



THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF  
ALL SAINTS & ASCENSION

**Resurrection Sunday**

*April 5th, 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

179

Easter

1 "Wel - come, hap - py morn - ing!" age to age shall say:  
\*2 Earth her joy con - fess - es, cloth - ing her for spring,  
\*3 Months in due suc - ces - sion, days of length - ening light,  
4 Ma - ker and Re - deem - er, life and health of all,  
5 Thou, of life the au - thor, death didst un - der - go,

1 hell to - day is van - quished, heaven is won to - day!  
2 all fresh gifts re - turned with her re - turn - ing King:  
3 hours and pass - ing mo - ments praise thee in their flight.  
4 thou from heaven be - hold - ing hu - man na - ture's fall,  
5 tread the path of dark - ness, sav - ing strength to show;

1 Lo! the dead is liv - ing, God for ev - er - more!  
2 bloom in ev - ery mea - dow, leaves on ev - ery bough,  
3 Bright - ness of the morn - ing, sky and fields and sea,  
4 of the Fa - ther's God - head true and on - ly Son,  
5 come then, true and faith - ful, now ful - fill thy word,

## 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!**

*The Presider may then sprinkle the people with water.*

## 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 God, who through your only-begotten Son Jesus Christ overcame death and opened to us the gate of everlasting life: Grant that we, who celebrate with joy the day of the Lord's resurrection, may be raised from the death of sin by your life-giving Spirit; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. ***Amen.***

## THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

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

## A READING FROM THE BOOK OF JEREMIAH 31:1-6

At that time, says the Lord, I will be the God of all the families of Israel, and they shall be my people.

Thus says the Lord:

The people who survived the sword  
found grace in the wilderness;  
when Israel sought for rest,  
the Lord appeared to him from far away.  
I have loved you with an everlasting love;  
therefore I have continued my faithfulness to you.  
Again I will build you, and you shall be built,  
O virgin Israel!  
Again you shall take your tambourines,  
and go forth in the dance of the merry-makers.  
Again you shall plant vineyards  
on the mountains of Samaria;  
the planters shall plant,  
and shall enjoy the fruit.  
For there shall be a day when sentinels will call  
in the hill country of Ephraim:  
"Come, let us go up to Zion,  
to the Lord our God."

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

## THE PSALM OF THE DAY: PSALM 118: 1-2, 14-24

- 1 Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; \*  
***his mercy endures for ever.***
- 2 Let Israel now proclaim, \*  
***"His mercy endures for ever."***
- 14 The Lord is my strength and my song, \*  
***and he has become my salvation.***
- 15 There is a sound of exultation and victory \*  
***in the tents of the righteous:***
- 16 "The right hand of the Lord has triumphed! \*  
***the right hand of the Lord is exalted!***  
***the right hand of the Lord has triumphed!"***
- 17 I shall not die, but live, \*  
***and declare the works of the Lord.***

- 18 The Lord has punished me sorely, \*  
**but he did not hand me over to death.**
- 19 Open for me the gates of righteousness; \*  
**I will enter them;**  
**I will offer thanks to the Lord.**
- 20 "This is the gate of the Lord; \*  
**he who is righteous may enter."**
- 21 I will give thanks to you, for you answered me \*  
**and have become my salvation.**
- 22 The same stone which the builders rejected \*  
**has become the chief cornerstone.**
- 23 This is the Lord's doing, \*  
**and it is marvelous in our eyes.**
- 24 On this day the Lord has acted; \*  
**we will rejoice and be glad in it.**

#### A READING FROM THE LETTER TO THE COLOSSIANS 3:1-4

If you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth, for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory.

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

# HOLY SPIRIT

## Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

111

1. Come, Thou fount of ev-ery bless - ing, Tune my heart to sing thy  
 2. Here I raise my Eb - en - e - zer, Hith - er by thy help I'm  
 3. O, to grace how great a debt - or, Dai - ly I'm con - strained to

1. grace; Streams of mer - cy nev - er ceas - ing, Call for songs of loud - est  
 2. come; And I hope, by thy good pleas - ure, Sure - ly to ar - rive at  
 3. be; Let that grace, Lord, like a fet - ter, Bind my won - d'ring heart to

1. praise. Teach me some me - lo - dious son - net, Sung by flam - ing tongues a  
 2. home. Je - sus sought me when a stran - ger, Wan - d'ring from the fold of  
 3. Thee. Prone to wan - der, Lord, I feel - it, Prone to leave the God I

1. bove. Praise the mount, O fix me on it. Mount of God's un - chang - ing love.  
 2. God. He, to save my soul from dan - ger, In - ter - posed His pre - cious blood.  
 3. love. Here's my heart, Lord, take and seal it, Seal it from thy courts a - bove.

Words: Robert Robinson (1735-1790)

Music: *Nettleton*, melody from *A Repository of Sacred Music, Part II*, 1813; harm. Carl Haywood (b. 1949), from *Songs of Praise*, Copyright © 1992.

## THE PROCLAMATION OF THE GOSPEL: MATTHEW 28: 1-10

*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.***

After the sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. And suddenly there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples, 'He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him.' This is my message for you." So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. Suddenly Jesus met them and said, "Greetings!" And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshiped him. Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me."

