

FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

*Celebration of Holy Eucharist*

February 8, 2026

9:00 am



EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS AND ASCENSION  
Northwoods, MO

# THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

## PROCESSIONAL HYMN

208

### We've Come This Far by Faith

*Refrain*

We've come this far by faith, Lean-ing on the

Lord; Trust-ing in His ho-ly word,

He's nev-er failed me yet. O

Fine

— can't turn a - round. — We've come this far — by — faith. —

1. Don't be dis-cour-aged — when trou-ble's — in your life. He'll bear your

D.S.

bur - dens and move — all mis - er - y and strife. That's why we've

2. Just the other day I heard someone say  
 He didn't believe in God's word;  
 But I can truly say that God had made a way  
 And He never failed me yet.  
 That's why we've (Refrain)

## 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*    Set us free, O God, from the bondage of our sins, and give us the liberty of that abundant life which you have made known to us in your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. ***Amen.***

## FIRST READING

**Isaiah 58:1-9a, [9b-12]**

A Reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah.

Shout out, do not hold back!

Lift up your voice like a trumpet!

Announce to my people their rebellion,  
to the house of Jacob their sins.

Yet day after day they seek me  
and delight to know my ways,

as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness  
and did not forsake the ordinance of their God;

they ask of me righteous judgments,  
they delight to draw near to God.

“Why do we fast, but you do not see?

Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?”

Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day,  
and oppress all your workers.

Look, you fast only to quarrel and to fight  
and to strike with a wicked fist.

Such fasting as you do today  
will not make your voice heard on high.

Is such the fast that I choose,  
a day to humble oneself?

Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush,  
and to lie in sackcloth and ashes?

Will you call this a fast,  
a day acceptable to the Lord?

Is not this the fast that I choose:  
to loose the bonds of injustice,  
to undo the thongs of the yoke,  
to let the oppressed go free,  
and to break every yoke?

Is it not to share your bread with the hungry,  
and bring the homeless poor into your house;  
when you see the naked, to cover them,  
and not to hide yourself from your own kin?

Then your light shall break forth like the dawn,  
and your healing shall spring up quickly;  
your vindicator shall go before you,  
the glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard.

Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer;  
you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am.

[If you remove the yoke from among you,  
the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil,  
if you offer your food to the hungry  
and satisfy the needs of the afflicted,  
then your light shall rise in the darkness  
and your gloom be like the noonday.

The Lord will guide you continually,  
and satisfy your needs in parched places,  
and make your bones strong;  
and you shall be like a watered garden,  
like a spring of water,  
whose waters never fail.

Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt;  
you shall raise up the foundations of many generations;

you shall be called the repairer of the breach,  
the restorer of streets to live in.]

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

*People      Thanks be to God.*

**PSALM 112:1-9, [10]**    *Beatus vir*

1 Hallelujah!

Happy are they who fear the Lord \*  
***and have great delight in his commandments!***

2 Their descendants will be mighty in the land; \*  
***the generation of the upright will be blessed.***

3 Wealth and riches will be in their house, \*  
***and their righteousness will last for ever.***

4 Light shines in the darkness for the upright; \*  
***the righteous are merciful and full of compassion.***

5 It is good for them to be generous in lending \*  
***and to manage their affairs with justice.***

6 For they will never be shaken; \*  
***the righteous will be kept in everlasting remembrance.***

7 They will not be afraid of any evil rumors; \*  
***their heart is right;***  
***they put their trust in the Lord.***

8 Their heart is established and will not shrink, \*  
***until they see their desire upon their enemies.***

9 They have given freely to the poor, \*  
***and their righteousness stands fast for ever;***  
***they will hold up their head with honor.***

[10 The wicked will see it and be angry;  
they will gnash their teeth and pine away; \*  
***the desires of the wicked will perish.]***

## SECOND READING

## 1 Corinthians 2:1-12, [13-16]

A Reading from Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians.

When I came to you, brothers and sisters, I did not come proclaiming the mystery of God to you in lofty words or wisdom. For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and him crucified. And I came to you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling. My speech and my proclamation were not with plausible words of wisdom, but with a demonstration of the Spirit and of power, so that your faith might rest not on human wisdom but on the power of God.

