

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 Day of Pentecost (Whitsunday)

The Holy Eucharist: Rite II

May 24, 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 WORD OF GOD

Hymn in Procession H·225 “Hail Thee, Festival Day!”

Salve festa dies

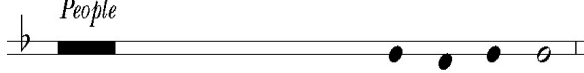
The Opening Acclamation✠

Celebrant



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

People



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

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, on this day you opened the way of eternal life to every race and nation by the promised gift of your Holy Spirit: Shed abroad this gift throughout the world by the preaching of the Gospel, that it may reach to the ends of the earth; through Jesus Christ 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 2:1-21

Lector: A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

When the day of Pentecost had come, the disciples were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability. Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. Amazed and astonished, they asked, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabs-- in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power." All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?" But others sneered and said, "They are filled with new wine." But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, "Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o'clock in the morning. No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel: 'In the last days it will be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams. Even upon my slaves, both men and women, in those days I will pour out my Spirit; and they shall prophesy. And I will show portents in the heaven above and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and smoky mist. The sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the coming of the Lord's great and glorious day. Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.' "

[Silence]

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.



B 32 May the glory of the LORD endure for ever; *
 may the LORD rejoice in all his works. [Antiphon]

B 33 He looks at the earth and it trembles; *
 he touches the mountains and they smoke. [Antiphon]

A 34 I will sing to the LORD as long as I live; *
 I will praise my God while I have my being.

B 35 May these words of mine please him; *
 I will rejoice in the LORD. [Antiphon]

The Epistle

1 Corinthians 12:3b-13

Lector: A reading from Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians

No one can say "Jesus is Lord" except by the Holy Spirit. Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses. For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body-- Jews or Greeks, slaves or free-- and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

[Silence]

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

The Easter Gospel Acclamation

*Sung first by the Cantor, then by all.

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



“Come, Holy Spirit; fill the hearts of Your faithful
and kindle in them the fire of Your love. Alleluia!”

The Holy Gospel

John 20:19-23

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

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.”

Priest The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Sermon

The Rev. Raphiell Ashford

The Renewal of Baptismal Vows

BCP 292

The Asperges✠ (Sprinkling Rite during Eastertide)

*The Celebrant sprinkles the congregation with holy water as a reminder of their baptism.

✠ when sprinkled with the Holy Water

Hymn

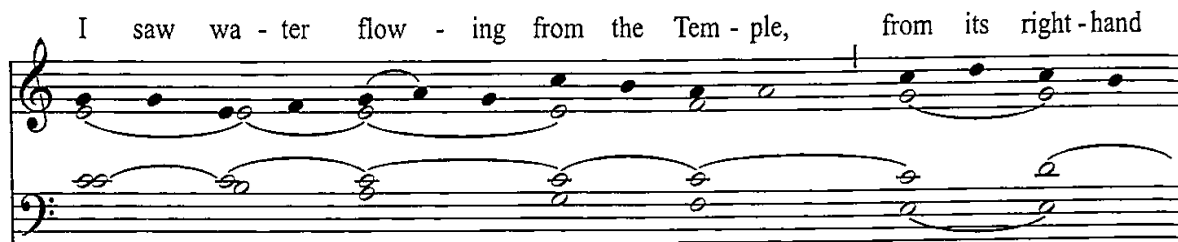
“I Saw Water Flowing from the Temple”

Vidi Aquam

*Sung by the Choir during the Asperges

*The antiphon *Vidi aquam* is sung first by the Cantor and then by all. Thereafter, at the direction of the Cantor.

I saw wa - ter flow - ing from the Tem - ple, from its right - hand



The first line of musical notation consists of a treble and bass staff. The treble staff contains a melody with a series of eighth notes and quarter notes, some beamed together. The bass staff provides a harmonic accompaniment with chords and moving lines.

side, al - le - lu - ia; and all to whom this wa - ter came were



The second line of musical notation continues the melody and accompaniment. It features a treble and bass staff with similar rhythmic patterns and phrasing as the first line.

saved and shall say: Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



The third line of musical notation concludes the hymn. It features a treble and bass staff with a final cadence in the melody and accompaniment.