*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

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

OFFERTORY HYMN

**He Lives**

42

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-joyce, re-joyce. 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 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)

252

### Holy, Holy, Holy

Ho - ly, 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

840

Behold the Lamb

F2/A G/B C Dm7 G F2

1 Be - hold the Lamb, who bears our sins a - way, slain for us—  
 2 The bo - dy of our Sav - ior, Je - sus Christ, torn for you—  
 3 The blood that clean - ses ev - ery stain of sin, shed for you—  
 4 And so with thank - ful - ness and faith we rise to re - spond—

C/G G7sus G7 F2/A G/B C

and we re - mem - ber the pro - mise made, that all who  
 eat and re - mem - ber the wounds that heal; the death that  
 drink and re - mem - ber he drained death's cup, that all may  
 and to re - mem - ber our call to fol - low in the

Dm7 G F2 G7sus G7 C

come in faith find for - give - ness at the cross. So we  
 brings us life paid the price to make us one. So we  
 en - ter in to re - ceive the life of God. So we  
 steps of Christ as his bod - y here on earth. As we

F2 C2/E G2 F2

share in this bread of life, and we drink of his  
 share in this bread of life, and we drink of his  
 share in this bread of life, and we drink of his  
 share in his suf - fer - ing, we pro - claim Christ will

# I Am the Bread of Life

842

C2/E G2 F2 C2/E G7sus G7

sac - ri - fice as a sign of our bonds of peace  
sac - ri - fice as a sign of our bonds of love  
sac - ri - fice as a sign of our bonds of grace  
come a - gain! And we'll join in the feast of heaven

F2/A G7 C2 F2

a - round the ta - ble of the King.  
a - round the ta - ble of the King.  
a - round the ta - ble of the King.  
a - round the ta - ble of the King.

C2 F2 C2 Final ending

Final ending

## 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.**

# 182 Christ the Lord Is Risen Today

The musical score is written in 4/4 time and consists of three systems of vocal lines. Each system includes a treble clef staff with lyrics and a bass clef staff with guitar chords. The lyrics are arranged in three parts, each with three lines of text. The chords are indicated above the treble staff.

**System 1:**

Chords: C, F, C, F, C/G G7, C

1 Christ the Lord is risen to - day! Al - le - lu - ia!  
 2 Love's re - deem - ing work is done, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 3 Lives a - gain our glo - rious King; Al - le - lu - ia!

**System 2:**

Chords: F, Dm7, G, C, F, C/G G7, C

All cre - a - tion, join to say: Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Fought the fight, the bat - tle won; Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Where, O death, is now your sting? Al - le - lu - ia!

**System 3:**

Chords: G, C, G, Am, G/D D7, G

Raise your joys and tri - umphs high; Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Death in vain for - bids him rise; Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Once he died, our souls to save; Al - le - lu - ia!

**System 4:**

Chords: C, F, C, F, C/G G7, C

Sing, O heavens, and earth, re - ply: Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Christ has o - pened par - a - dise. Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Where your vic - to - ry, O grave? Al - le - lu - ia!

## 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**

*Stanley Johnson*

### **Reader**

*Walter Fox*

### **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:** 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

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

**"The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy.**

***-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
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 on Sunday, April 12, 2026. 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 on **April 12**, 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 Sr. 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>



## **EASTER LILIES DEDICATION**

The Reverend Renee L. Fenner

***In Memory of***

Tiffany Fenner and Brenda Branch

***In Thanksgiving for***

The Fenner, Curry, Harris & Bradley  
Families

Betty Brown

***In Memory of***

Deceased Family Members

***In Thanksgiving for***

God's Amazing Grace

Catherine Henderson

***In Memory of***

Eric S. Henderson  
Leon and Mamie Pickett  
Larry and Cristine Steel

***In Thanksgiving for***

The Henderson Family

Machelle West

***In Memory of***

Pearline West  
Gordon Moore  
Victor Wallas

***In Thanksgiving for***

God's Blessings and Grace  
Communities of Faith and Dedicated  
Members

Walter Fox

***In Memory of***  
Hill and Fox Families

Karen Mosely

***In Thanksgiving for***  
Our Grandson, Kem Mosley III

Allen, Deborah and Alexia Dukes

***In Thanksgiving for***  
Alexia R. Baker Dukes  
Angela Searcy  
Our Grandchildren and Great  
Grandchildren  
Our Many Blessings  
Our Church Family

Sondra Harrell

***In Memory of***  
Willard and Larry  
Doris and Eric

***In Thanksgiving for***  
Harlan and Emmanuel  
Felicia and Kim  
Estelle and Roland

Stanley Merridith

***In Memory of***  
Annie White  
Peretha Louis  
Vivian Burell  
Terrance Cross  
Lee Jackson

Terrell Thompson

***In Thanksgiving for***  
Members of All Saints and Ascension

Margarett Williams

***In Memory of***  
My Mother, Margaret Kirk Harris and  
Father, John L. Harris

***In Thanksgiving for***  
My daughter, Kimberley and son,  
Jayson Williams

Kimberley Williams

*In Memory of*

My father, Edward Williams and  
Grandmother, Minerva Williams

*In Thanksgiving for*

My mother, Margaret Williams and  
Brother, Jayson Williams

***Thank you, everyone, for your contributions!***



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