

SAINT LUKE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Organized 1871

Celebrating 154 years of ministry in Columbia, South Carolina

*The Mission of St. Luke's Episcopal Church is to Spread the Word
and share the love of God with all people*



**The Fourth Sunday of Easter
(Good Shepherd Sunday)**

**The Holy Eucharist: Rite II
w/the Rite of Baptism**

April 26, 2026

10:00AM

**The Rev. Raphiell Ashford, Rector
Mr. Ezra Blackwell, Interim Supply Organist**

Vestry Theme for 2026

Reset to the New Normal: The Work Continues

Mission Statement

The mission of St. Luke's Episcopal Church is to spread the Word and share the love of God with all.

Vision Statement

{To become} a vibrant self-sustaining institution that serves and respects the spiritual, social, and physical needs of our community and congregation, while preserving the history of the church.

Quiet Please: Please be mindful of others as you enter the church before the service. Upon entering the nave, there should be a period of quiet and reverence as many parishioners are in prayer and or meditation.

OFFERINGS can be made online

<https://onrealm.org./StLukesEpiscopa59532/Give>

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*Use your phone to hold over the image

People There is one Body and one Spirit;
People There is one hope in God's call to us;
Celebrant One Lord, one Faith, one Baptism
People One God and Father of all.

Gloria S. 278

William Matthias

✠ “in the glory of God the Father. Amen.”

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People And also with you.
Celebrant Let us pray.

O God, whose Son Jesus is the good shepherd of your people: Grant that when we hear his voice we may know him who calls us each by name, and follow where he leads; who, with you and the Holy Spirit, lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

**The people sit.*

The Lesson

Acts 2:42-47

Lector: A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Those who had been baptized devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

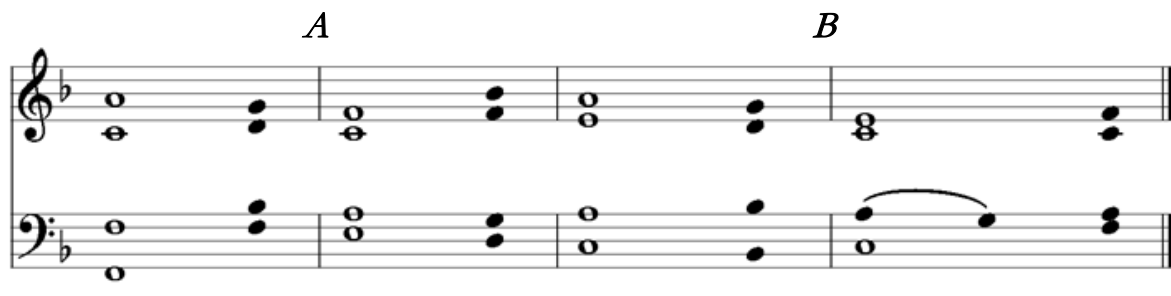
[Silence]

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 23 *Dominus regit me*

**The antiphon is sung first by the Cantor and then by all; thereafter where indicated.*



A1 The LORD is my shepherd; *

I shall not be in want.

B2 He makes me lie down in green pastures *

and leads me beside still waters.

{Antiphon}

A3 He revives my soul *

and guides me along right pathways for his Name's sake.

B4 Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,

I shall fear no evil; *

for you are with me;

your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

{Antiphon}

A5 You spread a table before me in the presence of those who trouble me; *

you have anointed my head with oil,

and my cup is running over.

B6 Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, *

and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever. {Antiphon}

The Epistle

1 Peter 2:19-25

Lector: A Reading from the first Letter of Peter

It is a credit to you if, being aware of God, you endure pain while suffering unjustly. If you endure when you are beaten for doing wrong, what credit is that? But if you endure when you do right and suffer for it, you have God's approval. For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his steps. "He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth." When he was abused, he did not return abuse; when he suffered, he did not threaten; but he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly. He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, free from sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

[Silence]

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

The Sequence Hymn H • 646

"The King of Love my Shepherd Is"

Dominus regit me

The Easter Gospel Acclamation

*Sung first by the Cantor; then by all.

