ture sing,

and

heaven and na - ture sing, and heaven and na - ture sing.  
joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.  
found, far as, far as the curse is found.  
love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

**heaven and na - ture sing,**

**92**

## OPENING ACCLAMATION

*Presider*      Blessed are you, holy and living One.  
*People*      ***You have come to your people and set them free.***

## COLLECT FOR PURITY

*Presider*      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 Savior. ***Amen.***

## SONG OF PRAISE: *GLORIA (spoken)*

***Glory to God in the highest,  
and peace to his people on earth.***

***Lord God, heavenly King,  
almighty God and Father,  
we worship you, we give you thanks,  
we praise you for your glory.***

***Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,  
Lord God, Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world:  
have mercy on us;  
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:  
receive our prayer.  
For you alone are the Holy One,  
you alone are the Lord,  
you alone are the Most High,  
Jesus Christ,  
with the Holy Spirit,  
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.***

*Presider* God is with you.  
*People* ***And also with you.***  
*Presider* Let us pray.

## THE COLLECT

*Presider* Almighty God, you have poured upon us the new light of your incarnate Word: Grant that this light, enkindled in our hearts, may shine forth in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Savior, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. ***Amen.***

## FIRST READING Isaiah 61: 10-62:3

A Reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah.

I will greatly rejoice in the LORD,  
my whole being shall exult in my God;  
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,  
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,  
as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,  
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.  
  
For as the earth brings forth its shoots,  
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,  
so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise  
to spring up before all the nations.  
  
For Zion's sake I will not keep silent,  
and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest,  
until her vindication shines out like the dawn,  
and her salvation like a burning torch.  
  
The nations shall see your vindication,  
and all the kings your glory;  
and you shall be called by a new name  
that the mouth of the LORD will give.  
  
You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the LORD,  
and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

*People      Thanks be to God.*

## PSALM 147:13-21      *Laudate Dominum*

13 Worship the LORD, O Jerusalem; \*  
*praise your God, O Zion;*

14 For he has strengthened the bars of your gates; \*  
*he has blessed your children within you.*

15 He has established peace on your borders; \*  
*he satisfies you with the finest wheat.*

16 He sends out his command to the earth, \*  
*and his word runs very swiftly.*

17 He gives snow like wool; \*  
*he scatters hoarfrost like ashes.*

18 He scatters his hail like bread crumbs; \*  
*who can stand against his cold?*

19 He sends forth his word and melts them; \*  
*he blows with his wind, and the waters flow.*

20 He declares his word to Jacob, \*  
*his statutes and his judgments to Israel.*

21 He has not done so to any other nation; \*  
*to them he has not revealed his judgments.*

*Hallelujah!*

## SECOND READING

## Galatians 3:23-25; 4:4-7

## A Reading from Paul's Letter to the Galatians.

Now before faith came, we were imprisoned and guarded under the law until faith would be revealed. Therefore, the law was our disciplinarian until Christ came, so that we might be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian.

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

*People*      ***Thanks be to God.***

## SEQUENCE HYMN

CHRIST'S LIFE

95

### What Child Is This

Em G D Em Am B

1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mar-y's lap is sleep-ing?  
 2 Why lies he in such mean es-tate where ox and ass are feed-ing?  
 3 So bring him in-cense, gold, and myrrh; come, peas-ant, king, to own him.

Em G D Em B Esus Em

Whom an-gels greet with an-thems sweet while shep-herds watch are keep-ing?  
 Good Chris-tian, fear; for sin-ners here the si-lent Word is plead-ing.  
 The King of kings sal-va-tion brings; let lov-ing hearts en-throne him.

Bm G D Em Am B

This, this is Christ the King, whom shep-herds guard and an-gels sing;  
 Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you;  
 Raise, raise the song on high, the vir-gin sings her lul-la-by;

Bm G D Em B Esus Em

haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mar-y!  
 hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mar-y!  
 joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mar-y.

Words: William C. Dix (1837-1898), P.D.  
 Music (CREDENCE REVERE & 7 8 7 6 8 6 7), English ballad, 16th c., P.D.

