

THE HOLY EUCHARIST

FOR THE FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS & ASCENSION

4520 LUCAS AND HUNT RD, ST. LOUIS, MO 63121



WELCOME! KARIBU!

God brought you here!

Scattered into a world that does not always see our worth, we gather as God's beloved at The Episcopal Church of All Saints and Ascension. We gather to remember who we are and whose we are. We bring the fragments of our lives, our joys and our sorrows, our weariness and our hope, to be healed and made whole in Jesus Christ.

Rooted in the rich heritage of the Episcopal tradition and shaped by the beauty, brilliance, and resilience of our African American history, we come together as a people of praise. Here, the faith of the ancestors steadies us. Here, the songs of our foremothers and forefathers rise again on our lips. Here, the Spirit meets us in dance and in song, in prayer and in proclamation, in silence and in holy celebration.

We seek to be a place of healing, where wounded spirits find restoration and broken hearts find balm. We seek to be a place of empowerment, where gifts are named, voices are lifted, and leadership is nurtured. We seek to embody Black excellence, not as pride apart from God, but as the radiant reflection of the Divine image within us, cultivated through faith, discipline, creativity, and love.

In this sacred space, we support one another in mutual care and accountability. We testify to God's goodness in the midst of struggle. We proclaim a Gospel that liberates, restores, and sends us forth.

And when our worship ends, our work continues. Strengthened at the altar and stirred by the Spirit, we follow Jesus out into the world carrying with us the courage of the ancestors, the wisdom of those who have gone before, and the unshakable hope of the Resurrection.

God brought you here! Welcome home.

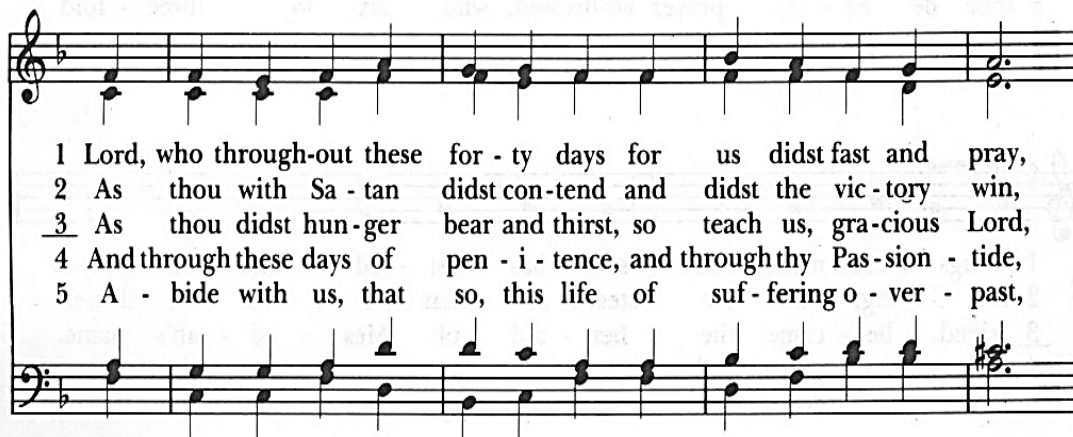


GATHERING OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD.