Adapt. from an Alleluia for Easter Day
Setting by Chaz Bowers

Al-le-lu - ia, al-le-lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

*"Christ, our paschal lamb, has been sacrificed
Let us then feast with joy in the Lord." (1 Cor. 5:7)*

The Holy Gospel

John 10:1-10

Priest ✠The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John
People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus said, “Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.” Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them. So again Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.”

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

The Sermon

The Rev. Raphiell Ashford

HOLY BAPTISM

Presentation and Examination of the Candidate

BCP 301

Candidate: Rueben Troy Thompson

Sponsor: Angela T. Corley

The Baptismal Covenant

BCP 304

The Procession to the Font

Hymn • L • 134

“Take Me to the Water”

Negro Spiritual

**The Altar Party leads and the family of the newly baptized and take their place at the font.*

The Celebrant ✠asperges the people during the procession using the blessed water.

Prayers for the Candidate	BCP 305
The Thanksgiving over the Water	BCP 306
<i>*After the water has been blessed, the font is censed by the Celebrant.</i>	
The Baptism	BCP 307
The Chrismation	BCP 308
The Presentation of the Baptismal Candle	
The Procession from the Font	
Hymn · L · 127	“Oh Lord, I Jes’ Come from de Fountain”
	Negro Spiritual
	(sung during the Asperges)
Prayer	BCP 308
Welcoming the Newly Baptized	
Priest	Let us welcome the newly baptized.
All	We receive you into the household of God: Confess the faith of Christ crucified, proclaim his resurrection and share with us in his eternal priesthood.
The Peace	
Celebrant	The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People	And also with you.
Birthday & Anniversary Blessings	Fr. Raphiell+

Sanctus et Benedictus

Setting: William Mathias

Ho - ly, ho - ly,
ho - ly Lord, God of power and might,
heaven 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.

✠ “Blessed is he ...”

**The people may stand or kneel.*

The Prayer of Consecration

BCP 362

The Memorial Acclamation L♦ 257

Clarence J. Rivers

At the invoking of the Holy Spirit); ✠ Sanctify us also that we ...

The Great Amen

AMEN

Musical notation for 'The Great Amen' in G major, 4/4 time. The melody is written on two staves. The lyrics are: A - men, a - men, a - men.

Music: *Jubilation Mass*, James Chepponis, © 1999, GIA Publications, Inc.

The Lord's Prayer (*Pater Noster*)

*The priest begins the *Pater Noster*

The Breaking of the Bread (The Fraction)

*A period of brief silence is kept.

The Fraction Anthem S167

This setting is not used in Lent.

Antiphon: Cantor; then All

Musical notation for the Fraction Anthem. The lyrics are: Be known to us, Lord Je - sus, in the break - ing of the bread.

Cantor

Musical notation for the Fraction Anthem. The lyrics are: 1. The bread which we break, al - le - lu - ia,

Musical notation for the Fraction Anthem. The lyrics are: is the com - mun - ion of the bo - dy of Christ. [Ant.]

Cantor

Musical notation for the Fraction Anthem. The lyrics are: 2. One bo - dy are we, al - le - lu - ia,

Musical notation for the Fraction Anthem. The lyrics are: for though man - y we share one bread. [Ant.]

Agnus Dei

Priest Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,

People Have mercy upon us

Priest Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,

People Have mercy upon us

Priest Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world.

People Grant us thy peace.

Priest “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 Music at Communion

H•325/L•152

“Let Us Break Bread Together”

Negro Spiritual

H•490

“I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light”

Houston

L•141

“Shall We Gather at the River”

Robert Lowry

Post Communion Hymn H•707

“Take my Life and Let It Be”

Hollingside

The Post Communion Prayer

Celebrant Let us pray.

Celebrant and People

Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. *Amen*

The Four-fold Easter Blessing

May Almighty God, who has redeemed us and made us his children through the resurrection of his Son our Lord, bestow upon you the riches of his blessing. *Amen.*

May God who through the water of baptism has raised us from sin into newness of life, make you holy and worthy to be united with Christ for ever. *Amen.*

May God, who has brought us out of bondage to sin into true and lasting freedom in the Redeemer, bring you to your eternal inheritance. *Amen.*

And the blessing of God Almighty, ✠ Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit be upon you and remain with you for ever. *Amen.*

Hymn in Procession H•296

“We Know That Christ Is Raised and Dies no More” *Engleberg*

The Dismissal w/Alleluias

Priest Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

People Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!

