

SAINT LUKE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Organized 1871

Celebrating 155 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 Sixth Sunday of Easter
(Rogation Sunday)**

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

May 10, 2026

10:00AM

The Rt. Rev. Daniel P. Richards, IX Diocesan Bishop

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>

QR CODE FOR GIVING



*Use your phone to hold over the image

The Order of Procession

Thurifer & Boat Bearer

+

Crucifer

+

Torch Bearers

+

Banner Bearer

+

Crucifer 2

+

Choir

+

Confirmands

+

Lay Eucharistic Minister

+

Gospel Book Bearer

+

Clergy Crucifer

+

Priest

+

Deacon

+

Bishop

Saint Luke's Episcopal Church



It is the parish custom to observe silence prior to the start of the Eucharist. Be thoughtful, be silent, be reverent, for this is the House of God. Before the service, speak to the Lord, during the service, let the Lord speak to you; after the service, speak to one another.

We invite you to join us as an active participant in our worship of God.

This bulletin is your guide to our worship. You will find three books in front of you that contain most of the material needed for this service. We will use *The Book of Common Prayer [BCP]*, *The Hymnal 1982 [H]*, and *Lift Every Voice and Sing, II [L]*. [S] denotes service music which is found in the front of the hymnal.

Vocal Prelude “I Want Jesus to Walk with Me” Edward Boatner
Elliott Brown, tenor

Organ Prelude “Sonata No. 4 in E Minor BWV 528 J.S.Bach
II. Andante

Introit L·41 “Christ Has Arisen, Alleluia!” *Haya Tune*

✠ indicates where to make the sign of the cross

**At the ringing of the bell, all stand.

THE WORD OF GOD

Hymn in Procession H·370

“I Bind unto Myself Today” *St. Patrick's Breastplate*

The Opening Acclamation ✠

Celebrant
Al - le - lu - ia. Christ is ris - en.

People
The Lord is risen indeed. Al - le - lu - ia.

The Bishop then continues

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

The Salutation

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

The Collect of the Day

O God, you have prepared for those who love you such good things as surpass our understanding: Pour into our hearts such love towards you, that we, loving you in all things and above all things, may obtain your promises, which exceed all that we can desire; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

**The people sit.*

The Lesson

Acts 17:22-31

Lector: A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, "Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, 'To an unknown god.' What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. For 'In him we live and move and have our being'; as even some of your own poets have said, 'For we too are his offspring.' Since we are God's offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an

image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.”

[Silence]

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 66:7-18 *Jubilate Deo*

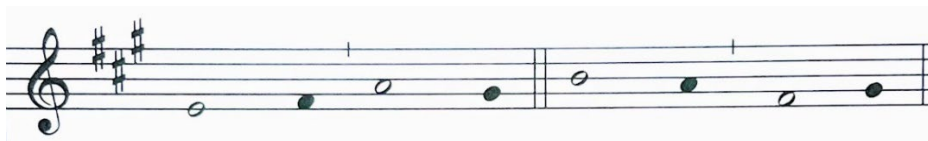
**The antiphon is sung first by the Cantor and then by all; thereafter where indicated.*



Be joy-ful in God, all you lands.

A

B



A7 Bless our God, you peoples; *
make the voice of his praise to be heard;

B8 Who holds our souls in life, *
and will not allow our feet to slip. {Antiphon}

A 9 For you, O God, have proved us; *
you have tried us just as silver is tried

B10 You brought us into the snare; *
you laid heavy burdens upon our backs.

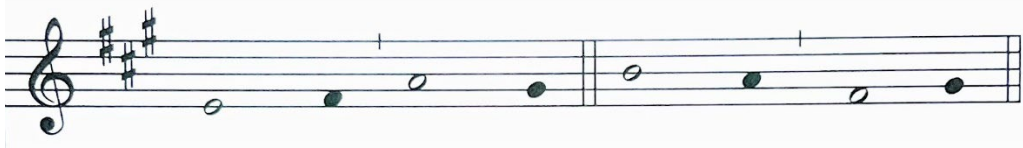
B11 You let enemies ride over our heads;
we went through fire and water; *
but you brought us out into a place of refreshment. {Antiphon}



Be joy-ful in God, all you lands.

