

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF  
ALL SAINTS & ASCENSION

**The Second Sunday of Easter**

*April 12th, 2026*

## **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

PRELUDE MUSIC

WELCOME

GATHERING SONG/MUSIC

## Praise to God

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1 Joy - ful, joy - ful, we a - dore thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love;  
2 All thy works with joy sur-round thee, earth and heaven re - flect thy rays,  
3 Thou art giv - ing and for - giv - ing, ev - er bless - ing, ev - er blest,

hearts un - fold like flowers be - fore thee, prais - ing thee, their sun a - bove.  
stars and an - gels sing a - round thee, cen - ter of un - bro - ken praise.  
well - spring of the joy of liv - ing, o - cean - depth of hap - py rest!

Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness; drive the dark of doubt a - way;  
field and for - est, vale and moun - tain, bloom - ing mea - dow, flash - ing sea,  
Thou our Fa - ther, Christ our Bro - ther: all who live in love are thine;

giv - er of im - mor - tal glad - ness, fill us with the light of day.  
chant - ing bird and flow - ing foun - tain, call us to re - joice in thee.  
teach us how to love each o - ther, lift us to the joy di - vine.

## OPENING ACCLAMATION

*Presider* Alleluia! Christ is risen.

*People* **The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

*Presider* In baptism, we have passed through the waters with Christ—buried with him in death and raised with him in newness of life. Together with the saints and ancestors who have long and hope, prayed and pleaded, who looked and longed for resurrection we come united as one in waters of Baptism.

*People* **We are baptized into Christ. We are raised to new life. Alleluia!**

## CALLING TO THE ANCESTORS WITH LIBATION

*A vessel of water is placed in view. The priest, deacon, or lay leader pours small libations into the font, a bowl or onto the earth at each direction.*

*All face East.*

*Presider* From the East, where the sun rises and new life breaks forth, we remember the dawn of resurrection and the ancestors who believed in freedom before it came. Like the waters of creation, where the Spirit first moved, God brought life out of chaos and hope out of despair.

*Leader* We pour this water in thanksgiving for their faith and for the rising of new life among us.

*(Water is poured.)*

*People* **Ancestors of hope, rise with us.**

*All face South.*

*Presider* From the South, where rivers run deep and tears have fallen, we remember those who passed through the waters of suffering, through rivers of sorrow and baptismal streams of grace. They sang, "Wade in the water," trusting that God would trouble the waters and make a way.

*Leader* We pour this water in remembrance of their endurance and the Spirit who sustained them.

*(Water is poured.)*

*People* **Ancestors of courage, rise with us.**

*All face West.*

*Presider* From the West, across the great waters, we remember the Middle Passage, waters that bore witness to pain and loss beyond words. Yet even there, the deep could not drown God's presence. In Christ, the waters of death have become the waters of life.

*Leader* We pour this water trusting that nothing, not even the depths, can separate us from God's love.

*(Water is poured.)*

*People* **Ancestors of faith, rise with us.**

*All face North.*

*Presider* From the North, where people journeyed toward freedom, crossing rivers and boundaries into new life, we remember those who followed the waters to liberation. Through baptism, we too have crossed over, from death into life, from bondage into freedom.

*Leader* We pour this water in thanksgiving for their witness and for the new life we share in Christ.

*(Water is poured.)*

*People* **Ancestors of wisdom, rise with us.**

*All face the altar.*

*Presider* Ancestors who have gone before us, cloud of witnesses, rejoice with us, for Christ is risen, and the waters of death have become the waters of life. ***Amen and Ashe`.***

## 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.***

## THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

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

Almighty and everlasting God, who in the Paschal mystery established the new covenant of reconciliation: Grant that all who have been reborn into the fellowship of Christ's Body may show forth in their lives what they profess by their faith; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, 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 ACTS 2:14a,22-32

Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd, "You that are Israelites, listen to what I have to say: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with deeds of power, wonders, and signs that God did through him among you, as you yourselves know— this man, handed over to you according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of those outside the law. But God raised him up, having freed him from death, because it was impossible for him to be held in its power. For David says concerning him,

'I saw the Lord always before me,  
for he is at my right hand so that I will not be shaken;  
therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced;  
moreover my flesh will live in hope.  
For you will not abandon my soul to Hades,  
or let your Holy One experience corruption.  
You have made known to me the ways of life;  
you will make me full of gladness with your presence.'

"Fellow Israelites, I may say to you confidently of our ancestor David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. Since he was a prophet, he knew that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would put one of his descendants on his throne. Foreseeing this, David spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, saying,

'He was not abandoned to Hades,  
nor did his flesh experience corruption.'

This Jesus God raised up, and of that all of us are witnesses."

