

# 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 Last Sunday after Pentecost: Christ the King



**The Holy Eucharist: Rite II**

**November 23, 2025**

**10:00AM**

**The Rev. Raphiell Ashford, Rector**  
**Mrs. Susan Mloffitt, Supply Organist**

# Vestry Theme for 2025

## Reset to the New Normal

### 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

# 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; *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

“Ride On, King Jesus”

arr. Hall Johnson

Angela Blalock, soprano  
from the Cantata *Son of Man*

## Prelude

“Come Thou Almighty King”

Felice de Guardini  
arr. Douglas Wagner

✠ indicates where to make the sign of the cross

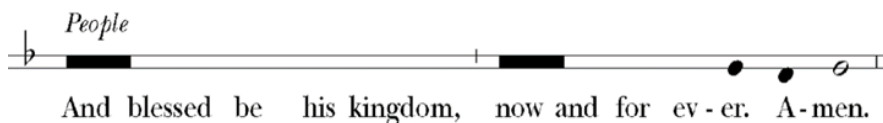
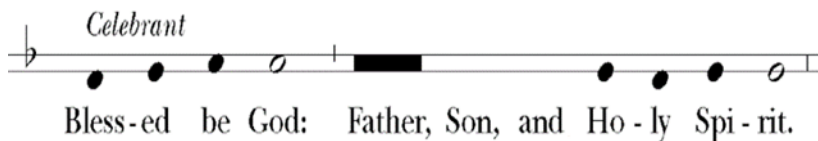
\*\*At the ringing of the bell, all stand.

## THE WORD OF GOD

**Hymn in Procession H • 518** “Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation!”

*Aurelia*

## The Opening Acclamation



✠ Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

## **The Collect for Purity**

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 • 280**

Setting: Robert Powell

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

## **The Salutation**

Celebrant    The Lord be with you.

People        And also with you.

Celebrant    Let us pray.

## **The Collect of the Day**

Almighty and everlasting God, whose will it is to restore all things in your well-beloved Son, the King of kings and Lord of lords: Mercifully grant that the peoples of the earth, divided and enslaved by sin, may be freed and brought together under his most gracious rule; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

*\*The people sit.*

## **The First Lesson**

### **Jeremiah 23:1-6**

Lector: A reading from the Book of Jeremiah.

Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture! says the Lord. Therefore thus says the Lord, the God of Israel, concerning the shepherds who shepherd my people: It is you who have scattered my flock, and have driven them away, and you have not attended to them. So I will attend to you for your evil doings, says the Lord. Then I myself will gather the remnant of my flock out of all the lands where I have driven them, and I will bring them back to their fold, and they shall be fruitful and multiply. I will raise up shepherds over them who will shepherd them, and they shall not fear any longer, or be dismayed, nor shall any be missing, says the Lord. The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and

righteousness in the land. In his days Judah will be saved and Israel will live in safety. And this is the name by which he will be called: "The Lord is our righteousness."

[Silence]

Lector The Word of the Lord.

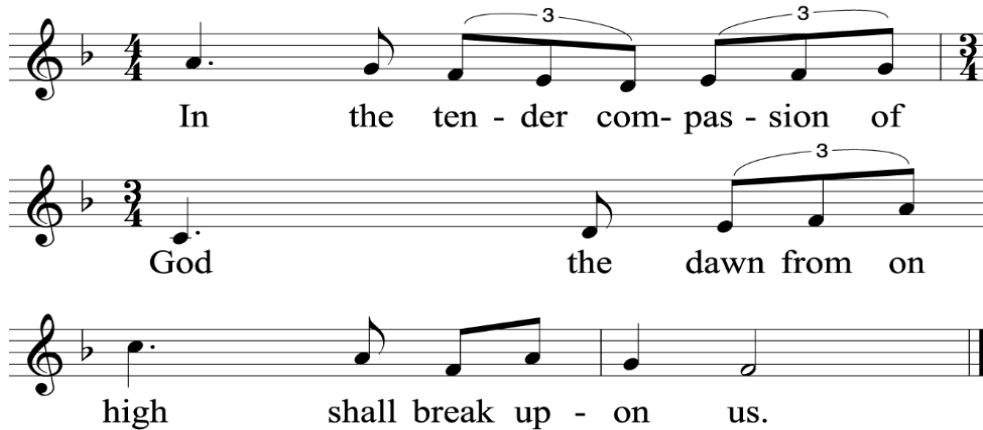
People Thanks be to God.