## THE GOSPEL

John 1:1-18

*Deacon* The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to John.

*People* ***Glory to you, O Christ.***

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

The Gospel of the Lord.

*People* ***Praise to you, O Christ.***

## SERMON

The Rev. Dr. Deacon Valerie E. Patton

## THE NICENE CREED

Deacon      Together, let us profess what we believe.

***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.***

## **THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

Deacon      Let us offer our prayers to God who first loved us.

*(The Worship Leader and People pray responsively)*

You who fashioned this holy day with the radiance of the Word made flesh and filled the air with the song of angels; fashion us, like Mary the God bearer, in to a people who seek the Christ-Child in the face of the outcast, the outsider and the other. Fill our hearts with the song of the angels that we may be makers and pursuers of peace. Christ be our light.

***As'e. Shine in our hearts.***

You who framed the brightness of the first light in creation; dispel the arrogance, animosity and anger that shatters the unity of your holy Church. Fill your faithful people with the radiant light of truth, that we may be made one in faith, hope and love. Christ be our light.

***As'e. Shine in our hearts.***

You who delivered your people from the misery of bondage in slavery to the land of promise; set us free us from enslavement to division, disunity and distrust in our public life and labor. Illumine those in authority with the light of vision, that they may lead the peoples of the nations to greater unity and concord. Christ be our light.

***As'e. Shine in our hearts.***

You who patterned the stars and called the sun in to being, who appointed the moon and chartered the cosmos. Pattern the hearts of people everywhere to see in each other the beauty of the universe and the splendor of creation, that divisions of race, class, gender and ethnicity may dissolve into one common humanity. Christ be our light.

***As'e. Shine in our hearts.***

You who shower comfort and hope to the lowest, the lost and the least; shower the light of compassion on the sick, the sorrowful and the suffering especially:

John Anthony	Delphine Booker	Harold Briggs
Linette Cayetano	Chris Crittenden	Bessie Clemonns
Keyanna Dorsey & Family	Rick Earley	Ronald Hawkins
Renee Griffin	Stella Hughes	Marvelle Johnson
Erika Jones	Greg Kelley	Winifred Lemmie
Regina Lewis	Carol Mecagni	Johnetta Martin
Alex Okumu	Diana Oliver	Helen Owens
Betty Patton	Michelle Pendleton	Marion Robinson
Rick Rollins	Florence Ross	Lisseth Salgado
Phillistene Tefend	Patricia Thomas	David Westfall
Annie White	Antoinette Williams	James Williams, Sr.

We continue to pray for all those who are still affected by the tornado in May. We pray especially for our adopted family and many others.

We pray for all veterans and those who are currently serving in the military, especially:

Sgt. Omar Fernandes (Brantley)-United States Air Force  
Captain Carrion-United States Army  
Staff Sgt. Ashley Cole-United States Air Force  
Chief Warrant Officer 3 Keshar Miller-United States Army Reserve  
Captain Steven C. Roberts, II – United States Air Force Reserve  
The Rev. Jamal Scarlett-Lieutenant Commander and Navy Chaplain  
Major Westfall-United States Air Force

*People may name others silently or aloud. Silence is kept for a time.*

Christ be our light.

**As'e. Shine in our hearts.**

You who welcome into the brilliant light of eternity the souls of those who have died; welcome those whose lives have been cut short by violence, warfare and strife. Shine the light of hope on our faithful dead, especially Carol Weir, friend of Deacon Valerie and those we now name silently or aloud. *(Pause)* Christ be our light.

**As'e. Shine in our hearts.**

You who delight in the complexity of creation and the splendor of each creature; help us to delight in the diversity of the earth our island home. Inspire your people to care for the earth and its creatures and repent and return when we abuse, misuse and neglect our fellow creatures. Christ be our light.