✠ *Regina Caeli* (The Queen of Heaven)

*Optional recitation

V. Queen of Heaven, rejoice, alleluia.

R. For He whom you did merit to bear, alleluia.

V. Has risen, as he said, alleluia.

R. Pray for us to God, alleluia.

V. Rejoice and be glad, O Virgin Mary, alleluia.

R. For the Lord has truly risen, alleluia.

Let us pray.

O God, who gave joy to the world through the resurrection of Thy Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, grant we beseech Thee, that through the intercession of the Virgin Mary, His Mother, we may obtain the joys of everlasting life. Through the same Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

*It is the custom of this parish to remain seated in prayer and reflection during the Organ Postlude. If you need to leave, please do so quietly.

INTERCESSIONS



- **Parishioners:** Charles W. Blakely, Gary Bowden, John Bowden, Christina Caldwell, Damion Cokley, Jackson Cokley, Patricia Cokley, Byron Eaddy, Gloria Eaddy, Eddie Glenn, Cynthia Goines, Robert Green, Yvonne Hall, Daryl Hammonds, Jr., Desmond Hammonds, Valencia Hammonds, Tarnez Hickman, Justin Hickmon, LaToya Hickmon, Levi Johnson, Sr., James McLemore, Gwendolyn Meadows, Carmen Murray, Jay'ceon Quattlebaum, Malik Quattlebaum, Joseph Ray, Reginald Reed, Cassandra Sims, William Smith, Jr., Ronald Turner, Dorothy Walker
- **Family & Friends:** Ingrid Dowdell, Ernestine Grant, Gerald L. McNair, Elsie Mitchell, Katherine Robinson, Mattie Anderson-Roberson, Courtney Sweeney, Theodora Washington
- **Diocesan Cycle of Prayer...** Church of the Good Shepherd, Columbia; Church of the Good Shepherd, Greer; Church of the Good Shepherd, York; 5th Grade Bridge Retreat
- **Birthdays...** Gwendolyn Parker (25th), David Blalock (25th), Leonard Gordon (27th), Patricia Ancrum (May 1st)
- **Anniversaries...**
- **Births...**
- **Deaths...** David McFarland, III
- **Traveling Mercies...**

Parish Fellowship is sponsored by the Commission on Special Events

~

ANNOUNCEMENTS

RECEPTION... Everyone is invited to Griffin Hall to celebrate the 80th birthday of Patricia Ancrum & the baptism of Rueben Thompson.

RECTOR'S SABBATICAL...DETAILED information regarding the Rector's Sabbatical will be printed in the May Newsletter along with an email sent to all parishioners. Should you have any questions **AFTER** the newsletter is printed, please contact the Senior Warden, Errol Porter.

SAFE CHURCH TRAINING... All persons in leadership & volunteer positions in the Church must be certified in Safe Church Training. The online training is offered for free courtesy of the Diocese. An email will be sent to those persons who are in need of the training.

ST. LUKE'S ENDOWMENT FUND...Please consider giving a donation on your birthday and/or anniversary of \$1 per year. Donations to the Endowment Fund will help to secure the future of St. Luke's. Your donations are needed and appreciated.

155th CHURCH ANNIVERSARY/ST LUKE'S DAY...Our beloved parish will be 155 years old on May 21st. We will observe this anniversary on the Feast of Saint Luke Sunday, October 18th. Each parishioner is asked to give \$155 in celebration for the anniversary.

SERVANTS FOR THE LORD...If you have a desire to serve in the Church in a certain capacity, please contact the Rector. If you are not sure what you calling is, contact the Rector for a one on one so that the two of you might discover your gifts and talents.

SECURITY.... Parishioners, in light of recent events in our nation and city, the importance of security cannot be taken lightly. Please consider giving a donation for Security so that we may be proactive ant not reactive.