Yet among the mature we do speak wisdom, though it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are doomed to perish. But we speak God's wisdom, secret and hidden, which God decreed before the ages for our glory. None of the rulers of this age understood this; for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. But, as it is written,

"What no eye has seen, nor ear heard,  
nor the human heart conceived,  
what God has prepared for those who love him" —

these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. For what human being knows what is truly human except the human spirit that is within? So also no one comprehends what is truly God's except the Spirit of God. Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit that is from God, so that we may understand the gifts bestowed on us by God. [And we speak of these things in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual things to those who are spiritual.

Those who are unspiritual do not receive the gifts of God's Spirit, for they are foolishness to them, and they are unable to understand them because they are spiritually discerned. Those who are spiritual discern all things, and they are themselves subject to no one else's scrutiny.

"For who has known the mind of the Lord  
so as to instruct him?"

But we have the mind of Christ.]

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

People **Thanks be to God.**

## SEQUENCE HYMN

490

Jesus Christ our Lord

1 I want to walk as a child of the light.  
2 I want to see the bright-ness of God.  
3 I'm look - ing for the com - ing of Christ.

I want to fol - low Je - sus.  
I want to look at Je - sus.  
I want to be with Je - sus.

God set the stars to give light to the world. The  
Clear sun of right - eous - ness, shine on my path, and  
When we have run with pa - tience the race, we

star of my life is Je - sus.  
show me the way to the Fa - ther.  
shall know the joy of Je - sus.

*Refrain*

In him there is no dark - ness at all. The

night and the day are both a - like. The

Lamb is the light of the ci - ty of God. *rit.*

*a tempo*

Shine in my heart, Lord Je - sus.

Words: Kathleen Thomerson (b. 1934)  
 Music: Houston, Kathleen Thomerson (b. 1934)

Irr. with Refrain

## THE GOSPEL

**Matthew 5:13-20**

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

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

Jesus said, "You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under foot."

You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

"Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same, will be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven."

*People* The Gospel of the Lord.  
***Praise to you, O Christ.***

## SERMON

The Rev. Dr. Deacon Valerie E. Patton

## THE NICENE CREED

*Deacon* Together, let us profess our faith.

***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 VI

*Deacon* Let us gather our prayers, desires, and thanksgivings and offer them to the Holy One who first loved us.

The Worship Leader and People pray responsively

*Leader* In peace, we pray to you, O God.

Silence

For all people in their daily life and work;  
***For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.***

For this community, the nation, and the world;  
***For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.***

For the just and proper use of your creation;  
***For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.***

For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;  
***For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.***

For the peace and unity of the Church of God;  
***For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.***

We pray for Sean our Presiding Bishop and Deon our Bishop, Renee our Rector, and Valerie our Deacon and our companion churches of St. Peter's and St. Stephen's. In our Diocese of Missouri, we pray for the people and ministry of St. Mark's Episcopal Church (1891) in Portland and Jessica, their Priest-in-Charge. In our companion Diocese of Puerto Rico, we pray for Community of Deacons San Lorenzo. In the Anglican Communion, we pray for Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui; and for all bishops, priests, and deacons.

***For all who serve God in his Church.***

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation and for others especially:

Delphine Booker  
Lisa Bradley  
Chris Crittenden

Canon Desiree Brattin  
Harold Briggs  
Bessie Clemmons

Ann Bradley  
Linette Cayetano  
Jacky Dew

Rick Earley	Ronald Hawkins	Renee Griffin
Stella Hughes	Erika Jones	Greg Kelley
Winifred Lemmie	Regina Lewis	Johnetta Martin
Diana Oliver	Helen Owens	Betty Patton
Michelle Pendelton	Gwen Perry	Marion Robinson
Rick Rollins	Florence Ross	Patricia Thomas
Annie White	Antoinette Williams	James Williams, Sr.

We continue to pray for all those who are still affected by last year's tornado. We pray especially for our adopted family and many others.