**As'e. Shine in our hearts.**

*Presider* May Christ, the Morning-Star who knows no setting, find us ever burning with the light of love, the spirit of truth and the wellspring of hope; that following the way of Jesus and filled with the flame of the Holy Spirit, we may be a holy people whose lives and living inspire, incite and inflame your world with compassion and care. Through Jesus the Christ the light of the world. **As'e and Amen.**

## **THE PEACE**

*Presider* The peace of Christ our Light be always with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

## **WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

## **THE OFFERTORY SENTENCE**

*Presider* Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God. *Ephesians 5:2*

## OFFERTORY HYMN

CHRISTMAS

### Jesus, Jesus, Oh, What a Wonderful Child 099

3/4 G G9 C C7 G

**#** 12/8 G D7 G G9 C C7 G

Je - sus, Je - sus, oh, what a won-der-ful child.

**#** 12/8 G D7 G A A9 D C/D

Je - sus, Je - sus, so ho - ly, meek, and mild; new

**#** 12/8 G Gm7 G C

life, new hope, new joy he brings. Lis - ten to the

C#7 G/D D7 G G#7 Am A9/E D7 G

an - gels sing, "Glo - ry, glo - ry, glo - ry," to the new-born King!

**#** 12/8 C#7 G/D D7 G G#7 Am A9/E D7 G

## THE LITURGY OF THE TABLE

### *Eucharistic Prayer "Enriching our Worship"*

*Presider* God is with you.  
*People* ***And also with you.***  
*Presider* Lift up your hearts.  
*People* ***We lift them to the Lord.***  
*Presider* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
*People* ***It is right to give thanks and praise.***

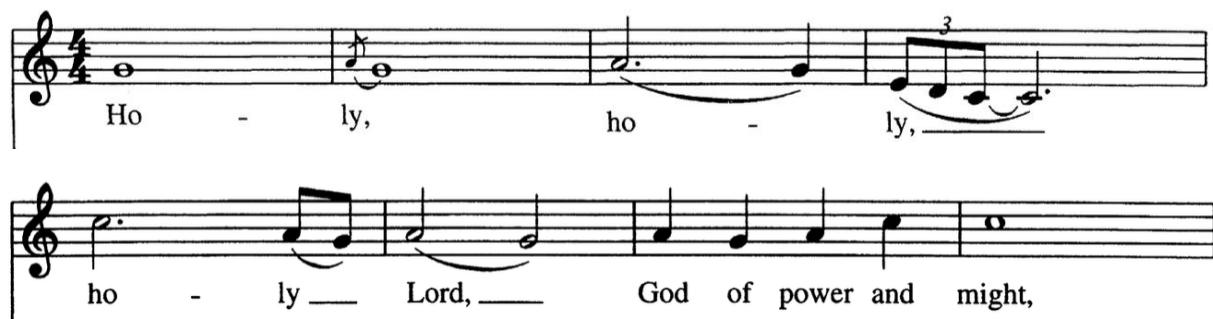
*Presider*

We praise you and we bless you, holy and gracious God, source of life abundant. From before time, you made ready the creation. Your Spirit moved over the deep and brought all things into being: sun, moon, and stars; earth, winds, and waters; and every living thing. You made us in your image, and taught us to walk in your ways. But we rebelled against you, and wandered far away; and yet, as a mother cares for her children, you would not forget us. Time and again you called us to live in the fullness of your love. And so, this day we join with Saints and Angels in the chorus of praise that rings through eternity, lifting our voices to magnify you as we sing (say):

*Presider and People*      ***"Holy, Holy"***

252

**Holy, Holy, Holy**



Ho - ly,  
ho - ly,  
ho - ly,  
ho - ly,  
ly,  
Lord, God of power and might,

he a - 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.

### *Presider*

Glory and honor and praise to you, holy and living God.  
To deliver us from the power of sin and death  
and to reveal the riches of your grace,  
you looked with favor upon Mary, your willing servant,  
that she might conceive and bear a son, Jesus the holy child of God.  
Living among us, Jesus loved us.  
He broke bread with outcasts and sinners, healed the sick,  
and proclaimed good news to the poor.  
He yearned to draw all the world to himself  
yet we were heedless of his call to walk in love.  
Then, the time came for him to complete upon the cross  
the sacrifice of his life, and to be glorified by you.