ST. LUKE'S CHORAL SCHOLARS & BLAKELY-ROBINSON MUSIC FUND...Your contributions are always appreciated and needed more than ever. Contributions to these funds help to secure choristers & instrumentalists for our Sunday services as well as special services: funerals, weddings, etc. It is because of your continued generous contributions that we are able present glorious choral & instrumental music to the glory of God. Please consider contributing towards this fund

SERVANTS FOR THE LORD

The Old Testament Lector

Cynallyhia Indriago

The Gospel Book Bearer

DeNell Hickman

Intercessor

Corliss Wise

Thurifer

Cory James

Videographer

Joni James

Torch Bearers

Kennedy Johnson

Levi Johnson, Jr.

Security

Terrell McCombs

The Epistoler

Cynthia Parker Reed

Server

Herman Hickman

Lay Eucharistic Minister

Cynallyhia Indriago

Crucifer

Jaylen Caldwell

Herman Hickman

Oblation Bearers

Timothy & Trinessa Kirby

Ushers

Gloria Eaddy

Rachel Hall

Daryl Hammonds

Cantors

Shekinah Frieson

Sean Buggs

The Altar Flowers are given to the glory of God in thanksgiving for the 80th birthday of Patricia Ancrum and the baptism of Rueben Thompson.

APRIL 2026 CALENDAR OF SERVICES/MEETINGS/EVENTS

26 th (Sunday)	The Fourth Sunday of Easter (Good Shepherd Sunday) The Holy Eucharist: Rite II w/the Rite of Baptism (Rueben Troy Thompson) & The Celebration of the 80 th Birthday of Patricia Ancrum	10:00am Nave 11:45am Griffin Hall
27 th (Monday)	Rector's Day Off	
	Confirmation Class (if needed)	5:00pm Griffin Hall
28 th (Tuesday)	Buildings & Grounds	5:30pm-6:30pm Griffin Hall
29 th (Wednesday)	Choir Rehearsal	6:00pm/Griffin Hall
30 th (Thursday)	Fresh Start Ministry	9:00am-12noon The O'Neal Center
	Endowment Committee	12:30pm-1:30pm

MAY 2026 CALENDAR OF SERVICES/MEETINGS/EVENTS

MAY	SERVICE/MEETING/EVENT	TIME & PLACE
1 st (Friday)	Parish Office Closed	
	Rector's Spirituality Day: Sermon Prep, Spiritual Direction, etc.	
2 nd (Saturday)		
3 rd (Sunday)	The Fifth Sunday of Easter The Holy Eucharist: Rite II	10:00am/Nave
4 th (Monday)	Rector's Day Off (Sabbath)	
5 th (Tuesday)	Rector meets with Wardens	5:30pm Rector's Office
6 th (Wednesday)	Adult Formation w/Morning Prayer: Rite II Presenter: Fr. Raphiell+	MP—10:30am AF—11:00am Griffin Hall

	Choir Rehearsal	6:00pm Chancel
7 th (Thursday)	Fresh Start Ministry	9:00am-12:00noon The O'Neal Center
8 th (Friday)	Parish Office Closed	
	Rector's Spirituality Day: Sermon Prep, Spiritual Direction, etc.	
9 th (Saturday)	Confirmation Rehearsal	11:00am-12:00noon Nave
	2 nd Saturday Feeding	12:00noon-1:00pm Griffin Hall @ the entrance door
	Parish Picnic	11:00am-3:00pm Sesquicentennial State Park 9564 Two Notch Rd Shelter 1 Entrance/Parking Fee: \$5.00
10 th (Sunday)	The Sixth Sunday of Easter (Rogation Sunday) The Holy Eucharist: Rite II Bishop's Visitation w/the Rite of Confirmation	10:00am Nave
	Mother's Day	
11 th (Monday)	Rector's Day Off (Sabbath)	
12 th (Tuesday)	Archives Committee	10:30am-1:00pm Archives Room
13 th (Wednesday)	Choir Rehearsal	6:00pm Nave
14 th (Thursday)	Ascension Day	
	Fresh Start Ministry	9:00am-12:00noon The O'Neal Center