## CANTICLE 16 The Song of Zechariah

*Benedictus Dominus Deus*

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

*Luke 1: 68-79*



A

B

A Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel; \*  
he has come to his people and set them free.

B He has raised up for us a mighty savior, \*  
born of the house of his servant David.

{Antiphon}

A Through his holy prophets he promised of old,  
that he would save us from our enemies, \*  
from the hands of all who hate us.

B He promised to show mercy to our fathers \*  
and to remember his holy covenant.

{Antiphon}



A This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham, \*  
to set us free from the hands of our enemies,

B Free to worship him without fear, \*  
holy and righteous in his sight  
all the days of our life.

{Antiphon}

A You, my child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High, \*  
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,

B To give his people knowledge of salvation \*  
by the forgiveness of their sins.

{Antiphon}

A In the tender compassion of our God \*  
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,

B To shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death, \*  
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

{Antiphon}

## The Epistle

## Colossians 1:11-20

Lector: A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Colossians

May you be made strong with all the strength that comes from his glorious power, and may you be prepared to endure everything with patience, while joyfully giving thanks to the Father, who has enabled you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the light. He has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers-- all things have been created through him and for him. He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and

through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.

[Silence]

Lector     The Word of the Lord.

People     Thanks be to God

### The Sequence Hymn

“Hail Redemer, King Divine”

Charles Rigby



1. Hail, Re- dee- mer, King Di-vine, Priest and Lamb, the throne is thine,
2. King whose name cre- a - tion thrills, rule our minds, our hearts, our wills;
3. King most ho- ly, King of truth, guide the low- ly, guide the youth.
4. Shep-herd King, o’er moun-tains steep, homeward bring the wand’ring sheep;



1. King whose reign shall ne - ver cease, Prince of ev - er - last - ing peace.
2. Till in peace each na - tion rings with thy prai - ses, King of Kings.
3. Christ, thou King of glo - ry bright, be to us e - ter - nal light.
4. Shel - ter in one roy - al fold states and king-doms, new and old.



An - gels, saints, and na - tions sing, “Praised be Je- sus Christ, our King;



Lord of life, earth, sky and sea, King of love on Cal - var - ry”.

*Words: P. Brennan (1857-1951)*

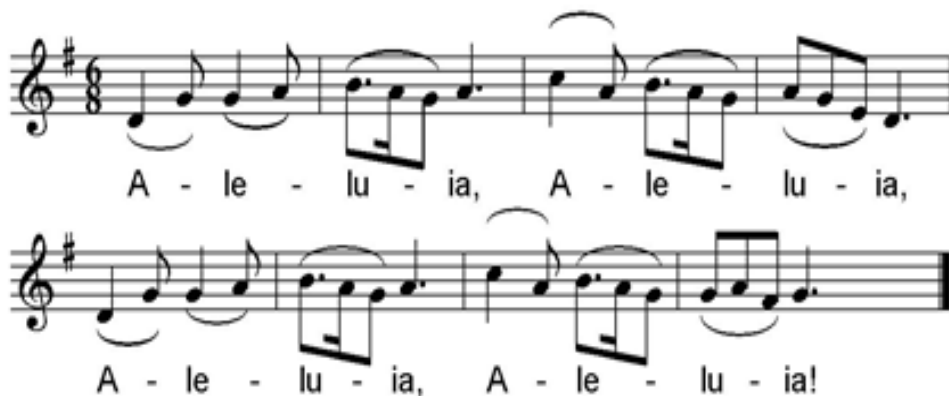
*Music: C. W. Rigby (1901-1962)*

## The Gospel Acclamation

"A Celtic Alleluia"

Finnian O'Carroll

\*Sung first by the Cantor; then by all.



"Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!  
Blessed is the kingdom of our father David that is to come."  
(Mk. 11:9-10)

## The Holy Gospel

**Luke 23:33-43**

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

When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing." And they cast lots to divide his clothing. The people stood by, watching Jesus on the cross; but the leaders scoffed at him, saying, "He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God, his chosen one!" The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine, and saying, "If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!" There was also an inscription over him, "This is the King of the Jews." One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, "Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!" But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong." Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." He replied, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise."



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

**The Sermon**

The Reverend Raphiell Ashford

**The Nicene Creed**

BCP 358

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

**The Prayers of the People**

Form V

BCP 389

✠ “For all who have died in the communion of your Church...

**The Confession of Sin & Absolution**

BCP 360

✠ “forgive you all your sins ...”

**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

Offertory Anthem

Concertato on DUKE STREET

## JESUS SHALL REIGN WHERE'ER THE SUN

Based on Psalm 72  
Isaac Watts (1674–1748)

Tune: DUKE STREET  
John Hatton (1710–1793)  
Setting by Hal H. Hopson



All 1. Je - sus shall reign wher - e'er the sun  
All 2. To him shall end - less prayer be made,  
All 3. Peo - ple and realms of ev - 'ry tongue  
Choir 4. Bless - ings a - bound wher - e'er he reigns;  
All 5. Let ev - 'ry crea - ture rise and bring



Does his suc - ces - sive jour - neys run;  
And prais - es throng to crown his head;  
Dwell on his love with sweet - est song;  
The pris - 'ner leaps to lose his chains;  
Bless - ing and hon - or to our King;



His king - dom stretch from shore to shore,  
His Name like sweet per - fume shall rise  
And in - fant voic - es shall pro - claim  
The wea - ry find e - ter - nal rest,  
An - gels de - scend with songs a - gain,



Till moons shall wax and wane no more.  
With ev - 'ry morn - ing sac - ri - fice.  
Their ear - ly bless - ings on his Name.  
And all who suf - fer want are blest.  
And earth re - peat the loud A - men.

# At the Presentation of Alms "Glory Be to the Father"

*Greatorrex*

*\*All standing*

*(Gloria Patri)*

Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther, and to the Son, and to the

The first system of musical notation is for the first line of the Gloria Patri. It consists of a treble and a bass staff, both in 4/4 time and key of B-flat major (two flats). The melody is primarily in the treble staff, with the bass staff providing harmonic support. The lyrics are: "Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther, and to the Son, and to the".

Ho - ly Ghost; as it was in the be - gin - ning, is

The second system of musical notation continues the Gloria Patri. It consists of a treble and a bass staff. The melody continues in the treble staff. The lyrics are: "Ho - ly Ghost; as it was in the be - gin - ning, is".

now, and ev - er shall be, world with - out end. A - men, A - men.

The third system of musical notation concludes the Gloria Patri. It consists of a treble and a bass staff. The melody concludes in the treble staff with a double bar line. The lyrics are: "now, and ev - er shall be, world with - out end. A - men, A - men." The bass staff ends with a fermata and a final chord, marked with an '8'.

*\*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 pow - er and might,

heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -

san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -

san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

✠ "Blessed is he ..."

*\*After the Sanctus, the people may stand or kneel.*

## The Prayer of Consecration

BCP 372

*(At the invoking of the Holy Spirit);*

“Let the grace of this Holy Communion ☩ make us one body ...”

## The Great Amen

\*The Priest sings the first “Amen.”

**AMEN**

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

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

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

## The Lord's Prayer (*Pater Noster*) L·264

Alfred Hay Malotte

*\*The priest sings the Pater Noster.*

## The Breaking of the Bread

\*A period of brief silence is kept.