On the night before he died for us, Jesus was at table with his friends. He took bread, gave thanks to you, broke it, and gave it to them, and said: "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me." As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine. Again, he gave thanks to you, gave it to them, and said: "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Now gathered at your table, O God of all creation,  
and remembering Christ, crucified and risen,  
who was and is and is to come,  
we offer to you our gifts of bread and wine, and ourselves, a living sacrifice.  
Pour out your Spirit upon these gifts  
that they may be the Body and Blood of Christ.  
Breathe your Spirit over the whole earth  
and make us your new creation, the Body of Christ  
given for the world you have made.  
In the fullness of time bring us, with [\_\_\_\_\_ and] all your saints,  
from every tribe and language and people and nation,  
to feast at the banquet prepared from the foundation of the world.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever and ever.

#### **THE GREAT AMEN (sung)**

*Presider* And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to pray,

#### **THE LORD'S PRAYER (sung)**

*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**

*Presider* Alleluia! Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

*People* ***Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia! Alleluia!***

## **FRACTION ANTHEM (spoken)**

*Presider and People*

***Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us.***

***Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us.***

***Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: grant us peace.***

## **THE INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

*Presider* 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.

## **THE COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE**

*(All are invited to God's Table. You may come forward to receive the Body of Christ or to receive a blessing. Some may wish to remain in your seats. Please use this time to quietly sit and pray or join in the singing of the hymn(s)).*

*(Those at home may, if they wish, say this prayer:)*

### **A Prayer for those wishing Communion**

In union, O God, with the faithful of your Church where the Holy Eucharist is now being celebrated, we desire to offer you praise and thanksgiving. We present to you our souls and bodies with the earnest wish that we may always be united to you. And since we cannot now receive you sacramentally, we beseech you to come spiritually into our hearts. We unite ourselves with you and embrace you with all the love of our souls. Let nothing ever separate you from us. May we live in you, and may you live in us, both in this life and in the life to come. *Amen.*

## COMMUNION HYMN

## O Little Town of Bethlehem

88

F A/G Gm/B<sup>b</sup> F/C C7 F  
 1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!  
 2 For Christ is born of Mar - i - y, and gath - ered all a - bove,  
 3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly the won - drous gift is given!  
 4 O ho - ly Child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray.

D7 Gm F/C C7 F  
 A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep the si - lent stars go by.  
 while mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won - dering love.  
 So God im - parts to hu - man hearts the bless - ings of his heaven.  
 Cast out our sin and en - ter in; be born in us to - day.

Gm A Dm Gm7/D A  
 Yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing Light;  
 O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth,  
 No ear may hear his com - ing, but in this world of sin,  
 We hear the Christ - mas an - gels the great glad tid - ings tell;

F Gm/B<sup>b</sup> F/C C7 F  
 the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.  
 and prais - es sing to God the King, and peace to all on earth.  
 where meek souls will re - ceive him still the dear Christ en - ters in.  
 O come to us, a - bide with us, our Lord Em - man - u - el.

## THE POST COMMUNION PRAYER

*Presider* God is with you.

*People* ***And also with you.***

*Presider* Let us pray.

*Loving God, we give you thanks for restoring us in your image and nourishing us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood. Now send us forth a people, forgiven, healed, renewed; that we may proclaim your love to the world and continue in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.*

## THE CHRISTMAS BLESSING

*Presider* May Almighty God, who sent God's Son to take our nature upon him, bless you in this holy season, scatter the darkness of sin, and brighten your heart with the light of his holiness. ***Amen.***

May God, who sent God's angels to proclaim the glad news of the Savior's birth, fill you with joy, and make you heralds of the Gospel. ***Amen.***

May God, who in the Word made flesh joined heaven to earth and earth to heaven, give you God's peace and favor. ***Amen.***

And the blessing of God Almighty, Creator, Redeemer, and Sanctifier, be upon you and remain with you for ever. ***Amen.***

## PROCESSIONAL HYMN

99

Christmas

*Refrain*

Go tell it on the moun - tain, o - ver the hills and

ev - ery - where; go tell it on the moun - tain, that

Je - sus Christ is born! 1 While shep - herds kept their

2 The shep - herds feared and

3 Down in a low - ly

watch - ing o'er si - lent flocks by night, be -

trem - bled when lo! a - bove the earth rang

man - ger the hum - ble Christ was born, and

hold, through-out the hea -vens there shone a ho - ly light.

out the an - gel cho - rus that hailed our Sa - vior's birth.