	The Feast of the Ascension The Holy Eucharist: Rite II Guest Speaker The Reverend Taliaferro Robinson-Heyward First Nazareth Baptist Church	6:30pm Nave
15 th (Friday)	Parish Office Closed	
	Rector's Spirituality Day: Sermon Prep, Spiritual Direction, etc.	
16 th (Saturday)	Daughters of the King (DOK)	3:00pm Griffin Hall
17 th (Sunday)	The Seventh Sunday of Easter (The Sunday after Ascension Day) The Holy Eucharist: Rite II	10:00am Nave
18 th (Monday)	Rector's Day Off (Sabbath)	
19 th (Tuesday)	Finance Committee	4:00pm-5:15pm Griffin Hall
	Vestry Meeting	6:00pm-7:15pm Griffin Hall
20 th (Wednesday)	Quilters & Crafters	10:30am-1:00pm Griffin Hall
	Choir Rehearsal	6:00pm
21 st (Thursday)	The 155 th Anniversary of the Founding of St. Luke's Parish	
	Fresh Start Ministry	9:00am-12:00noon The O'Neal Center
22 nd (Friday)	Parish Office Closed	
	Rector's Spirituality Day: Sermon Prep, Spiritual Direction, etc.	
23 rd (Saturday)	4 th Saturday Feeding	12:00noon-1:00pm Griffin Hall @ the entrance door
24 th (Sunday)	The Day of Pentecost: Whitsunday The Holy Eucharist: Rite II *Wear red or something red	10:00am Nave

	Rector's Sabbatical Luncheon Guests: Rector & Parishioners from the Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd	11:45am Griffin Hall
25 th (Monday)	Rector's Day Off (Sabbath)	
	Memorial Day/ Parish Office Closed	
26 th (Tuesday)	Buildings & Grounds	5:30pm-6:30pm
27 th (Wednesday)	Choir Rehearsal	6:00pm
28 th (Thursday)	Fresh Start Ministry	9:00am-12:00noon The O'Neal Center
29 th (Friday)	Parish Office Closed	
	Rector's Spirituality Day: Sermon Prep, Spiritual Direction, etc.	
30 th (Saturday)		
31 st (Sunday)	The First Sunday after Pentecost (Trinity Sunday) The Holy Eucharist: Rite II Youth Sunday	10:00am Nave

SERMON NOTES/REFLECTIONS/QUESTIONS FOR THE RECTOR

LITURGICAL NOTES

BAPTISM

This is full initiation by water and the Holy Spirit into Christ's Body, the church. God establishes an indissoluble bond with each person in baptism. God adopts us, making us members of the church and inheritors of the Kingdom of God. In baptism we are made sharers in the new life of the Holy Spirit and the forgiveness of sins. Baptism is the foundation for all future church participation and ministry. Each candidate for baptism in the Episcopal Church is to be sponsored by one or more baptized persons.

Sponsors (godparents) speak on behalf of candidates for baptism who are infants or younger children and cannot speak for themselves at the Presentation and Examination of the Candidates. During the baptismal rite the members of the congregation promise to do all they can to support the candidates for baptism in their life in Christ. They join with the candidates by renewing the baptismal covenant. The water of baptism may be administered by immersion or affusion (pouring). Candidates are baptized "in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit," and then marked on the forehead with the sign of the cross. Chrism may be used for this marking. The newly baptized is "sealed by the Holy Spirit in Baptism and marked as Christ's own for ever." When all baptisms have been completed, the celebrant and congregation welcome the newly administered within the eucharist as the chief service on a Sunday or another feast.

The Catechism notes that "Infants are baptized so that they can share citizenship in the Covenant, membership in Christ, and redemption by God." The baptismal promises are made for infants by their parents or sponsors, "who guarantee that the infants will be brought up within the Church, to know Christ and be able to follow him". Baptism is especially appropriate at the Easter Vigil, the Day of Pentecost, All Saint's Day or the Sunday following, and the Feast of the Baptism of our Lord (the First Sunday after the Epiphany).