A

B



A12 I will enter your house with burnt-offerings
and will pay you my vows, *
which I promised with my lips
and spoke with my mouth when I was in trouble.

B13 I will offer you sacrifices of fat beasts
with the smoke of rams; *
I will give you oxen and goats. {Antiphon}

A14 Come and listen, all you who fear God, *
and I will tell you what he has done for me.

B15 I called out to him with my mouth, *
and his praise was on my tongue. {Antiphon}

A16 If I had found evil in my heart, *
the Lord would not have heard me;

B17 But in truth God has heard me; *
he has attended to the voice of my prayer.

B18 Blessed be God, who has not rejected my prayer, *
nor withheld his love from me. {Antiphon}

The Epistle

1 Peter 3:13-22

Lector: A reading from the first Letter of Peter

Now who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated, but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and reverence. Keep your conscience clear, so that, when you are maligned, those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame. For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God's will, than to suffer for doing evil. For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water. And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you-- not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

[Silence]

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

The Sequence Hymn H · 455 “O Love of God, How Strong and True” *Dunedin*

The Easter Gospel Acclamation

*Sung first by the Cantor; then by all.

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



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

The Holy Gospel

John 14:15-21

Priest The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ ☩ according to John

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus said, "If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you. "I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them."

Priest The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Sermon

The Right Reverend Daniel P. Richards
The Episcopal Diocese of Upper South Carolina

The Rite of Confirmation BCP 415

The Presentation and Examination of the Candidates BCP 415

Presenter: The Rev. Raphiell Ashford

Candidate: Kennedy Leah Johnson

Sponsors: Deborah Martin, Loretta Johnson,
Levi Johnson, III, Venesia Johnson

Candidate: Nadia Jamillah Muhammad

Sponsors: Tommye McMillan, Beverly Ray, Beverly Turner, Corliss Wise

The Baptismal Covenant BCP 416

Prayers for the Candidates BCP 417

At Confirmation (*The Bishop lays hands upon each candidate.*) BCP 418

The Asperges (Sprinkling Rite during Eastertide)

(✠ when sprinkled with the Holy Water)

Hymn "I Saw Water Flowing from the Temple" *Vidi Aquam*

*Sung by the Choir during the Asperges

The Peace

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People And also with you.

Announcements/Birthday & Anniversary Blessings Fr. Raphiell

Bishop's Remarks The Rt. Rev. Daniel P. Richards

The Offertory Sentence The Rt. Rev. Daniel P. Richards

CONCERNING THE OFFERING

This morning's undesignated offering goes to the **bishop's discretionary fund** for support of emergencies and non-budgeted ministries that arise in the course of the year. (These offerings have made significant differences, especially to clergy in special need.). For checks, put the words "Bishop's Discretionary Fund" on the memo line.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

The Offertory Anthem "Have You Not Known?"

K. Lee Scott

Congregation and Choir

4. Have you not known? Have you not heard? Has it not been told
you that the ev - er - last - ing God nei - ther tires — nor grows wea -
ry? E'en youths shall stum - ble help - less - ly, the young grow weak and
Refrain
faint. But they that wait — on the LORD shall re - new their
strength. They shall mount — up as ea - gles; they shall run and not grow
wea - ry; they shall walk — and nev - er faint.
Repeat Refrain

At the Presentation of Alms

*All standing

"Praise God from Whom All Blessing Flow"

Lasst uns erfreuen

Praise God from whom all bless - ings flow, Al - le - lu - ia, al - le -
Praise him all crea - tures here be - low:
lu - ia! Praise him a - bove, ye heav'n - ly host, Al - le - lu - ia, al - le -
praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost:
lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