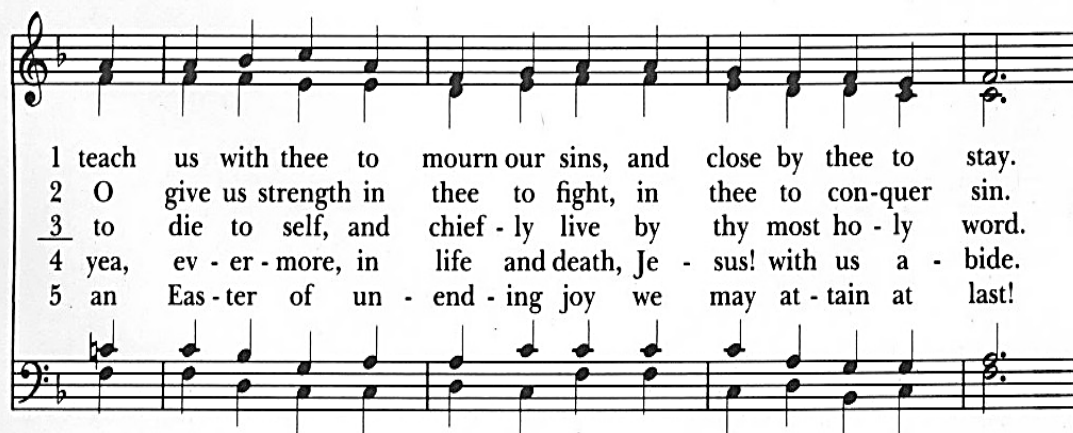
Gathering Song/Music

Lent

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1 Lord, who through-out these for - ty days for us didst fast and pray,
2 As thou with Sa - tan didst con-tend and didst the vic - tory win,
3 As thou didst hun-ger bear and thirst, so teach us, gra-cious Lord,
4 And through these days of pen - i - tence, and through thy Pas-sion - tide,
5 A - bide with us, that so, this life of suf - fering o - ver - past,



1 teach us with thee to mourn our sins, and close by thee to stay.
2 O give us strength in thee to fight, in thee to con-quer sin.
3 to die to self, and chief - ly live by thy most ho - ly word.
4 yea, ev - er - more, in life and death, Je - sus! with us a - bide.
5 an Eas - ter of un - end - ing joy we may at - tain at last!

Words: Claudia Frances Hernaman (1838-1898)

Music: St. Flavian, melody from *Day's Psalter*, 1562; adapt. and harm. Richard Redhead (1820-1901)

CM

OPENING ACCLAMATION

Presider Blessed be the God of our salvation.

People **Who bears our burdens and forgives our sins. Amen.**

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 Lord. **Amen.**

CALLING TO THE ANCESTORS

During the calling to the Ancestors, a drum rhythm sounds between the calls.

Presider In this journey of Lent, we call to the Ancestors, the dreamers, the seekers, the agitators.

People **We call on their strength, their fortitude, their courage as we walk this way.**

The Presider and people face East.

Presider From the East, where the sun rises and hope is born again, we remember the dreamers, those who trusted in freedom they did not live to see, who prayed toward a brighter dawn. In this Lenten season of repentance and renewal, we lean on their steadfast hope.

People **Ancestors of hope, stand among us.**

The Presider and people face South.

Presider From the South, land of suffering and song, we honor those who bore injustice yet lifted spirituals that carried faith through the fire. As we walk the wilderness road of Lent, may their courage strengthen us.

People **Ancestors of courage, stand among us.**

The Presider and people face West.

Presider From the West, across the waters of sorrow, we remember the stolen ones our ancestors carried in chains, yet never abandoned by God. As we journey toward the cross, we trust the One who entered suffering and rose with healing in his hands.

People **Ancestors of faith, stand among us.**

The Presider and people face North.

Presider From the North, place of resilience and rebuilding, we call on the elders who taught us dignity, who built churches from prayer and perseverance. In this holy season, may their wisdom guide our repentance and our hope.

People **Ancestors of wisdom, stand among us.**

All face toward the altar.

Presider With the ancestors surrounding us, Christ before us, and the Spirit within us, let us walk the Lenten path together and worship the Holy One who brings life out of death. Amen.

Presider God of our ancestors and God of our becoming, you call us from bondage into freedom, from wilderness into promise, from death into life.

People **Gather us in your mercy and set our feet upon your holy way.**

SONG OF LAMENT: "GUIDE MY FEET"

(Each week in lent a different verse is sung)

1., 6. Guide my feet while I run this race,

Guide my feet while I run this race,

Guide my feet while I run this race, for I

don't want to run this race in vain!

2. Hold my hand... 3. Stand by me... 4. I'm your child... 5. Search my heart...

Text: African-American spiritual
Tune: African-American spiritual; harm. by Diana Kodner, b. 1957

CONFESSION OF SIN

(A brief silence is kept.)

Deacon In this season of Lent, let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor, trusting in the mercy of the One who hears our cries.

Silence is kept

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 honored the sacrifices of those who came before us. We have forgotten the songs that sustained us. We have grown weary in the struggle for justice and slow to love one another. Forgive us, we pray. Create in us clean hearts, O God, and renew a right spirit within us. Strengthen us to walk the Lenten road with humility and courage, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Presider May 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.

Presider God is with you.

People **And also with you.**

Presider Let us pray.

The Presider prays the collect of the day.

