

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF
ALL SAINTS & ASCENSION

The Third Sunday of Easter

April 19th, 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

219

This Is the Day

This is the day, this is the day that the Lord hath made, that the

Lord hath made, we will re-joyce, we will re-joyce and be

glad in it, and be glad in it; This is the day that the

Lord hath — made, we will re-joyce and be glad in — it;

This is the day, this is the day that the Lord hath made.

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.

O God, whose blessed Son made himself known to his disciples in the breaking of bread: Open the eyes of our faith, that we may behold him in all his redeeming work; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. ***Amen.***

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Deacon May the Word of God always be heard in this place. May the experience of our spiritual ancestors be valued in this place. May the Good News of love be proclaimed in this place.
People ***May the mystery of Christ unfold before us, may the words of salvation revive us, and may the Spirit of Truth guide us. Let us hear once more the stories of our redemption.***
All are seated.

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF ACTS 2:14a,36-41

Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd, "Let the entire house of Israel know with certainty that God has made him both Lord and Messiah, this Jesus whom you crucified."

Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and to the other apostles, "Brothers, what should we do?" Peter said to them, "Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him." And he testified with many other arguments and exhorted them, saying, "Save yourselves from this corrupt generation." So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added.

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

THE PSALM OF THE DAY: PSALM 116:1-3, 10-17

- 1 I love the LORD, because he has heard the voice of my supplication, *
because he has inclined his ear to me whenever I called upon him.
- 2 The cords of death entangled me;
the grip of the grave took hold of me; *
I came to grief and sorrow.
- 3 Then I called upon the Name of the LORD: *
"O LORD, I pray you, save my life."
- 10 How shall I repay the LORD *
for all the good things he has done for me?
- 11 I will lift up the cup of salvation *
and call upon the Name of the LORD.
- 12 I will fulfill my vows to the LORD *
in the presence of all his people.
- 13 Precious in the sight of the LORD *
is the death of his servants.
- 14 O LORD, I am your servant; *
***I am your servant and the child of your handmaid;
you have freed me from my bonds.***
- 15 I will offer you the sacrifice of thanksgiving *
and call upon the Name of the LORD.
- 16 I will fulfill my vows to the LORD *
in the presence of all his people,

17 In the courts of the LORD'S house, *
in the midst of you, O Jerusalem.
Hallelujah!

A READING FROM THE FIRST LETTER OF PETER 1:17-23

If you invoke as Father the one who judges all people impartially according to their deeds, live in reverent fear during the time of your exile. You know that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your ancestors, not with perishable things like silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without defect or blemish. He was destined before the foundation of the world, but was revealed at the end of the ages for your sake. Through him you have come to trust in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are set on God.

Now that you have purified your souls by your obedience to the truth so that you have genuine mutual love, love one another deeply from the heart. You have been born anew, not of perishable but of imperishable seed, through the living and enduring word of God.

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

My Faith Looks Up to Thee

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D A D A A7

1 My faith looks up to thee, thou Lamb of Cal - va - ry,
 2 May thy rich grace im-part strength to my faint - ing heart,
 3 While life's dark maze I tread and griefs a - round me spread,
 4 When life's swift race is run, death's cold work al - most done,

D E A D

Sav - ior di - vine! Now hear me while I pray, take all my
 my zeal in - spire. As thou hast died for me, O may my
 be thou my guide. Bid dark-ness turn to day, wipe sor - row's
 be near to me. Blest Sav - ior, then in love fear and dis -

D Bm G D Em/G A7 D

guilt a - way. O let me from this day be whol - ly thine!
 love to thee, - pure, warm, and change - less be, a liv - ing fire!
 tears a - way, - nor let me ev - er stray from thee a - side.
 trust re - move. - O bear me safe a - bove, re - deemed and free!

Optional prayer (based on Ps. 141:8; 2 Cor. 4:6)

Our eyes turn to you, O sovereign Lord;
 in you we take refuge.

**By the illumining power of your Holy Spirit,
 help us to see the light of the knowledge of your glory
 in the face of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Amen.**

Words: Ray Palmer, 1830, alt., P.D.

Music (OLIVET 6.6.4.6.6.6.4): Lowell Mason, 1832, P.D.

THE PROCLAMATION OF THE GOSPEL: Luke 24:13-35

Deacon Beloved, God is with you.

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

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

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

Now on that same day two of Jesus' disciples were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. And he said to them, "What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?" They stood still, looking sad. Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, "Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?" He asked them, "What things?" They replied, "The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but they did not see him." Then he said to them, "Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?" Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.

As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. But they urged him strongly, saying, "Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over." So he went in to stay with them. When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. They said to each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?" That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. They were saying, "The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!" Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

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, especially Loretta Smith, cousin of Betty Brown, and Chris Crittenden, brother of Joyce Crittenden, 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

OFFERTORY HYMN

TRUSTING THE TRIUNE GOD

363 Blessed Assurance: Jesus Is Mine

The musical score is written in G major (one sharp) and 9/8 time. It consists of three systems of music, each with a vocal line and a guitar accompaniment line. The lyrics are arranged in three verses. The first system includes three verses of lyrics. The second system continues the lyrics. The third system includes a 'Refrain' section. Chords are indicated above the notes.

