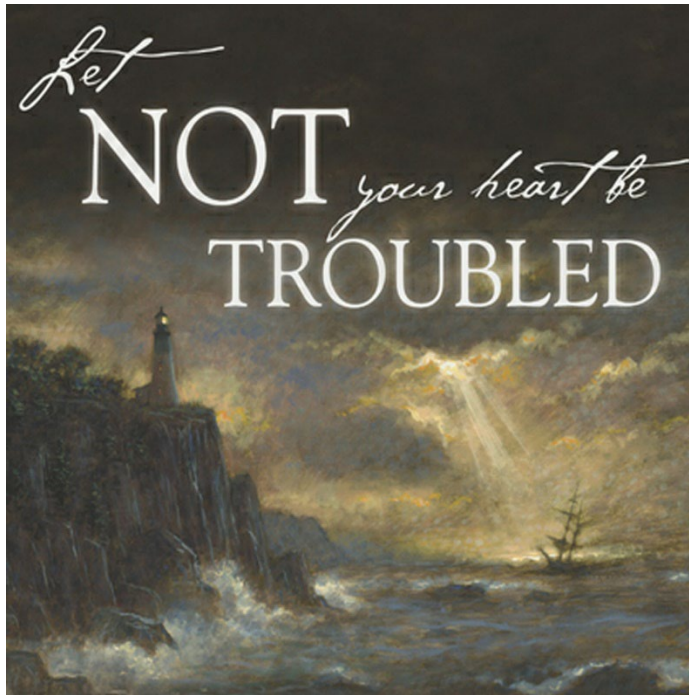


SAINT LUKE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Organized 1871

Celebrating 154Years 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 Fifth Sunday of Easter

The Holy Eucharist: Rite II

May 3, 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>

QR CODE FOR GIVING



*Use your phone to hold over the image

The Collect for Purity

Celebrant Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit; that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

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.

Almighty God, whom truly to know is everlasting life: Grant us so perfectly to know your Son Jesus Christ to be the way, the truth, and the life, that we may steadfastly follow his steps in the way that leads to eternal life; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

**The people sit.*

The Lesson

Acts 7:55-60

Lector: A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Filled with the Holy Spirit, Stephen gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. “Look,” he said, “I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!” But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him; and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, “Lord, do not hold this sin against them.” When he had said this, he died.

[Silence]

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16 *In te, Domine, speravi*

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



In - cline your ear to me, O
Lord; make haste, make
haste to de - li - ver me.



A B

A1 In you, O LORD, have I taken refuge;
let me never be put to shame; *
deliver me in your righteousness.

B2 Incline your ear to me; *
make haste to deliver me.

B3 Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe,
for you are my crag and my stronghold; *
for the sake of your Name, lead me and guide me. {Antiphon}

A4 Take me out of the net that they have secretly set for me, *
for you are my tower of strength.

B5 Into your hands I commend my spirit, *
for you have redeemed me,
O LORD, O God of truth. {Antiphon}

In - cline your ear to me, O
 Lord; make haste, make
 haste to de - li - ver me.

A B

A15 My times are in your hand; *
 rescue me from the hand of my enemies,
 and from those who persecute me.

B16 Make your face to shine upon your servant, *
 and in your loving-kindness save me. {Antiphon}

The Epistle

1 Peter 2:2-10

Lector: A Reading from the First Letter of Peter

Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation— if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good. Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God’s sight, and like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For it stands in scripture: “See, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.” To you then who believe, he is precious; but for those who do not believe, “The stone that the builders rejected has become the very head of the corner”, and “A stone that makes them stumble, and a rock that makes them fall.” They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do. But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God’s people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

[Silence]

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

The Sequence Hymn H • 536 “Open Your Ears, O Faithful People” *Torah Song*

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.”* (I Cor. 5:7)

The Holy Gospel John 14:1-14

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

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus said, “Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father’s house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going.” Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.” Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.” Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you all this time, Philip,

and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.”

Priest The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Sermon

The Rev. Raphiell Ashford

The Nicene Creed

BCP 358

✠ “and the life of the world to come. Amen.

The Prayers of the People Form VI

BCP 392

✠ “We pray for all who have died”

The Peace

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People And also with you.