Presider Almighty God, whose blessed Son was led by the Spirit to be tempted by Satan: Come quickly to help us who are assaulted by many temptations; and, as you know the weaknesses of each of us, let each one find you mighty to save; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Deacon May the Word of God always be heard in this place. May the experience of our spiritual ancestors be valued in this place. May the Good News of love be proclaimed in this place.

People **May the mystery of Christ unfold before us, may the words of salvation revive us, and may the Spirit of Truth guide us. Let us hear once more the stories of our redemption.**

All are seated.

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF GENESIS 2:15-17; 3:1-7

The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. And the Lord God commanded the man, "You may freely eat of every tree of the garden; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die." Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God say, 'You shall not eat from any tree in the garden?'" The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.'" But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not die; for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's People.

People **Thanks be to God.**

THE PSALM OF THE DAY: PSALM 32

1 Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven, *
and whose sin is put away!

2 **Happy are they to whom the Lord imputes no guilt, *
and in whose spirit there is no guile!**

3 While I held my tongue, my bones withered away, *
because of my groaning all day long.

4 **For your hand was heavy upon me day and night; *
my moisture was dried up as in the heat of summer.**

5 Then I acknowledged my sin to you, *
and did not conceal my guilt.

6 **I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord." ***
Then you forgave me the guilt of my sin.

7 Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in time of trouble; *
when the great waters overflow, they shall not reach them.

**8 You are my hiding-place;
you preserve me from trouble; *
you surround me with shouts of deliverance.**

9 "I will instruct you and teach you in the way that you should go; *
I will guide you with my eye.

**10 Do not be like horse or mule, which have no understanding; *
who must be fitted with bit and bridle,
or else they will not stay near you."**

11 Great are the tribulations of the wicked; *
but mercy embraces those who trust in the Lord.

**12 Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the Lord; *
shout for joy, all who are true of heart.**

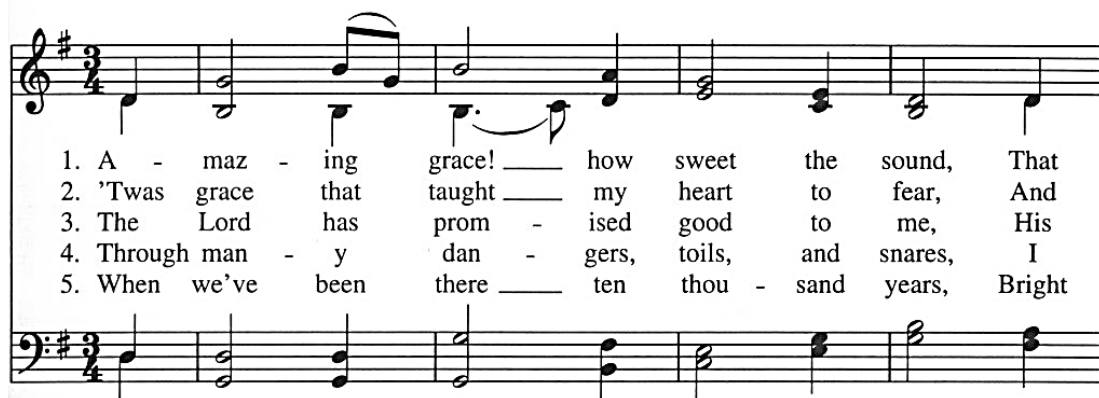
A READING FROM THE LETTER TO THE ROMANS 5:12-19

As sin came into the world through one man, and death came through sin, and so death spread to all because all have sinned-- sin was indeed in the world before the law, but sin is not reckoned when there is no law. Yet death exercised dominion from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sins were not like the transgression of Adam, who is a type of the one who was to come. But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died through the one man's trespass, much more surely have the grace of God and the free gift in the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, abounded for the many. And the free gift is not like the effect of the one man's sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the free gift following many trespasses brings justification. If, because of the one man's trespass, death exercised dominion through that one, much more surely will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness exercise dominion in life through the one man, Jesus Christ. Therefore just as one man's trespass led to condemnation for all, so one man's act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all. For just as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.