The Prayer of Consecration

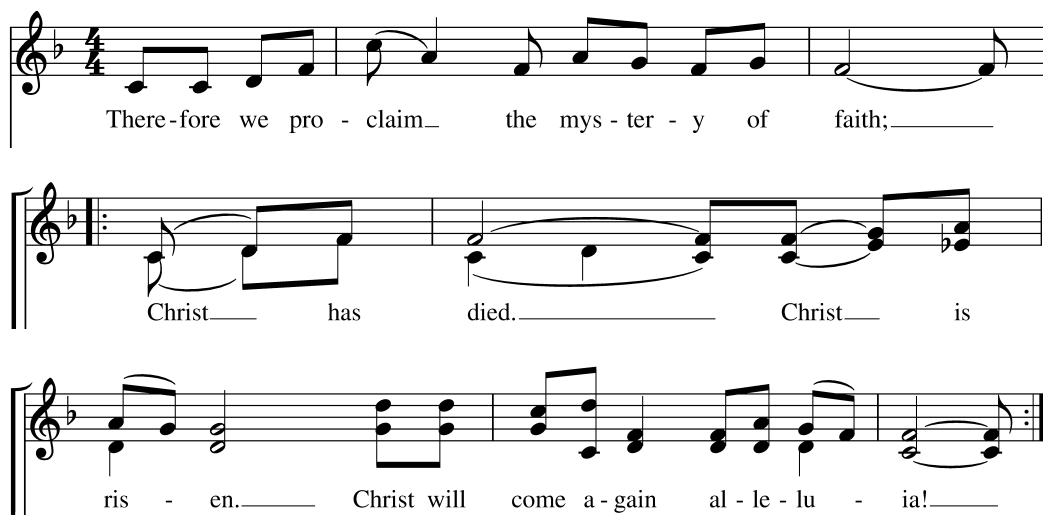
BCP 362

✠ do this in remembrance of me

The Memorial Acclamation L257

Clarence Jos. Rivers

*Priest/Cantor sings the Introduction



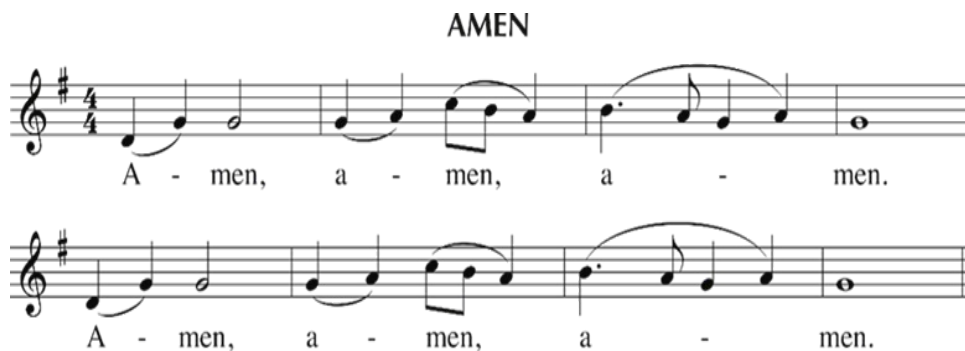
There-fore we pro - claim_ the mys - ter - y of faith; _____
Christ_____ has died. _____ Christ_____ is
ris - en. _____ Christ will come a - gain al - le - lu - ia! _____

✠ (*At the invoking of the Holy Spirit*) "Sanctify us also that we ..."

The Great Amen

*The Priest/Cantor sings the first "Amen."

AMEN



A - men, a - men, a - men.
A - men, a - men, a - men.

The Lord's Prayer (*Pater Noster*)

BCP 364

*The priest begins the *Pater Noster*

The Breaking of the Bread (The Fraction)

*A period of brief silence is kept.

The Fraction Anthem "Be Known to Us, Lord Jesus" Setting: Mode 6 melody

This setting is not used in Lent.

Antiphon: Cantor; then All



Be known to us, Lord Je - sus, in the break - ing of the bread.



1. The bread which we break, al - le - lu - ia,



is the com - mun - ion of the bo - dy of Christ. [Ant.]



2. One bo - dy are we, al - le - lu - ia,



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.

✠ **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.*

Postlude

“Toccata in B Minor”

Eugène Gigout

*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.

Parish Fellowship is sponsored by the Committee on Special Services & Events. Please join us in Griffin Hall for food, fellowship, and a few remarks from Bishop Richards

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The Altar Flowers are given by the Muhammad, Evans, and Aiken Families to the glory of God and in loving memory of Dr. Matilda A. Evans on the occasion of her birthday and Mother’s Day, and in honor of Mattie Evans Aiken.