## The Fraction Anthem

“Christ Our Passover”

Thaddeus P. Cavouti

from *Mass of St. Columba*

Al - le - lu - ia. Christ our Pass-o-ver is sac - ri-ficed for us;

there-fore let us keep the feast. Al - le - lu - ia.

## *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.

## Instructions for Receiving Communion

- *All baptized persons are welcome to receive Communion, and those who do not desire to receive Communion may come to the Altar rail to receive God's blessing.*
- *An usher will direct you to approach the Altar for Communion or a blessing. Please kneel, if you are able, at the Altar Rail.*
- *To receive the consecrated bread, extend your hands upward, palms crossed and facing up.*
- *To receive the consecrated wine, please guide the chalice to your lips as it is offered. However, if you prefer, you may leave the consecrated bread in your palm and the Chalice bearer will intinct the host into the wine and place it on your tongue. **Please do not personally intinct the host into the chalice.***
- *If you desire to receive Communion but are not able to come to the Altar rail, please notify an usher and the Priest and Chalice bearer will bring Communion to you.*

## The Music at Communion

H•328	“Draw Nigh and Take the Body of the Lord”	<i>Song 46</i>
H•382	“King of Glory, King of Peace”	<i>General Seminary</i>
H•483	“The Head That Once Was Crowned with Thorns”	<i>St. Magnus</i>

## The Post Communion Hymn L•31

“King of my Life I Crown Thee Now” William J. Kirkpatrick

## The Post Communion Prayer

*\*All kneel as able or sit.*

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

*Celebrant and People*

Almighty and everliving God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

## The Blessing

Go forth into the world in peace. Be of good courage. Hold fast to that which is good. Render to no-one evil for evil. Strengthen the faint-hearted. Support the weak. Help the afflicted. Show love to everyone. Love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit; And the blessing of Almighty God, ☩ the Father, the Son and Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. *Amen.*

**Hymn in Procession H • 494** “Crown Him with Many Crowns”

*Diademata*

## The Dismissal

Priest	Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.
People	Thanks be to God.

## Postlude

“Lead On, O King Eternal”

arr. Charles Callahan

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

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**The Altar Flowers** are given to the glory of God and in thanksgiving by Jeanette Hazzard Tucker in memory of her grandmother, Victoria K. McLemore; her mother, Vermelle K. Hazzard; her brothers, Clinton W. (Boo) Hazzard and Emerson Hazzard; and her niece, Valorie Denise Hazzard.

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Parish Fellowship is sponsored in Griffin Hall by the  
Commission on Parish Fellowship

## INTERCESSIONS



- **Parishioners:** Charles W. Blakely, Gary Bowden, John Bowden, Damion Cokley, Patricia Cokley, 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, Mary McLemore, Marie Martin, Gwendolyn Meadows, Carmen Murray, Jay'ceon Quattlebaum, Malik Quattlebaum, Joseph Ray, Reginald Reed, Cassandra Sims, Peyton Parker-Smith, William Smith, Jr., Ronald Turner, Dorothy Walker
- **Family & Friends:** Ingrid Dowdell, Gerald L. McNair, Elsie Mitchell, Brent Johnson, Katherine Robinson, Mattie Anderson-Roberson, Nathaniel Simmons, Theodora Washington
- **Diocesan Cycle of Prayer...** Christ Church, Greenville; Christ Church, Lancaster
- **Birthdays...** Maxima Holmes (27<sup>th</sup>), Edwina Fields (29<sup>th</sup>)
- **Anniversaries...**
- **Births...**
- **Deaths...**
- **Traveling Mercies...**

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SERMON NOTES/QUESTIONS/REFLECTIONS



# **SERVANTS FOR THE LORD**

## **The Old Testament Lector**

Deadra Bowden

## **The Gospel Book Bearer**

DeNell Hickman

## **Intercessor**

Stephanie Baldwin

## **Videographer**

Joni James

## **Thurifer**

Cory James

## **Cantors**

Elliott Brown

Angela Blalock

## **Banner Bearer**

Daryl Hammonds

## **Boat Bearer**

Isabella Bracy

## **Torch Bearers**

Levi Johnson, Jr.

