



THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF  
ALL SAINTS & ASCENSION

**The Seventh Sunday of Easter**

*May 17th, 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

83

## Just a Little Talk With Jesus

1. I once was lost in sin but Je - sus took me in,  
2. Some - times my path seems drear, with - out a ray of cheer,  
3. I may have doubts and fears, my eyes be filled with tears,

1. And then a lit - tle light from heav - en filled my soul; \_\_\_\_\_  
2. And then a cloud of doubt may hide the light of day; \_\_\_\_\_  
3. But Je - sus is a friend who watch - es day and night; \_\_\_\_\_

1. It bathed my heart in love and wrote my name a - bove,  
2. The mists of sin may rise and hide the star - ry skies,  
3. I go to Him in pray'r, He knows my ev - 'ry care.

1. And just a lit - tle talk with Je - sus made me whole. \_\_\_\_\_  
2. And just a lit - tle talk with Je - sus clears the way. \_\_\_\_\_  
3. And just a lit - tle talk with Je - sus makes it right. \_\_\_\_\_

Now let us Have a lit-tle talk with Je - sus, let us

tell Him all a-bout our trou- bles, He will Hear our faint - est cry, and He will

an- swer by and by; Now when you Feel a lit- tle pray'r wheel turn- ing, and you

know a lit - tle fire is burn - ing, you will

Find a lit- tle talk with Je - sus makes it right. it makes it right.

## 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, the King of glory, you have exalted your only Son Jesus Christ with great triumph to your kingdom in heaven: Do not leave us comfortless, but send us your Holy Spirit to strengthen us, and exalt us to that place where our Savior Christ has gone before; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, in glory everlasting. **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 1:6-14

When the apostles had come together, they asked Jesus, "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."

Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a sabbath day's journey away. When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying, Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

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

*People* ***Thanks be to God.***

## THE PSALM OF THE DAY: PSALM 68:1-10, 33-36

- 1 Let God arise, and let his enemies be scattered; \*  
***let those who hate him flee before him.***
- 2 Let them vanish like smoke when the wind drives it away; \*  
***as the wax melts at the fire, so let the wicked perish at the presence of God.***
- 3 But let the righteous be glad and rejoice before God; \*  
***let them also be merry and joyful.***
- 4 Sing to God, sing praises to his Name;  
exalt him who rides upon the heavens; \*  
***YAHWEH is his Name, rejoice before him!***
- 5 Father of orphans, defender of widows, \*  
***God in his holy habitation!***
- 6 God gives the solitary a home and brings forth prisoners into freedom; \*  
***but the rebels shall live in dry places.***
- 7 O God, when you went forth before your people, \*  
***when you marched through the wilderness,***
- 8 The earth shook, and the skies poured down rain,  
at the presence of God, the God of Sinai, \*  
***at the presence of God, the God of Israel.***
- 9 You sent a gracious rain, O God, upon your inheritance; \*  
***you refreshed the land when it was weary.***
- 10 Your people found their home in it; \*  
***in your goodness, O God, you have made provision for the poor.***

33 Sing to God, O kingdoms of the earth; \*  
***sing praises to the Lord.***

34 He rides in the heavens, the ancient heavens; \*  
***he sends forth his voice, his mighty voice.***

35 Ascribe power to God; \*  
***his majesty is over Israel;***  
***his strength is in the skies.***

36 How wonderful is God in his holy places! \*  
***the God of Israel giving strength and power to his people!***  
***Blessed be God!***

#### A READING FROM THE FIRST LETTER OF PETER 4:12-14; 5:6-11

Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that is taking place among you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice insofar as you are sharing Christ's sufferings, so that you may also be glad and shout for joy when his glory is revealed. If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the spirit of glory, which is the Spirit of God, is resting on you.

Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt you in due time. Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you. Discipline yourselves, keep alert. Like a roaring lion your adversary the devil prowls around, looking for someone to devour. Resist him, steadfast in your faith, for you know that your brothers and sisters in all the world are undergoing the same kinds of suffering. And after you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, support, strengthen, and establish you. To him be the power forever and ever.  
***Amen.***

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

God Will Take Care of You

1. Be not dis-mayed \_ what-e'er be-tide, God will take care of you;—  
 2. Through days of toil \_\_\_ when heart doth fail, God will take care of you;—  
 3. All you may need \_\_\_ He will pro-vide, God will take care of you;—  
 4. No mat-ter what \_\_\_ may be the test, God will take care of you;—

1. Be - neath His wings \_ of love a - bid, God will take care of you. \_\_\_  
 2. When dan - gers fierce \_ you path as - sail, God will take care of you. \_\_\_  
 3. Noth - ing you ask \_\_\_ will be de - nied, God will take care of you. \_\_\_  
 4. Lean, wea - ry one, \_\_\_ up - on His breast, God will take care of you. \_\_\_

God will take care of you, Through ev - 'ry day, O'er all the way;

He will take care \_ of you, God will take care \_ of you. \_\_\_

## THE PROCLAMATION OF THE GOSPEL: John 7:1-11

*Deacon* Beloved, God is with you.

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

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

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

Jesus looked up to heaven and said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed.

"I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one."

*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

When We All Get to Heaven

1. Sing the won-drous love of Je-sus, Sing His mer-cy and His grace;  
 2. While we walk the pil-grim path-way, Clouds will o-ver-spread the sky;  
 3. Let us then be true and faith-ful, Trust-ing, serv-ing ev-'ry day;  
 4. On-ward to the prize be-fore us! Soon His beau-ty we'll be-hold;

1. In the man-sion bright and bless-ed, He'll pre-pare for us a place.  
 2. But when trav-'ling days are o-ver, Not a shad-ow, not a sigh.  
 3. Just one glimpse of Him in glo-ry Will the toils of life re-pay;  
 4. Soon the pearl-y gates will o-pen; We shall tread the streets of gold.

When we all \_\_\_\_\_ get to heav-en, What a day of re-

When we all get to heav-en, What a

joic-ing that will be! \_\_\_\_\_ When we all \_\_\_\_\_ see

day of re-joic-ing that will be! When we all see

Je-sus, We'll sing and shout the vic-to-ry. \_\_\_\_\_

Je-sus, We'll sing and shout, and shout the vic-to-ry.

## 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

# Center Of My Joy

Gloria Gaither

William J. Gaither and  
Richard Smallwood

D                      Em/D   D   Em   E#dim7   F#m7                      Am7   D7

Je - sus, You're the cen - ter of my joy;

Gmaj7   G                      A/G                      D/F#                      Em7                      G/A   A

All that's good and per - fect comes from You.

Am7                      D7                      Gmaj7

You're the heart \_ of my con - tent - ment, hope for all \_ I

C7sus   C7                      D/A                      B7                      Em7                      G/A   A7   D                      *Fine*

do; \_ Je - sus, You're the cen - ter of my joy.

Detailed description: This block contains the musical score for the hymn 'Center Of My Joy'. It is written in G major and 4/4 time. The score is divided into four systems, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The first system begins with the lyrics 'Je - sus, You're the cen - ter of my joy;'. The second system continues with 'All that's good and per - fect comes from You.'. The third system continues with 'You're the heart \_ of my con - tent - ment, hope for all \_ I'. The fourth system concludes with 'do; \_ Je - sus, You're the cen - ter of my joy.' and ends with a double bar line and the word 'Fine'. Chord symbols are placed above the vocal line and below the piano line. The piano accompaniment features a steady bass line and chords that support the melody.

G/A A7 D F#m7 D/F# G

When I've lost my di - rec - tion, You're the com - pass for my

D A/C# Bm Bm/G#

way; \_\_\_\_\_ Lord, You're the fire \_\_\_\_\_ and the light when the nights are

E7m7 A7 G/A D

long and cold. \_\_\_\_\_ In sad - ness, \_\_\_\_\_ You are the

F#m7 G G/A D F#7

laugh - ter \_\_\_\_\_ that shat - ters all my fears; When I'm

Bm Bm/G# A7sus A7 *D.C. al Fine*

all a - lone, \_\_\_\_\_ Your hand is there to hold. \_\_\_\_\_

## THE POST COMMUNION PRAYER

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

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

## THE BLESSING

*Presider* Life is short and we do not have much time to gladden the hearts of those whom we love or those who walk this way with us. So, be swift to love and make haste to be kind and may the Divine Mystery that is beyond our ability to know be your companion along the way. And may the blessing of God Almighty, the grace of Christ the Son and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be upon you, and remain with you for ever. **Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN

