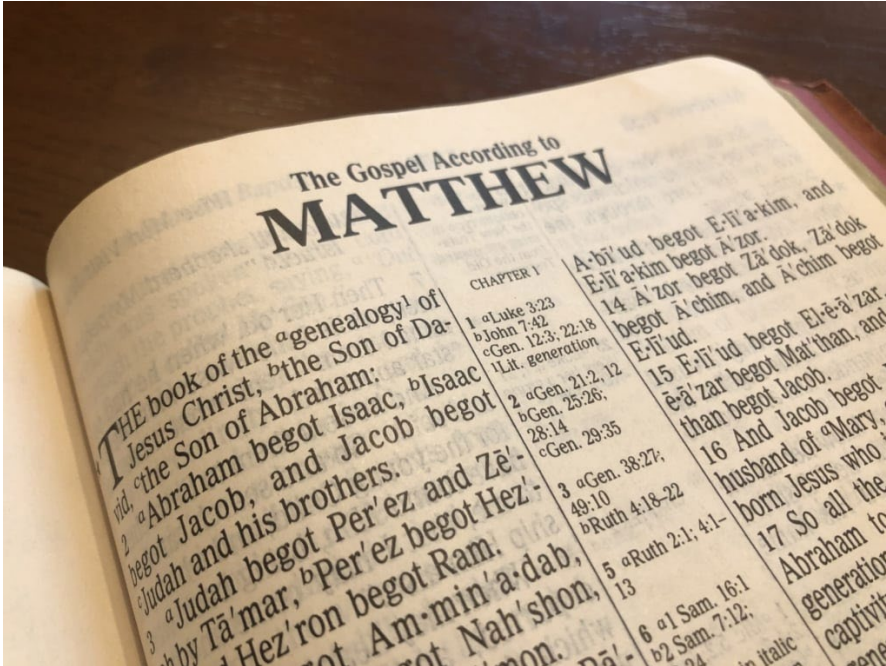


SAINT LUKE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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 Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost Proper 15A

The Holy Eucharist: Rite II

August 16, 2026

10:00AM

The Rev. Raphiell Ashford, Rector & Priest

The Rev. Doug Puckett, Supply Priest

Mrs. Christine Counts-Davis, 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

Saint Luke's Episcopal Church



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

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

Prelude

✠ 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 • 410

“Praise, my Soul, the King of Heaven”

Lauda Anima

The Opening Acclamation

Celebrant: Blessed be God: ✠Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People: And blessed be his kingdom, now and forever. Amen.

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 God, you have given your only Son to be for us a sacrifice for sin, and also an example of godly life: Give us grace to receive thankfully the fruits of his redeeming work, and to follow daily in the blessed steps of his most holy life; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

**The people sit.*

First Lesson Genesis 45:1-15

Lector: A reading from the Book of Genesis

Joseph could no longer control himself before all those who stood by him, and he cried out, "Send everyone away from me." So no one stayed with him when Joseph made himself known to his brothers. And he wept so loudly that the Egyptians heard it, and the household of Pharaoh heard it. Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?" But his brothers could not answer him, so dismayed were they at his presence. Then Joseph said to his brothers, "Come closer to me." And they came closer. He said, "I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. And now do not be distressed, or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. For the famine has been in the land these two years; and there are five more years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. So it was not you who sent me here, but God; he has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, "Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me, do not delay. You shall settle in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children's children, as well as

your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. I will provide for you there—since there are five more years of famine to come—so that you and your household, and all that you have, will not come to poverty.’ And now your eyes and the eyes of my brother Benjamin see that it is my own mouth that speaks to you. You must tell my father how greatly I am honored in Egypt, and all that you have seen. Hurry and bring my father down here.” Then he fell upon his brother Benjamin’s neck and wept, while Benjamin wept upon his neck. And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them; and after that his brothers talked with him.

[Silence]

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Psalm 133 *Ecce, quam bonum!*

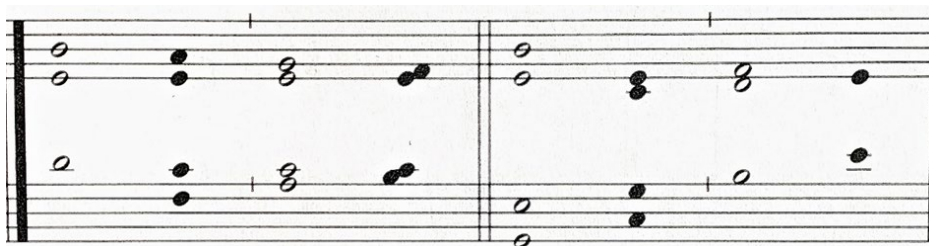
**The antiphon is sung first by the Cantor and then by all; thereafter where indicated.*



Oh, how good and plea-sant it is when



breth-ren live to - ge - ther in u - ni - ty!



