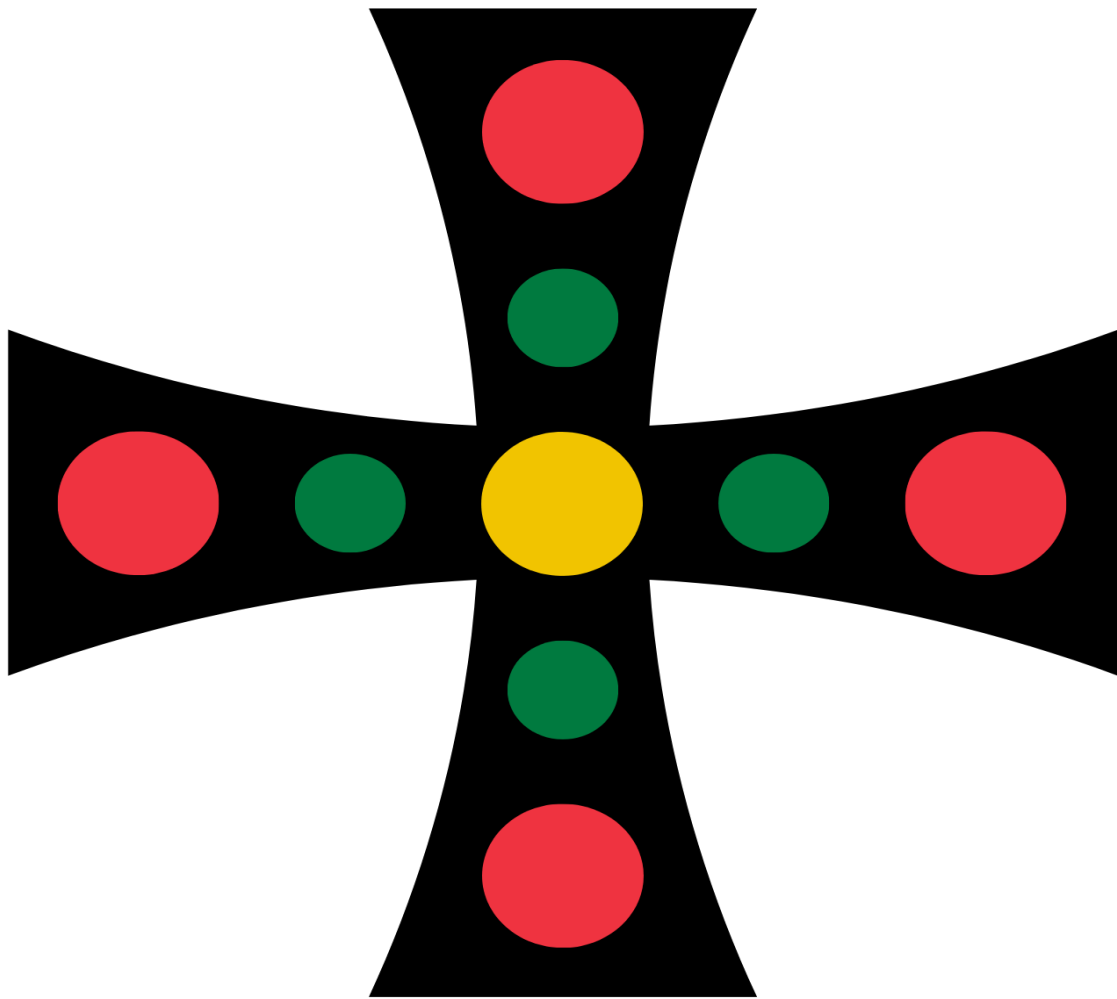




THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF
ALL SAINTS & ASCENSION

The Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

July 26, 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

77

Jesus Is All the World to Me



1. Je - sus is all the world to me. My life, my joy, my
2. Je - sus is all the world to me, My friend in tri - als
3. Je - sus is all the world to me, And true to Him I'll
4. Je - sus is all the world to me, I want no bet - ter



