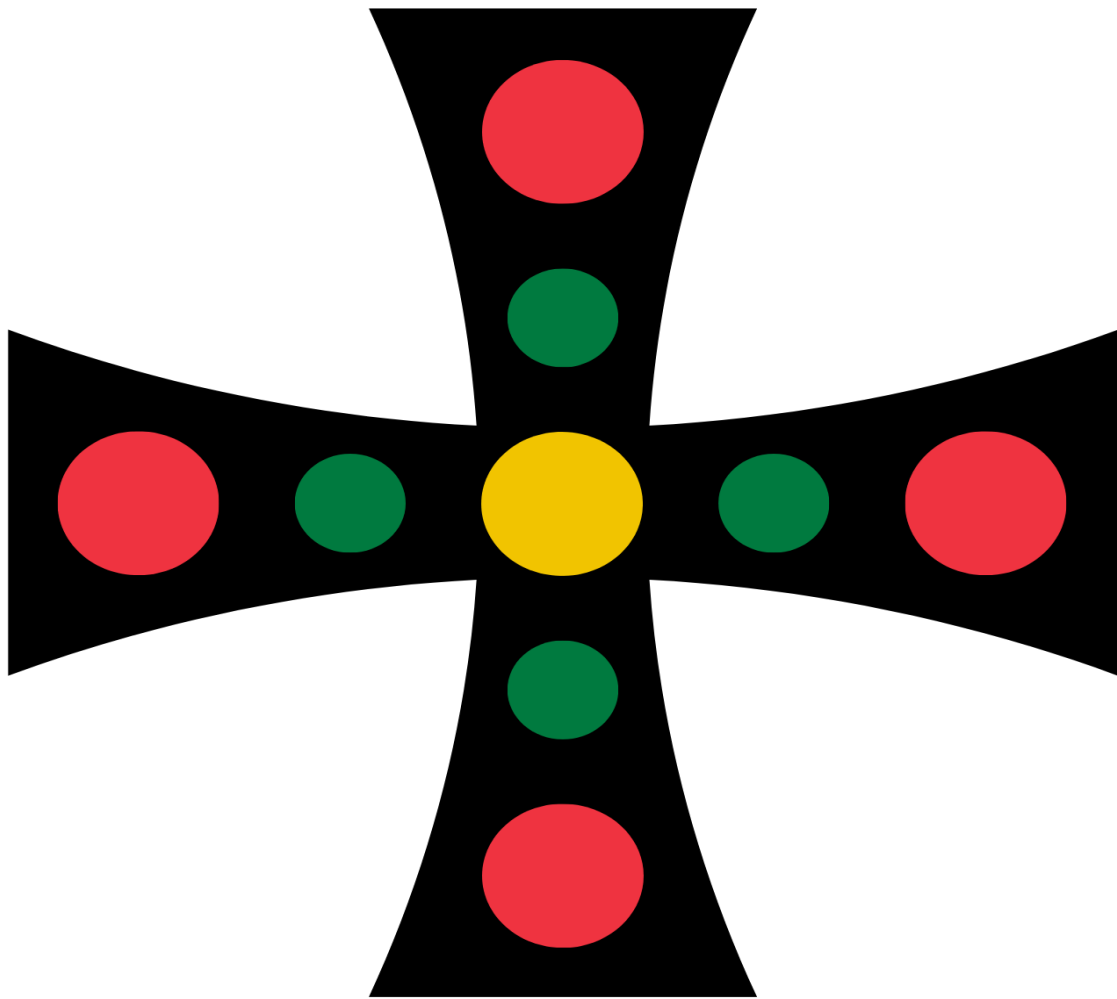




THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF
ALL SAINTS & ASCENSION

The Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

July 19, 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

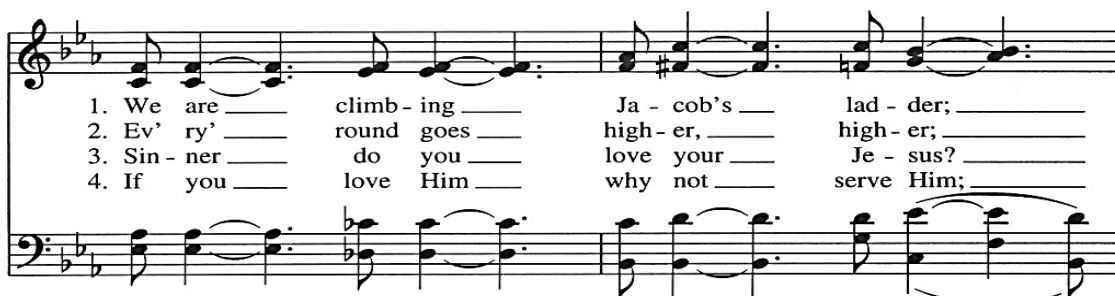
GATHERING SONG/MUSIC

We Are Climbing Jacob's Ladder

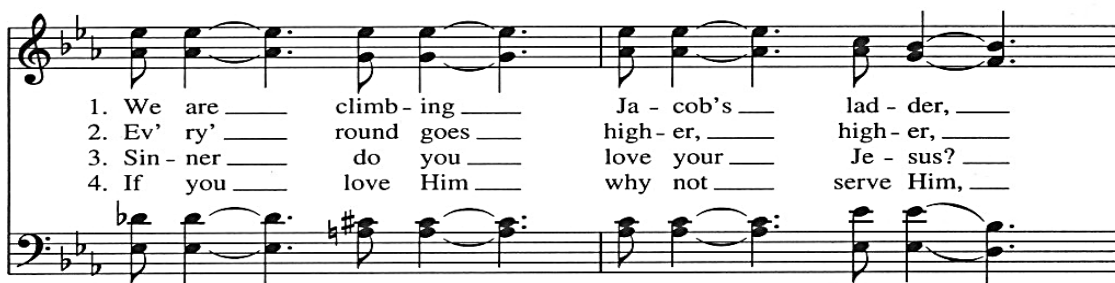
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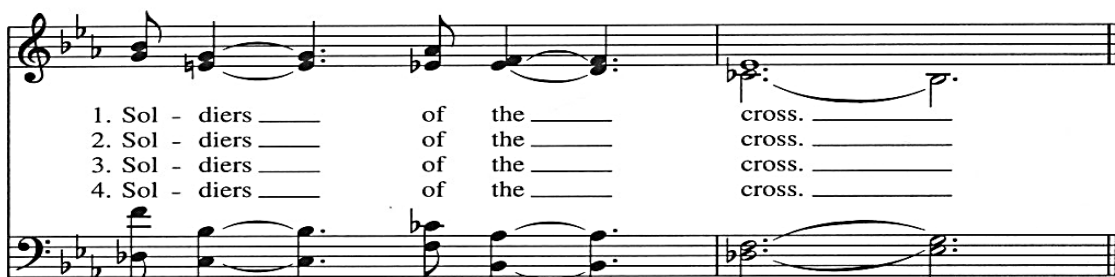
1. We are _____ climb - ing _____ Ja - cob's _____ lad - der, _____
2. Ev' ry' _____ round goes _____ high - er, _____ high - er, _____
3. Sin - ner _____ do you _____ love your _____ Je - sus? _____
4. If you _____ love Him _____ why not _____ serve Him, _____



1. We are _____ climb - ing _____ Ja - cob's _____ lad - der; _____
2. Ev' ry' _____ round goes _____ high - er, _____ high - er; _____
3. Sin - ner _____ do you _____ love your _____ Je - sus? _____
4. If you _____ love Him _____ why not _____ serve Him; _____



1. We are _____ climb - ing _____ Ja - cob's _____ lad - der, _____
2. Ev' ry' _____ round goes _____ high - er, _____ high - er, _____
3. Sin - ner _____ do you _____ love your _____ Je - sus? _____
4. If you _____ love Him _____ why not _____ serve Him, _____



1. Sol - diers _____ of the _____ cross. _____
2. Sol - diers _____ of the _____ cross. _____
3. Sol - diers _____ of the _____ cross. _____
4. Sol - diers _____ of the _____ cross. _____

THE OPENING ACCLAMATION

Presider Blessed be the one, holy, and living God.

People ***Glory to God for ever and ever.***

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 "Glory to God" (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 be with you.
People ***And also with you.***
Presider Let us pray.

Presider Almighty God, the fountain of all wisdom, you know our necessities before we ask and our ignorance in asking: Have compassion on our weakness, and mercifully give us those things which for our unworthiness we dare not, and for our blindness we cannot ask; through the worthiness of your Son Jesus Christ our Savior, 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 GENESIS 28: 10-19a

Jacob left Beer-sheba and went toward Haran. He came to a certain place and stayed there for the night, because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones of the place, he put it under his head and lay down in that place. And he dreamed that there was a ladder set up on the earth, the top of it reaching to heaven; and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. And the Lord stood beside him and said, "I am the Lord, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and to your offspring; and your offspring shall be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south; and all the families of the earth shall be blessed in you and in your offspring. Know that I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you." Then Jacob woke from his sleep and said, "Surely the Lord is in this place—and I did not know it!" And he was afraid, and said, "How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven."

