

THE HOLY EUCHARIST

FOR THE SECOND 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.

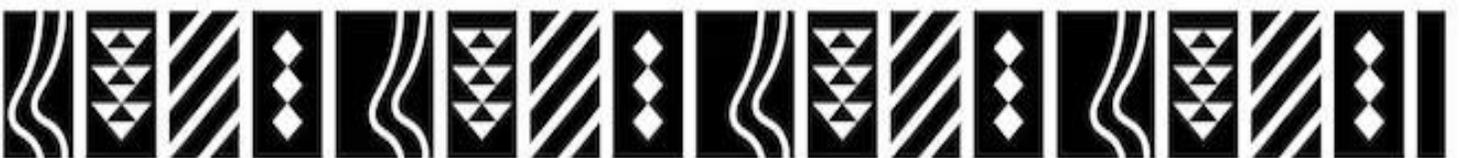
Rooted in the rich heritage of the Episcopal tradition and shaped by the beauty, brilliance, and resilience of our African American history, we come together as a people of praise. Here, the faith of the ancestors steadies us. Here, the songs of our foremothers and forefathers rise again on our lips.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



We Walk By Faith

1. We walk by faith, and not by sight;
2. We may not touch His hands and side,
3. Help then, O Lord, our un - be - lief;
4. That, when our life of faith is done;

1. no gra - cious words — we hear — from Him who
2. nor fol - low where — He trod; — but in His
3. and may our faith — a - bound, — to call on
4. in realms of clear - er light, — we may be -

1. spoke as none e'er spoke; but we be -
2. prom - ise we re - jice, and cry, "My
3. you when you are near, and seek where
4. hold you as you are, with full and

1.,2.,3. 4.
1. lieve — Him near.
2. Lord — and God!"
3. you — are found.
4. end - less sight.

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 O God, whose glory it is always to have mercy: Be gracious to all who have gone astray from your ways, and bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of your Word, Jesus Christ your Son; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, for ever and 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 12:1-4A

The Lord said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

So Abram went, as the Lord had told him; and Lot went with him.

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

People **Thanks be to God.**

THE PSALM OF THE DAY: PSALM 121

1 I LIFT UP MY EYES TO THE HILLS; *

FROM WHERE IS MY HELP TO COME?

2 MY HELP COMES FROM THE LORD, *

THE MAKER OF HEAVEN AND EARTH.

3 HE WILL NOT LET YOUR FOOT BE MOVED *

AND HE WHO WATCHES OVER YOU WILL NOT FALL ASLEEP.

4 BEHOLD, HE WHO KEEPS WATCH OVER ISRAEL *

SHALL NEITHER SLUMBER NOR SLEEP;

5 THE LORD HIMSELF WATCHES OVER YOU; *

THE LORD IS YOUR SHADE AT YOUR RIGHT HAND,

6 SO THAT THE SUN SHALL NOT STRIKE YOU BY DAY, *

NOR THE MOON BY NIGHT.

7 THE LORD SHALL PRESERVE YOU FROM ALL EVIL; *

IT IS HE WHO SHALL KEEP YOU SAFE.

8 THE LORD SHALL WATCH OVER YOUR GOING OUT AND YOUR COMING IN, *
FROM THIS TIME FORTH FOR EVERMORE.

A READING FROM THE LETTER TO THE ROMANS 4:1-5, 13-17

What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. For what does the scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness." Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. But to one who without works trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness.

For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation.

For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations") —in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.
People ***Thanks be to God.***

My Faith Looks up to Thee

1. My faith looks up to thee, Thou lamb of
 2. May thy rich grace im - part Strength to my
 3. While life's dark maze I tread, And griefs a -
 4. When ends life's tran - sient dream, When death's cold,

1. Cal - va - ry, Sav - ior di - vine!
 2. faint - ing heart, My zeal in - spire;
 3. round me spread, Be thou my guide;
 4. sul - len stream Shall o'er me roll;

1. Now hear me while I pray, Take all my guilt a - way;
 2. As thou hast died for me, O may my love to thee
 3. Bid dark-ness turn to-day, Wipe so-row's tears a - way;
 4. Blest Sav - ior, then in love, Fear and dis - trust re - move,

1. O let me from this day Be whol - ly thine.
 2. Pure, warm, and change - less be A liv - ing fire.
 3. Not let me ev - er stray From thee a - side.
 4. O bear me safe a - bove, A ran - somed soul.