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

## THE PSALM OF THE DAY: PSALM 16

- 1 Protect me, O God, for I take refuge in you; \*  
***I have said to the LORD, "You are my Lord,  
my good above all other."***
- 2 All my delight is upon the godly that are in the land, \*  
***upon those who are noble among the people.***
- 3 But those who run after other gods \*  
***shall have their troubles multiplied.***
- 4 Their libations of blood I will not offer, \*  
***nor take the names of their gods upon my lips.***
- 5 O LORD, you are my portion and my cup; \*  
***it is you who uphold my lot.***

- 6 My boundaries enclose a pleasant land; \*  
***indeed, I have a goodly heritage.***
- 7 I will bless the LORD who gives me counsel; \*  
***my heart teaches me, night after night.***
- 8 I have set the LORD always before me; \*  
***because he is at my right hand I shall not fall.***
- 9 My heart, therefore, is glad, and my spirit rejoices; \*  
***my body also shall rest in hope.***
- 10 For you will not abandon me to the grave, \*  
***nor let your holy one see the Pit.***
- 11 You will show me the path of life; \*  
***in your presence there is fullness of joy,  
and in your right hand are pleasures for evermore.***

### A READING FROM THE FIRST LETTER OF PETER 1:3-9

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. In this you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials, so that the genuineness of your faith-- being more precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire-- may be found to result in praise and glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. Although you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

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

Easter

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1 We walk by faith, and not by sight; no  
 2 We may not touch his hands and side, nor  
 3 Help then, O Lord, our un - be - lief; and  
 4 that, when our life of faith is done, in

gra - cious words we hear from him who spoke as  
 fol - low where he trod; but in his prom - ise  
 may our faith a - bound, to call on you when  
 realms of clear - er light we may be - hold you

none e'er spoke; but we be - lieve him near.  
 we re - joice; and cry, "My Lord and God!"  
 you are near, and seek where you are found:  
 as you are, with full and end - less sight.

Words: Henry Alford (1810-1871), alt.  
 Music: *St. Botolph*, Gordon Slater (1896-1979)

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## THE PROCLAMATION OF THE GOSPEL: JOHN 20:19-31

*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.***

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

*Deacon* The Gospel of the Lord.

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

## THE SERMON

*The REV. DR. DN. VALERIE E. PATTON*

## 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

Suggested Sung Response:

*"Wade in the water, wade in the water, children; God's gonna trouble the water."*

*In the absence of the Deacon the Priest or lay leader may introduce the prayers.*

*Deacon* Rejoicing in the risen life of Christ and trusting in the God who brings us through every water, let us pray for the Church and the world.

For the Church, born in water and Spirit; that it may proclaim resurrection with boldness, and be a healing river for all people; let us pray to the Lord. *Silence is kept for a time.*

For this nation and all in authority; that justice may roll down like waters and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream; let us pray to the Lord.

***Wade in the water...***

For the world, for oceans, rivers, and lands; for all places where waters bring life and where they bring destruction; that God would calm every storm and renew the face of the earth; let us pray to the Lord. *Silence is kept for a time.*

For this community; for all who seek safe passage through life's waters, for the young and the old, the hopeful and the weary, especially those on our prayer list; that we may be signs of resurrection hope; let us pray to the Lord.

***Wade in the water...***

For those overwhelmed by sorrow, illness, or fear; for those who feel as though they are drowning; that Christ, who walked upon the waters, would reach out his hand and lift them up; let us pray to the Lord.  
*Silence is kept for a time.*

For the departed, and for all ancestors who have crossed the great waters into eternal life; that they may dwell where the river of life flows clear and bright; Let us pray to the Lord.

***Wade in the water...***

*Presider* God of living water, you have carried us through every trial and raised us into new life. Hear our prayers, and keep us faithful in the journey; through Jesus Christ our risen Lord. ***Amen.***

THE PEACE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE LITURGY OF THE TABLE

# 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. —

The first system of music features a vocal line in G major with a treble clef and a piano accompaniment in G major with a bass clef. The vocal line contains two triplet markings over the words "round" and "far". The piano accompaniment also features two triplet markings in the right hand and one in the left hand.

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

The second system continues the vocal line and piano accompaniment. The vocal line has a treble clef and the piano accompaniment has a bass clef. The piano accompaniment consists of chords in the right hand and a simple bass line in the left hand.

D.S.

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

The third system continues the vocal line and piano accompaniment. The vocal line has a treble clef and the piano accompaniment has a bass clef. The piano accompaniment consists of chords in the right hand and a simple bass line in the left hand.