So Jacob rose early in the morning, and he took the stone that he had put under his head and set it up for a pillar and poured oil on the top of it. He called that place Bethel.

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

THE PSALM OF THE DAY: PSALM 139: 1-11, 22-23

1 Lord, you have searched me out and known me; *

you know my sitting down and my rising up;

you discern my thoughts from afar.

2 You trace my journeys and my resting-places *

and are acquainted with all my ways.

3 Indeed, there is not a word on my lips, *

but you, O Lord, know it altogether.

4 You press upon me behind and before *
and lay your hand upon me.
 5 Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; *
it is so high that I cannot attain to it.
 6 Where can I go then from your Spirit? *
where can I flee from your presence?
 7 If I climb up to heaven, you are there; *
if I make the grave my bed, you are there also.
 8 If I take the wings of the morning *
and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,
 9 Even there your hand will lead me *
and your right hand hold me fast.
 10 If I say, "Surely the darkness will cover me, *
and the light around me turn to night,"
 11 Darkness is not dark to you;
 the night is as bright as the day; *
darkness and light to you are both alike.
 22 Search me out, O God, and know my heart; *
try me and know my restless thoughts.
 23 Look well whether there be any wickedness in me *
and lead me in the way that is everlasting.

A READING FROM PAUL'S LETTER TO THE ROMANS 8: 12-25

Brothers and sisters, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh-- for if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, "Abba! Father!" it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ-- if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

People

Thanks be to God.

Nearer, My God, to Thee

54

1. Near - er, my God, to Thee, Near - er to Thee!
 2. Though like the wan - der - er, The sun goes down,
 3. There let the way ap - pear, Steps un - to heav'n;
 4. Then, with my wak - ing thoughts, Bright with Thy praise,
 5. Or if on joy - ful wing, Cleav - ing the sky,

1. E'en though it be a cross That — rais - eth me;
 2. Dark - ness be o - ver me, My — rest a stone;
 3. All that Thou send - est me, In — mer - cy giv'n;
 4. Out of my ston - y griefs, Beth - el I'll raise;
 5. Sun, moon and stars for - got, Up - wards I fly,

1. Still all my song would be
 2. Yet in my dreams I'd be
 3. An - gels to beck - on me Near - er, my God, to Thee,
 4. So by my woes to be
 5. Still all my song shall be

Near - er my God, to Thee, Near - er to Thee.

THE PROCLAMATION OF THE GOSPEL: MATTHEW 13: 24-30, 36-43

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, O Christ.***

Deacon Jesus put before the crowd another parable: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field; but while everybody was asleep, an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and then went away. So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, 'Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?' He answered, 'An enemy has done this.' The slaves said to him, 'Then do you want us to go and gather them?' But he replied, 'No; for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. Let both of them grow together until the harvest; and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.'"

Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples approached him, saying, "Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field." He answered, "The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one, and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen!"

People The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

THE SERMON

The Rev. Dr. Deacon 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.***

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE FORM VI

Deacon Let us offer our prayers to our God who first loved us.

Silence may be kept.

For all people in their daily life and work;

For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.

For this community, the nation, and the world;

For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.

For the just and proper use of your creation;

For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.

For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;

For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.

For the peace and unity of the Church of God;

For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.

For Sean our Presiding Bishop, and Deon our Bishop; and
for all bishops and other ministers;
For all who serve God in his Church.

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation and those on our prayer lists.

Silence

The People may add their own petitions

Hear us, Lord;
For your mercy is great.

We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life.

Silence

The People may add their own thanksgivings

We will exalt you, O God our King;
And praise your Name for ever and ever.

We pray for all who have died, that they may have a place in
your eternal kingdom.

Silence

The People may add their own petitions

Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon them;
Who put their trust in you.

We pray to you also for the forgiveness of our sins.

Silence may be kept.

Leader and People

***Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father;
in your compassion forgive us our sins,
known and unknown,
things done and left undone;
and so uphold us by your Spirit
that we may live and serve you in newness of life,
to the honor and glory of your Name;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.***

Presider Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Savior

Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

Presider Creator God, accept the fervent prayers of your people; in the multitude of your mercies, look with compassion upon us and all who turn to you for help; for you are gracious, O lover of souls, and to you we give glory, Creator, Redeemer, and Holy Spirit, now and for ever. **Amen and Ashe.**

THE PEACE

Presider The peace of Christ be with you.

People **And also with you.**

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE LITURGY OF THE TABLE

OFFERTORY HYMN

TRUSTING THE TRIUNE GOD

363 Blessed Assurance: Jesus Is Mine

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

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

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.

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.