<i>Reader</i>	Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.
<i>People</i>	<i>Thanks be to God.</i>

Amazing Grace

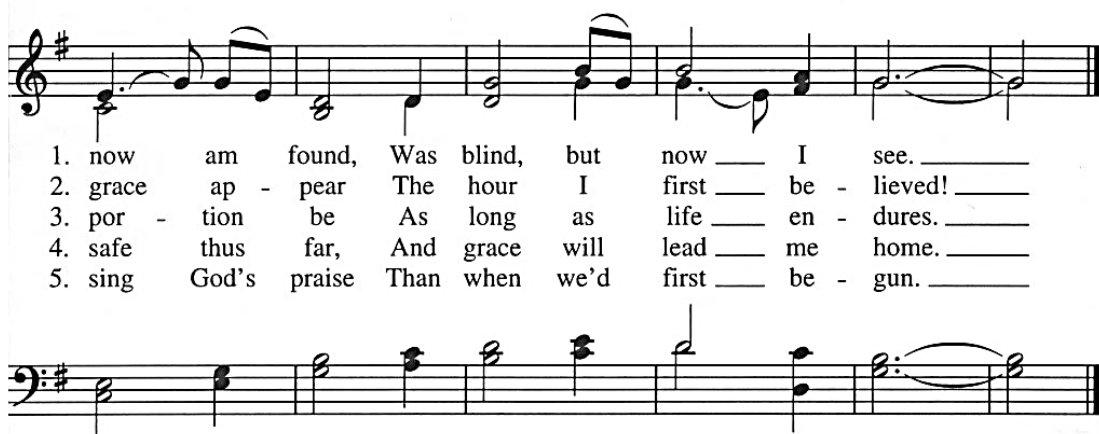
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1. A - maz - ing grace! — how sweet the sound, That
 2. 'Twas grace that taught — my heart to fear, And
 3. The Lord has prom - ised good to me, His
 4. Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares, I
 5. When we've been there — ten thou - sand years, Bright



1. saved a wretch like me! — I once was lost, but
 2. grace my fears re - lieved; — How pre - cious did that
 3. word my hope se - cures; — He will my shield and
 4. have al - read - y come; — 'Tis grace that brought me
 5. shin - ing as the sun, — We've no less days to



1. now am found, Was blind, but now — I see. —
 2. grace ap - pear The hour I first — be - lieved! —
 3. por - tion be As long as life — en - dures. —
 4. safe thus far, And grace will lead me home. —
 5. sing God's praise Than when we'd first — be - gun. —

THE PROCLAMATION OF THE GOSPEL: MATTHEW 4:1-11

Deacon Beloved, God is with you.

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

Deacon The holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Matthew.

People ***Glory to you Lord Christ.***

Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished. The tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." But he answered, "It is written, 'One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"

Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down; for it is written, 'He will command his angels concerning you,' and 'On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.'"

Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'"

Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor; and he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me." Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! for it is written, 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.'"

Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

Deacon The Gospel of the Lord.

People ***Praise to you Lord Christ.***

THE SERMON

THE REV. RENEE L. FENNER

OUR AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Deacon Let us affirm our faith in the One, Holy and Living God. Silence is kept for a time.

Deacon We believe in one God, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

People ***We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Creator, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Creator. Through him all things were made.***

Deacon 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 became truly human.

People ***In his life among us, he proclaimed good news to the poor, liberty to the captives, sight to the blind, and release to the oppressed.***

Deacon Jesus ate with outcasts, forgave sinners, challenged injustice, and embodied the boundless love of God.

People ***In word and deed, he revealed the reign of God drawing near.***

Deacon 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 Creator.

People ***He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.***

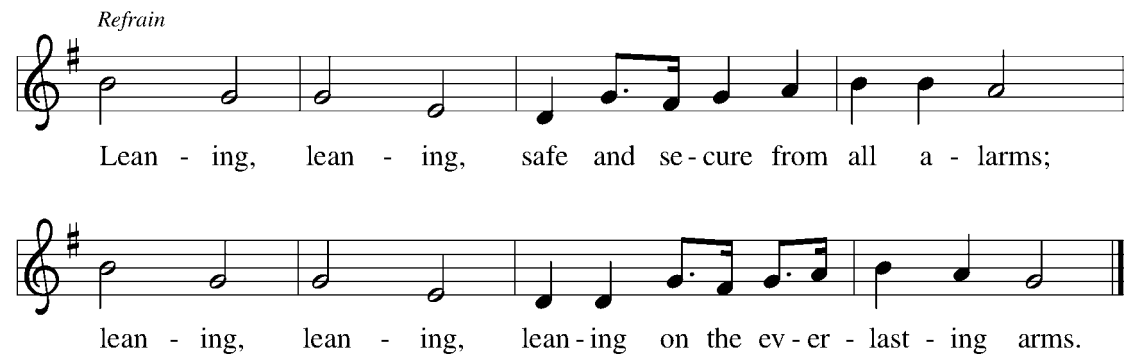
Deacon We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Creator and the Son. With the Creator and is worshiped and glorified. Who has spoken through the Prophets.