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

And we pray for an end to the terror, chaos and violence happening in our streets, nation, and the world. We pray especially for the people of Minneapolis.

*Silence*

Hear us, O God;  
***For your mercy is great.***

We thank you, O Merciful One, for all the blessings of this life.

*Silence*

The People may add their own thanksgivings

We will exalt you, O God our Creator;  
***And praise your Name for ever and ever.***

We pray for all who have died that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom.

Silence

The People may add their own petitions

Holy One, let your loving-kindness be upon them;  
***Who put their trust in you.***

*We pray to you also for the forgiveness of our sins.*

*Silence may be kept.*

*Leader and People*

***Have mercy upon us, O God of mercy;  
in your compassion forgive us our sins,  
known and unknown,  
things done and left undone;  
and so uphold us by your Spirit  
that we may live and serve you in newness of life,  
to the honor and glory of your Name;  
through Jesus Christ our Redeemer. Amen.***

*Presider* Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive all your sins through our Savior Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. ***Amen.***

*Silence*

## **THE PEACE**

*Presider* The peace of Christ 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

518

The Church

*Descant*

4 Here vouch-safe to all thy serv - ants what they ask of

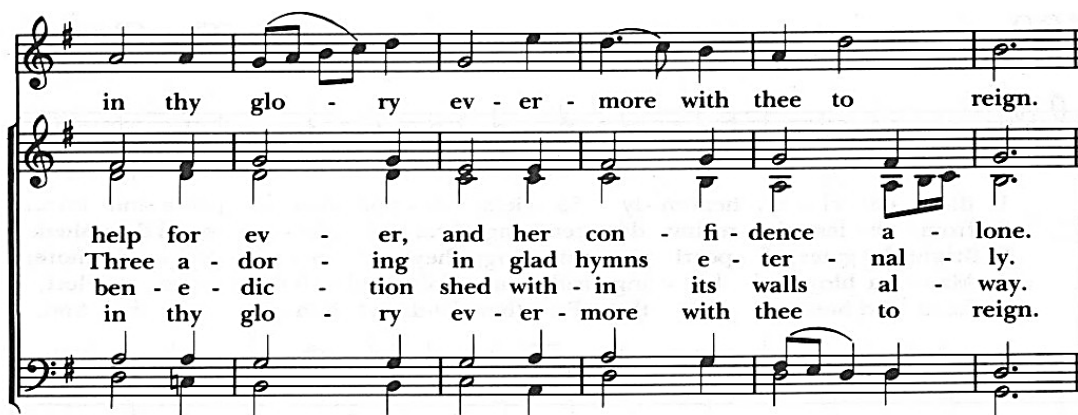
1 Christ is made the sure foun - da - tion, Christ the head and  
 2 All that ded - i - cat - ed ci - ty, dear - ly loved of  
 3 To this tem - ple, where we call thee, come, O Lord of  
 4 Here vouch-safe to all thy serv - ants what they ask of

thee to gain; what they gain from thee, for ev - er

cor - ner - stone, cho - sen of the Lord, and pre - cious,  
 God on high, in ex - ult - ant ju - bi - la - tion  
 Hosts, to - day; with thy wont - ed lov - ing - kind - ness  
 thee to gain; what they gain from thee, for ev - er

with the bless - ed to re - tain, and here - af - ter

bind - ing all the Church in one; ho - ly Zi - on's  
 pours per - pet - ual mel - o - dy; God the One in  
 hear thy serv - ants as they pray, and thy full - est  
 with the bless - ed to re - tain, and here - af - ter



## *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* All thanks and praise are yours at all times and in all places,  
our true and loving God; through Jesus Christ, your eternal Word,  
the Wisdom from on high by whom you created all things.  
You laid the foundations of the world  
and enclosed the sea when it burst out from the womb;  
You brought forth all creatures of the earth  
and gave breath to humankind.