EUCHARISTIC PRAYER I (*Enriching Our Worship*)

Presider God 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 You have filled us and all creation with your blessing and fed us with your constant love; you have redeemed us in Jesus Christ and knit us into one body. Through your Spirit you replenish us and call us to fullness of life.

Therefore, joining with Angels and Archangels and with the faithful of every generation, we lift our voices with all creation as we say:

Presider and People "Holy, Holy, Holy" (*spoken*)

***Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.***

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

The Presider continues

You gave the world into our care that we might be your faithful stewards and show forth your bountiful grace.

But we failed to honor your image in one another and in ourselves; we would not see your goodness in the world around us; and so we violated your creation, abused one another, and rejected your love. Yet you never ceased to care for us, and prepared the way of salvation for all people.

Through Abraham and Sarah you called us into covenant with you. You delivered us from slavery, sustained us in the wilderness, and raised up prophets to renew your promise of salvation. Then, in the fullness of time, you sent your eternal Word, made mortal flesh in Jesus. Born into the human family, and dwelling among us, he revealed your glory. Giving himself freely to death on the cross, he triumphed over evil, opening the way of freedom and life.

On the night before he died for us, Our Savior Jesus Christ took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his friends, 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, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said: "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

The Presider continues

Remembering his death and resurrection, we now present to you from your creation this bread and this wine. By your Holy Spirit may they be for us the Body and Blood of our Savior Jesus Christ. Grant that we who share these gifts may be filled with the Holy Spirit and live as Christ's Body in the world. Bring us into the everlasting heritage of your daughters and sons, that with [_____ and] all your saints, past, present, and yet to come, we may praise your Name for ever.

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 LORD'S PRAYER (*spoken*)

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 We break this bread to share in the Body of Christ.

People ***We, who are many, are one body, for we all share in the one bread.***

Presider Behold what you are.

People ***May we become what we receive.***

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

154

Taste and See

Taste and see. Taste and see the good - ness

The first system of musical notation for the hymn 'Taste and See'. It consists of a treble and bass staff in 3/4 time, with a key signature of one flat (Bb). The melody is in the treble staff, and the bass staff provides a harmonic accompaniment. The lyrics 'Taste and see. Taste and see the good - ness' are written below the notes.

of the Lord. O Taste and see. Taste and

The second system of musical notation. The melody continues with a long note on 'of the Lord.' followed by a rest, then 'O Taste and see. Taste and'. The bass staff continues with the accompaniment.

see the good - ness of the Lord, of the Lord. Fine

The third system of musical notation. The melody concludes with 'see the good - ness of the Lord, of the Lord.' and a final 'Fine' marking. The bass staff ends with a double bar line.

1. I will bless the Lord at all times.
2. Glo - ri - fy the Lord with me.
3. Wor - ship the Lord all you peo - ple.

The fourth system of musical notation, featuring three verses of the hymn. The melody is in the treble staff, and the bass staff provides a harmonic accompaniment. The lyrics are written below the notes. The system ends with a double bar line.

Words: Psalm 34

1. — His praise — shall al - ways be on my
 2. — To - geth - er — let us all — praise His
 3. — You'll — want for noth - ing — if you

1. lips; — my soul — shall
 2. name. — I called — the
 3. ask. — Taste — and

1. glo - ry — in the Lord; — for
 2. Lord — and He ans - swered me; — from
 3. see — that God is good; — in

1. He — has been — so good to me. —
 2. all — my trou - bles — He set me free. —
 3. Him — we need — put all our trust. —

D.C.

THE POSTCOMMUNION PRAYER

Presider God be with you.

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

Presider Let us pray.

Presider and 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.***

Keep Me Every Day

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1. Lord, I want to live__ for thee, Ev - 'ry day__ and hour;
 2. In my weak-ness be__ my strength; In my tri - als all,
 3. Leave me not to walk_ a - lone, Lest I droop_ and die;

1. Let thy spi - rit be__ with me, In its sav - ing pow'r!
 2. Be thou near me all__ the day, Hear my ev - 'ry call!
 3. Let thy spir - it go__ with me, And at - tend_ my cry!

Keep my heart, and keep my hand, Keep my soul, I pray!

Keep my tongue to speak_ thy praise, Keep me all__ the way!

THE SENDING

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

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

THE 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!***

TODAY'S LITURGICAL LEADERS

Presider

The Rev. Renee L. Fenner, Rector

Deacon

The Rev. Dr. Dn. Valerie E. Patton

Worship Leader

Gaylard Williams

Reader

Walter Fox

Acolyte

Stanley Johnson

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)
Junior Warden-Betty Brown

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

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

Alternate Delegate
Donna Black (2027)



LIFTING UP OUR VOICES

"To love is to make of one's heart a swinging door." – Howard Thurman

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYER LISTS

We are always ready to pray for family members, friends, neighbors and all those in need of our prayers.