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

“Oh, Glory!”

Joseph Joubert

Carmen Dreher Jordan, soprano

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 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

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.

The image shows a musical score for the Sanctus and Benedictus. It consists of five staves of music in a single system. The lyrics are written below the notes. The music is in a simple, hymn-like style with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. The lyrics are: "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho-san-na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high-est."

✠ “Blessed is he ...”

**The people may stand or kneel.*

The Prayer of Consecration

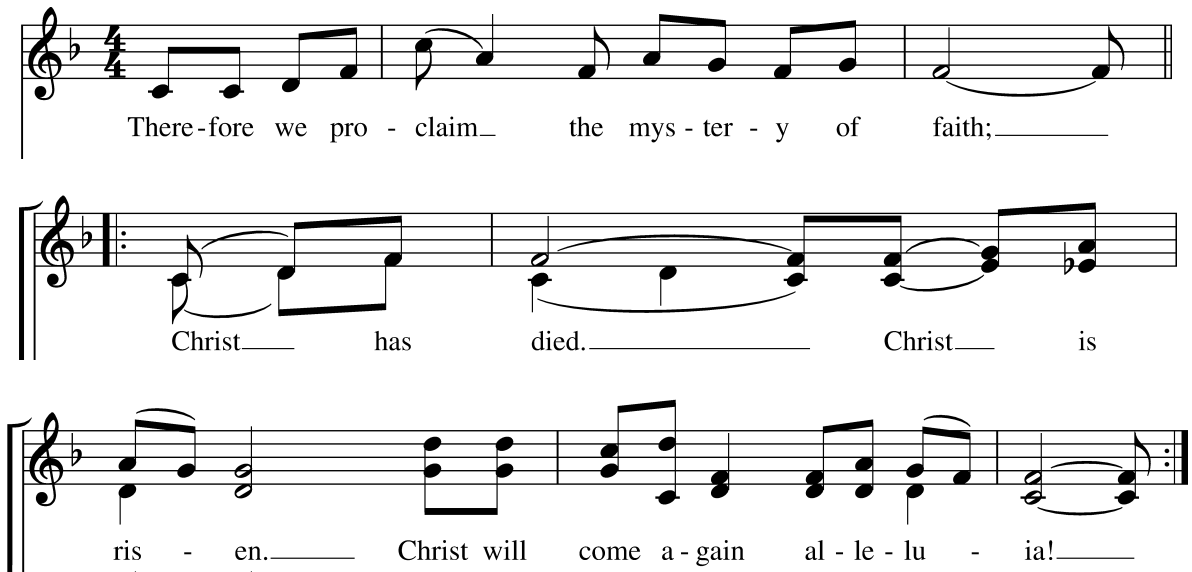
BCP 362

✠ do this in remembrance of me

The Memorial Acclamation L257

Clarence Jos. Rivers

*Priest/Cantor sings the Introduction



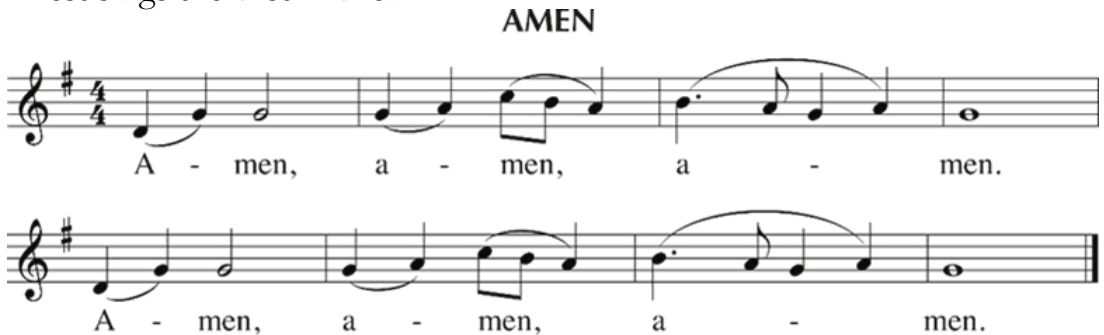
There-fore we pro - claim_ the mys - ter - y of faith; _____
Christ_____ has died. _____ Christ_____ is
ris - en. _____ Christ will come a - gain al - le - lu - ia! _____

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

The Great Amen

*The Priest 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*)

BCP 364

The Breaking of the Bread (The Fraction)

*A period of brief silence is kept.

