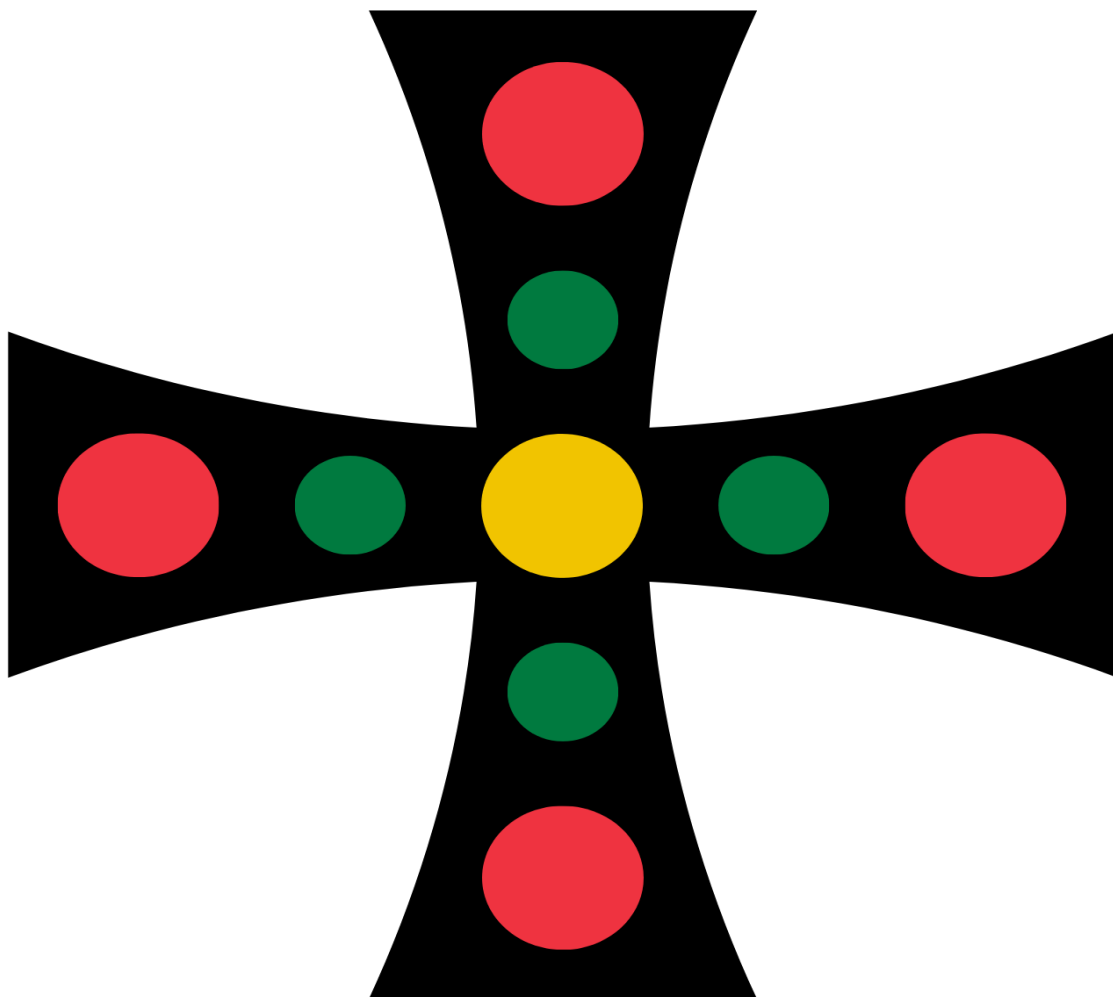




THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF
ALL SAINTS & ASCENSION

The Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

July 5, 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

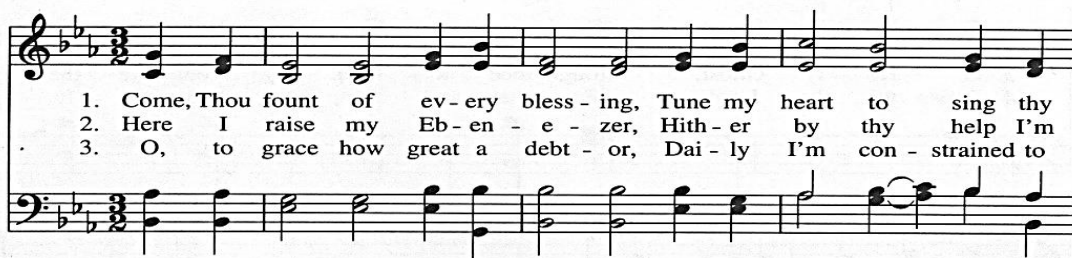
WELCOME

GATHERING SONG/MUSIC

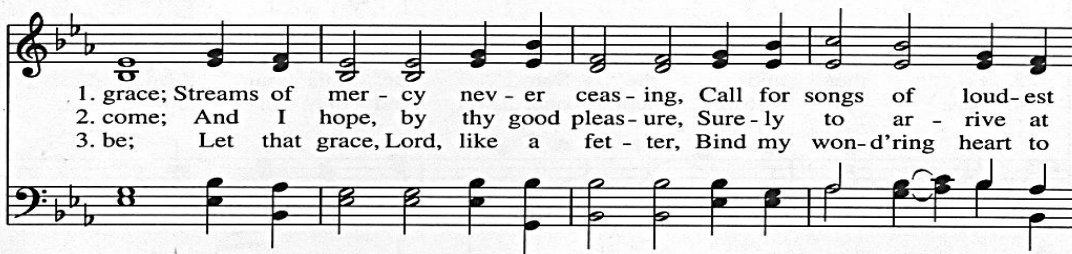
HOLY SPIRIT

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

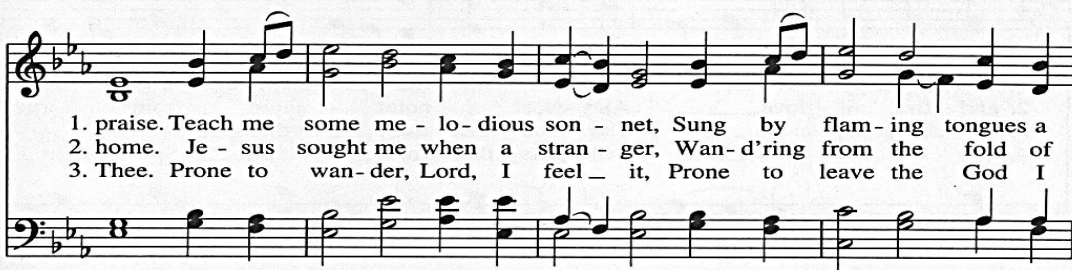
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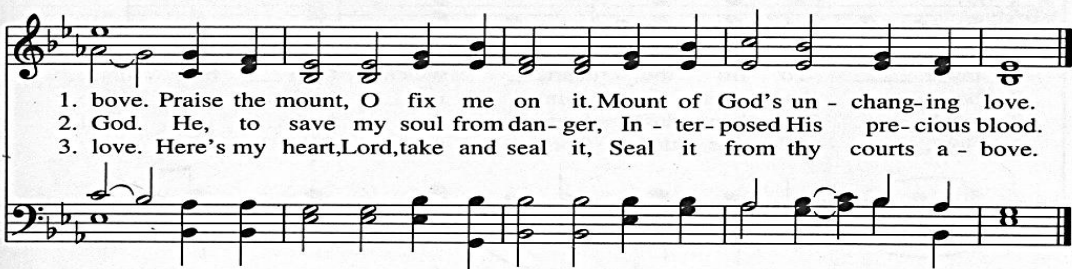
1. Come, Thou fount of ev - ery bless - ing, Tune my heart to sing thy
2. Here I raise my Eb - en - e - zer, Hith - er by thy help I'm
3. O, to grace how great a debt - or, Dai - ly I'm con - strained to



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



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



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

Words: Robert Robinson (1735-1790)

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

THE 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, you have taught us to keep all your commandments by loving you and our neighbor: Grant us the grace of your Holy Spirit, that we may be devoted to you with our whole heart, and united to one another with pure affection; 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 24: 34-38, 42-49, 58-67

The servant said to Laban, "I am Abraham's servant. The Lord has greatly blessed my master, and he has become wealthy; he has given him flocks and herds, silver and gold, male and female slaves, camels and donkeys. And Sarah my master's wife bore a son to my master when she was old; and he has given him all that he has. My master made me swear, saying, 'You shall not take a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites, in whose land I live; but you shall go to my father's house, to my kindred, and get a wife for my son.'