“Her children arise up, and call her blessed; ...” (Proverbs 31:28)

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, Theodora Washington
- **Diocesan Cycle of Prayer:** Ministry of the Commission for Congregations
- **Birthdays:** Erica Baker (14th)
- **Anniversaries:**
- **Births:** Dalaini Robinson
(daughter of the Rev. & Mrs. Taliaferro Robinson-Heyward)
- **Deaths:** The Rev. Dr. Samuel K. Lewis (First Calvary Baptist Church)
- **Traveling Mercies:**
- **Confirmands:** Kennedy L. Johnson, Nadia J. Muhammad
- **Graduations:** Peyton Parker-Smith, Carmen Dreher Jordan, Elliott Brown, Kaiyah Robinson, Daryl Hammonds, Sr., DaVanyné Kight, Solomon Spann, IV

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PARISH FELLOWSHIP...Please join us for lunch in Griffin Hall after the service and to meet and greet the Bishop, Deacon, and the newly confirmed.

RECTOR'S SABBATICAL LUNCHEON...A "Sabbatical Luncheon" for the Rector will be held in Griffin Hall on Sunday, May 24th (The Day of Pentecost) at 12 noon to collect a free will offering to help him with miscellaneous sabbatical expenses (unplanned incidentals that might incur during his sabbatical leave June through August 2026). A basket will be located at Griffin Hall for you to place funds. Envelopes will be available, if needed.

In addition, the Rector & several parishioners from the Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd will join us for the luncheon. If you have any questions regarding the luncheon, please address them to the Senior & Junior Warden.

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. **The diocesan office will contact those who have registered but have not completed 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, the importance of security cannot be taken lightly. Please consider giving a donation for Security so that we may be proactive and 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 to present glorious choral & instrumental music to the glory of God. Please consider contributing towards this fund

CONFIRMATION DRIVE: Starting June 1st – June 30th, we will have our annual Confirmation Drive. Each parishioner is asked to pay \$1 for each year of their confirmation. A list will be posted in the Narthex and in Griffin Hall. The proceeds of the drive will go to choir funding.

SERVANTS FOR THE LORD

Celebrant & Preacher

+The Rt. Rev. Daniel P. Richards

Deacon of the Word & Mass

The Rev. Deacon Rocky Dworak

The Old Testament Lector

Beverly Turner

Lay Eucharistic Minister

DeNell Hickman

Intercessor

Amy Husmann

Gospel Book Bearer

Herman Hickman

Gospeller

The Rev. Dcn. Rocky Dworak

Thurifer & Boat Bearer

Desmond Goines

Videographer

Deadra Bowden

Security

Terrell McCombs

Cantors

Angela Blalock

Christine Counts-Davis, Sean Buggs

The Epistoler

Patwin Lawrence

Server/Liturgical Assistant

Herman Hickman

Crucifers

Levi Johnson, III

Herman Hickman

Isabella Bracy

Banner Bearer

Darnell Holmes

Oblation Bearers

Brian & Stephanie Baldwin

Ushers

Karen Castelli

Joseph Evans

Rachel Hall

Torch Bearers

CHOIR

Angela Blalock, Elliott Brown, Sean Buggs,
Christine Counts-Davis, Marie Martin, Kaiyah Robinson

MAY 2026 CALENDAR OF SERVICES/MEETINGS/EVENTS

| MAY | SERVICE/MEETING/EVENT | TIME & PLACE |
|------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 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 |
| | Confirmation Luncheon | 11:45am Griffin Hall |
| | 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) | |

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|------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|
| 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 | 12:00 noon 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 |

LITURGICAL NOTES

CONFIRMATION

The sacramental rite in which the candidates "express a mature commitment to Christ, and receive strength from the Holy Spirit through prayer and the laying on of hands by a bishop" (BCP, p. 860). Those who were baptized at an early age and those baptized as adults without laying on of hands by a bishop are expected to make a mature public affirmation of their faith, recommit themselves to the responsibilities of their baptism, and receive laying on of hands by a bishop (BCP, p. 412). Adults baptized with the laying on of hands by a bishop are considered to be confirmed.

