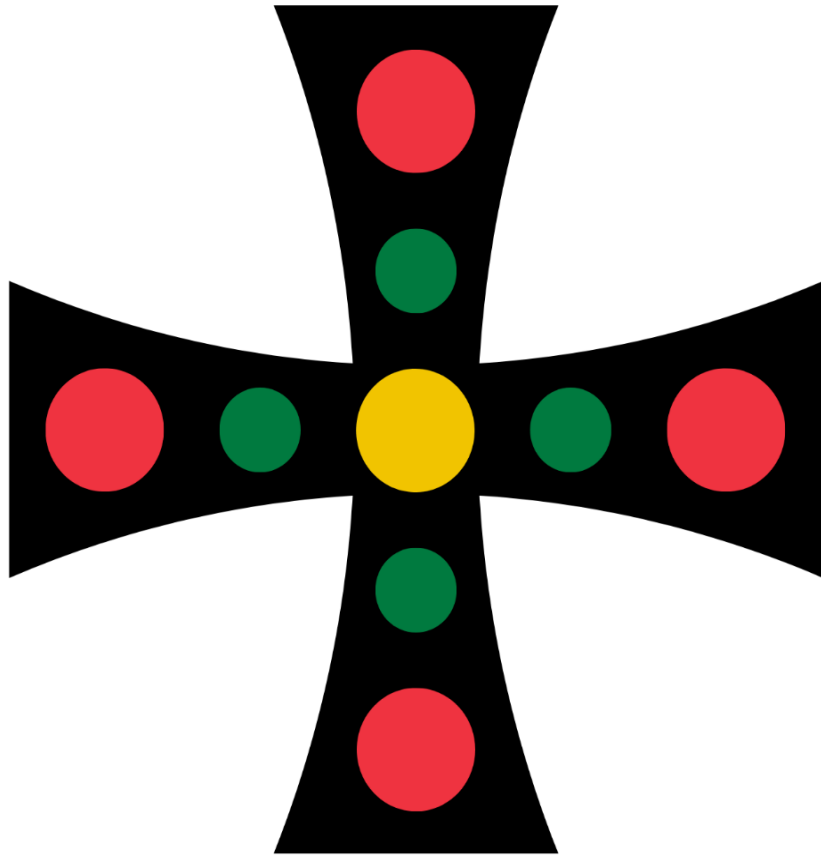




THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF
ALL SAINTS AND ASCENSION

**The 19th Sunday after Pentecost/
Blessing of the Animals**

October 4, 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

I Come with Joy **533**

The musical score is written for a four-part choir (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) and piano accompaniment. It is in the key of F major (one flat) and 6/8 time. The score consists of three systems of music. The first system contains the first four lines of the hymn. The second system contains the next four lines. The third system contains the final two lines. Chord symbols are placed above the staff: F, Bb/F, F, Dm, C, F, Am, Dm, Bb, F, C7, Fsus, F. The lyrics are printed below the vocal staves.

1 I come with joy, a child of God, for -
2 I come with Chris - tians far and near to
3 As Christ breaks bread and bids us share, each
4 The Spir - it of the ri - sen Christ, un -

giv - en, loved, and free, the life of Je - sus
find, as all are fed, the new com - mu - ni -
proud di - vi - sion ends. The love that made us,
seen, but ev - er near, is in such friend - ship

to re - call, in love laid down for me.
ty of love in Christ's com - mu - nion bread.
makes us one, and strang - ers now are friends.
bet - ter known, a - live a - mong us here.

5 A cloud of loving witnesses
surrounds us while we sing
as all the saints, forgiven, loved,
immortal praises bring.

6 Together met, together bound
by all that God has done,
we'll go with joy, to give the world
the love that makes us one.

THE OPENING ACCLAMATION

Presider Blessed be the God of all creation.
People ***And blessed be God's holy Name forever.***

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 COLLECTS OF THE DAY

Presider God be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Presider Let us pray.