"I came today to the spring, and said, 'O Lord, the God of my master Abraham, if now you will only make successful the way I am going! I am standing here by the spring of water; let the young woman who comes out to draw, to whom I shall say, 'Please give me a little water from your jar to drink,' and who will say to me, 'Drink, and I will draw for your camels also' —let her be the woman whom the Lord has appointed for my master's son.' "Before I had finished speaking in my heart, there was Rebekah coming out with her water jar on her shoulder; and she went down to the spring, and drew. I said to her, 'Please let me drink.' She quickly let down her jar from her shoulder, and said, 'Drink, and I will also water your camels.' So I drank, and she also watered the camels. Then I asked her, 'Whose daughter are you?' She said, 'The daughter of Bethuel, Nahor's son, whom Milcah bore to him.' So I put the ring on her nose, and the bracelets on her arms. Then I bowed my head and worshiped the Lord, and blessed the Lord, the God of my master Abraham, who had led me by the right way to obtain the daughter of my master's kinsman for his son. Now then, if you will deal loyally and truly with my master, tell me; and if not, tell me, so that I may turn either to the right hand or to the left."

And they called Rebekah, and said to her, "Will you go with this man?" She said, "I will." So they sent away their sister Rebekah and her nurse along with Abraham's servant and his men. And they blessed Rebekah and said to her, "May you, our sister, become thousands of myriads; may your offspring gain possession of the gates of their foes." Then Rebekah and her maids rose up, mounted the camels, and followed the man; thus the servant took Rebekah, and went his way. Now Isaac had come from Beer-lahai-roi, and was settled in the Negeb. Isaac went out in the evening to walk in the field; and looking up, he saw camels coming. And Rebekah looked up, and when she saw Isaac, she slipped quickly from the camel, and said to the servant, "Who is the man over there, walking in the field to meet us?" The servant said, "It is my master." So she took her veil and covered herself. And the servant told Isaac all the things that he had done. Then Isaac brought her

into his mother Sarah's tent. He took Rebekah, and she became his wife; and he loved her. So Isaac was comforted after his mother's death.

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

THE PSALM OF THE DAY: PSALM 45: 11-18

1 "Hear, O daughter; consider and listen closely; *
forget your people and your father's house.

12 The king will have pleasure in your beauty; *
he is your master; therefore do him honor.

13 The people of Tyre are here with a gift; *
the rich among the people seek your favor."

14 All glorious is the princess as she enters; *
her gown is cloth-of-gold.

15 In embroidered apparel she is brought to the king; *
after her the bridesmaids follow in procession.

16 With joy and gladness they are brought, *
and enter into the palace of the king.

17 "In place of fathers, O king, you shall have sons; *
you shall make them princes over all the earth.

18 I will make your name to be remembered
from one generation to another; *
therefore nations will praise you for ever and ever."

A READING FROM PAUL'S LETTER TO THE ROMANS 7:15-25a

I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. Now if I do what I do not want, I agree that the law is good. But in fact it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me. For I know that nothing good dwells within me, that is, in my flesh. I can will what is right, but I cannot do it. For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do. Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me.

So I find it to be a law that when I want to do what is good, evil lies close at hand. For I delight in the law of God in my inmost self, but I see in my members another law at war with the law of my mind, making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. Wretched man that I

am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

People

Thanks be to God.

SEQUENCE HYMN

897 What a Friend We Have in Jesus

The musical score is written for a four-part setting (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) in 4/4 time, with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody is primarily in the Soprano part. The lyrics are arranged in three systems, each with three verses. The first system covers the first verse, the second system covers the second and third verses, and the third system covers the fourth and fifth verses. The score includes chord symbols (F, Bb, C, C7) above the Soprano part. The lyrics are as follows:

1 What a friend we have in Je - sus, all our sins and griefs to bear!
2 Have we tri - als and temp - ta - tions? Is there trou - ble an - y - where?
3 Are we weak and heav - y la - den, cum - bered with a load of care?

What a priv - i - lege to car - ry ev - ery - thing to God in prayer!
We should nev - er be dis - cour - aged— take it to the Lord in prayer.
Pre - cious Sav - ior, still our ref - uge— take it to the Lord in prayer.