System 1:

1 Bless-ed as - sur - ance: Je - sus is mine! Oh, what a fore - taste of
 2 Per - fect sub - mis - sion, per - fect de - light, vi - sions of *rap - ture now
 3 Per - fect sub - mis - sion; all is at rest, I in my Sav - ior am

System 2:

glo - ry di - vine! Heir of sal - va - tion, pur - chase of God, born of his
 burst on my sight; an - gels de - scend - ing bring from a - bove echo - es of
 hap - py and blest; watch - ing and wait - ing, look - ing a - bove, filled with his

System 3:

Spir - it, washed in his blood.
 mer - cy, whis - pers of love. This is my sto - ry, this is my
 good - ness, lost in his love.

Refrain

song, prais - ing my Sav - ior all the day long; this is my
 sto - ry, this is my song, prais - ing my Sav - ior all the day long.

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 five staves. The lyrics are: 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 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.

COMMUNION HYMN

815 Gift of Finest Wheat

Refrain C Am F Am Dm Em Csus C
Unison



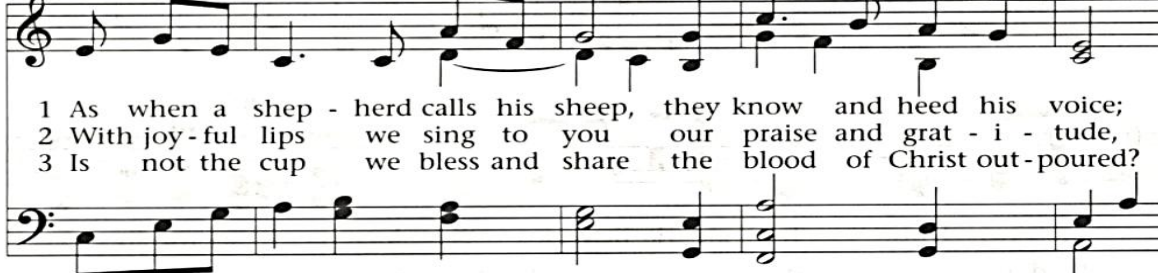
You sat-is-fy the hun-gry heart with gift of fin-est wheat.

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 heaven-ly food.
Do not one cup, one loaf de-clare our one-ness in the Lord?

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

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

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

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

THE POST COMMUNION PRAYER

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

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

THE BLESSING

Presider 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.**

He Lives

1. I serve a ris - en Sav - ior, He's in the world to - day; —
 2. In all the world a - round me I see His lov - ing care, —
 3. Re-joice, re-joice. O Chris - tian, lift up your voice and sing. —

1. I know that He is liv - ing, what - ev - er oth - ers say; —
 2. And though my heart grows wea - ry I nev - er will de - spair; —
 3. E - ter - nal hal - le - lu - jahs to Je - sus Christ, the King! —

1. I see His hand of mer - cy, I hear His voice of cheer, —
 2. I know that He is lead - ing through all the storm - y blast, —
 3. The hope of all who seek Him, the help of all who find, —

1. And just the time I need Him — He's al - ways near. —
 2. The day of His ap - pear - ing — will come at last. —
 3. None oth - er is so lov - ing, — so good and kind. —

He lives, _____ He lives, _____ Christ Je - sus lives_ to - day! _____

He lives, He lives,

He walks with me and talks with me a - long life's nar - row way. _____

He lives, _____ He lives, _____ sal - va - tion to im - part! _____

He lives, He lives,

You ask me how I know He lives? He lives with-in my heart. _____

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

Margarett Williams

Reader

Betty Brown

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: 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 – 2026

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

Vestry Clerk
Margarett Williams

Treasurer
Rickey Mabry

Class of 2027
Adrienne Dillon
Sondra Harrell

Class of 2028
Michael Griffin
Stanley Merridith

Class of 2029
Betty Brown
Dawn Johnson

Convention Delegates
Adrienne Dillon (2027)
Caroline Moore (2027)

Alternate Delegate
Donna Black (2027)



LIFTING UP OUR VOICES

“If I cannot do great things, I can do small things in a great way.”

-Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

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
Bessie Clemmons	Jacky Dew	Rick Earley
Jan R. Griffin	Michael Griffin	Renee Griffin
Ronald Hawkins	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)."

UTO THANKS YOU

"Gracious Lord, Thank You for your gift of grateful and giving hearts among us."

In a combination of coins, bills and personal checks, a total of **\$398.32** in United Thank Offerings were collected and blessed at our UTO Ingathering last Sunday. Additionally, a few of our parishioners made online donations

that will undoubtedly increase the 2026 total amount from our All Saints and Ascension family to over \$400. On behalf of UTO, thanks so much to each of you who contributed for your generosity. Nancy Hamilton-UTO Parish Leader

THE ENGLISH TEA AT ST. STEPHEN'S & THE VINE

Saturday, April 25, 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm. The cost is \$10.00 per person. Please call the St. Stephen's Office at 314-521-0138 no later than Wednesday, April 22, to make reservations.

THE LEGEND SINGERS CHORAL ENSEMBLE

The Legend Singers Choral Ensemble will present a concert on Sunday, April 26 at 5:00 p.m. at the Church of St Michael and St. George, 6345 Wydown Blvd, Clayton, MO.

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.

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 Zoom sign in 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 sign in info>

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