The Fraction Anthem S•171 “Be Known to Us Lord Jesus” *Setting: Mode 6 melody*
 adapt. Mason Martens

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.

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•692

“I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say”

The Third Tune

H•516

“Come Down, O Love Divine”

St Agnes

L•120

“Sweet, Sweet Spirit”

Doris Akers

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 Four-fold Blessing for the Day of Pentecost

May Almighty God, who enlightened the minds of the disciples by pouring out upon them the Holy Spirit, make you rich with his blessing, that you may abound more and more in that Spirit for ever. ***Amen.***

May God, who sent the Holy Spirit as a flame of fire that rested upon the heads of the disciples, burn out all evil from your hearts, and make them shine with the pure light of his presence. ***Amen.***

May God, who by the Holy Spirit caused those of many tongues to proclaim Jesus as Lord, strengthen your faith and send you out to bear witness to him in word and deed. ***Amen.***

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

Hymn in Procession "Lord, You Give the Great Commission" *Abbot's Leigh*



1. Lord, you give the great com - mis - sion: "Heal the
 2. Lord, you call us to your serv - ice: "In my
 3. Lord, you make the com - mon ho - ly: "This my
 4. Lord, you show us love's true meas - ure: "Fa - ther,
 5. Lord, you bless with words as - sur - ing: "I am



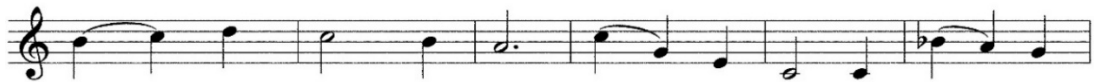
sick and preach the word." Lest the Church ne -
 name bap - tize and teach." That the world may
 bod - y, this my blood." Let us all, for
 what they do, for - give." Yet we hoard as
 with you to the end." Faith and hope and



glect its mis - sion, And the Gos - pel go un - heard,
 trust your prom - ise, Life a - bun - dant meant for each,
 earth's true glo - ry, Dai - ly lift life heav - en - ward,
 pri - vate treas - ure All that you so free - ly give.
 love re - stor - ing, May we serve as you in - tend,



Help us wit - ness to your pur - pose With re -
 Give us all new fer - vor, draw us Clos - er
 Ask - ing that the world a - round us Share your
 May your care and mer - cy lead us To a
 And, a - mid the cares that claim us, Hold in



newed in - teg - ri - ty;
 in com - mun - i - ty;
 chil - dren's lib - er - ty; With the Spir - it's gifts em -
 just so - ci - e - ty;
 mind e - ter - ni - ty;



power us For the work of min - is - try.

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.*

Postlude Trumpet Tune on “Salve festa dies” arr. Douglas E. Wagner

*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:** 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. Augustine of Canterbury, Aiken; Chapel of the Holy Spirit, Still Hopes, West Columbia.
 - **Birthdays:** Daryl Hammonds Sr. (24th), Timothy Kirby (29th)
 - **Anniversaries:** Oliver & Audrey Smith (27th)
 - **Births:**
 - **Deaths:** Charles W. Blakely, Mattie Lee Ray (mother of Dr. Joseph Ray)
 - **Traveling Mercies:** Daryl & Valencia Hammonds,
Rudolph & Corliss Wise
-

The Altar Flowers are given to the glory of God
by Fr. Raphiell Ashford in memory of Mr./Bro. Charles W. Blakely

Pentecost/Holy Spirit Dove courtesy of Fr. Raphiell Ashford
& the Rev. Taliaferro Robinson-Heyward.