God sent us sal - va - tion that bless - ed Christ-mas morn.

*Repeat Refrain*

## THE DISMISSAL

*Presider*      Let us go forth in the Name of Christ. Alleluia. Alleluia.  
*People*      ***Thanks be to God. Alleluia. Alleluia.***

## ***TODAY'S LITURGICAL LEADERS***

***Presider***  
*The Rev. Renee L. Fenner, Rector*

***Deacon***  
*The Rev. Dr. Deacon Valerie E. Patton*

***Worship Leader***  
*Margarett Williams*

***Reader***  
*Michael Watson*

***Acolyte***  
*Laura Mabry*

***Minister of Music***  
*Terrell Thompson*

## OUR MISSION AND VISION STATEMENTS

**Mission Statement:** *To be the Light of Christ that builds relationships in our congregation, our community, and with our God.*

**Vision Statement:** *Finding Christ in Relationships*

## EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS AND ASCENSION VESTRY – 2025

### Class of 2025

Senior Warden-Joyce Crittenden (2026)

Junior Warden-Gaylard Williams (2027)

### Class of 2027

Adrienne Dillon

Sondra Harrell

### Class of 2028

Michael Griffin

Stanley Merridith

### Treasurer

Rickey Mabry

### Convention Delegates

Adrienne Dillon (2027)

Caroline Moore (2027)

### Alternate Delegate

Donna Black (2027)



## LIFTING UP OUR VOICES

**My mission in life is not merely to survive, but to thrive; and to do so with some passion, some compassion, some humor, and some style.”**

*– Maya Angelou*

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

We are always ready to pray for family members, friends, neighbors and all those in need of our prayers. As promised, we are returning to the practice of keeping names on our prayer list for six weeks. If you would like to include someone on our prayer list, please fill out a 'Prayer Request Form' located at the Ushers' station. Thank you!

## **REMEMBER OUR ADOPTED FAMILY**

Please remember our adopted family during this holiday season and help brighten their spirits! Our family consists of a single mother and her two daughters, ages 18 and 21. We can continue our monetary fund to help pay for repairs to their home. We can provide food and personal items, and gift cards to stores such as Schnuck's, Target, Walmart, Walgreens, Kohl's, and Aldi's. "Whatever you do to the least of them; you do unto me (Matthew 25:40)."

## **NEW YEAR'S EVE TAIZE AT THE CATHEDRAL**

Confluence Spirituality St. Louis invites you to join them for prayers, scripture readings, and chants in the style of Taize in Christ Church Cathedral, 1210 Locust Street, St. Louis, at 5:00 pm. It is a deeply spiritual way to close 2025 and open our hearts to 2026. ALL ARE WELCOME! Secure parking is available at the Cathedral.

## **MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW**

Please mark your calendars now for our Annual Meeting which will be held on Sunday, January 25. More information to come.

## **VESTRY CANDIDATES NEEDED**

We are still looking for a few good men and women to run for Vestry! There will be a couple of vacancies that we need to fill at our Annual Meeting on January 25, 2026. If you are over 18 and a member in good standing, please pray and consider running for these important positions.

## **ASA'S 2026 CHURCH CALENDAR---**

We are currently planning the 2026 calendar. We are asking that all committees and chairpersons to please submit dates for your events for next year. We are looking for dates ONLY-no reports yet. Please turn in your dates by January 4, 2026.