Easter—The feast of Christ's resurrection. According to Bede, the word derives from the Anglo-Saxon spring goddess Eostre. Christians in England applied the word to the principal festival of the church year, both day and season. 1) Easter Day is the annual feast of the resurrection, the pascha or Christian Passover, and the eighth day of cosmic creation. Faith in Jesus' resurrection on the Sunday or third day following his crucifixion is at the heart of Christian belief. Easter sets the experience of springtime next to the ancient stories of deliverance and the proclamation of the risen Christ. In the west, Easter occurs on the first Sunday after the full moon on or after the vernal equinox. Easter always falls between Mar. 22 and Apr. 25 inclusive. Following Jewish custom, the feast begins at sunset on Easter Eve with the Great Vigil of Easter. The Eastern Orthodox Church celebrates Easter on the first Sunday after the Jewish pesach or Passover (which follows the spring full moon). Although the two dates sometimes coincide, the eastern date is often one or more weeks later. 2) Easter Season. See Great Fifty Days.

The Great Fifty Days—The feast of Easter is a season of fifty days, from Easter Eve through the Day of Pentecost. From early times the Greek word pentecost (fiftieth day) was used also for the whole Paschal season. During this season there is no fasting. The Council of Nicaea (325) directed that Christians are to pray standing. The word "alleluia" (praise the Lord) is said or sung repeatedly, which contrasts sharply with the season of Lent when the alleluia is omitted. The color of liturgical vestments and hangings is white or gold. The BCP notes that it is customary for the Paschal candle to burn at all services of the Easter season. The "Alleluia, alleluia" may be added to the dismissals and their responses during the Great Fifty Days. The traditional Christian Easter greeting (see Lk 24:34) serves as the opening acclamation at the Eucharist during the Easter season.

Octave of Easter—Celebration of a feast over an eight-day period, beginning with the feast day itself as the first day. The term is from Latin for "eighth." The term may indicate the entire eight-day celebration or the eighth day of the celebration (also known as the octave day). Celebration of saints' days with octaves were numerous during the Middle Ages, but the observance of octaves is very limited in current liturgical practice. The term "octave" is not used in the Prayer Book. Proper collects and readings for the weekdays in Easter Week are provided by the Prayer Book. The celebration of Easter Week may be likened to the observance of an octave.

Paschal Candle—A large candle that symbolizes the risen Christ. It is often decorated with a cross, symbols of the resurrection, the Greek letters Alpha and Omega, and the year. The term "Paschal" concerns Easter or Passover. At the Easter Vigil, the Paschal candle is lit from the new fire. It is carried by the deacon, who pauses three times and sings or says, "The light of Christ," and the people respond, "Thanks be to God." The Paschal candle is carried by the celebrant if there is no deacon. After it is carried to the chancel, its flame may be used to light candles held by members of the congregation. This symbolizes the spreading of the light of Christ into the congregation and the world. The Exsultet is sung or said after the Paschal candle is placed in its stand. It is customary for the Paschal candle to burn at all services from Easter through Pentecost (BCP, pp. 285-287). After the Easter season, the Paschal candle is typically placed near the font. It should burn at baptisms, representing the new life in Christ that we share in baptism. The newly baptized person may be given a small baptismal candle that is lit from the Paschal candle. It may also be carried in procession at burials and placed near the coffin as a symbol of resurrection life.

Asperges—The liturgical practice of sprinkling with holy water as a reminder of baptism. The term comes from the Latin version of Ps 51, "Thou shalt sprinkle me with hyssop." The asperges may be done after the Renewal of Baptismal Vows at the Easter Vigil. It may also be done as a preparatory ceremony before the eucharist, with the altar, clergy, and people all sprinkled with holy water. Historically, it was performed as a kind of exorcism and cleansing of a building or other place for liturgical services. An aspergillum is used for sprinkling the holy water.

Aspergillum—Brush, branch, metal rod, or other instrument used to sprinkle holy water at the asperges.

Holy Water—Water that has been blessed for religious and devotional use. It may symbolize purification, blessing, dedication, and renewal of the baptismal covenant. An aspergillum (tube with holes) or a small branch of a tree or shrub may be used to sprinkle holy water during a church service or at other times. It is especially appropriate to sprinkle the congregation with holy water at the Renewal of Baptismal Vows at the Easter Vigil (BCP, p. 292) and at other times of renewal of the baptismal

covenant. The asperges is the ceremony of sprinkling holy water over the altar, clergy, and people before the eucharist. Some parishes use a stoup, basin, or font to make holy water available to those who enter the church. Those who wish to participate in the pious custom of “taking holy water” may touch it with the fingers, placing a drop of it on the forehead while making the sign of the cross on the forehead, chest, and shoulders. The early origin of this custom is evidenced by the presence of stoups for holy water in ancient basilicas. Holy water has been known as “lustral water,” reflecting its symbolic role in purification. A rubric in the service for Restoring of Things Profaned in the BOS notes that each profaned object may be symbolically cleansed by use of water or incense as signs of purification.