THE PROCLAMATION OF THE GOSPEL: JOHN 3:1-17

Deacon Beloved, God is with you.

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

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

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

There was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God." Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above." Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?" Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" Jesus answered him, "Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?"

"Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

"Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through 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.

Refrain

Lean - ing, lean - ing, safe and se - cure from all a - larms;

lean - ing, lean - ing, lean - ing on the ev - er - last - ing arms.

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.*) 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 Will Trust in the Lord

1. I ___ will ___ trust ___ in the Lord, ___ I will trust ___ in the
 2. Sis-ter will you trust ___ in the Lord, ___ Sis-ter will trust ___ in the

1. Lord, ___ I ___ will ___ trust ___ in the Lord 'til I die; _____
 2. Lord, ___ Sis-ter will you trust ___ in the Lord 'til you die; _____

1. ___ I ___ will ___ trust ___ in the Lord, I ___ will ___ trust ___ in the
 2. ___ Sis-ter will you trust ___ in the Lord, Sis-ter will you trust ___ in the

1. Lord, ___ I ___ will ___ trust ___ in the Lord 'til I die. _____
 2. Lord, ___ Sis-ter will you trust ___ in the Lord 'til you die. _____

3. Brother will you trust in the Lord ('til you die).
4. I'm gonna treat my neighbor right ('til I die).
5. I'm gonna hold my savior's hand ('til I die).

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 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.

Give Me a Clean Heart

Give me a clean heart so I may serve

The first system of the hymn features a vocal line in the upper staff and piano accompaniment in the lower two staves. The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and the time signature is 8/8. The lyrics are: "Give me a clean heart so I may serve".

Thee. Lord, fix my heart — so that I — may be used — by

The second system continues the melody and accompaniment. The lyrics are: "Thee. Lord, fix my heart — so that I — may be used — by".

thee. For I'm not wor - thy of all these bless -

The third system concludes the page. The lyrics are: "thee. For I'm not wor - thy of all these bless -".

Hymn continues on the next page.

ings. Give me a clean heart and I'll fol-low thee

1. I'm not ask - ing for the rich - es of the land.
 (2. Some-times) I am up and some-times I am down.

1. I'm not ask - ing for the proud to know my
 2. Some-times I am al - most lev - el to the

1. name. Please give me, Lord, a clean heart, that
 2. ground. Please give me, Lord, a clean heart, that

1. I may fol - low thee. Give me a clean heart, a
 2. I may fol - low thee. Give me a clean heart, a

1. clean heart and I will fol - low thee. _____ 2. Some - times
 2. clean heart and I will fol - low thee. _____

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.**

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The Christian Life

1 Take my life, and let it be con - se - crat - ed, Lord, to thee;
 2 Take my voice, and let me sing al - ways, on - ly, for my King;

take my mo - ments and my days, let them flow in cease - less praise.
 take my in - tel - lect, and use ev - ery power as thou shalt choose.

Take my hands, and let them move at the im - pulse of thy love;
 Take my will, and make it thine; it shall be no long - er mine.

take my heart, it is thine own; it shall be thy roy - al throne.
 Take my - self, and I will be ev - er, on - ly, all for thee.

Words: Frances Ridley Havergal (1836-1879), alt.
 Music: *Hollingside*, John Bacchus Dykes (1823-1876)

77. 77. D

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

Michael Watson

Reader

Betty Brown

Acolyte

Laura Mabry

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*

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

**“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

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	Michael Griffin
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!

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 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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