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)

## THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER 2

*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.**

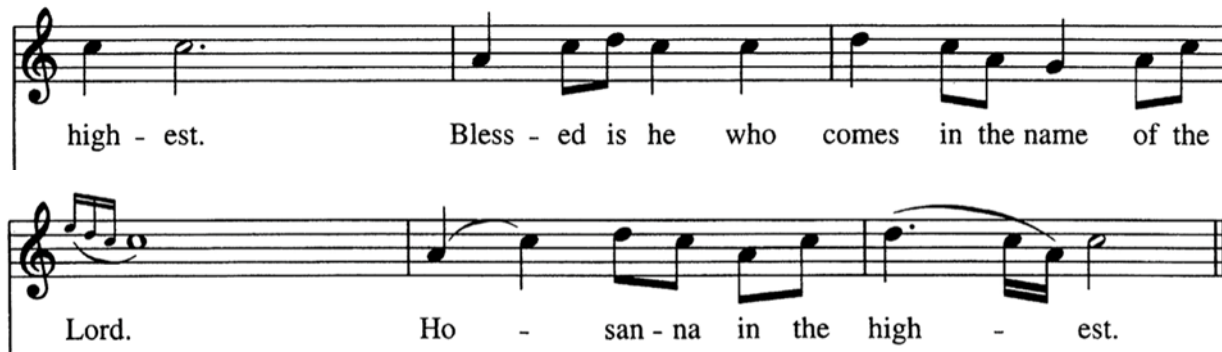
*Presider* We praise you and we bless you, holy and gracious God, source of life abundant. From before time, you made ready the creation. Your Spirit moved over the deep and brought all things into being: sun, moon, and stars; earth, winds, and waters; and every living thing. You made us in your image,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

*Presider and People* **HOLY, HOLY, HOLY** (sung)

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### Holy, Holy, Holy

The musical score is written in 4/4 time and consists of three staves. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The lyrics are: "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly,". The second staff continues the melody with the lyrics: "ho - ly Lord, God of power and might,". The third staff concludes the phrase with the lyrics: "hea - ven and earth are full of your glo - ry Ho - san - na in the". The score includes various musical notations such as quarter notes, eighth notes, and a triplet of eighth notes in the final measure of the third staff.



*Presider*

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

On the night before he died for us, Jesus was at table with his friends.  
He took bread, gave thanks to you, broke it, and gave it to them,  
and said: "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of me."

As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine.  
Again, he gave thanks to you, gave it to them, and said:  
"Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant,  
which is poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins.  
Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

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

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

## THE GREAT AMEN (*sung*)

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

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

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

## FRACTION ANTHEM (*sung*)

***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.***

One Bread, One Body

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One bread, — one bod - y, —

The first system of music features a vocal line in G major and 4/4 time. It begins with a whole rest, followed by a quarter rest, then a quarter note G, a quarter note A, a quarter note B, and a half note C. A repeat sign is placed above the staff. The piano accompaniment consists of a treble and bass staff. The treble staff has a G chord, and the bass staff has a G chord. The piano part continues with a G chord, then a G-A-B chord, and finally a G-A-B-C chord.

— one Lord of all, — one cup of

The second system continues the vocal line with a quarter note G, a quarter note A, a quarter note B, and a half note C. The piano accompaniment continues with a G chord, then a G-A-B chord, and finally a G-A-B-C chord.

bles - ing which we bless. — And we, — though

The third system continues the vocal line with a quarter note G, a quarter note A, a quarter note B, and a half note C. The piano accompaniment continues with a G chord, then a G-A-B chord, and finally a G-A-B-C chord.

man - y, \_\_\_\_\_ through - out the earth, we are one

*Last time* ⊕

bod - y in this one \_\_\_\_\_ Lord. \_\_\_\_\_

*Last time* ⊕

1. Gen - tile or Jew, ser - vant or  
 2. Man - y the gifts, man - y the  
 3. Grain for the fields, scat - tered and

1. free, wom - an or man, \_\_\_\_\_  
 2. works, one in the Lord \_\_\_\_\_  
 3. grown, gath - ered to one \_\_\_\_\_

*D.S.*

1. — no more. \_\_\_\_\_ One  
 2. — of all. \_\_\_\_\_ One  
 3. — for all. \_\_\_\_\_ One

*D.S.*

⊕ CODA

Lord. \_\_\_\_\_

## 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

*Celebrant* The God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Savior Jesus Christ, the great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is well-pleasing in his sight; and the blessing of God Almighty, Creator, Redeemer, and Sanctifier, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

I Have Decided to Follow Jesus

1. I have de - cid - ed \_\_\_\_\_ to fol - low Je - sus, \_\_\_\_\_  
2. Though no one join me, \_\_\_\_\_ still I will fol - low, \_\_\_\_\_  
3. The world be - hind me, \_\_\_\_\_ the cross be - fore me, \_\_\_\_\_