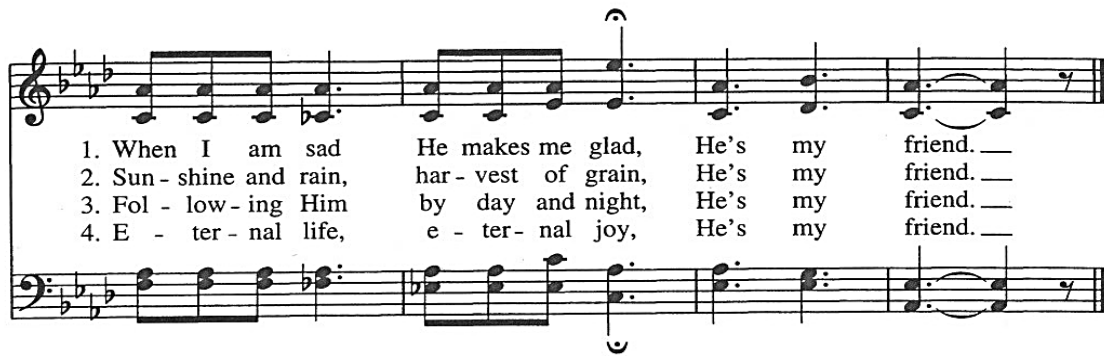
1. all; _____ He is my strength from day to day, With -
2. sore; _____ I go to Him for bless - ings, and He
3. be; _____ Oh, how could I this friend de - ny, When
4. friend; _____ I trust Him now, I'll trust Him when Life's



1. out Him I _____ would fall: _____ When I am sad, to
2. gives them o'er _____ and o'er; _____ He sends the sun - shine
3. He's so true _____ to me? _____ Fol - low - ing Him I
4. fleet - ing days _____ shall end: _____ Beau - ti - ful life with



1. Him I go. No oth - er one can cheer me so;
2. and the rain. He sends the har - vest's gold - en grain;
3. know I'm right. He watch - es o'er me day and night;
4. such a friend. Beau - ti - ful life that has no end;



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 O God, the protector of all who trust in you, without whom nothing is strong, nothing is holy: Increase and multiply upon us your mercy; that, with you as our ruler and guide, we may so pass through things temporal, that we lose not the things eternal; through Jesus Christ our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Deacon May the Word of God always be heard in this place. May the experience of our spiritual ancestors be valued in this place. May the Good News of love be proclaimed in this place.

People **May the mystery of Christ unfold before us, may the words of salvation revive us, and may the Spirit of Truth guide us. Let us hear once more the stories of our redemption.**

All are seated.

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF GENESIS 29:15-28

Laban said to Jacob, "Because you are my kinsman, should you therefore serve me for nothing? Tell me, what shall your wages be?" Now Laban had two daughters; the name of the elder was Leah, and the name of the younger was Rachel. Leah's eyes were lovely, and Rachel was graceful and beautiful. Jacob loved Rachel; so he said, "I will serve you seven years for your younger daughter Rachel." Laban said, "It is better that I give her to you than that I should give her to any other man; stay with me." So Jacob served seven years for Rachel, and they seemed to him but a few days because of the love he had for her.

Then Jacob said to Laban, "Give me my wife that I may go in to her, for my time is completed." So Laban gathered together all the people of the place, and made a feast. But in the evening he took his daughter Leah and brought her to Jacob; and he went in to her. (Laban gave his maid Zilpah to his daughter Leah to be her maid.) When morning came, it was Leah! And Jacob said to Laban, "What is this you have done to me? Did I not serve with you for Rachel? Why then have you deceived me?" Laban said, "This is not done in our country—giving the younger before the firstborn. Complete the week of this one, and we will give you the other also in return for serving me another seven years." Jacob did so, and completed her week; then Laban gave him his daughter Rachel as a wife.

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

THE PSALM OF THE DAY: PSALM 105:1-11, 45b

1 Give thanks to the Lord and call upon his Name; *
make known his deeds among the peoples.
2 Sing to him, sing praises to him, *
and speak of all his marvelous works.
3 Glory in his holy Name; *
let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice.
4 Search for the Lord and his strength; *
continually seek his face.
5 Remember the marvels he has done, *
his wonders and the judgments of his mouth,
6 O offspring of Abraham his servant, *
O children of Jacob his chosen.
7 He is the Lord our God; *
his judgments prevail in all the world.
8 He has always been mindful of his covenant, *
the promise he made for a thousand generations:
9 The covenant he made with Abraham, *
the oath that he swore to Isaac,
10 Which he established as a statute for Jacob, *
an everlasting covenant for Israel,
11 Saying, "To you will I give the land of Canaan *
to be your allotted inheritance."
45b Hallelujah!