The Rector's Sabbatical Luncheon courtesy of
the Special Events Committee

ANNOUNCEMENTS

RECTOR'S SABBATICAL LUNCHEON... Today, at 12:30pm, a "Sabbatical Luncheon" for the Rector will be held in Griffin Hall 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 in Griffin Hall for you to place funds. Envelopes will be available, if needed. In addition, the Rector & parishioners from the Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd will join us for the luncheon. After the luncheon, Fr. Raphiell will give Fr. Lyon and his confirmands a tour of the Narthex and Nave, where Fr. Lyon will teach his Confirmation Class that afternoon.

VISITATION FOR CHARLES W. BLAKELY... will be held in the Leevy's Funeral Home Chapel, located at 1831 Taylor St. from 4:00pm-6:00pm. The Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. Omega Service and other reflections will immediately follow the viewing.

REQUIEM MASS... The Requiem Mass for Charles W. Blakely will be held at St. Luke's Episcopal Church on Wednesday, May 27th @ 11:00am. Interment will be in Fort Jackson National Cemetery. A Repast will be held in Griffin Hall.

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... 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 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

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 toward choir funding.

MAY 2026 CALENDAR OF SERVICES/MEETINGS/EVENTS

MAY	SERVICE/MEETING/EVENT	TIME & PLACE
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	12:30pm Griffin Hall
	Good Shepherd’s Confirmation Class Tour, etc.	2:00pm
25 th (Monday)	Rector’s Day Off (Sabbath)	
	Memorial Day/ Parish Office Closed	

26 th (Tuesday)	Visitation for Charles W. Blakely Leevy's Funeral Home Chapel Taylor, St.	4:00pm-6:00pm
	Buildings & Grounds	5:30pm-6:30pm
27 th (Wednesday)	Requiem Mass Charles W. Blakely	11:00am St. Luke's Episcopal Church
	Choir Rehearsal	6:00pm
28 th (Thursday)	Fresh Start Ministry	9:00am-12:00noon The O'Neal Center
	Bylaws Committee Meeting	5:30pm Griffin Hall
29 th (Friday)	Parish Office Closed	
	Rector's Spirituality Day: Sermon Prep, Spiritual Direction, etc.	
30 th (Saturday)		
31 st (Sunday)	The First Sunday after Pentecost: Trinity Sunday The Holy Eucharist: Rite II Youth Sunday	10:00am Nave

SERMON NOTES/REFLECTIONS/QUESTIONS

LITURGICAL NOTES

THE DAY OF PENTECOST: WHITSUNDAY

Pentecost: The term means “the fiftieth day.” It is used in both the OT and the NT. In the OT it refers to a feast of seven weeks known as the Feast of Weeks. It was apparently an agricultural event that focused on the harvesting of first fruits. Josephus referred to Pentecost as the fiftieth day after the first day of Passover. The term is used in the NT to refer to the coming of the Spirit on the day of Pentecost (Acts 2:1), shortly after Jesus' death, resurrection, and ascension. Christians came to understand the meaning of Pentecost in terms of the gift of the Spirit. The Pentecost event was the fulfillment of a promise which Jesus gave concerning the return of the Holy Spirit. The speaking in tongues, which was a major effect of having received the Spirit, is interpreted by some to symbolize the church's worldwide preaching. In the Christian tradition, Pentecost is now the seventh Sunday after Easter. It emphasizes that the church is understood as the body of Christ which is drawn together and given life by the Holy Spirit. Some understand Pentecost to be the origin and sending out of the church into the world. The Day of Pentecost is one of the seven principal feasts of the church year in the Episcopal Church (BCP, p. 15). The Day of Pentecost is identified by the BCP as one of the feasts that is “especially appropriate” for baptism (p. 312). The liturgical color for the feast is red. Pentecost has also been known as Whitsun or Whitsunday, a corruption of “White Sunday.” This term reflects the custom by which those who were baptized at the Vigil of Pentecost would wear their white baptismal garments to church on the Day of Pentecost. The BCP provides directions for observance of a Vigil of Pentecost, which begins with the Service of Light (p. 227). The Hymnal 1982 provides a variety of hymns for Pentecost (Hymns 223-230) and the Holy Spirit (Hymns 500-516).