2 It is like fine oil upon the head *

that runs down upon the beard,

3 Upon the beard of Aaron, *

and runs down upon the collar of his robe.

{Antiphon}

4 It is like the dew of Hermon *

that falls upon the hills of Zion.

5 For there the LORD has ordained the blessing: *

life for evermore.

{Antiphon}

The Epistle **Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32**

The Epistle **Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32**

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

I ask, then, has God rejected his people? By no means! I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, a member of the tribe of Benjamin. God has not rejected his people whom he foreknew. For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. Just as you were once disobedient to God but have now received mercy because of their disobedience, so they have now been disobedient in order that, by the mercy shown to you, they too may now receive mercy. For God has imprisoned all in disobedience so that he may be merciful to all.

[Silence]

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

The Sequence Hymn H·706

“In Your Mercy, Lord, You Called Me”

Halton Holgate

The Gospel Acclamation

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

Mode VI/Melody
arr. Richard Proulx



“The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent and believe in the Gospel.” (Mk. 1:15)

The Holy Gospel

Matthew 15:(10-20), 21-28

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

[Jesus called the crowd to him and said to them, “Listen and understand: it is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but it is what comes out of the mouth that defiles.” Then the disciples approached and said to him, “Do you know that the Pharisees took offense when they heard what you said?” He answered, “Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted. Let them alone; they are blind guides of the blind. And if one blind person guides another, both will fall into a pit.” But Peter said to him, “Explain this parable to us.” Then he said, “Are you also still without understanding? Do you not see that whatever goes into the mouth enters the stomach, and goes out into the sewer? But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this is what defiles. For out of the heart come evil intentions, murder, adultery, fornication, theft, false witness, slander. These are what defile a person, but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile.”] Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, “Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon.” But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, “Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us.” He answered, “I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.” But she came and knelt before him, saying, “Lord, help me.” He answered, “It is not fair to take the children’s food and throw it to the dogs.” She said, “Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters’ table.” Then Jesus answered her, “Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish.” And her daughter was healed instantly.

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

The Sermon

Fr. Doug Puckett+

The Nicene Creed

BCP 358

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

The Prayers of the People

Form III

BCP 388

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

The Confession & Absolution

BCP 360

✠ “forgive you all your sins ...”

The Peace

Welcome & Announcements

~

THE HOLY COMMUNION

The Offertory Anthem “My Song Is Love Unknown”

John Ireland
arr. James Kirby

At the Presentation of Alms “Glory Be to the Father”

Greatorex

**All standing*

(Gloria Patri)

The musical score is written for a four-part choir (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of three systems of staves. 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 now, and ev - er shall be, world with - out end. A - men, A - men.' The score includes various musical notations such as notes, rests, and bar lines. The final measure of the third system is marked with a double bar line and the number 8, indicating the end of the piece.

Sursum corda

The Lord be with you.

People And also 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.