A READING FROM PAUL'S LETTER TO THE ROMANS 8:26-39

The Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified.

What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God,

who indeed intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written,

"For your sake we are being killed all day long;
we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered."

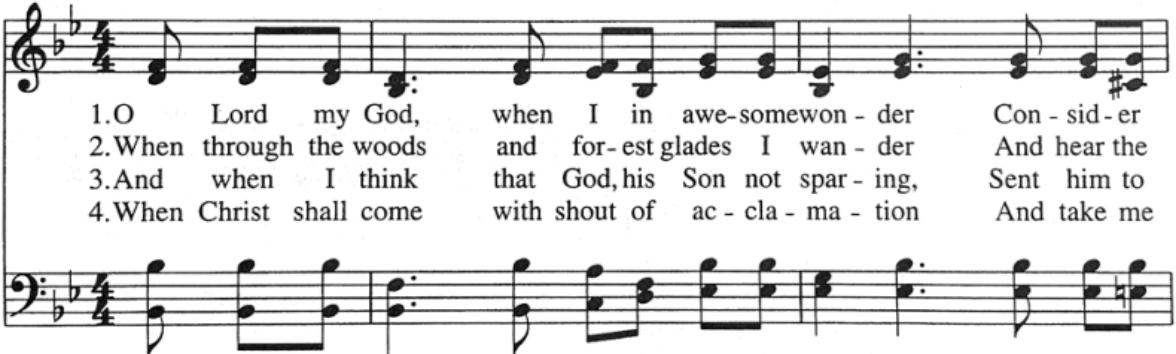
No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

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

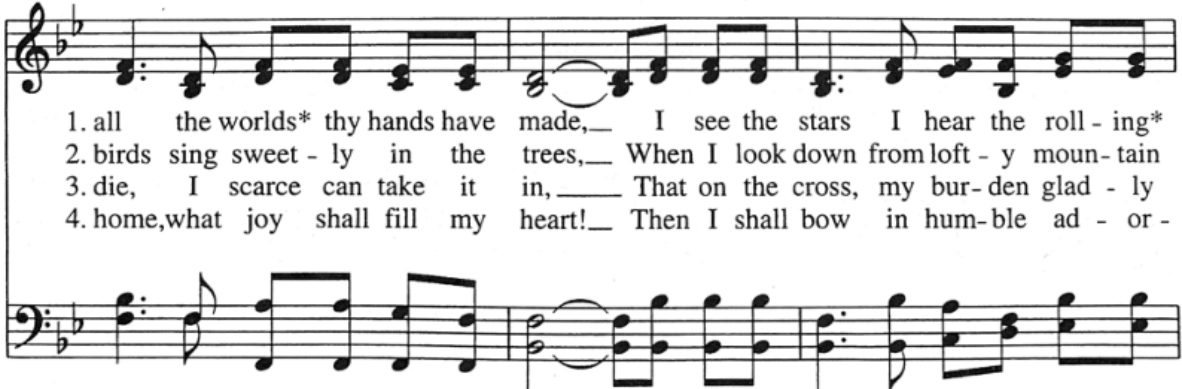
SEQUENCE HYMN

60

How Great Thou Art



1. O Lord my God, when I in awe-some won - der Con - sid - er
2. When through the woods and for-est glades I wan - der And hear the
3. And when I think that God, his Son not spar - ing, Sent him to
4. When Christ shall come with shout of ac - cla - ma - tion And take me



1. all the worlds* thy hands have made, — I see the stars I hear the roll - ing*
2. birds sing sweet - ly in the trees, — When I look down from loft - y moun - tain
3. die, I scarce can take it in, — That on the cross, my bur - den glad - ly
4. home, what joy shall fill my heart! — Then I shall bow in hum - ble ad - or -

1. thun - der, Thy pow'r through - out the u - ni - verse dis - played. _____
 2. gran - deur, And hear the brook and feel the gen - tle breeze. _____
 3. bear - ing, He bled and died to take a - way my sin. _____
 4. ra - tion, And there pro - claim, my God, how great thou art. _____

Then sings my soul, my Sav - ior, God, to Thee; _____ How great Thou

art, _____ how great Thou art! _____ Then sings my soul, my Sav - ior God, to

Thee: _____ How great Thou art, _____ how great Thou art! _____

THE PROCLAMATION OF THE GOSPEL: MATTHEW 13:31-33,44-52

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 crowds another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches."