Announcements/Birthday & Anniversary Blessings

Fr. Raphiell+

THE HOLY COMMUNION

The Offertory Anthem

“Ave Maria”

Franz Schubert

Jennifer Ancrum, soprano

At the Presentation of Alms

**All standing*

“Praise God from Whom All Blessing Flow”

Lasst uns erfreuen

Praise God from whom all blessings flow, Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-
Praise him all creatures 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 Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer “A”

BCP 361

**The people remain standing.*

Sursum corda

Celebrant The Lord be with you. *People* And al-so with you.
Celebrant Lift up your hearts. *People* We lift them to the Lord.
Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People It is right to give him thanks and praise.

**The Celebrant proceeds*

Sanctus et Benedictus

from *A Community Mass*; Proulx

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 kneel or sit.*

The Prayer of Consecration

BCP 362

✠ do this in remembrance of me

The Memorial Acclamation L257

Clarence Jos. Rivers

(At the invoking of the Holy Spirit)

✠ Sanctify us also that we ...

The Great Amen

*The Priest sings the first "Amen."

AMEN

Two staves of musical notation in G major and 4/4 time. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody is: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), A4-G4 (beamed eighth notes), F#4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), D4 (half). The lyrics are: A - men, a - men, a - men. The second staff is identical to the first.

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

This setting is not used in Lent.

Antiphon: Cantor; then All

Single staff of musical notation in G major and 4/4 time. The melody is: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), A4-G4 (beamed eighth notes), F#4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), D4 (half). The lyrics are: Be known to us, Lord Je - sus, in the break - ing of the bread.

Cantor

Single staff of musical notation in G major and 4/4 time. The melody is: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), A4-G4 (beamed eighth notes), F#4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), D4 (half). The lyrics are: 1. The bread which we break, al - le - lu - ia,

Single staff of musical notation in G major and 4/4 time. The melody is: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), A4-G4 (beamed eighth notes), F#4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), D4 (half). The lyrics are: is the com - mun - ion of the bo - dy of Christ. [Ant.]

Cantor

Single staff of musical notation in G major and 4/4 time. The melody is: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), A4-G4 (beamed eighth notes), F#4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), D4 (half). The lyrics are: 2. One bo - dy are we, al - le - lu - ia,

Single staff of musical notation in G major and 4/4 time. The melody is: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), A4-G4 (beamed eighth notes), F#4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), D4 (half). 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•487

“Come, my Way, my Truth, my Life”

The Call

H•51

“We the Lord’s People”

Decatur Place

L•126

“Hark! the Voice of Jesus Calling”

J.C. Lenderman

The Post Communion Hymn “My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less” *Solid Rock*

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♦ 525 “The Church’s One Foundation”

Aurelia

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, Theodora Washington
- **Diocesan Cycle of Prayer...**St. Philip’s, Greenville; St. James, Greenville
- **Birthdays...**Irma Scott (3rd), Karen Castelli (8th), Trinessa Kirby (9th), Lanier Leby (9th)
- **Anniversaries...**
- **Births...**
- **Deaths...**David McFarland, III, The Rev. Dr. Sameul K. Lewis
- **Traveling Mercies...**
- **Confirmands...**Kennedy L. Johnson, Nadia J. Muhammad

~

**Parish Fellowship is sponsored by Patricia Ancrum
& the Special Events Committee**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PARISH FELLOWSHIP...Please join the Ancrum family in Griffin Hall for a short program after the service.

BISHOP'S VISITATION...Bishop Richards will visit the parish on next Sunday, May 10th. He will preach, administer the Rite of Confirmation, and serve as the Celebrant for the service. A luncheon will be held in Griffin Hall.

PARISH PICNIC...Due to an error/misunderstanding in scheduling, the original date for the picnic was actually May 2nd, not May 9th. The next available opening for the parish to secure the pavilion with electricity is Saturday, August 29th. The pavilion has been secured for that date.

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. 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. **(See Letter Below)**

Wardens Note: Sabbatical Luncheon for Father Raphiell Ashford

Errol Porter, Senior Warden and Beverly Turner, Junior Warden invite the parishioners of St. Luke's, the Rector and parishioners from the Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd, the Diocesan House Staff, and Sabbatical Supply priests to attend a Sabbatical Luncheon celebration for Father Raphiell Ashford, Rector. The event happens Sunday May 24, 2026 at 12:00 p.m. at St. Luke's Episcopal Church (Griffin Hall).

The purpose for this luncheon is to donate monetary funds for Father Raphiell to use for 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.

If there are questions phone the church office (803) 254-2327 and leave a message with the secretary. It will be relayed to one of the Wardens for a reply.