Presider Almighty and everlasting God, you are always more ready to hear than we to pray, and to give more than we either desire or deserve: Pour upon us the abundance of your mercy, forgiving us those things of which our conscience is afraid, and giving us those good things for which we are not worthy to ask, except through the merits and mediation of Jesus Christ our Savior; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

God, Maker of marvels, you weave the planet and all its creatures together in kinship; your unifying love is revealed in the interdependence of relationships in the complex world that you have made. Save us from the illusion that humankind is separate and alone and join us in communion with all inhabitants of the universe; through Jesus Christ, our Redeemer, who topples the dividing walls by the power of your Holy Spirit, and who lives and reigns with you, 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 WISDOM 11:24-12:1

For you love all things that exist, and detest none of the things that you have made, for you would not have made anything if you had hated it. How would anything have endured if you had not willed it? Or how would anything not called forth by you have been preserved? You spare all things, for they are yours, O Lord, you who love the living. For your immortal spirit is in all things.

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

THE PSALM OF THE DAY: PSALM 19

- 1 The heavens declare the glory of God, *
and the firmament shows his handiwork.
- 2 One day tells its tale to another, *
and one night imparts knowledge to another.
- 3 Although they have no words or language, *
and their voices are not heard,
- 4 Their sound has gone out into all lands, *
and their message to the ends of the world.
- 5 In the deep has he set a pavilion for the sun; *
it comes forth like a bridegroom out of his chamber;
it rejoices like a champion to run its course.
- 6 It goes forth from the uttermost edge of the heavens
and runs about to the end of it again; *
nothing is hidden from its burning heat.

- 7 The law of the Lord is perfect and revives the soul; *
the testimony of the Lord is sure and gives wisdom to the innocent.
- 8 The statutes of the Lord are just and rejoice the heart; *
the commandment of the Lord is clear and gives light to the eyes.
- 9 The fear of the Lord is clean and endures for ever; *
the judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether.
- 10 More to be desired are they than gold, more than much fine gold, *
sweeter far than honey, than honey in the comb.
- 11 By them also is your servant enlightened, *
and in keeping them there is great reward.
- 12 Who can tell how often he offends? *
cleanse me from my secret faults.
- 13 Above all, keep your servant from presumptuous sins;
 let them not get dominion over me; *
then shall I be whole and sound, and innocent of a great offense.
- 14 Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my
 heart be acceptable in your sight, *
O Lord, my strength and my redeemer.

A READING FROM PAUL'S LETTER TO THE PHILIPPIANS 3:4b-14

If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

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

604

To God Be the Glory

G D7 G D G C

1 To God be the glo - ry, great things he has done; so loved he the
 2 O per - fect re - demp - tion, the pur - chase of blood, to ev - ery be -
 3 Great things he has taught us, great things he has done, and great our re -

G A D G D7 G

world that he gave us his Son, who yield - ed his life an a -
 liev - er the prom - ise of God; the vil - est of - fend - er who
 joic - ing through Je - sus the Son; but pur - er and high - er and

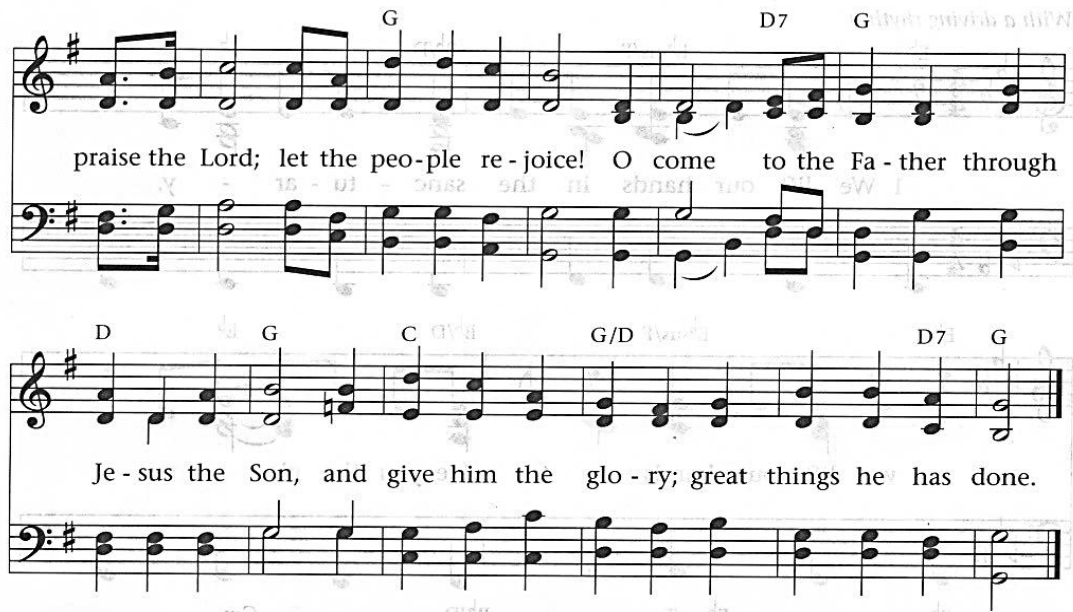
D G C G/D D7 G

tone - ment for sin, and o - pened the life - gate that all may go in.
 tru - ly be - lieves, that mo - ment from Je - sus a par - don re - ceives.
 great - er will be our won - der, our *trans - port, when Je - sus we see.