He told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened."

"The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

"Have you understood all this?" They answered, "Yes." And he said to them, "Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old."

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

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

772 My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less

F C B^b

1 My hope is built on noth-ing less than Je-sus' blood and
 2 When dark-ness veils his love-ly face, I rest on his un-
 3 His oath, his cov-e-nant, his blood sup-port me in the
 4 When he shall come with trum-pet sound, O may I then in

F C F C

right-eous-ness; I dare not trust the sweet-est frame, but
 chang-ing grace; in ev-ery high and storm-y gale, my
 whelm-ing flood; when all a-round my soul gives way, he
 him be found, dressed in his right-eous-ness a-lone, fault-

B^b F C (F) Refrain B^b

whol-ly lean on Je-sus' name.
 an-chor holds with-in the veil. On Christ, the sol-id rock, I stand; all
 then is all my hope and stay.
 less to stand be-fore the throne.

F C F B^b Csus C7 F

oth-er ground is sink-ing sand, all oth-er ground is sink-ing sand.

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.

Give Me a Clean Heart

124

Give me a clean heart so I may serve

The first system of the hymn features a vocal melody in the upper staff and piano accompaniment in the lower staves. The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and the time signature is 8/8. The lyrics are: "Give me a clean heart so I may serve".

Thee. Lord, fix my heart — so that I — may be used — by

The second system continues the melody and accompaniment. The lyrics are: "Thee. Lord, fix my heart — so that I — may be used — by".

thee. For I'm not wor - thy of all these bless -

The third system concludes the hymn on this page. The lyrics are: "thee. For I'm not wor - thy of all these bless -".

Hymn continues on the next page.

ings. Give me a clean heart _____ and I'll fol-low thee _____

1. I'm not ask - ing for the rich - es of the land.
 (2. Some-times) I am up and some-times I am down.

1. _____ I'm not ask - ing for the proud to know my
 2. _____ Some-times I am al - most lev - el to the

1. name. _____ Please — give me, Lord, a clean heart, that
 2. ground. _____ Please — give me, Lord, a clean heart, that

1. I may fol - low thee. Give me a clean heart, a
 2. I may fol - low thee. Give me a clean heart, a

1. clean heart and I will fol - low thee. _____ 2. Some - times
 2. clean heart and I will fol - low thee. _____

2. _____
 2. _____

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.***

God Be With You

234

God _____ be with you, _____ God _____ be

The first system of the hymn is written in 12/8 time with a key signature of three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat). The melody is in the treble clef, and the bass line is in the bass clef. The lyrics are placed below the notes, with blank lines for the words 'God', 'be', 'with you', and 'be'.

with you, _____ God _____ be with you, _____ un-til we

The second system continues the melody and bass line. The lyrics are 'with you, _____ God _____ be with you, _____ un-til we'.

meet _____ a - gain; _____ God _____ be with you, _____

The third system continues the melody and bass line. The lyrics are 'meet _____ a - gain; _____ God _____ be with you, _____'.

God _____ be with you, _____ God _____ be

The fourth system continues the melody and bass line. The lyrics are 'God _____ be with you, _____ God _____ be'.

with you, _____ un - til we meet a - gain. _____

The fifth system concludes the hymn. The lyrics are 'with you, _____ un - til we meet a - gain. _____'. The music ends with a double bar line.

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

Sondra Harrell

Reader

Adrienne Dillon

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)
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

"Not everything that is faced can be changed, but nothing can be changed until it is faced."

-James Baldwin

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.

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](http://sibling-support-network.org) or contact Cheeraz Gormon for more information – cgormon@gmail.com.

ALTAR FLOWERS

Please consider sponsoring the altar flowers for a Sunday Eucharist. Your sponsorship will allow us to make our worship space beautiful. You can make a dedication to your deceased loved ones or give recognition to living loved ones or in thanksgiving for God's blessings. Check out our website for a form or see an usher!

COFFEE HOUR/FELLOWSHIP SIGN UP

Coffee Hour allows us time to fellowship with each other after 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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