Wondrous are you, Holy One of Blessing, all you create is a sign of hope  
for our journey; And so as the morning stars sing your praises we join  
the heavenly beings and all creation as we sing with joy:

*Presider and People* ***"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*

Glory and honor are yours, Creator of all, your Word has never been silent;  
 you called a people to yourself, as a light to the nations,  
 you delivered them from bondage and led them to a land of promise.  
 Of your grace, you gave Jesus to be human, to share our life,  
 to proclaim the coming of your holy reign and give himself for us, a fragrant offering.

Through Jesus Christ our Redeemer, you have freed us from sin,  
 brought us into your life, reconciled us to you,  
 and restored us to the glory you intend for us.

We thank you that on the night before he died for us Jesus took bread,

and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, gave it to his friends and said: "Take, eat, this is my Body, broken for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper Jesus took the cup of wine, said the blessing, gave it to his friends and said: "Drink this, all of you: this cup is the new Covenant in my Blood, poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

And so, remembering all that was done for us: the cross, the tomb, the resurrection and ascension, longing for Christ's coming in glory, and presenting to you these gifts your earth has formed and human hands have made, we acclaim you, O Christ:

*Presider and People*

***Dying, you destroyed our death.***

***Rising, you restored our life.***

***Christ Jesus, come in glory!***

*Presider*

Send your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts of bread and wine that they may be to us the Body and Blood of your Christ. Grant that we, burning with your Spirit's power, may be a people of hope, justice and love.

Giver of Life, draw us together in the Body of Christ, and in the fullness of time gather us with [blessed \_\_\_\_\_, and] all your people into the joy of our true eternal home.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, we worship you our God and Creator in voices of unending praise.

*Presider and People*

***Blessed are you now and for 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* Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

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

**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

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  
*To Refrain*

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 heav-en-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* 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 BLESSING

*Presider* The world now is too dangerous and too beautiful for anything but love.  
May your eyes be so blessed you see God in everyone.  
Your ears, so you hear the cry of the poor.  
May your hands be so blessed that everything you touch is a sacrament.  
Your lips, so you speak nothing but the truth with love.  
May your feet be so blessed you run to those who need you.  
And may your heart be so opened, so set on fire, that your love,  
your love, changes everything. May the almighty God bless and keep  
you, Creator, Redeemer, and Sanctifier. ***Amen.***

-Prayer written by The Rev. Brian Baker

# PROCESSIONAL HYMN

## This Little Light of Mine

160

1. This lit-tle light of mine, — I'm goin'-a let it shine, —

this lit-tle light of mine, — I'm goin'-a let it shine, —

this lit-tle light of mine, — I'm goin'-a let it shine,

let it shine, let it shine, let it shine (let it shine).

2. Everywhere I go... 3. All through the night...

Words: Traditional

Music: Negro Spiritual; adapt. William Farley Smith (b. 1941)

Adapt. Copyright © 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House. Reprinted from *The United Methodist Hymnal* by permission.

## THE DISMISSAL

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

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

### ***Presider***

*The Rev. Renee L. Fenner, Rector*

### ***Deacon***

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

### ***Worship Leader***

*Margarett Williams*

### ***Reader***

*Joyce Crittenden*

### ***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 Machel 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*

## EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS AND ASCENSION VESTRY – 2026

### Vestry Wardens

Senior Warden-Gaylard Williams (2027)  
Junior Warden-TBA

### Class of 2027

Adrienne Dillon  
Sondra Harrell

### 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)



**“Let your light shine so brightly that others can see their way out of the dark”**

**-Katrina Mayer**

# 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 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)."

## **BISHOP'S VISITATION**

Bishop Deon K. Johnson will visit All Saints and Ascension on Sunday, February 15. Holy Eucharist will be at 9:00 a.m. along with conversations with the Vestry and parishioners. A reception will follow. Please join us!

## **ABSALOM JONES CELEBRATION**

The Commission on Dismantling Racism warmly invites you to gather for the Absalom Jones Celebration on Saturday, February 14, at 11:00am, Emmanuel Episcopal Church in Webster Groves.

## **THE SEASON OF LENT**

The season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 18. We will have two services of Holy Eucharist with the Imposition of Ashes at 9am and 6pm. All are encouraged to join us.

## **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 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](http://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, 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 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 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 parish office for Zoom login info>

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