Refrain D D7

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord; let the earth hear his voice! Praise the Lord,

*ecstatic joy



THE PROCLAMATION OF THE GOSPEL: MATTHEW 21: 33-46

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.***

Jesus said, "Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a wine press in it, and built a watchtower. Then he leased it to tenants and went to another country. When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce. But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. Again he sent other slaves, more than the first; and they treated them in the same way. Finally he sent his son to them, saying, 'They will respect my son.' But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, 'This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance.' So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?" They said to him, "He will put those wretches to a miserable death, and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the harvest time."

Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the scriptures:

'The stone that the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone;
this was the Lord's doing,
and it is amazing in our eyes?'

Therefore, I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces the fruits of the kingdom. The one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and it will crush anyone on whom it falls."

When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they realized that he was speaking about them. They wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowds, because they regarded him as a prophet.

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

THE SERMON

The Rev. Dr. Dn. Valerie E. Patton

OUR AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Deacon Let us affirm our faith in the One, Holy and Living God.
Silence is kept for a time.

Deacon We believe in one God, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

People ***We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Creator, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Creator. Through him all things were made.***

Deacon For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and became truly human.

People ***In his life among us, he proclaimed good news to the poor, liberty to the captives, sight to the blind, and release to the oppressed.***

Deacon Jesus ate with outcasts, forgave sinners, challenged injustice, and embodied the boundless love of God.

People ***In word and deed, he revealed the reign of God drawing near.***

Deacon For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Creator.

People ***He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.***

Deacon We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Creator and the Son. With the Creator and is worshiped and glorified. Who has spoken through the Prophets.

People ***We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.***

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE FORM III*

Deacon With faith and in hope, we bring our prayers and petitions to you, Creator God.

Creator God, we pray for all Creation and the Holy Assemblies of all faithful people;
That we all may be one.

Grant that every creature and all Creation may truly and humbly serve you and one another;
That your Glory may be known by all creatures.

We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons, and all spiritual leaders;
That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments in all Creation.

We pray for all who lead and hold responsibility in the nations and organizations of the human world;
That there may be justice and peace on the earth.

Give us grace to do your joyful desire in all that we do and refrain from doing;
That our works may find favor in your sight.

Have compassion on all your creatures who suffer from any grief or trouble;
That they may be delivered from their distress.

Give to all the departed eternal rest;
Let light perpetual shine upon them.

Let us pray for our own needs and those of all Creation, especially those on our prayer lists.

Silence

For the future we cannot yet see: Give us faith when we are tempted to fear, freedom when we cling to what was, and patience when we cannot see what you are doing. Place in our hands the tambourine for the journey, the song, the practice, and the joy that will sustain us.
Spirit of God, give us courage to rise.

The People may add their own petitions.

Presider Holy Immortal One: No sparrow falls without your knowing it; nothing dies but is remembered by you; nothing comes into being that you do not see. Give us courage and resolve to build up the common good, holding fast to the hope of a new creation in which all shall dwell eternally, through Jesus Christ, our Risen Savior. ***Amen.***

THE PEACE

Presider The peace of Christ be with you.

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

Presider Let us share a sign of Christ's peace.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE LITURGY OF THE TABLE

OFFERTORY HYMN

98

Praise Him

The musical score is written for three parts: Soprano/Alto (S), Tenor/Bass (T/B), and Piano. The key signature has one flat (B-flat) and the time signature is 8/8. The score is divided into three systems. The first system begins with a repeat sign. The lyrics for the first system are: 1.4. Praise Him! Praise Him! 2. Glo - ry! Glo - ry! In 3. Ooh Ooh. The second system continues the melody and harmony. The lyrics for the second system are: 1.4. Praise Him! Praise Him! Je - sus, Bless - ed 2. all things give Him glo - ry. Je - sus, Bless - ed 3. Ooh Ooh Je - sus, Bless - ed. The third system concludes the hymn with a 'Fine' marking. The lyrics for the third system are: 1.4. Sav - ior, He's wor - thy to be praised. From the 2. Sav - ior, He's wor - thy to be praised. For 3. Sav - ior, He's wor - thy to be praised. From the.

