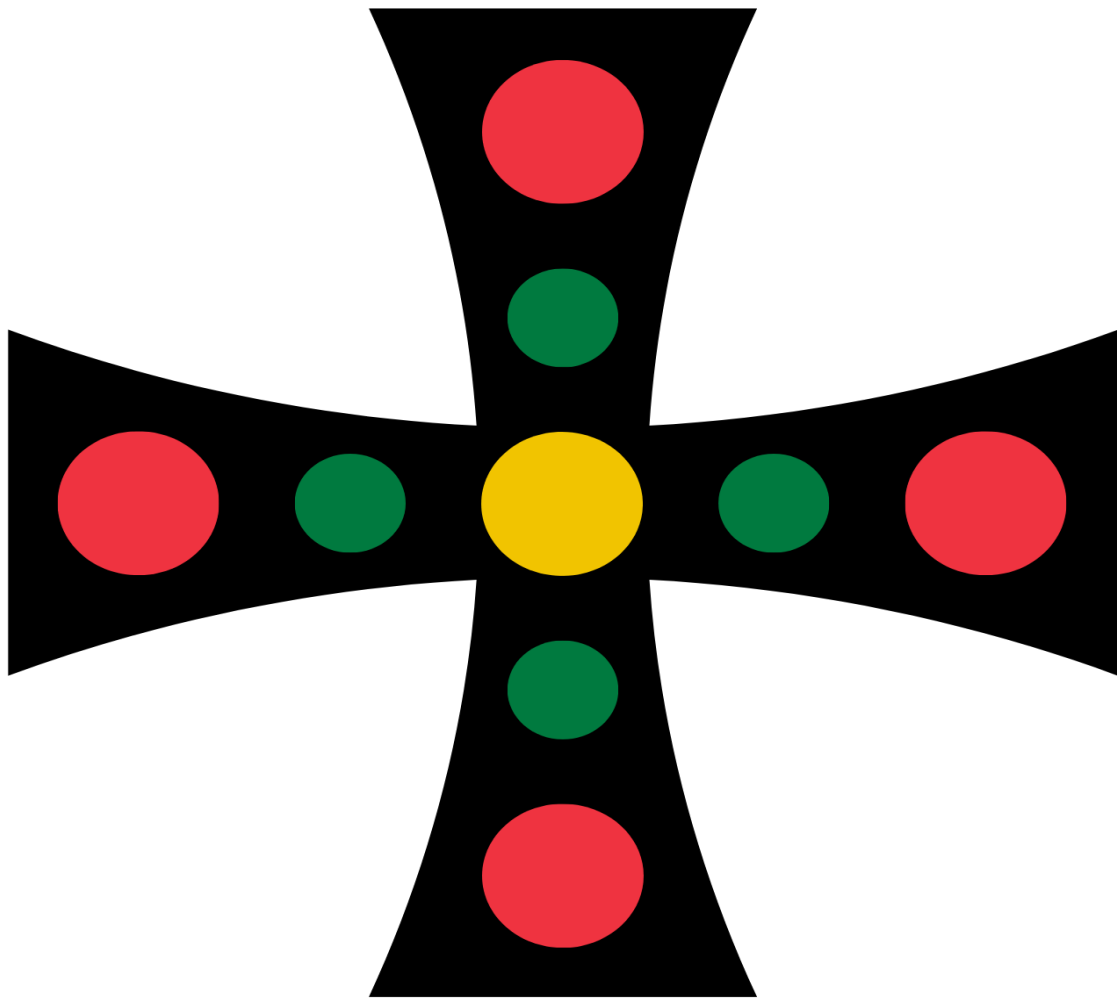




THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF
ALL SAINTS & ASCENSION

The 17th Sunday after Pentecost

September 20, 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

Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus

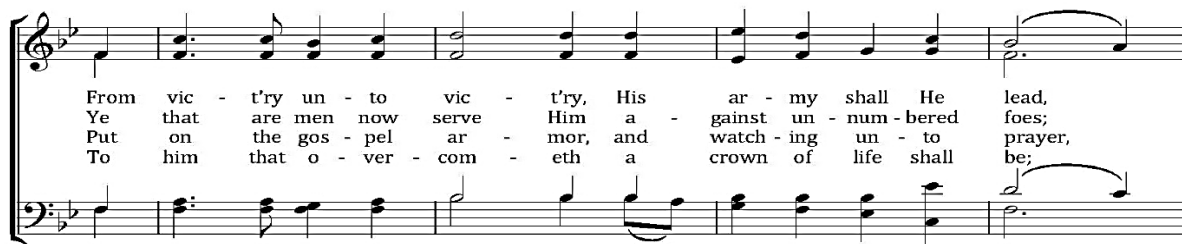
Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth. Eph. 6:11-18