Holy Water Font/Stoup—A **holy water font** or **stoup** is a vessel containing holy water which is generally placed near the entrance of a church. It is often placed at the base of a crucifix or religious representation. It is used in the Catholic Church, Anglican Churches, and some Lutheran churches to make the Sign of the Cross using the holy water upon entrance of the church.^[1] Holy water is blessed by a priest and many Christians believe it to be a reminder of the baptismal promises.

Regina Caeli (O Queen of Heaven)—The *Regina Coeli* is a Marian and Christological prayer celebrating the Resurrection of Jesus, and the sign of the cross is a blessing that prepares the heart and mind for the prayer. It is also a reminder of the Trinity and the saving work of Christ.

MUSIC ACKNOWLEDGMENTS & PERMISSIONS FOR USE

Psalm 23 Refrain & Antiphon

from the Hymnal *Lift Every Voice & Sing, II*

Text: Leon C. Robert

Refrain: Robert Knox Kennedy

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Easter Gospel Acclamation

Chaz Bowers

Service music

Easter Opening Acclamation, *Sursum corda*, *Sanctus*, & Permission
by RiteSong online music library for one-time use of this material
for congregational use.

The Great Amen

James Chepponis from *Jubilation Mass*

The Fraction Anthem

Setting: Mode 6 melody; adapt. Mason Martens

Offertory Anthem

“Bread of Life”

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Mark Your Calendar

May 9th (Saturday)

Parish Picnic (Sesquicentennial Park); 11:00am-3:00pm

May 10th

Bishop's Visitation w/Confirmation (Kennedy Johnson & Nadia Muhammad)

Mother's Day

Rogation Sunday

May 14th (Thursday)

The Feast of the Ascension – 6:30pm

Guest Speaker: The Rev. Taliaferro Robinson-Heyward

May 21st

The 155th anniversary of the founding St. Luke's Episcopal Church. The anniversary will be observed and celebrated on Sunday, October 18th (The Feast of Saint Luke).

May 24th

The Day of Pentecost

Rector's Sabbatical Luncheon (information forthcoming from the Wardens)

May 31st

The First Sunday after Pentecost (Trinity Sunday)

Youth Sunday

June 1st (Monday)

Rector's Sabbatical begins.

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St. Luke's Episcopal Church

1300 Pine Street/Columbia, South Carolina 29204

(803) 254-2327

St. Luke's Vestry

Class of 2026

Yvonne Hall

Joni James

Errol Porter, *Sr. Warden*

Beverly Turner, *Jr. Warden*

Class of 2027

Angela Blalock

Robert Green

Joseph Ray

Rudolph Wise

Class of 2028

Edwina Fields

Cynthia Goines

Herman Hickman

Cynthia Parker Reed

~

Patricia Ancrum, *Clerk of the Vestry*

Sheryl D. Belcher, *Parish Secretary*

~

Karen Castelli, *Website Administrator*

Shauna Hicks, *Newsletter Editor*

Valerie Riley, *Executive Director—Fresh Start Ministry*

~

Patricia Cokley, *Parish Treasurer*

Darnell Holmes, William Smith, Jr., *Asst. Parish Treasurers*

Sheryl D. Belcher, *Assoc. Parish Treasurer*

stlukesolumbia@gmail.com (Email)
www.facebook.com/stlukesolumbia

<http://www.stlukescolasc.org> (Website)
YouTube: @Fr.Raphiell6290

“The Episcopal Church is a secret too well kept. Many are starved for what we experience daily and too easily take for granted. Invite others to come to your parish to experience this joy.”

Louie Crew, author of *101 Reasons to be Episcopalian*