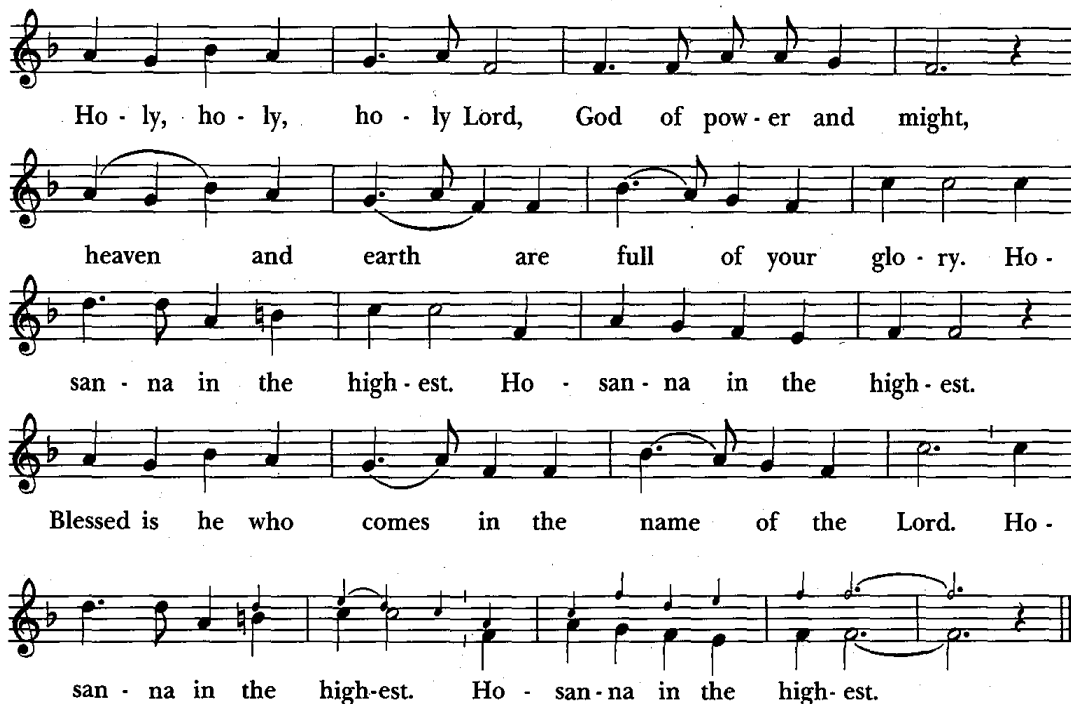
**The Celebrant proceeds*

The Proper Preface for the Lord's Day

**Said by the Priest*

Sanctus et Benedictus

Setting: from *A Community Mass*



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 ..."

**The people stand or kneel.*

The Prayer of Consecration

BCP 362

“do this in remembrance of me.” ✠

The Memorial Acclamation

Setting: from *A Community Mass*



Christ has died; Christ is ris-en; Christ will come a - gain.

The Great Amen

Setting: from *A Community Mass*



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

The Lord's Prayer (*Pater Noster*)

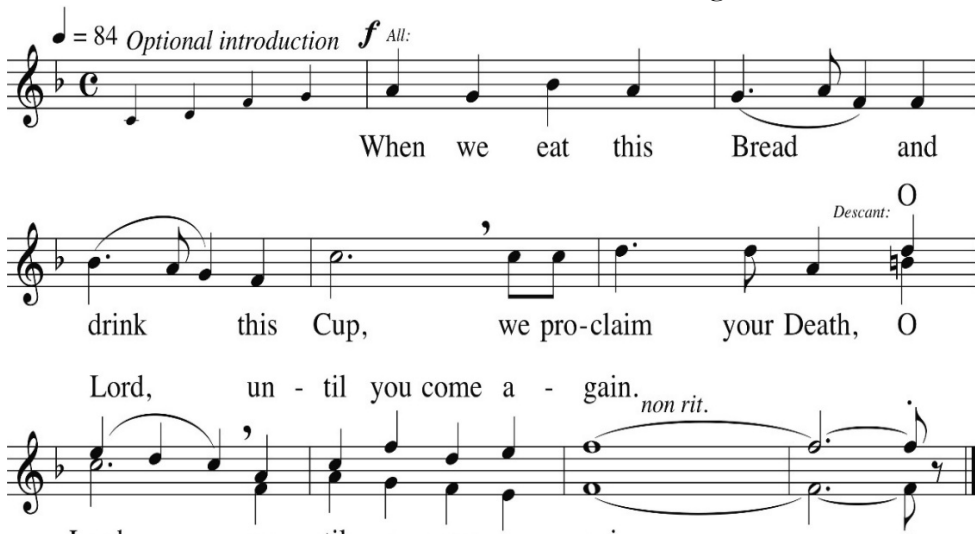
BCP 364

The Breaking of the Bread

*A period of brief silence is kept.

The Fraction Anthem

Setting: from *A Community Mass*



♩ = 84 Optional introduction f All:
When we eat this Bread and
drink this Cup, we pro-claim your Death, O
Lord, un - til you come a - gain. *non rit.*
Lord, un - til you come a - gain.