Kennedy Johnson

## **The Epistoler**

Amy Husmann

## **Server**

Valencia Hammonds

## **Eucharistic Minister**

Corliss Wise

## **Crucifers**

Christina Caldwell

Herman Hickman

Cynallyhia Indriago

## **Oblation Bearers**

Luther Battiste

Judy Battiste

## **Ushers**

Loretta Johnson

Venesia Johnson

James Kelley

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### **FRESH START GALA...SEE FLYER**

#### **THE JAMES R. CLARK MEMORIAL SICKLE CELL FOUNDATION**

...appreciates your past support of the Annual Giving Tree. It is a special event that was very dear to the heart of our beloved Ms. Rudy Canzater. This year's event will be held December 14, 2024, at 1420 Gregg St, Columbia SC. The James R. Clark Memorial Sickle Cell Foundation is once again asking for donations to support this project to help bring relief and joy to our families living daily with sickle cell disease. Your support has made a tremendous difference and is greatly appreciated. Donations are currently being accepted and a decorated donation box for toy collections will be provided. The Foundation would like to collect donations by December 9<sup>th</sup>, to prepare gifts for the drive-thru event on December 14<sup>th</sup>. Once again, your assistance is greatly appreciated, and we look forward to another successful event. Thank you for your consideration and support. If you have any additional questions or concerns, please contact me at (803) 447-8600.

**CONFIRMATION/REAFFIRMATION/RECEPTION...**Anyone desiring the Rite of Confirmation, Reaffirmation, or Reception into the Episcopal Church is asked to contact the Rector. Confirmation classes will be held during the Lenten season.

**TRANSFER OF MEMBERSHIP...**Anyone baptized person who wants to transfer their membership to St. Luke's is asked to contact the Rector.

**BAPTISM...**Anyone interested in baptism for themselves (not previously baptized) or a child is asked to contact the Rector.

**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 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.

FRESH START MINISTRY'S



## *2nd Annual Holiday Gala*

Saturday, December 6, 2025

5 pm – 8 pm

Still Hopes Retirement Center  
1 Still Hopes Drive, West Columbia, SC



**RECEPTION AND SILENT AUCTION**

**~ DINNER ~**

**PROGRAM**



Tickets: Visit Our Website  
[www.stlukescolasc.org](http://www.stlukescolasc.org) or use the QR Code



\$75 until Nov 25<sup>th</sup> \$100 until Dec 5<sup>th</sup>

For more information call (803) 319-7981

***Attire: Semi-Formal***

## CALENDAR OF SERVICES, MEETINGS, & EVENTS

23 <sup>rd</sup> (Sunday)	The Last Sunday after Pentecost (Christ the King) The Holy Eucharist: Rite II	10:00am
24 <sup>th</sup> (Monday)	Rector's Day Off	
25 <sup>th</sup> (Tuesday)	Building & Grounds	5:30pm-6:30pm Griffin Hall
26 <sup>th</sup> (Wednesday)	Thanksgiving Eve Service The Holy Eucharist: Rite II	6:00pm
27 <sup>th</sup> (Thursday)	Thanksgiving Day/ Fresh Start Closed	
28 <sup>th</sup> (Friday)	Rector's Sermon Prep, Spiritual Care, etc.	
29 <sup>th</sup> (Saturday)		
30 <sup>th</sup> (Sunday)	The First Sunday of Advent The Holy Eucharist: Rite I	10:00am Youth Sunday

### Music Acknowledgements & Permission for Use

#### **Psalm Antiphon**

from Portland Psalter, Copyright ©2002, Robert A Hawthorne. All rights reserved.