People ***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:

A sung refrain may be offered during the prayers.

Deacon Trusting in the God who walked with our mothers and fathers through fire and flood, who parted seas and made a way out of no way, let us offer our prayers for the Church and for the world.



Leader For the holy Church of God throughout the world; for Sean our Presiding Bishop, for Deon our Bishop, for this Diocese, and for all bishops, priests, and deacons; for lay leaders, elders, and young prophets; that the Church may be a shelter in the time of storm, a light in the darkness, and a freedom song for all who long for deliverance let us pray to the Lord.

Leader For this nation, and for all who bear the weight of leadership; for those who sit in seats of power, that they may do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with our God; that every valley of inequality be lifted and every mountain of oppression made low let us pray to the Lord.

Leader For the peace of the world; for lands torn by war and communities divided by fear; for places where children cry and mothers weep; that swords may be beaten into plowshares and we may study war no more; that God would trouble the waters of injustice and bring healing to the nations let us pray to the Lord. **Refrain.**

- Leader* For this city and for our neighborhoods; for teachers and students, workers and caregivers; for those seeking employment and those building new beginnings; that our streets may be places of safety, our homes places of laughter, and our churches places where everybody is somebody; let us pray to the Lord.
- Leader* For the sick and the suffering; for those bowed down by grief, addiction, incarceration, or despair; for those who feel like motherless children a long way from home; that Christ, the Man of Sorrows, would sit beside them, rock them in the cradle of his love, and remind them that trouble don't last always; let us pray to the Lord.
- Leader* For those who have gone before us in the faith, our ancestors and all the saints; for those whose names we speak now, either aloud or in the silence of our hearts. (*Silence is kept.*) We remember especially the Rev. Jesse Jackson. May they rest in that bright land where there is no more crying and no more pain, where the tree of life is blooming and the saints go marching in let us pray to the Lord. **Refrain.**
- Additional prayers may be offered silently or aloud.*
- Presider* God of our weary years and our silent tears, you have brought us thus far by faith. Hear the prayers we offer, spoken and unspoken, and keep us singing as we journey toward the cross and the empty tomb; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE PEACE

- Presider* The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People **And also with you.**

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE LITURGY OF THE TABLE

I Want Jesus to Walk with Me

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1. I want Je - sus _____ to walk with me (walk with me); I want
 2. In my tri - als, _____ Lord, walk with me (walk with me); In my
 3. In my sor - rows, _____ Lord, walk with me (walk with me); In my

1. Je - sus _____ to walk with me (walk with me); All a
 2. tri - als, _____ Lord, walk with me (walk with me); When the
 3. sor - rows, _____ Lord, walk with me (walk with me); When my

1. long my _____ pil - grim jour - ney, _____ Lord, I want
 2. shades of _____ life _____ are fall - ing, _____ Lord, I want
 3. heart with _____ in _____ is ach - ing, _____ Lord, I want

1. Je - sus _____ to walk with me (walk with me).
 2. Je - sus _____ to walk with me (walk with me).
 3. Je - sus _____ to walk with me (walk with me).

Words: Traditional

Music: Negro Spiritual; arr. Carl Haywood (b. 1949), from *The Haywood Collection of Negro Spirituals*, Copyright © 1992.

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER-Prayer A

Presider The Lord be 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

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, through Jesus Christ our Lord; who was tempted in every way as we are, yet did not sin. By his grace we are able to triumph over every evil, and to live no longer for ourselves alone, but for him who died for us and rose again.

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:

Presider and People

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Holy, Holy, Holy

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, Lord, God of power 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.

Presider

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself, and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, 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 we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Presider and People

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

The Presider continues

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with MOSES THE BLACK, ABSALOM JONES, FREDERICK DOUGLAS, ANNA JULIA HAYWOOD COOPER, JAMES EDWARD THOMPSON, MAYA ANGELOU, JESSE JACKSON and all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: 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 ASHE!**

THE GREAT AMEN (SUNG)

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

***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 Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.
People ***Therefore let us keep the feast.***

FRACTION ANTHEM

*Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.
Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.
Lamb of God who takes 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.)