Canon Desiree Brattin
Rick Earley
Stella Hughes
Johnetta Martin
Betty Patton
Florence Ross

Harold Briggs
Ashley Gordon
Winifred Lemmie
Diana Oliver
Marion Robinson
James Williams, Sr.

Jessie Clemmons
Michael Griffin
Regina Lewis
Helen Owens
Dorothy R. Carter
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. We pray for our companion churches of St. Stephen's and the Vine (Ferguson) and St. Peter's (Ladue). 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!

SUMMER SCHEDULE

Please note that during the summer months our Wednesday Evening Prayer and Thursday Morning Bible Study groups will be on hiatus until the Fall. We'll see you then!

STRATEGIC PLAN

Our wardens, vestry, and clergy are working hard on ASA's strategic plan for 2026 and beyond. We need your help in visioning and realizing the goals before us. If you have not received a strategic plan booklet, please pick one up as you leave today.

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 19 and 22. Let us 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. Uber gift cards would also be appreciated. "Whatever you do to the least of them; you do unto me (Matthew 25:40)."

EPISCOPAL RELIEF & DEVELOPMENT

On June 24, two strong earthquakes struck north-central Venezuela in rapid succession. Episcopal Relief & Development is in contact with local partners as they provide critical relief today and assess their community needs. The International Disaster Fund is an important tool for responding to immediate needs and supporting long-term recovery. You can make a gift here today using the bulletin insert or visit episcopalrelief.org to donate and get more information.

CAMP FIREBIRD 2026

Registration for Camp Firebird 2026 is 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.

CLAY CAFÉ FELLOWSHIP PICNIC TODAY

Please join us this afternoon from 4pm-6pm at St. Stephen's and the Vine for our fellowship picnic! There will be free food, fellowship, and games. 33 N. Clay Ave in Ferguson. ALL ARE WELCOME!

MEN'S CLUB ANNUAL PICNIC

You and your guests are invited to the Men's Club Annual Picnic and Worship-in-the-Park on August 9th at 10:00 am. Once again, we will gather in person at the Municipal Park Pavilion in Vinita Park, MO. Please help us plan to prepare enough food by completing a picnic reservation form. The form includes picnic details, directions to the park, side dish suggestions, and a reservation form.

2026 DioMO PICNIC

Mark your calendars now and plan to come to the Diocese of Missouri's Annual DioMO Picnic on Saturday, August 29, 2026, at Camp MoVal! This beloved diocesan gathering is an opportunity for friends from across our congregations and ministries to come together for fellowship, fun, and celebration in the beautiful setting of Camp MoVal. Whether you're reconnecting with old friends, meeting new ones, or simply enjoying a day outdoors with the diocesan community, there will be something for everyone. Registration will be open Wednesday, July 15-Tuesday, August 18. Cost is \$20 per person or \$50 for a family of 3 or more. Lunch is provided. For more details, please see the diocesan website!

ASA/NORMANDY SCHOOLS TUTORING INITIATIVE

As has been announced over the last couple of weeks, we are looking for volunteers to work with 1st through 3rd graders on reading, vocabulary, and flashcards. Time commitment is 30-60 minutes twice a week, beginning the week after Labor Day, for the entire semester (September-December); volunteers must have completed safe church training; and 1-2 students will be assigned to 1 volunteer. We would like to have 8 volunteers (2 per each of the four schools). There will be a meeting before the start of the school year for volunteers to tour the building and meet the principal and key staff. Consistency is KEY! Please do not commit unless you are fully committed! Please do not hesitate to contact Deacon Valerie or Donna Black with questions.

SEEKING NEW MEDIA LEADER(S)

By the end of 2026, I will be stepping down from my roles managing the ASA website, weekly email blast, and outdoor sign display. We are now seeking one or more individuals to take the lead in managing these communication ministries—whether all three areas or just one. If you feel called to work in this ministry to ASSURE THAT THESE SERVICES ARE NOT DISCONTINUED AT ASA, please [contact me](#). *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. *Deacon Valerie*

SIBLING SUPPORT NETWORK

Do not forget that help is there for those dealing with the loss of a sibling due to violent crime. For more info and survey, please go to: sibling-support-network.org 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 Sunday Eucharist. Thank you to those who have sponsored a Coffee Hour so far this year! There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the Narthex. If you find yourself unable to host by yourself, please think about signing up with another parishioner to provide treats. 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 Sunday morning service. 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."

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