The Prayer Book rite for Confirmation includes forms for Reception and the Reaffirmation of Baptismal Vows. In some dioceses, those who have already made a mature Christian commitment in another denomination are recognized as members of the one holy catholic and apostolic church, and received into the fellowship of the Episcopal Church and the Anglican Communion. In other dioceses, those who have been sacramentally confirmed in the Roman Catholic or Orthodox churches are received and others are confirmed. Those who have returned from a time of religious inactivity to an active practice of faith may publicly reaffirm their baptismal vows. Others who have experienced a renewal of faith or desire to renew their Christian commitment may also reaffirm their baptismal vows. Reaffirmation may be repeated, depending on the pastoral needs of the person. Preparation for Confirmation/Reception/Reaffirmation should help the candidates discover the meaning of Christian commitment in their lives, and explore ways that their Christian commitment can be lived. This preparation may draw upon the baptismal covenant (BCP, pp. 416-417) and An Outline of the Faith (BCP, pp. 845-862).

Confirmation, Reception, and Reaffirmation are rooted in the baptismal covenant. When there is no baptism, the entrance rite for Confirmation/Reception/Reaffirmation follows the entrance rite for baptism (BCP, p. 413). Candidates for Confirmation, Reception, and Reaffirmation are presented in separate groups by their presenters. Candidates may have individual presenters who will support them in their Christian life by prayer and example. The candidates reaffirm their renunciation of evil, and renew their commitment to Jesus Christ. They reaffirm the promises made by them or for them at the time of baptism. Those present in the congregation promise to do all in their power to support the candidates in their life in Christ. The bishop leads the congregation in renewing the baptismal covenant. The Prayers for the Candidates from the baptismal liturgy may be used as the Prayers for the Candidates for Confirmation/Reception/Reaffirmation (BCP, p. 417). The bishop lays hands on each candidate for Confirmation. The bishop may shake hands with those who are being received to welcome them into this communion, and the bishop may lay hands on them in blessing. The bishop may also bless those who reaffirm their baptismal vows.

The Episcopal Church's theology of Confirmation has continued to evolve along with its understanding of baptism. Confirmation is no longer seen as the completion of Christian initiation, nor is Confirmation a prerequisite for receiving communion. Baptism is full initiation by water and the Holy Spirit into Christ's body the church (BCP, p. 298). Accordingly, Confirmation has been increasingly understood in terms of a mature, public reaffirmation of the Christian faith and the baptismal promises. There is considerable diversity of understanding and practice concerning Confirmation in the Episcopal Church. Confirmation has been characterized as "a rite seeking a theology."

The Great Fifty Days of Easter

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.

Regina Caeli (O Queen of Heaven)—The *Regina Caeli* 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.

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.

Rogation Sunday—Traditionally, these are the three days before Ascension Day on which the litany is sung (or recited) in procession as an act of intercession. They originated in Vienne, France, in the fifth century when Bishop Mamertus introduced days of fasting and prayer to ward off a threatened disaster. In England they were associated with the blessing of the fields at planting. The vicar “beat the bounds” of the parish, processing around the fields reciting psalms and the litany. In the United States they have been associated with rural life and with agriculture and fishing. The propers in the BCP (pp. 207-208, 258-259, 930) have widened their scope to include commerce and industry and the stewardship of creation. The BCP also permits their celebration at other times to accommodate different regional growing seasons. The BOS contains material for a Rogation procession, including petitions to be added to the Great Litany and the prayers of the people. The term is from the Latin *rogatio*, “asking.”

What Are Rogation Days

—In the old tradition of the *Ecclesia Anglicana* and of the Catholic Church in the west, the Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday before the Feast of the Ascension are called Rogation Days. These days of fasting and abstinence are preparation for the feast of the Ascension. The Rogation Days are much neglected in today's church, but if we are to have a Harvest Festival (Great Britain) or a Thanksgiving Day (USA), it makes good sense to observe the Rogations Days, as these days are the days upon which special supplication for fruitful seasons and a good harvest are made to God. Furthermore, the spiritual disciplines of fasting and prayer that are meant to characterize the 3 Rogation Days is a means by which we prepare for our celebration of Christ's glorious ascension, which we will observe on Holy Thursday (the 40th day after his mighty resurrection).