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 diocese 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, 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

Paulette Parker-Smith

The Epistoler

John Bowden

The Gospel Book Bearer

Stephanie Baldwin

Server

Herman Hickman

Intercessor

Daniel Ancrum

Lay Eucharistic Minister

Stephanie Baldwin

Thurifer

Herman Hickman

Crucifer

Jaylen Caldwell

Videographer

Deadra Bowden

Oblation Bearers

Cynthia Parker Reed

Amy Husmann

Security

Ushers

Judy Battiste

Brian Baldwin

Darnell Holmes

Cantors

Angela Blalock

Shekinah Frieson

MAY 2026 CALENDAR OF SERVICES/MEETINGS/EVENTS

MAY	SERVICE/MEETING/EVENT	TIME & PLACE
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
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	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

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

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.

AVE MARIA

The Hail Mary or Ave Maria (from its first words in Latin), also known as the Angelic Salutation, is a traditional Catholic prayer addressing Mary, the mother of Jesus. The prayer is based on two biblical passages featured in the Gospel of Luke: The Angel Gabriel's visit to Mary (the Annunciation) and Mary's subsequent visit to Elizabeth, the mother of John the Baptist (the Visitation). It is also called the Angelical Salutation, as the prayer is based on the Archangel Gabriel's words to Mary.[3] The Hail Mary is a prayer of praise for and of petition to Mary, regarded as the Theotokos (Mother of God). Since the 16th century, the version of the prayer used in the Catholic Church closes with an appeal for her intercession. The prayer takes different forms in various traditions and has often been set to music.

In the Latin Church, the Hail Mary forms the basis of other prayers such as the Angelus and the Rosary. In the psalmody of the Oriental Orthodox Churches a daily Theotokion is devoted to ascribing praise to the Mother of God.[4] In addition, the Eastern Orthodox Churches have a common private prayer quite similar to the Hail Mary, though without the explicit request for intercession. The Eastern Catholic Churches follow their respective traditions or adopt the Latin Church version, which is also used by many other Western groups historically branching from the Catholic Church, such as Lutherans, Anglicans, Independent Catholics, and Old Catholics.

The Ave Maria originates from two passages in the Gospel of Luke. The first is the Annunciation, where the Archangel Gabriel greets Mary: "Hail, full of grace, the Lord is with thee" (Luke 1:28), acknowledging her unique role in salvation history. The second is the Visitation, when Elizabeth, filled with the Holy Spirit, exclaims: "Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb" (Luke 1:42), recognizing Mary as the mother of Jesus. These two greetings form the foundation of the prayer.

Structure and Meaning

The prayer has three main parts:

1. **Praise and Reverence:** The opening words, "Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee," honor Mary's singular holiness and her complete reception of God's grace.
2. **Acknowledgment of Jesus:** "Blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus" emphasizes her role as the Mother of God and the source of salvation.
3. **Petition for Intercession:** The concluding words, "Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death," ask Mary to intercede on behalf of the faithful, reflecting the Catholic belief in her role as Mediatrix of All Graces.

Spiritual Significance

In Catholic devotion, the Ave Maria is more than a prayer; it is a profound act of reverence and trust. By reciting it, Catholics honor Mary as the Queen of Heaven, the second Eve, and the mother of all believers. The prayer is traditionally used in the Rosary, the Angelus, and other devotional practices, serving as a source of spiritual strength, especially in times of temptation or distress. It expresses both veneration for Mary (hyperdulia) and adoration for God, maintaining the distinction that worship is due to God alone.

Cultural and Liturgical Role

Over centuries, the Ave Maria has been set to music and incorporated into Catholic liturgy, reflecting its enduring importance in both personal and communal prayer. It symbolizes the Church's devotion to Mary and her unique role in salvation history, encouraging the faithful to emulate her obedience and faithfulness to God.

The Latin version of the prayer is the most common in English-speaking and other Western countries.

Latin

*Ave Maria, gratia plena,
Dominus tecum.
Benedicta tu in mulieribus,
et benedictus fructus ventris tui, Iesus.
Sancta Maria, Mater Dei,
ora pro nobis peccatoribus,
nunc et in hora mortis nostrae. Amen.*

English

*Hail Mary, full of grace,
The Lord is with thee.
Blessed art thou amongst women,
And blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.
Holy Mary, Mother of God,
Pray for us sinners,
Now and at the hour of our death. Amen.*

SERMON NOTES/REFLECTIONS/QUESTIONS

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.

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 F. 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

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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*