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

L • 151	“One Bread, One Body”	John Foley, SJ
H • 470	“There’s a Wideness in God’s Mercy”	<i>Beecher</i>
L • 139	“Pass Me Not, O Gentle Savior”	William Doane

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 Blessing

Hymn in Procession H • 539

“O Zion, Haste, Thy Mission High Fulfilling” *Tidings*

The Dismissal

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

Postlude

*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:** Luther Battiste, 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, Cedric Johnson, Levi Johnson, Sr., James McLemore, Gwendolyn Meadows, Carmen Murray, Peyton Parker-Smith, Jay'ceon Quattlebaum, Malik Quattlebaum, Joseph Ray, Reginald Reed, Cassandra Sims, William Smith, Jr., Ronald Turner, Dorothy Walker
- **Family & Friends:** Carline Armstrong, Ingrid Dowdell, Barbara Ann Jacobs, Gerald L. McNair, Elsie Mitchell, Ann Morris, Greg Morris, Katherine, Robinson, Mattie Anderson-Roberson, Theodora Washington
- **Diocesan Cycle of Prayer:** Ministry of the Diocesan Chapters of the Order of the Daughters of the King
- **Birthdays:** Rueben Thompson (12th) Corinne Whittington-Kimpson (16th), Mervel Pressley (19th), Brian Baldwin (22nd)
- **Anniversaries:**
- **Births:**
- **Deaths:** Ruth Bowden (mother of Steven Bowden), Rose Palmer & Lois Parson (paternal and maternal aunts of Lorin Palmer)
- **Traveling Mercies:** Fr. Raphiell Ashford+, Nadia Muhammad, Susan Moffitt, Fr. & Sallie Lyon, Luther & Judy Battiste

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SABBATICAL: Fr. Raphiell is on sabbatical from June 1st-August 31st 2026. Contact the Senior Warden, Errol Porter (803) 888-0854.

REQUIEM MASS: The Requiem Mass for Mrs. Ruth Gallman Bowden will be held at St Luke's Episcopal Church on Monday, August 24th w/Interment in the Fort Jackson National Cemetery. The Requiem Mass will begin at 10:30am. A private viewing will be held for the family at Palmer's Memorial Chapel on Sunday, May 23rd. The Links, Incorporated will hold a memorial ceremony after the private viewing.

****The Rector received permission from Bishop Richards to officiate at the Requiem Mass for Mrs. Bowden. The rector will return to his sabbatical that evening and will return to the parish as scheduled on September 1st. No other duties will be engaged until the Rector returns from his sabbatical.**

PARISH PICNIC: The Parish Picnic will be held at Sesquicentennial State Park Saturday, August 29th, from 12pm-4pm. All food items should be brought to Shelter 1 by 11am. You are welcome to bring your own chairs if need be. The seating at the Shelter is picnic table seating. Feel free to bring games and other activities. The walking area to Shelter 1 is paved so you will not be walking on damp grass. Parking is available for those who are dropping off food or need closer access to the shelter due to physical limitations. If you have questions, please contact Gwen Meadows at (803) 391-6168 or the Senior Warden, Errol Porter. You may invite a guest or guests. There is a small entrance fee to enter the park. Please see the sign-up sheet in Griffin Hall.

THE FINANCE COMMITTEE hopes that you are enjoying your summer with your friends and families. Please expect a mid-year statement in your email or in the mail which will indicate your status with your pledge or gifts. If you are current with your pledge and support, we thank you. If you are not current, we hope you can try to bring it up to date. During the summer months, we see a significant decrease in funds which makes it difficult to pay our parish obligations. Thank you for your spiritual and financial support of St. Luke's over the years.

155th CHURCH ANNIVERSARY/ST LUKE'S DAY... We will observe the anniversary on the Feast of Saint Luke Sunday, October 18th. Each parishioner is asked to give \$155 in celebration for the anniversary. The guest preacher for the anniversary and patronal feast will be the Rev. Vincent P. Harris, Jr., Ret. Fr. Harris is in the Diocese of Washington. He serves as Rector Emeritus of St. George's Episcopal Church in Washington, DC and participates in services at Washington National Cathedral. His father was also an Episcopal Priest in Jacksonville, FL. He stated, "I would be honored to be the guest preacher at St. Luke's 155th Anniversary Celebration."