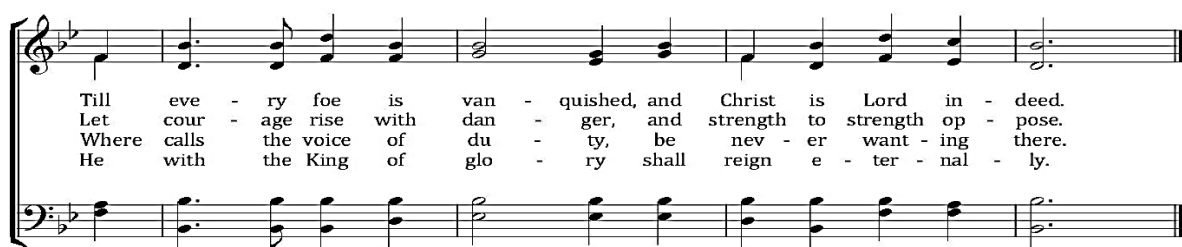
1. Stand up, stand up for Je - sus! ye sol - diers of the cross;
2. Stand up, stand up for Je - sus! The trum - pet call o - bey;
3. Stand up, stand up for Je - sus! Stand in His strength a - lone;
4. Stand up, stand up for Je - sus! the strife will not be long;



Lift high His roy - al ban - ner, it must not suf - fer loss:
Forth to the might - y con - flict, in this His glo - rious day;
The arm of flesh will fail you, ye dare not trust your own;
This day the noise of bat - tle, the next the vic - tor's song;



From vic - t'ry un - to vic - t'ry, His ar - my shall He lead,
Ye that are men now serve Him a - gainst un - num - bered foes;
Put on the gos - pel ar - mor, and watch - ing un - to prayer,
To him that o - ver - com - eth a crown of life shall be;



Till eve - ry foe is van - quished, and Christ is Lord in - deed.
Let cour - age rise with dan - ger, and strength to strength op - pose.
Where calls the voice of du - ty, be nev - er want - ing there.
He with the King of glo - ry shall reign e - ter - nal - ly.

WORDS: George Duffield, Jr., 1858. MUSIC: "Webb"; George J. Webb, 1830. Public Domain.

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*" (sung)

Glory, Glory, hallelujah, Lord we praise your Holy name,
Glory, Glory, hallelujah, Lord we praise your Holy name,

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,
Glory, Glory, hallelujah, Lord we praise your Holy name,
Glory, Glory, hallelujah, Lord we praise your Holy name.

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 the Father.

Glory, Glory, hallelujah, Lord we praise your Holy name,
Glory, Glory, hallelujah, Lord we praise your Holy name.
A-----men.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Presider God be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Presider Let us pray.

Presider Grant us, Lord, not to be anxious about earthly things, but to love things heavenly; and even now, while we are placed among things that are passing away, to hold fast to those that shall endure; 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 EXODUS 16:2-15

The whole congregation of the Israelites complained against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness. The Israelites said to them, "If only we had died by the hand of the Lord in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the fleshpots and ate our fill of bread; for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger."

Then the Lord said to Moses, "I am going to rain bread from heaven for you, and each day the people shall go out and gather enough for that day. In that way I will test them, whether they will follow my instruction or not. On the sixth day, when they prepare what they bring in, it will be twice as much as they gather on other days." So Moses and Aaron said to all the Israelites, "In the evening you shall know that it was the Lord who brought you out of the land of Egypt, and in the morning you shall see the glory of the Lord, because he has heard your complaining against the Lord. For what are we, that you complain against us?" And Moses said, "When the Lord gives you meat to eat in the evening and your fill of bread in the morning, because the Lord has heard the complaining that you utter against him—what are we? Your complaining is not against us but against the Lord."

Then Moses said to Aaron, "Say to the whole congregation of the Israelites, 'Draw near to the Lord, for he has heard your complaining.'" And as Aaron spoke to the whole congregation of the Israelites, they looked toward the wilderness, and the glory of the Lord appeared in the cloud. The Lord spoke to Moses and said, "I have heard the complaining of the Israelites; say to them, 'At twilight you shall eat meat, and in the morning you shall have your fill of bread; then you shall know that I am the Lord your God.'"

In the evening quails came up and covered the camp; and in the morning there was a layer of dew around the camp. When the layer of dew lifted, there on the surface of the wilderness was a fine flaky substance, as fine as frost on the ground. When the Israelites saw it, they said to one another, "What is it?" For they did not know what it was. Moses said to them, "It is the bread that the Lord has given you to eat."