SYMBOLS FOR THE DAY OF PENTECOST

- Red – The most common symbol for Pentecost, especially in Western Churches, is the color red. It's the color of liturgical vestment on Pentecost. Many priests, ministers, or choirs wear red clothing in the celebration of Pentecost. A lot of churches decorate their altars with red burning candles, red banners, and red altar cloth to depict the movement of the Holy Spirit during Pentecost. The color red represents joy and the fire of the Holy Spirit.
- Other churches incorporated the use of red balloons to signify the birthday of the Church.
- Dove – The dove is one of the symbols of Pentecost. It represents how the Holy Spirit descended on the Apostles and other believers like a dove.
- Wind – The wind symbolizes the free movement of the Holy Spirit and the breath of God. It represents the sound of a mighty wind on the Day of Pentecost, and the Holy Spirit descended upon the believers. (Acts 2:2)
- Fire – The fire represents the Holy Spirit who filled the Apostles with zeal and burning passion. As they were filled with the Holy Spirit, “tongues of fire” came to rest on each of them. (Acts 2:3)

REGINA CAELI

Latin for “Queen of Heaven,” the phrase refers to the Blessed Virgin Mary. Regina Coeli is also the beginning of a devotion, common in some Anglo-catholic circles, used during the Easter season in place of the Angelus. The customary bell-ringing sequence for Regina Coeli, at morning, noon, and evening, consists of four sets of two strokes, with pauses between each set, followed by eight peals. The Regina Coeli begins “O Queen of heaven, be joyful, alleluia; Because he whom so meetly thou barest, alleluia, Hath arisen, as he promised, alleluia; Pray for us to the Father, alleluia.”

HYMN STORY

“SWEET, SWEET, SPIRIT”

There's a sweet, sweet Spirit was written by gospel songwriter Doris Mae Akers. She was born in Brookfield, Missouri on May 21, 1923. She was one of ten children and developed an interest in music at an early age. By the age of six, she had taught herself to play piano by ear. She wrote her first song, “Keep the fire burning in me,” at the age of ten and two years later organized a five-piece jazz band. At the age of twenty-two she moved to Los Angeles and encouraged a “thriving gospel music community.” In 1958, she started the Sky Pilot Choir. “Baptist hymnologist William J. Reynolds noted that Akers’ ability to capture the attention of a congregation came through “just letting go and releasing the Spirit of God.”



“Lindsay Terry comments on the origins of this song in an interview with Doris Akers in the late 1980s: “[S]he related to me that one Sunday morning in 1962, while directing the Sky Pilot Choir, she said to her singers, ‘You are not ready to go in.’ She didn’t believe they had prayed enough! They were accustomed to spending time with her in prayer before the service, asking God to bless their songs. She said, ‘I feel that prayer is more important than great voices.’ They had already prayed, but this particular morning she asked them to pray again, and they did so with renewed fervor. “As they prayed, Doris began to wonder how she could stop this wonderful prayer meeting. She said, ‘I sent word to the pastor letting him know what was happening. He was waiting in the auditorium, wanting to start the service. Finally, I was compelled to say to the choir, we have to go. I hate to leave this room and I know you hate to leave, but you know we do have to go to the service. But there is such a sweet, sweet Spirit in this place.’”

“The phrase stayed with her and she wrote the song the next day. Matthew 3:16-17 inspired the specific line “Sweet heavenly Dove.” This text focuses on the baptism of Jesus when “he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him: And lo a voice from heaven, saying, this is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.”” Doris said in an interview, “Songwriters always have their ears open to a song. The song started ‘singing’ to me. I wanted to write it down but couldn’t. I thought the song would be gone after the service. Following the dismissal, I went home. The next morning, to my surprise, I heard the song again, so I went to the piano and began to put it all down.” She had been given the now-famous “Sweet, Sweet Spirit.”