### **ASA FOOD MINISTRY – FEED THE NEED**

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ! Thank you for your generosity in feeding our brothers and sisters in the beloved community who are food insecure! The need is becoming more significant as we continue to partner with the Urban League and the decisions being made in our national government. We want the following items to restock our food pantry:

Paper Products

Paper Towels, Toilet Paper, Facial Tissue

Toiletries

    Toothpaste, Toothbrush, Bar Soap, Deodorant, Hair Shampoo

Ramen Noodle

Vienna Sausage

Mac and Cheese

Peanut Butter

Canned or Packaged Meat...Tuna or Chicken Breast

Canned Chili

Canned Soup

Canned Spaghetti and Meatballs

Packaged Pasta Spaghetti, and Rice

When purchasing canned items, please consider getting pull-tops, if possible, as many do not have can openers.

### **ASA FOOD MINISTRY – FEED THE NEED - INDOOR FOOD PANTRY and GARDEN**

We want to reopen our indoor Food Pantry in January 2026. We are looking to begin on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month from 10 am to 12 pm. Volunteers need to be available from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm. We are seeking two volunteers to serve as liaisons to our potential clients.

In spring 2026 (probably late March or early April, depending on the weather), we will plant our vegetable garden. We will need 2-4 volunteers. The volunteers would clean, plant, and maintain the garden. The estimated time commitment is 2 hours per session.

For more details, please get in touch with Deacon Valerie.

### **SIBLING SUPPORT NETWORK**

Do not forget that help is there for those dealing with the loss of a sibling due to violent crime. For more info and survey, please go to: sibling support network.org or contact Cheeraz Gormon for more information – [cgormon@gmail.com](mailto:cgormon@gmail.com).

### **ALTAR FLOWERS**

Please consider sponsoring the altar flowers for a Sunday Eucharist. Your sponsorship will allow us to make our worship space beautiful. You can make a dedication to your deceased loved ones or give recognition to living loved ones or in thanksgiving for God's blessings. Check out our website for a form or see an usher!

### **COFFEE HOUR/FELLOWSHIP SIGN UP**

Coffee Hour allows us time to fellowship with each other after Eucharist. Thank you to those who have sponsored a Coffee Hour thus far. Please think about signing up with another parishioner to provide treats for this fun event. There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the narthex. Refreshments may consist of fruits, pastries/Danish, juice, coffee, tea. **Please note that hosts are also responsible for cleanup.**

### **COMPLETING OFFERING ENVELOPES**

**PLEASE HELP** make the Tellers' job a lot easier by doing the following:

- Write your name on each envelope.
- Write your number on the envelope if you are not using the one assigned to you.
- See Deborah Dukes or Betty Brown if you do not remember your number.
- If you are writing a check, include the check number in the top right corner.
- If you are paying with cash, please write "Cash" in the top right corner instead of a check number.
- Use one envelope for one donation.
- If your donation is for anything other than your pledge, PLEASE, include on the envelope what it is for, i.e., ECW Dues, Men's Club, etc.

### **PAYPAL**

Did you forget to bring your pledge with you to a Eucharist? Or perhaps you cannot attend one of the Eucharists on Sunday morning. Then you should

consider using Pay Pal to send in your pledge/contribution. It's fast, easy, and a guaranteed safe way to contribute. Some of our parishioners are already taking advantage of this service. For more information, go to our Website and click on the "Connect Tab" and then click on "Online Contributions.

**ADDITIONAL WORSHIP AND STUDY OPPORTUNITIES**

**ASA EVENING PRAYER – EVERY WEDNESDAY AT 6:00 PM**

<contact parish office for Zoom logon info>

**PLEASE NOTE THERE WILL BE NO EVENING PRAYER ON DECEMBER 31st!**

**ASA BIBLE STUDY**

Please join our weekly Bible Study group every Thursday at 10:00 am. We will be discussing Women of the Bible, so come ready to learn and share your insights. I believe that studying God's Word as a group will strengthen our Faith and will help us relate His Words to our lives in today's world. Joyce Crittenden, Leader.

<contact parish office for Zoom logon info>



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