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

THE PSALM OF THE DAY: PSALM 105:1-6, 37-45

- 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.
- 37 He led out his people with silver and gold; *
in all their tribes there was not one that stumbled.
- 38 Egypt was glad of their going, *
because they were afraid of them.
- 39 He spread out a cloud for a covering *
and a fire to give light in the night season.
- 40 They asked, and quails appeared, *
and he satisfied them with bread from heaven.
- 41 He opened the rock, and water flowed, *
so the river ran in the dry places.
- 42 For God remembered his holy word *
and Abraham his servant.
- 43 So he led forth his people with gladness, *
his chosen with shouts of joy.
- 44 He gave his people the lands of the nations, *
and they took the fruit of others' toil,
- 45 That they might keep his statutes *
and observe his laws.
Hallelujah!

A READING FROM PAUL'S LETTER TO THE PHILIPPIANS 1:21-30

To me, living is Christ and dying is gain. If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which I prefer. I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again.

Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel, and are in no way intimidated by your opponents. For them this is evidence of their destruction, but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well-- since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

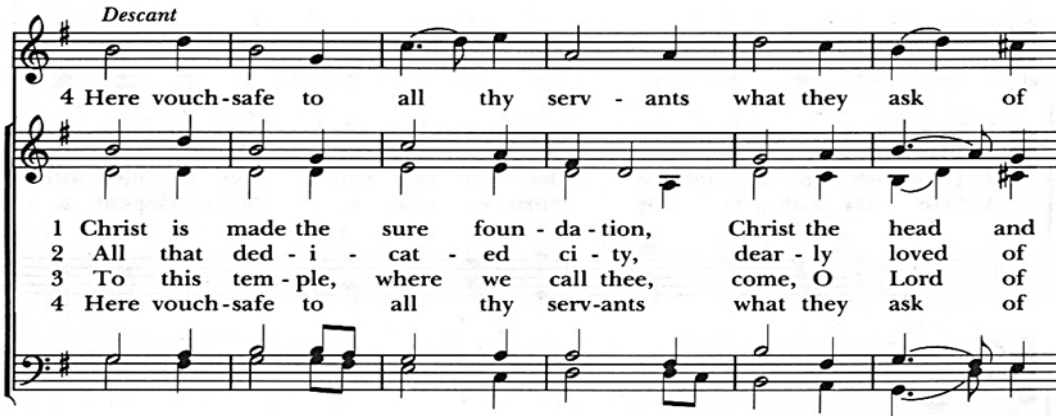
People Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.
Thanks be to God.

SEQUENCE HYMN

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The Church

Descant



4 Here vouch-safe to all thy serv - ants what they ask of

1 Christ is made the sure foun - da - tion, Christ the head and
 2 All that ded - i - cat - ed ci - ty, dear - ly loved of
 3 To this tem - ple, where we call thee, come, O Lord of
 4 Here vouch-safe to all thy serv-ants what they ask of



thee to gain; what they gain from thee, for ev - er

cor - ner - stone, cho - sen of the Lord, and pre - cious,
 God on - high, in ex - ult - ant ju - bi - la - tion
 Hosts, to - day; with thy wont - ed lov - ing - kind - ness
 thee to gain; what they gain from thee, for ev - er



with the bless - ed to re - tain, and here - af - ter

bind - ing all the Church in one; ho - ly Zi - on's
 pours per - pet - ual mel - o - dy; God the One in
 hear thy serv - ants as they pray, and thy full - est
 with the bless - ed to re - tain, and here - af - ter



in thy glo - ry ev - er - more with thee to reign.

help for ev - er, and her con - fi - dence a - lone.
 Three a - dor - ing in glad hymns e - ter - nal - ly.
 ben - e - dic - tion shed with - in its walls al - way.
 in thy glo - ry ev - er - more with thee to reign.

THE PROCLAMATION OF THE GOSPEL: MATTHEW 20:1-6

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, "The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; and he said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.' So they went. When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, 'Why are you standing here idle all day?' They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard.' When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, 'Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.' When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, saying, 'These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.' But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?' So the last will be first, and the first will be last."

People The Gospel of the Lord.

People ***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 In peace and in hope, we bring our prayers and petitions to you, O God.

Loving God, we pray for your holy Catholic Church;
That we all may be one.

Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;
That your Name may be glorified by all people.

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

We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;
That there may be justice and peace on the earth.

Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;
That our works may find favor in your sight.

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

Give to the departed eternal rest, especially Henderson Brathwaite, father of Bishop Dean Johnson.

Let light perpetual shine upon them.

We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;
May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.

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

Silence

The People may add their own petitions

Presider Gracious God, you have promised to hear what we ask in the Name of your Son: Accept and fulfill our petitions, we pray, not as we ask in our ignorance, nor as we deserve in our sinfulness, but as you know and love us in your Son Jesus Christ our Savior. ***Amen.***

Deacon God is love and we are God's children. There is no room for fear in love. We love because God loved us first.

Deacon Let us confess our sins in penitence and faith.