Oh, what peace we of - ten for - feit; oh, what need - less pain we bear—
Can we find a friend so faith - ful who will all our sor - rows share?
Do your friends de - spise, for - sake you? Take it to the Lord in prayer.

all be - cause we do not car - ry ev - ery - thing to God in prayer.
Je - sus knows our ev - ery weak - ness— take it to the Lord in prayer.
In his arms he'll take and shield you; you will find a sol - ace there.

THE PROCLAMATION OF THE GOSPEL: MATTHEW 11: 16-19, 25-30

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 said to the crowd, "To what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another,

'We played the flute for you, and you did not dance;
we wailed, and you did not mourn.'

For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, 'He has a demon'; the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, 'Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!' Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds."

At that time Jesus said, "I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

"Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

The Gospel of the Lord.

People ***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 God.

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.**

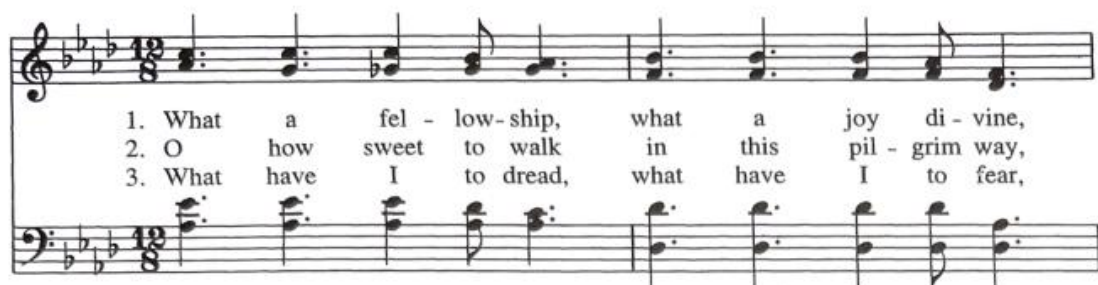
WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE LITURGY OF THE TABLE

OFFERTORY HYMN

Leaning on the Everlasting Arms

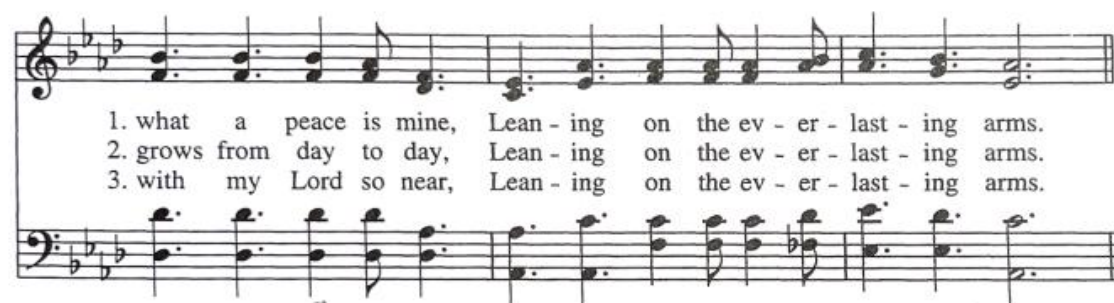
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1. What a fel - low-ship, what a joy di - vine,
 2. O how sweet to walk in this pil - grim way,
 3. What have I to dread, what have I to fear,



1. Lean - ing on the ev - er - last - ing arms; What a bless - ed - ness,
 2. Lean - ing on the ev - er - last - ing arms; O how bright the path
 3. Lean - ing on the ev - er - last - ing arms; I have bless - ed peace



1. what a peace is mine, Lean - ing on the ev - er - last - ing arms.
 2. grows from day to day, Lean - ing on the ev - er - last - ing arms.
 3. with my Lord so near, Lean - ing on the ev - er - last - ing arms.



Lean - ing, lean - ing, safe and se-cure from all a-larms;
 Lean-ing on Je-sus, lean - ing on Je-sus,



Lean - ing, lean - ing, Lean-ing on the ev - er - last - ing arms.
 Lean-ing on Je - sus, lean-ing on Je - sus

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 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.