The origin of these Rogation Days seems to be an order by Mamertus, the Bishop of Vienne in about AD 470. After an earthquake he instructed that special litanies be offered for God's care and protection, asking for provision by heaven of the fruit of the earth. The custom spread through Gaul, to England and to Rome. In England the custom was required by Canon 16 of the Council of Clovesho in 747.

The Rogation Days survived the Reformation in England and thus in 1559 we find Queen Elizabeth requiring by Royal Injunction the restoration of a perambulation of the parish boundaries/fields to pray for a good harvest. Likewise, in 1562 the official [Second] Book of Homilies included "*An Homily for the Days of Rogation Week*", which was divided into three parts in keeping with the 3 Rogation Days. The Rogation Days were typically kept by the clergy and people processing around the parish boundaries, while saying or singing prayers. It is from these Rogation Day prayers, as they are found in the Sarum Missal, that Cranmer formulated the Litany (1545), which was his first work of liturgical reform. After this it became the custom that in any parish in which the Rogation Day procession was not being observed, the Litany was sung in the church instead.

Rogation Sunday and the Rogation Days that follow remind us that the members of the Church militant on earth need to be fed both by the fruit of the earth [thus the need for supplication in Rogation and thanksgiving at Harvest] and by the gifts, graces, virtues and characteristics of the Lord Jesus Christ, who ascends into heaven to be our exalted Prophet, Priest and King. The week containing Holy Thursday and the three Rogation Days is thus very important.

The Feast of the Ascension

The Feast of the Ascension, which is one of the Principal Feasts of the church year and takes place 40 days after Easter Day, is when we mark Jesus being taken up into heaven after his post-Resurrection appearances. Ascension Day is this Thursday.

Did You Know?

In The Episcopal Church, bishops are the highest order of ministry, categorized by their administrative roles rather than strict sacramental ranking. The primary ranks include the Presiding Bishop (national leader), Diocesan Bishop (head of a diocese), Bishop Coadjutor (successor), Bishop Suffragan (assistant), and Assistant Bishop.

Episcopal Bishop Hierarchy and Types

- **Presiding Bishop:** The Chief Pastor and Primate of the church, elected for a nine-year term to lead the national church and House of Bishops.
- **Diocesan Bishop (Ordinary):** The bishop in charge of a specific geographical diocese, holding primary authority within that jurisdiction.
- **Bishop Coadjutor:** A bishop elected to assist the Diocesan Bishop and who automatically succeeds them upon their retirement or resignation.
- **Bishop Suffragan:** A bishop elected by a diocese to assist the Diocesan Bishop, but who does not have the right of succession.
- **Assistant Bishop:** A bishop appointed by the Diocesan Bishop (with consent) to assist, usually for a set time, often a retired bishop assisting in a diocese.
- **Provisional Bishop:** A bishop who provides temporary leadership to a diocese that does not have its own elected Diocesan Bishop.
- **Titles and Styles**
- **The Most Rev. (Name):** Used for the Presiding Bishop.
- **The Rt. Rev. (Name):** Used for all consecrated bishops (Diocesan, Coadjutor, Suffragan, Assistant).
- **"Baby Bishop":** An informal, affectionate term for a newly ordained bishop. All bishops have equal sacramental authority, meaning any bishop can perform the duties of a bishop (such as ordinations, confirmations, and consecrations), regardless of whether they are a Diocesan, Suffragan, or Assistant.

SERMON NOTES/QUESTIONS/REFLECTIONS

MUSIC ACKNOWLEDGMENTS & PERMISSIONS FOR USE

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.

Sprinkling Rite

Vatican II Hymnal, ccwatershed.org/vatican

The Memorial Acclamation

Music: Clarence Jos. Rivers; Accomp. Edward Stanton Cottle; choral arr. William Foster McDaniel Composer intends a threefold repetition; unison, S.A.T.B., congregation and S.A.T.B. Copyright © 1972 Clarence J. Rivers. All Rights Reserved. Published by Stimuli, Inc., 17 Erkenbrecher Ave., Cincinnati, OH 46220-2202.