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

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

815

Gift of Finest Wheat

Refrain C Am F Am Dm Em Csus C
Unison

You sat-is-fy the hun-gry heart with gift of fin-est wheat.

Am Em7 Dm G Csus C
Come, give to us, O sav-ing Lord, the bread of life to eat.

Am Cm Csus C F G Am
1 As when a shep-herd calls his sheep, they know and heed his voice;
2 With joy-ful lips we sing to you our praise and grat-i-tude,
3 Is not the cup we bless and share the blood of Christ out-poured?

Dm G Dm F Gsus G
so when you call your fam-ily, Lord, we fol-low and re-joice.
that you should count us wor-thy, Lord, to share this heaven-ly food.
Do not one cup, one loaf de-clare our one-ness in the Lord?

4 The mystery of your presence, Lord,
no mortal tongue can tell:
whom all the world cannot contain
comes in our hearts to dwell.

5 You give yourself to us, O Lord;
then selfless let us be
to serve each other in your name
in truth and charity.

To use with Psalm 81: sing the Refrain, read Ps. 81:1-4, sing Refrain, read Ps. 81: 5-10, Refrain, Ps. 81:11-16, Refrain.

Words: Omer Westendorf, 1976, © 1977 Archdiocese of Philadelphia, published by International Liturgy Publications

THE POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Presider Eternal God, God of our weary years and silent tears, we thank you for feeding us with the Bread of Life and the Cup of Salvation. At this table we have tasted freedom, we have touched the faith of our ancestors, we have been strengthened by the Spirit of Christ.

People **Send us now into the world, to walk in the strength of those who came before, to sing the songs they taught us, to labor for justice, to rejoice in hope, and to live as your beloved community, until your dream of freedom and wholeness is fulfilled for all people, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen and Ashe.**

THE BLESSING

Presider Life is short and we do not have much time to gladden the hearts of those whom we love or those who walk this way with us. So, be swift to love and make haste to be kind and may the Divine Mystery that is beyond our ability to know be your companion along the way. And may the blessing of God Almighty, the grace of Christ the Son and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be upon you, and remain with you for ever. ***Amen.***

CLOSING HYMN

O How He Loves You and Me

1. O how He loves you and me.
2. Je - sus to Cal - vary did go,

1. O how He loves you and me;
2. His love for the worlds to show;

1. He gave His life, what more could He give;
2. What He did there brought hope from de - spair;

1. O how He loves you, O how He loves me,
2. O how He loves you, O how He loves me,

1. O how He loves you and me.
2. O how He loves you and me.

THE SENDING

- Deacon* Sisters and brothers, we have gathered at Christ's table with the saints, we have prayed with our faithful ancestors, we have walked the Lenten road toward the cross, and tasted again the mercy of God.
- People* **We do not go alone. The cloud of witnesses surrounds us. The songs of our grandmothers and grandfathers steady our steps.**
- Deacon* As they kept the faith in days of trial, so now we are called to keep the faith; to do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with our God.
- People* **Ancestors who dreamed of freedom, who sang through sorrow, who trusted God when the night was long, when the way was hard, when hope was dim, walk with us now.**
- Deacon* Christ goes before you in the streets and in the struggle. The Spirit goes within you, stirring holy courage. The God of our weary years goes behind you, guarding and guiding your way.
- People* **Thanks be to God.**
- Deacon* Go forth into the world to lift every voice, to let your light shine, and to run with perseverance the race that is set before you. Go in peace to love and serve our God!
- People* **Thanks be to God. Amen!**

We are grateful to the Rt. Rev. Deon K. Johnson who wrote this Lenten Afrocentric liturgy for us, the beloved community of All Saints and Ascension. Thank you, Bishop!