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Soon and Very Soon

1. Soon and ver - y soon — we are goin' to see the King, —  
2. No more cry - in' there — we are goin' to see the King, —  
3. No more dy - in' there — we are goin' to see the King, —  
4. Soon and ver - y soon — we are goin' to see the King; —

1. Soon and ver - y soon — we are goin' to see the King, —  
2. No more cry - in' there — we are goin' to see the King, —  
3. No more dy - in' there — we are goin' to see the King, —  
4. Soon and ver - y soon — we are goin' to see the King, —

1. Soon and ver - y soon — we are goin' to see the King,  
2. No more cry - in' there — we are goin' to see the King,  
3. No more dy - in' there — we are goin' to see the King,  
4. Soon and ver - y soon — we are goin' to see the King,

— Hal - le - lu - jah, Hal - le - lu - jah, — we're goin' to see the King!

1. 2. 3. 4.  
— Hal - le - lu - jah, Hal - le - lu -

jah, Hal - le - lu - jah, Hal - le - lu - jah.

## 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, Presider!**

## TODAY'S LITURGICAL LEADERS

### **Presider**

*The Rev. Renee L. Fenner, Rector*

### **Deacon**

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

### **Worship Leader**

*Margarett Williams*

### **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 – 2026

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

**“Every time you state what you want or believe, you’re the first to hear it. It’s a message to both you and others about what you think is possible. Don’t put a ceiling on yourself.”**

**—Oprah Winfrey**

# 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	Jennifer Dawson	Jacky Dew
Rick Earley	Michael Griffin	Renee Griffin
Drue Harrod	Ronald Hawkins	Stella Hughes
Jan R. Jenkins	Erika Jones	Marvalda 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)."

## LET'S CELEBRATE OUR GRADUATES

It is almost time to recognize our graduates! Whether you are graduating from pre-school or receiving a doctorate- we want to celebrate YOU on June 7. Graduates, please submit a brief bio by May 26 and remember to include the name of your school and type of diploma or degree you are receiving. Your documents are to be in a print-ready Microsoft Word format. Please email to: [allsaintsadminasst@sbcglobal.net](mailto:allsaintsadminasst@sbcglobal.net).

## **PENTECOST SUNDAY**

Next Sunday, May 24, the Church will celebrate the birthday of the Church on the Feast of Pentecost! Everyone is invited to wear RED!!!

## **CAMP FIREBIRD 2026**

Registration for Camp Firebird 2026 is now open and filling quickly for both campers and counselors. Camp dates are July 26–31. Scholarships are available through the Diocese (please indicate need on the registration form). Co-directors Erin Pickersgill and Katrina Moore are available to give more information and answer questions. Please go to the Diocese of Missouri website or reach out at [mocampfirebird@gmail.com](mailto:mocampfirebird@gmail.com).

## **BUS TRIP TO BRANSON**

We are invited to take a bus trip to Branson, MO to see the Sight and Sound production of the stage play, "David" this September! K and K Tiger Travel (Karen and Kem Mosley) invite you on their bus trip September 11-September 12, 2026. The cost is \$350 which includes transportation, a one-night hotel stay, two shows ("David" and "Downtown Motown"), two meals, and lots of fun and fellowship. For more information, please see available brochures or contact Karen at 314-450-6503 or email her at [kandktigertravel@gmail.com](mailto:kandktigertravel@gmail.com).

## **SEEKING NEW MEDIA LEADER(S)**

By the end of 2026, I will be stepping down as manager for the ASA website, weekly email blast, and outdoor sign display. So, we are seeking a person(s) to take the lead in managing all (or any one) of these positions. I will continue to assist whoever takes the lead as this work should never rest on just one person. Bishop Deon has generously offered resources to help ASA refresh our parish communications. As the first step, his staff is currently standing by to redesign and provide us with a turnkey website that will be easy to maintain. But without consistent upkeep, even the best site will fail. Now is a good time for the next leader, along with me, to learn the new processes together. Please contact me if you are willing to help shape something new. *Sanford Hamilton*

## **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 Zoom login info>

**ASA BIBLE STUDY**

Please join our weekly Bible Study group every Thursday at 10:00 am. We will be discussing Women of the Bible, so come ready to learn and share your insights. I believe that studying God's Word as a group will strengthen our Faith and will help us relate His Words to our lives in today's world. Joyce Crittenden, Leader.

<contact parish office for Zoom login info>

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