1. \_\_\_\_\_ I have de - cid - ed \_\_\_\_\_ to fol - low Je - sus, \_\_\_\_\_  
2. \_\_\_\_\_ Though no one join me, \_\_\_\_\_ still I will fol - low, \_\_\_\_\_  
3. \_\_\_\_\_ The world be - hind me, \_\_\_\_\_ the cross be - fore me, \_\_\_\_\_

1. \_\_\_\_\_ I have de - cid - ed \_\_\_\_\_ to fol - low Je - sus, \_\_\_\_\_  
2. \_\_\_\_\_ Though no one join me, \_\_\_\_\_ still I will fol - low, \_\_\_\_\_  
3. \_\_\_\_\_ The world be - hind me, \_\_\_\_\_ the cross be - fore me, \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ No turn - ing back, \_\_\_\_\_ no turn - ing back! \_\_\_\_\_  
(no turn - ing back,)

## THE SENDING

*Deacon* We have been washed in the waters of baptism, renewed by the risen Christ, and strengthened by the witness of the ancestors. The waters that once threatened to overwhelm us have become streams of salvation. The waters of sorrow have given way to joy. The waters of death have become the waters of life.

*People* ***We will walk as people of the resurrection.***

*Deacon* Ancestors who sang by the rivers, who crossed through waters seen and unseen, rejoice with us now for Christ is risen, and we are not alone.

*People* ***We go forth in hope and in power. Alleluia!***

## DISMISSAL

*Deacon* Go forth into the world, remembering your baptism, trusting the waters that carry you, and singing the song of the risen Christ. Walk through every river unafraid, for God goes with you, the Spirit surrounds you, and the ancestors rejoice beside you. Let us go forth rejoicing in the power of the Spirit. Alleluia, alleluia!

*People* ***Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia!***

**We are grateful to the Rt. Rev. Deon K. Johnson who wrote this Easter 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**

*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 Mabelle West*

## OUR MISSION AND VISION STATEMENTS

**Mission Statement:** We are a Christ-centered historic African American Episcopal congregation called to embody God's love through inspiring worship, deep relationships, and faithful service. Rooted in the richness of our heritage and sustained by the Spirit, we foster a welcoming community where all are seen, valued, and connected. We commit ourselves to being Love in action: serving our neighbors, enriching one another, proclaiming the Good News with joy, justice, peace and hope.

**Vision Statement:** *Rooted in heritage. Formed in love. Sent to serve.*

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

Senior Warden-Gaylard Williams (2027)  
Co-Junior Wardens-Betty Brown  
Dawn Johnson

### Vestry Clerk

Margarett Williams

### 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)



## LIFTING UP OUR VOICES

**“Unless we start to fight and defeat the enemies in our own country, poverty and racism, and make our talk of equality and opportunity ring true, we are exposed in the eyes of the world as hypocrites when we talk about making people free.”**

**—Shirley Chisholm**

# 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	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)."

## DEACON'S FORUM

I would like to invite the congregation to meet after our 9 am service today. Our food ministry is at a crossroads. I would like to gather input on our food ministry...where we have been, where we are, and where we need to go. The discussion will include the indoor and outdoor food pantries, the drive-thru food giveaway, and Grill to Glory. If you are unable to attend, your feedback is welcome via email: [deaconvalerieepatton@gmail.com](mailto:deaconvalerieepatton@gmail.com). Thank you for your prayerful consideration.

### **UTO INGATHERING SERVICE**

*"Gracious God, we give our thanks to you"*

**Reminder:** Our United Thank Offerings will be blessed at our **Ingathering** during the Eucharist today, the Second Sunday of Easter, so please turn in your "filled" UTO Blue Boxes or envelopes during the Offertory on or before that date. Please make checks payable to "United Thank Offering". Contact Nancy Hamilton for more information about UTO.

### **DISCERNMENT DAY**

Mark your calendars for Saturday, May 2, 2026, 10am-4pm for a diocesan-wide Discernment Day at St. Peter's Episcopal Church, 110 N. Warson Road. Are you being called to lay ministry, diaconal ministry, priestly ministry or to religious life? This gathering is designed for anyone exploring a new call to ministry and seeking to learn more about the discernment and formation process. Registration is now open until April 15, and the cost is \$10. Please see the diocesan website for more information.

### **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 Senior Warden Gaylard Williams know whether you have taken the training or have re-read the policies ASAP. 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.

### **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.

### **INITIAL OFFERING**

All parishioners are asked to contribute at least \$5.00 to the "Initial Offering" Fund to help defray the cost of the new envelopes that were purchased for this year. Use the blue and white envelope that says "Initial Offering" or indicate it on your envelope. Thank you.

### **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 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 login info>

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