“When the United Methodist Hymnal was published in 1989, “Sweet, Sweet Spirit” immediately became one of the favorite new hymns, and for many congregations, it became a staple during the greeting time in worship. Because it is easily memorized, the song is often played and sung as parishioners shake hands and embrace others gathered for worship.”

She was named the Gospel Music composer of the year in both 1960 and 1961. Many famous singers recorded her songs, including Aretha Franklin, Mahalia Jackson and George Beverly Shea. She was featured on two for the Gaither homecoming videos {“Old Friends” and “Turn Your Radio On.”} in the late 1990s. She also wrote over 300 other hymns such as “Lead Me, Guide Me” and “Lord, Don’t Move the Mountain.” The Smithsonian Institute labeled her songs and records “National Treasures.” She died on July 26, 1995 in Minneapolis. In 2001, she was inducted into the Gospel Music Hall of Fame.

Source: DianaLeaghMatthews.com

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Psalm Antiphon

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Easter Gospel Acclamation

Chaz Bowers

The Great Amen

from *Jubilation Mass*

Service music

Opening Acclamation, Gloria, *Sursum corda*, *Sanctus*, *Memorial Acclamation*, & *the Lord's Prayer*, Permission by RiteSong online music library for one-time use of this material for congregational use.

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Asperges Hymn (Vidi aquam): Sprinkling Rite for Eastertide:

Vatican II Hymnal • Pages 99-100 • ccwatershed.org/vatican

Descant (*Abbot's Leigh*) courtesy of Taylor Robertson.

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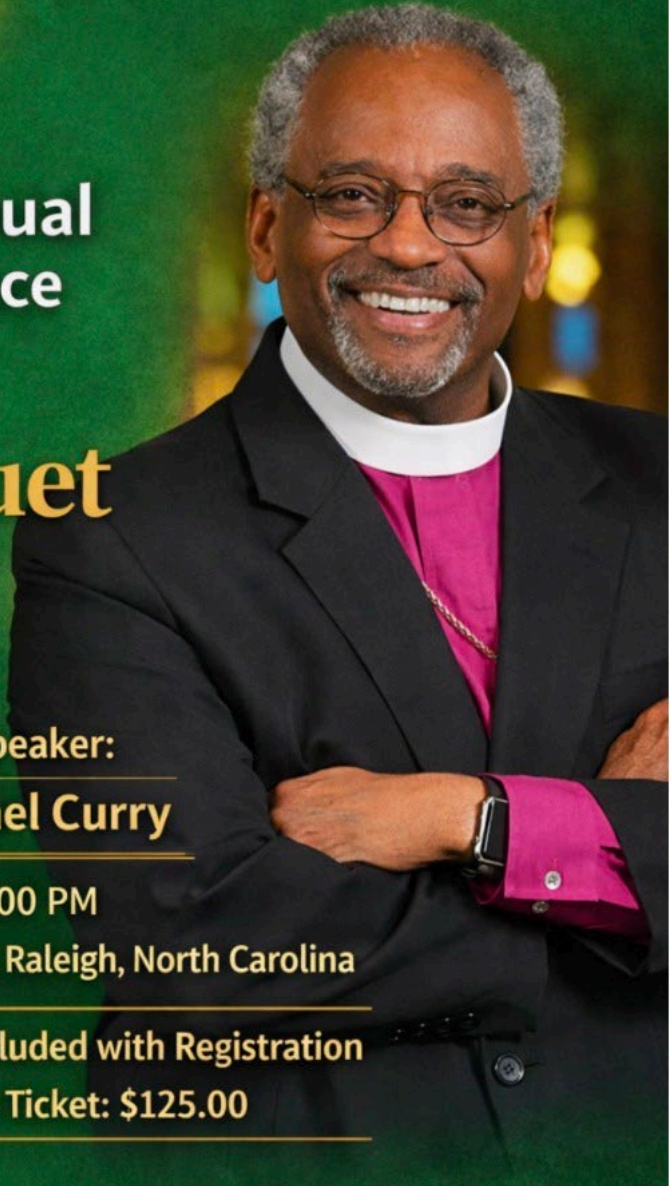
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