1. ris - ing of the sun un - til the
 2. God is our rock, hope of sal -
 3. ris - ing of the sun un - til the

1. go - ing down of the same; He's wor - thy, Je - sus is
 2. va - tion; A strong de - li - ver -
 3. go - ing down of the same; He's wor - thy, Je - sus is

1. wor - thy, He's wor - thy to be praised.
 2. er, In Him I will al - ways trust.
 3. wor - thy, He's wor thy to be praised.

D.S.

EUCHARISTIC PRAYER II (*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 We praise you and we bless you, holy and gracious God, source of life abundant. From before time you made ready the creation. Your Spirit moved over the deep and brought all things into being: sun, moon, and stars; earth, winds, and waters; and every living thing. You made us in your image, and taught us to walk in your ways. But we rebelled against you, and wandered far away; and yet, as a mother cares for her children, you would not forget us. Time and again you called us to live in the fullness of your love. And so this day we join with Saints and Angels in the chorus of praise that rings through eternity, lifting our voices to magnify you as we sing (say):

Presider and People "Holy, Holy, Holy" (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

Glory and honor and praise to you, holy and living God. To deliver us from the power of sin and death and to reveal the riches of your grace, you looked with favor upon Mary, your willing servant, that she might conceive and bear a son, Jesus the holy child of God. Living among us, Jesus loved us. He broke bread with outcasts and sinners, healed the sick, and proclaimed good news to the poor. He yearned to draw all the world to himself yet we were heedless of his call to walk in love. Then, the time came for him to complete upon the cross the sacrifice of his life, and to be glorified by you.

On the night before he died for us, Jesus was at table with his friends. He took bread, gave thanks to you, broke it, and gave it to them, and said: "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine. Again, he gave thanks to you, gave it to them, and said: "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Now gathered at your table, O God of all creation, and remembering Christ, crucified and risen, who was and is and is to come, we offer to you our gifts of bread and wine, and ourselves, a living sacrifice.

Pour out your Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Body and Blood of Christ. Breathe your Spirit over the whole earth and make us your new creation, the Body of Christ given for the world you have made. In the fullness of time bring us, with [] and] all your saints, from every tribe and language and people and nation, to feast at the banquet prepared from the foundation of the world.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever and ever. **AMEN AND ASHE'!**

THE 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 Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

People ***Therefore let us keep the feast.***

LAMB OF GOD (*spoken*)

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: grant us peace.

THE INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Presider The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

THE COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

(All are invited to God's Table. You may come forward to receive the Body of Christ or to receive a blessing. Some may wish to remain in your seats. Please use this time to quietly sit and pray or join in the singing of the hymn. Those at home may, if they wish, say this prayer:)

In union, O God, with the faithful of your Church where the Holy Eucharist is now being celebrated, we desire to offer you praise and thanksgiving. We present to you our souls and bodies with the earnest wish that we may always be united to you. And since we cannot now receive you sacramentally, we beseech you to come spiritually into our hearts. We unite ourselves with you and embrace you with all the love of our souls. Let nothing ever separate you from us. May we live in you, and may you live in us, both in this life and in the life to come. Amen.

COMMUNION HYMN

154

Taste and See

Taste and see. Taste and see the good - ness

of the Lord. O Taste and see. Taste and

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

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.

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 OF THE ANIMALS

Presider God's animals inhabit the skies, the land, and the sea; we share the earth with them, and like them rely on God's blessing to sustain and preserve us. We gather in communion and friendship with Francis of Assisi who preached to animals and moved throughout the known world sharing God's unconditional love for all beings. Remembering Francis' love for all God's creatures, I now invite you to bring forward the animals entrusted to your care that we may bless them.

(The minister(s) will move to each animal or picture and raise a hand of blessing over each as the following or something similar is said:)

N., May God who created and preserves you bless, defend, heal, and keep you, this day and always. **Amen.**

When all have been blessed, the Presider prays:

Let us pray.