The Great Amen

James Chepponis from *Jubilation Mass*

The Fraction Anthem

Setting: Mode 6 melody; adapt. Mason Martens

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St. Luke's
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

1300 PINE ST.
COLUMBIA, SC 29204

THE SIXTH SUNDAY OF
EASTER
(Rogation Sunday)

THE HOLY EUCHARIST:
RITE II *with* THE RITE OF CONFIRMATION

SUNDAY, MAY 10TH, 2026
10:00 AM

CONFIRMATION CANDIDATES



Kennedy L. Johnson



Nadia J. Muhammad

THE REV. RAPHIELL ASHFORD
RECTOR & PRIEST



St. Luke's
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

1300 PINE ST.
COLUMBIA, SC 29204

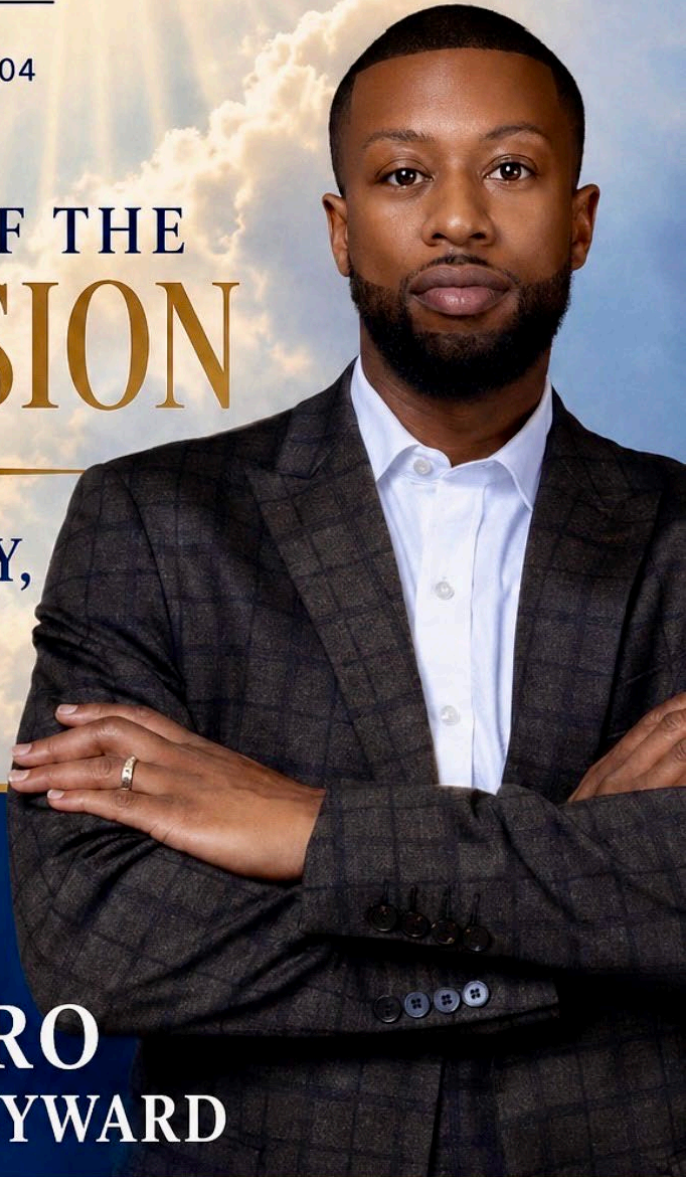
THE FEAST OF THE ASCENSION



**THURSDAY,
MAY 14TH
@ 6:30PM**

GUEST SPEAKER:

The Reverend
**TALIAFERRO
ROBINSON-HEYWARD**



Grandson of Parishioner Eunice Robinson

St. Luke's Episcopal Church

1300 Pine Street/Columbia, South Carolina 29204

(803) 254-2327

St. Luke's Vestry

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Joni James

Errol Porter, *Sr. Warden*

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Robert Green

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Cynthia Goines

Herman Hickman

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~

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Sheryl D. Belcher, *Parish Secretary*

~

Karen Castelli, *Website Administrator*

Shauna Hicks, *Newsletter Editor*

Valerie Riley, *Executive Director—Fresh Start Ministry*

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Patricia Cokley, *Parish Treasurer*

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“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*