Silence

All ***God our Creator, we confess to you and to our fellow members in the Body of Christ that we have sinned in thought, word and deed, and in what we have failed to do. We are truly sorry. Forgive us our sins and deliver us from the power of evil. For the sake of your Son who died for us, Jesus Christ our Redeemer.***

Presider God, who is both power and love, forgive you and free you from your sins, heal and strengthen you by the Holy Spirit and raise you to new life in Jesus Christ, our Redeemer. ***Amen and Ashe'.***

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

TRUSTING THE TRIUNE GOD

363 Blessed Assurance: Jesus Is Mine

1 Bless-ed as-sur-ance: Je-sus is mine! Oh, what a fore-taste of
 2 Per-fect sub-mis-sion, per-fect de-light, vi-sions of *rap-ture now
 3 Per-fect sub-mis-sion: all is at rest, I in my Sav-ior am

glo-ry di-vine! Heir of sal-va-tion, pur-chase of God, born of his
 burst on my sight; an-gels de-scend-ing bring from a-bove echo-es of
 hap-py and blest; watch-ing and wait-ing, look-ing a-bove, filled with his

Spir-it, washed in his blood.
 mer-cy, whis-pers of love. This is my sto-ry, this is my
 good-ness, lost in his love.

song, prais-ing my Sav-ior all the day long; this is my
 sto-ry, this is my song, prais-ing my Sav-ior all the day long.

EUCHARISTIC PRAYER 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"

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Holy, Holy, Holy

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, Lord, God of power and might,
hea - ven and earth are full of your glo - ry Ho - san - na in the
high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the
Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

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" (*Traditional melody, sung*)

THE LORD'S PRAYER (*sung*)

Presider And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to pray,

***Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,***

*as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power,
and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.*

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Presider Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

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

LAMB OF GOD (*sung*)

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

Center Of My Joy

Gloria Gaither

William J. Gaither and
Richard Smallwood

D Em/D D Em E#dim7 F#m7 Am7 D7
 Je - sus, You're the cen - ter of my joy; _____

Gmaj7 G A/G D/F# Em7 G/A A
 All that's good and per - fect comes from You.

Am7 D7 Gmaj7
 You're the heart ____ of my con - tent - ment, hope for all ____ I

C7sus C7 D/A B7 Em7 G/A A7 D *Fine*
 do; _____ Je - sus, You're the cen - ter of my joy.

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

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

D A/C# Bm Bm/G#

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

Em7 A7 G/A D

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

F#m7 G G/A D F#7

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

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

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

The musical score is written for piano and voice. It consists of five systems of music. Each system has a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The key signature is one sharp (F#), indicating G major. The time signature is not explicitly shown but appears to be 4/4 based on the note values. Chords are indicated above the vocal line. The lyrics are written below the vocal line, with some words split across lines and some lines containing blank space for lyrics. The score ends with a double bar line and the instruction 'D.C. al Fine'.

THE POSTCOMMUNION PRAYER

Presider God be with you.

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

Presider Let us pray.

Presider and People

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

THE BLESSING

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

Keep Me Every Day

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

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

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

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

THE SENDING

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

People ***We go forth in hope and in power. Amen and Ashe'.***

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.

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

TODAY'S LITURGICAL LEADERS

Presider

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

Deacon

The Rev. Dr. Dn. Valerie E. Patton

Worship Leader

Betty Brown

Reader

Joyce Crittenden

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

"The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy."

— Martin Luther King Jr.

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
Regina Lewis
Diana Oliver
Everette Quinn
Lisa Shelby

Harold Briggs
Ashley Gordon
Stella Hughes
Johnetta Martin
Helen Owens
Marion Robinson
James Williams, Sr.

Bessie Clemmons
Michael and Janice Griffin
Winifred Lemmie
Avis McGhee
Betty Patton
Florence Ross
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 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 RESUMES

Our Fall term begins the week of September 13th. Sunday Eucharist will continue at 9am. Tuesday Eucharist at Noon will resume on Sept. 15. Both Wednesday Evening Prayer and Thursday morning Bible Study will be offered and will resume Sept. 16 and 17, respectively. More information and Zoom links to come!

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)".

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

Please mark your calendars for Sunday, October 4th as we celebrate the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi. All creatures, great and small, are invited to join us for the blessing of the animals during Holy Eucharist at 9 am. All are welcome! Please note that all dogs, cats, rabbits, birds, fish, turtles, hamsters, and other creatures are welcome. Animals should be secured on a leash, or in a carrier or crate. If you are unable to bring your pet, feel free to bring a photo.

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!

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. These will be held on Mondays, Sept. 21 (Priesthood), Sept. 28 (Diaconate), 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@csmsg.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 will begin for the year on Thursday, September 17, 2026, 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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