God of all creation: we give you thanks and praise. Open our eyes to see your hand at work in all creation. May your bountiful blessing be upon us all, God our Creator, Redeemer, and Sanctifier. **Amen and Ashe'.**

Keep Me Every Day

173

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 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 us all. Let us go forth rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.

People ***Thanks be to God!***

**The second collect and the Prayers of the People are adapted from the Book of Common Prayer for Liturgy in the Season of Creation. Additional prayers are taken from The Book of Occasional Prayer 2018 for the Feast of St. Francis/Blessing of Animals.*

TODAY'S LITURGICAL LEADERS

Presider

The Rev. Renee L. Fenner, Priest-in-Charge

Deacon

The Rev. Dr. Dn. Valerie E. Patton

Worship Leader

Stanley Johnson

Reader

Betty Brown

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

"Every moment is an organizing opportunity, every person a potential activist, every minute a chance to change the world."

– Dolores Huerta

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
Drue Harrod
Winifred Lemmie
Avis McGhee
Betty Patton
Florence Ross
Bill Young

Harold Briggs
Ashley Gordon
Stella Hughes
Regina Lewis
Diana Oliver
Everette Quinn
Lisa Shelby

Bessie Clemmons
Michael and Janice Griffin
Shanna Kar and Family
Johnetta Martin
Helen Owens
Marion Robinson
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 Javonny 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!

CELLPHONE REMINDER

Friends, just a quick reminder to turn off or silence your cellphones as you get settled for Sunday service. Unless "Jesus Is Calling" as the hymn goes, your ringtone is distracting worship.

COFFEE HOUR REVISITED

Coffee Hour is sometimes referred to as an extension of the service. It's a time to relax and enjoy fellowship and food with church friends. We are extremely grateful for our Hospitality Team that provides refreshments on the 1st Sunday of each month and at other times when needed. As we enter the fall term, we are asking others to step up as well by volunteering to host a gathering. The signup sheet is on the board near the ushers' station. Your offering does not have to be anything elaborate-coffee, tea, juice, cookies, doughnuts or fruit. Or you can be as fancy as you please! Don't want to host alone? Pair up with someone else! Come about 30 minutes early to set

the serving table (s) and start the coffee. There are plenty of paper plates, cups, napkins, plastic cutlery and tablecloths (although you might want to check before your scheduled (Sunday). And with a few helping hands, cleanup can be a breeze! Please consider this extended ministry so that we can get to know each other better!

OUR FALL SCHEDULE HAS BEGUN

Please join us for Sunday Eucharist at 9am and Tuesday Eucharist at Noon. Wednesday Evening Prayer begins on Zoom at 6pm. And Thursday Morning Bible Study begins at 10am on Zoom.

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 12. 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 Schnucks, Target, Walmart, Walgreens, Kohls, and Aldi's. Uber gift cards would also be appreciated. "Whatever you do to the least of them, you do unto me (Matthew 23:40)".

TRUNK OR TREAT

The annual ECW Trunk or Treat event will be held on Saturday, October 31 from 5 pm until 7 pm. ECW is currently collecting donations of candy and is asking each ASA family to donate two bags of candy for this community outreach event. Please drop off your donations in the parish hall near the water cooler on Sundays, or Mondays thru Wednesdays during parish business hours. Questions? See Carla Banks.

SOCKTOBER

As part of our Community Outreach, the Episcopal Church Women (ECW) has begun collecting socks. We request and appreciate your donations of clean new pairs of socks of all sizes for adults and children. Feel free to drop off your donations into the box marked for sock donations in the parish hall on Sundays, or on Monday thru Wednesday during normal parish business hours. If you have questions, contact Deborah Dukes.

ECM TRIVIA NIGHT

Please mark your calendars for ECM Trivia Night, Thursday, October 15: *Decades of Hope and Healing*. This will be ECM'S main annual FUN-draiser (in place of the Gala). Only \$25 a ticket/tables of 10 with lots of fun: 50/50 tickets, Heads and Tails Games, Raffles, Silent Auction. Let's get a table together and represent All Saints and Ascension! Please see our email blast or ECM's website to register!

ALL SAINTS SUNDAY

On November 1st we will celebrate "All Saints Day". You are invited to submit the names of family members and others who have passed on to glory since November 1, 2025. Names must be submitted to the office by Monday, October 26 in order to be included in the bulletin. Please bring pictures of loved ones who have passed during the years to be placed on the altar during our worship service. Please make sure that your photo is put in a frame for easier handling and display. Thank you!