#### **Gospel Acclamation**

“A Celtic Alleluia”

Finnian O’Carroll

#### **The Great Amen**

from *Jubilation Mass*

James Chepponis

#### **Service music**

Opening Acclamation, Gloria, *Sursum corda*, *Sanctus*, &

*The Lord's Prayer*, Permission by RiteSong online music library for one-time use of this material for congregational use.

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## **LITURGY NOTES: HYMN STORY**

“Praised be Jesus Christ Our King, or Hail Redeemer, King Divine” is sometimes suggested for use in the Divine Office for the feast of the Exaltation of the Cross on September 14, Palm Sunday, and also for the feast of Christ the King. The text was written by Fr. Patrick Brennen, C.S.S.R. (1877-1952) and the tune, *King Divine* was composed by Charles Rigby (1901-1962). In the Liturgy of the Hours, “Hail, Redeemer, King Divine” is used on Palm Sunday and on the Solemnity of Christ the King.

## **CHRIST THE KING SUNDAY**

Feast celebrated in the Roman Catholic Church and the Lutheran Church on the last Sunday of the liturgical year. It celebrates Christ's messianic kingship and sovereign rule over all creation. The feast is unofficially celebrated in some Episcopal parishes, but it is not mentioned in the Episcopal calendar of the church year. Marion Hatchett notes that the Prayer Book collect for Proper 29, the last Sunday of the church year, is a “somewhat free” translation of the collect of the Feast of Christ the King in the Roman Missal. This collect prays that God, “whose will it is to restore all things in your well-beloved Son, the King of kings and Lord of lords,” will “Mercifully grant that the peoples of the earth, divided and enslaved by sin, may be freed and brought together under his most gracious rule” (BCP, p. 236). The feast was originally instituted by Pope Pius XI in 1925 and celebrated on the last Sunday in Oct. It has been observed on the last Sunday before Advent since 1970.

## **THE LITURGY OF THE HOURS**

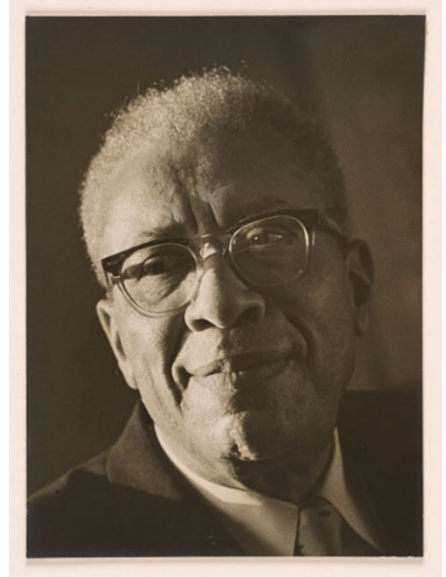
In the Episcopal Church, the concept of the Daily Office holds a unique significance, deeply rooted in the rich tapestry of liturgical tradition. Reclaiming the Daily Office, as understood within the Episcopal tradition, involves a deliberate return to sacred rhythms and practices that have sustained the faithful for centuries. This article explores the spiritual dimensions of the Daily Office, its historical context, and how individuals can reclaim this ancient practice in their contemporary lives. The Daily Office, also known as the Divine Office or the Liturgy of the Hours, is a set of prayers and readings designed to sanctify different times of the day. Rooted in the monastic tradition, the Episcopal Church has embraced this practice to sanctify time and infuse the daily routine with moments of prayer, reflection, and connection with the divine. The Daily Office finds its roots in the early Christian monastic communities, where monks would gather at various hours throughout the day to engage in communal prayer and worship. The practice evolved over centuries, becoming a structured liturgy that encompasses morning prayer, noonday prayer, evening prayer, and compline. In the Episcopal tradition, the

Book of Common Prayer serves as a guide for these Offices, providing a framework for communal and individual worship.