TODAY'S LITURGICAL LEADERS

Presider

The Rev. Renee L. Fenner, Rector

Deacon

The Rev. Dr. Dn. Valerie E. Patton

Worship Leader

Gaylard Williams

Reader

Machelle West

Acolyte

Stanley Meredith

Ushers

Allen Dukes

Charles Henderson

Minister of Music

Terrell Thompson

Choir Members

*Adrienne Dillon, Walter Fox, Michael Griffin, Stanley Johnson, Barrie Jones,
Helen Owens, and Machele West*

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*

Vestry Wardens

Senior Warden-Gaylard Williams (2027)

Junior Warden-TBA

Class of 2027

Adrienne Dillon

Sondra Harrell

Vestry Clerk

TBA

Class of 2028

Michael Griffin

Stanley Merridith

Class of 2029

Betty Brown

Dawn Johnson

Treasurer

Rickey Mabry

Convention Delegates

Adrienne Dillon (2027)

Caroline Moore (2027)

Alternate Delegate

Donna Black (2027)



LIFTING UP OUR VOICES

"Never underestimate the power of dreams and the influence of the human spirit. We are all the same in this notion: The potential for greatness lives within each of us."

—Wilma Rudolph

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYER LIST

We are always ready to pray for family members, friends, neighbors and all those in need of our prayers.

Delphine Booker	Canon Desiree Brattin	Ann Bradley
Lisa Bradley	Harold Briggs	Linette Cayetano
Chris Crittenden	Bessie Clemmons	Jacky Dew
Rick Earley	Ronald Hawkins	Renee Griffin
Stella Hughes	Erika Jones	Greg Kelley
Amber King	Winifred Lemmie	Regina Lewis
Johnetta Martin	Diana Oliver	Helen Owens
Betty Patton	Michelle Pendelton	Gwen Perry
Everett Quinn	Marion Robinson	Rick Rollins
Florence Ross	Lisa Shelley	Patricia Thomas
Annie White	Antoinette Williams	James Williams, Sr.
Bill Young		

We continue to pray for all those who are still affected by last year's tornado. We pray especially for our adopted family and so many others. Our prayers also continue for all veterans and those who are currently serving in the military, especially:

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

We will keep 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!

YOU ARE INVITED TO A SPECIAL PRESENTATION TODAY

It is with great pride that the ASA Men's Club cordially invites you to a Black History Month presentation that has been in the works for several years. We welcome home former parishioner, Sam Lewis, as he presents "*BLACK EPISCOPALIAN-A Vignette of Finding My Place*".

Come join Sam as he takes you on a journey from West Tennessee to St. Louis where he asked his mother, Mildred Lewis, "How did we become Episcopalians?"

For about 40 years, Sam inquired and researched to get answers. At this presentation, he will reveal to you some things about his family history, and some interesting discoveries about being Black in the Episcopal Church. His story and findings may surprise you! Mark your calendars as you do not want to miss this free inspiring presentation.

REMEMBER OUR ADOPTED FAMILY

Please remember our adopted family in the new year! 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)."

SAFE CHURCH, SAFE COMMUNITY

It's that time again! This is a reminder that Vestry members and ALL church leaders (especially those who are in close contact with children and teens) are to do 'Safe Church, Safe Community' training. The training is to be done every three years.

However, every year EVERYONE in leadership is expected to re-read and review the policies! Please let Rev. Renee know by April 12, 2026, whether you have taken the training or have re-read the policies. Please DO NOT submit your names individually to the diocesan offices.

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 increasingly significant as we continue to partner with the Urban League and as decisions are made in our national government. We want the following items to restock our food pantry:

Paper Products

Paper Towels

Toiletries

Toothpaste, Bar Soap, Deodorant

Canned Vegetables or Meal

Chili, Spaghetti and Meatballs, Vegetables, Corn, Carrots, Peas, Baked Beans, Great Northern Beans, Chicken Noodle Soup, Vegetable Soup

Canned or Packet Meat or Protein

Peanut Butter, Tuna, Chicken Breast, Vienna Sausage, Spam, Luncheon Loaf

Starches

Mac and Cheese, Rice, Spaghetti

Breakfast

Packaged cereal (oatmeal, grits, Cream of Wheat)

When purchasing canned items, please consider getting pull-tops, 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 soon! We are looking to begin on the 3rd Wednesday of each 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](http://sibling-support-network.org) or contact Cheeraz Gormon for more information – cgormon@gmail.com.

ALTAR FLOWERS

During the season of Lent we will not decorate our worship space with flowers. Why? To remind us of Jesus' time in the desert. However, we encourage you to please consider sponsoring altar flowers at Easter and all Sundays following. 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 or see an usher for a form!

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, and other goodies. **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 church? 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 the parish office for Zoom login info>

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 the parish office for Zoom login info>



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