FALL DISCERNMENT NIGHTS

Building on the success of the diocesan Spring Discernment Day, the diocese offers four virtual Discernment Evenings this fall for those exploring a call to ministry. Each session focuses on a specific path of service, with guest speakers sharing their perspectives followed by open Q&A and group conversation. The remaining sessions are Oct. 5 (Lay Ministry), and Oct. 12 (Religious Life) from 6:30-8:00 pm. For anyone currently discerning a call, this is a meaningful next step. To register or find more information see the diocese's weekly publications or the diocesan website.

PILGRIMAGE TO THE HOLY LAND

Join Bishop Amy Dafler Meaux of the Diocese of West Missouri and Bishop Deon Johnson of the Diocese of Missouri for a transformative pilgrimage to the Holy Land, May 18–29, 2027. Space for the trip is limited to 14 spots for each diocese. The cost is \$6,000 per person with double occupancy. A non-refundable deposit of \$1,000 (due Nov. 1) is required to reserve your spot with the remaining balance due by March 1, 2027. For more information, please visit the diocesan website at: diocesemo.org/connect/news/2027holyland.

CONVOCATION IS HOSTING CONVENTION

Our Emery Washington Convocation is hosting this year's Diocesan Convention which will be held November 12-14. There are roles available for sign up during our in-person time together on Saturday, November 14. Many of them center around the Eucharist (verggers, crucifers, psalmist, readers, Prayers of the People, ushers, and more). Hosts are also needed to assist people navigate the convention space. To sign up, please see the Emery Washington Convocation Newsletter or contact Convocation Dean, the Rev. Tom Albinson at talbinson@csmmsg.org.

THE 187TH DIOCESAN CONVENTION

Mark your calendars for the 187th Convention of The Episcopal Diocese of Missouri, taking place November 12–14, 2026, at Manchester United Methodist. Drawing inspiration from Jesus' Great Commission in Matthew 28, Bishop Deon K. Johnson invites the people of the diocese to gather for a time of prayer, discernment, storytelling, and renewal as we continue to explore what it means to be a Church that is sent into the world to share God's love, hope, and healing.

Convention will once again include both virtual business sessions and opportunities for in-person gathering. Delegates are expected to participate in both, and all members of the diocesan household are warmly encouraged to take part in the in-person events. Voices from across the diocese are also invited to participate in the Convention Choir on Saturday, November 14, at 10:30 a.m. Under the leadership of Cathedral Director of Music Dr. Connor Scott, diocesan choirs will join together in a combined choir for this special celebration.

Nominations are now open for Diocesan Leadership! The Committee for Nominations and Election Procedures is working to identify suitable clergy and especially laypersons to run for the positions of Cathedral Chapter, Diocesan Council, Disciplinary Board, and Standing Committee. Questions can be referred to the Rev. Dave Malek: rector@stbarnabasstl.org.

Watch for additional information regarding registration, resolutions, nominations, and other important Convention updates.

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.

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*

WEDNESDAY EVENING PRAYER

Please join us at 6:00pm for prayer! We spend approximately 35-40 minutes on Wednesday evenings in prayer, which includes a segment where we focus on ASA, the community around it, those who need our help, etc. Evening Prayer is a calming experience to provide those who need to relax from the busy workday or personal issues of the day or week. Although there is a leader

for the evening, each person usually takes a part, such as a reading, during that time. We rotate leaders each week.

ASA Evening Prayer (Every Wednesday 6pm-7:15pm September 2026 to May 2027)

<contact parish office for Zoom login info>

THURSDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

Bible Study is held every Thursday at 10:00 am via Zoom. This year Bible Study will focus on three books of the Bible: The Gospel of John, Paul's Letter to the Ephesians, and the Book of James. The character of God is on full display in the Gospel of John. It will help us to know our Savior more and deepen our faith in [HIM](#). Paul's Letter to the Ephesians makes for a great study for it overflows with truth about who we are in Christ, our blessings through Christ, and how this should affect our lives as his church. The Book of James offers direct, practical wisdom for everyday Christian living. It challenges believers to match their words with actions, care for the needy, and to persevere through trials. Please join us! - *Joyce Crittenden, Leader*

ASA Bible Study (Every Thursday 10am-11am September 2026 to May 2026)

<contact parish office for Zoom login info>

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!

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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