Let Us Break Bread Together

1. Let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees (on our
 2. Let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees (on our

1. knees); Let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees (on our
 2. knees); Let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees (on our

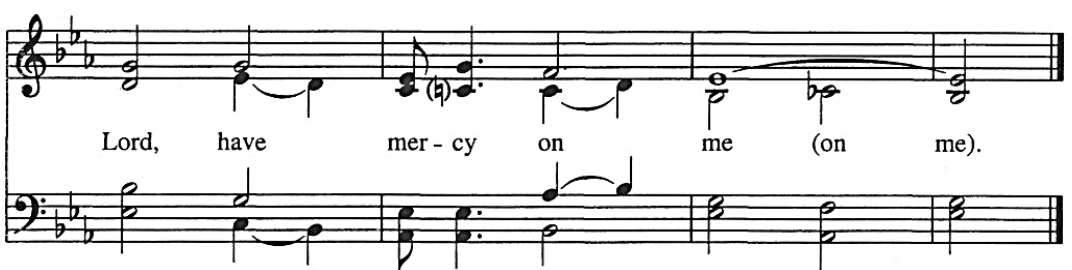
1. knees). When I fall on my knees, with my face to the ris - ing
 2. knees). When I fall on my knees, with my face to the ris - ing

sun, Oh — Lord, have mer - cy on me (on me). me).
 1. 2.

Let us praise God to- geth- er on our knees (yes, on our knees); Let us

praise God to - geth- er on our knees (yes on our knees). When I

fall on my knees, with my face to the ris - ing sun, Oh ___



Lord, have mer - cy on me (on me).

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.***

CLOSING HYMN

Holy Eucharist

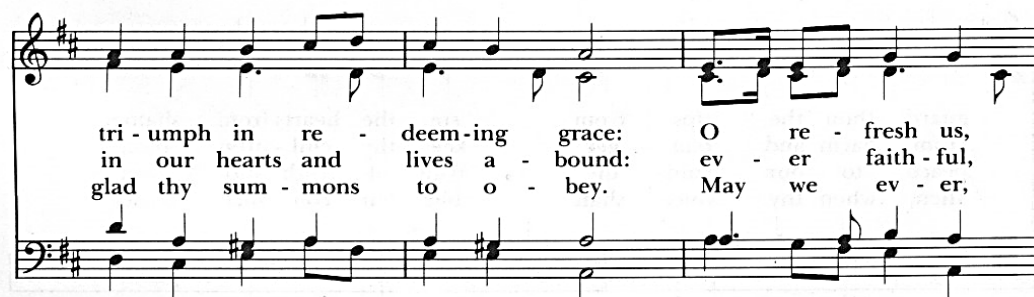
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1 Lord, dis - miss us with thy bless - ing; fill our hearts with
 2 Thanks we give and a - dor - a - tion for thy Gos - pel's
 3 so that when thy love shall call us, Sa - vior, from the



joy and peace; let us each, thy love pos - sess - ing,
 joy - ful sound: may the fruits of thy sal - va - tion
 world a - way, fear of death shall not ap - pall us,



tri - umph in re - deem - ing grace: O re - fresh us,
 in our hearts and lives a - bound: ev - er faith - ful,
 glad thy sum - mons to o - bey. May we ev - er,



O re - fresh us, trav - eling through this wil - der - ness.
 ev - er faith - ful to thy truth may we be found;
 may we ev - er reign with thee in end - less day.

Words: Att. John Fawcett (1739/40-1817)
 Music: *Sicilian Mariners*, Sicilian melody; first published
The European Magazine and London Review, 1792, alt.

87. 87. 87

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

Stanley Johnson

Reader

Machelle West

Acolyte

Stanley Merridith

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 Machelle 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

"I am no longer accepting the things I cannot change. I am changing the things I cannot accept."

-Angela Davis

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYER LISTS

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

Delphine Booker
Linette Cayetano
Jacky Dew
Michael Griffin
Stella Hughes
Greg Kelley
Regina Lewis
Helen Owens
Gwen Perry
Rick Rollins
Patricia Thomas
Bill Young

Canon Desiree Brattin
Bessie Clemmons
Rick Earley
Renee Griffin
Jan R. Jenkins
Amber King
Johnetta Martin
Betty Patton
Everett Quinn
Florence Ross
Antoinette Williams

Harold Briggs
Jennifer Dawson
Ashley Gordon
Ronald Hawkins
Erika Jones
Winifred Lemmie
Diana Oliver
Michelle Pendelton
Marion Robinson
Lisa Shelley
James Williams, Sr.

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

Senior Warden, Gaylard Williams, introduced our strategic plan for 2026 and beyond. If you did not receive a 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. "Whatever you do to the least of them; you do unto me (Matthew 25:40)."

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.

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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