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## MUSIC NOTES: HALL JOHNSON (1888-1970)/by Randye Jones

Francis Hall Johnson was born in Athens, Georgia, on 12 March 1888. His father was a minister in the African Methodist Episcopal church and a college president. Johnson's early musical influence is credited to his grandmother, a former slave who exposed him to spirituals. He attended Atlanta University and graduated from Allen University, then he continued his studies at the University of Pennsylvania, the Juilliard School and the University of Southern California.



Johnson began his professional career as a violinist with James Reese Europe's orchestra and opened a studio where he taught violin and other instruments. He also played in the orchestra for the musical, *Shuffle Along*, in 1921 and was a member of the Negro String Quartet. In time, however, his musical focus turned to choral music, especially performance of Negro spirituals. Johnson formed the Hall Johnson Negro Choir in September 1925. He stated that he wanted "to show how the American Negro slaves—in 250 years of constant practice, self-developed under pressure but equipped with their inborn sense of rhythm and drama (plus their new religion)—created, propagated and illuminated an art-form which was, and still is, unique in the world of music."<sup>1</sup>

Johnson's choir performed with great success in concert and on the radio within the New York City area, and they made their first recording for RCA Victor in 1928. Then in 1930, they sang his settings of spirituals composed for the musical, *The Green Pastures*, on Broadway. This success was followed by the Broadway production of Johnson's *Run Little Chillun* in 1933. Between 1935 and 1943, the Johnson choir was featured in films such as *The Green Pastures*, *Lost Horizon* and *Cabin in the Sky*. Hall Johnson continued to organize choral groups, including festival choirs in both Los Angeles and New York. He wrote numerous works for his choirs as well as spiritual settings for solo voice and piano. Johnson's Festival Negro Chorus of New York premiered his Easter cantata,

*Son of Man*, in April 1946 at New York City Center. The cantata was scored for mixed a cappella chorus, vocal soloists and narrator, with occasional accompaniment of organ, brass choir, harp, tympani and percussion. In 1951, the Hall Johnson Negro Choir was selected by the Department of State to represent the United States at the International Festival of Fine Arts held in Berlin, Germany. They then toured Europe for several months. Hall Johnson was known not only for his compositions, but for the articles he authored that discussed the history of the spiritual and their performance practice.

Johnson was also fluent in French and German. Opera diva and recitalist Shirley Verrett, who received coaching from him, noted in her autobiography that he suggested that she study German lieder. She stated that: *When I eventually went to Julliard, my German teacher there was flabbergasted at my facility and asked where I had learned the language. I told her from Hall Johnson, whom I am sure she had never heard of, much less suspected was a black man who had graduated from the University of Pennsylvania and had also studied at Julliard. "I don't care who taught you. He did a good job," she said.*<sup>3</sup>

Throughout his life, Johnson received numerous awards for his compositions, including The Urban League's "Opportunity Contest" competitions, the Harmon Award (1931), honorary doctorate from the Philadelphia Music Academy, the George Frederic Handel Award, and a posthumous induction to the Black Filmmakers Hall of Fame.

Johnson died on April 30, 1970, during a fire at his New York apartment. Contralto Marian Anderson, who recorded a number of his solo vocal settings, commented, "Hall Johnson was a unique genius. For although he invented no new harmonies, designed no new forms, originated no new melodic styles, discovered no new rhythmic principles, he was yet able to fashion a whole new world of music in his own image."<sup>4</sup>

**NATS Hall Johnson Spirituals Competition**—One of the tributes to the accomplishments of Hall Johnson was the establishment of the Hall Johnson Spirituals Competition. Created by Johnson mentee and scholar Eugene Thamon Simpson (1932-2021) and sponsored by the National Association of Teachers of Singers (NATS), the competition goal is "to encourage high excellence in the performance of this genre, and to this end, the Hall Johnson Collection at Rowan University will provide a cash award of \$2,000 for the best performance of a Hall Johnson Spiritual at the biennial national convention from 2016–2036."<sup>5</sup> Students prepare and present selections from 21 spirituals settings composed by Johnson, demonstrating the technical and interpretative approaches appropriate to Johnson's treatment of the genre.

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