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH IS A SECRET TOO WELL KEPT—THE FEAST OF SAINT LUKE/155th CHURCH ANNIVERSARY...In anticipation of our upcoming celebration of the Feast of Saint Luke and the 155th Anniversary of the parish, each parishioner is asked to submit the **COMPLETE** names and address of at least five friends or families they would like to invite to the celebration. **The deadline to submit this information is Sunday, August 23rd by 5:00pm.** You may submit this information via email, in writing, or in person to the parish secretary or the Rector. **The parish office is not responsible for locating incomplete names and addresses.**

FUNERAL BULLETINS/PLEASE READ: Effective September 1st, all funeral bulletins for funerals to be held at St. Luke's will be printed in-house. **Bulletins will no longer be outsourced to funeral homes.** The Episcopal liturgy is unique and does not fit the mold of standard funeral bulletin templates. If you have already prepaid with a funeral home for bulletins, you can either request a refund or have the funeral home cut a check to St. Luke's for the amount that you paid.

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.**

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 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.

SERVANTS FOR THE LORD...If you have a desire to serve in the Church in a certain capacity (liturgical), 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. In the absence of the Rector, notify the Senior or Junior Warden, who will pass the information on to the Rector.

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.

155th Church Anniversary Souvenir Advertisement (Ad) Booklet

The purchase of an Ad can be used to advertise a business, celebrate or memorialize a loved one, celebrate your family, or simply to give a “Shout-Out” to the church.

	Dimension	Price
Full Page	(6" width x 9.5" length)	\$125
Half Page	(6" width x 4.75" length)	\$75
Quarter Page	(2.5" width x 4.25" length)	\$45
Inside Front Cover - <i>Bishop B. Harris Sponsor</i>	(6" width x 9.5" length)	\$1000
Inside Back Cover - <i>Bishop B. Harris Sponsor</i>	(6" width x 9.5" length)	\$1000
Outside Back Cover – Bishop Holly Sponsor	(6" width x 9.5" length)	\$1500
Diamond Level Sponsor	Listings on Diamond Sponsor Page	\$750

- Ways to Submit

- Provide pictures and text if you want your ad to be designed by the ad book team
- Provide your “ready to publish documents” to stlukescolumbia@gmail.com or Cynthia.Reed121@gmail.com put “Souvenir Ad Booklet” in the subject line

- Ways to Pay

- By Check - put “Souvenir Ad Booklet” in the memo line of your check
- By Realm – Select- “Church Ad”

For more information contact Cynthia Parker Reed.

ALL Ads **must** be submitted by **Sunday, October 4th**

Servants for the Lord

The Old Testament Lector

Sheryl D. Belcher

The Epistoler

Errol Porter

The Gospel Book Bearer

DeNell Hickman

Server

DeNell Hickman

Intercessor

Patwin Lawrence

Eucharistic Minister

Sheryl D. Belcher

Thurifer & Boat Bearer

Levi Johnson, III

Crucifers

Jaylen Caldwell
Herman Hickman

Videographer

Gary Bowden

Oblation Bearers

Loretta Johnson
Venesia Johnson

Torch Bearers

Kennedy Johnson
Sheryl D. Belcher

Ushers

Loretta Johnson
Stephanie Baldwin
Joseph Evans

Security

Cantors

Angela Blalock
Elliott Brown

AUGUST CALENDAR OR SERVICES/MEETINGS/EVENTS

AUGUST	SERVICE/MEETING/EVENT	TIME & PLACE
16 th (Sunday)	Choir Rehearsal	8:30am--9:15am Hurley Choir Room
	The Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost The Holy Eucharist: Rite II	10:00am/Nave
17 th (Monday)		
18 th (Tuesday)	Finance Committee	4:00pm-5:15pm Griffin Hall
	Vestry Meeting	6:00pm-7:15pm Griffin Hall
19 th (Wednesday)	Quilters & Crafters	10:30am-1:00pm Griffin Hall
20 th (Thursday)	Fresh Start	9:00am-12:00noon The O'Neal Center
21 st (Friday)	Parish Office Closed	
22 nd (Saturday)	4 th Saturday Feeding	12:00pm-1:00pm Griffin Hall Entrance Door
23 rd (Sunday)	Choir Rehearsal	8:30am--9:15am Hurley Choir Room
	The Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost The Holy Eucharist: Rite II	10:00am/Nave
24 th (Monday)		
25 th (Tuesday)		
26 th (Wednesday)	Quilters & Crafters	10:30am-1:00pm Griffin Hall
27 th (Thursday)	Fresh Start	9:00am-12:00noon The O'Neal Center
	Workshop: Ask me About U=U	Registration 9:30-10:10am Workshop

		10:00am-3:30pm South Carolina Health Campus 400 Otarre Parkway Cayce, SC 29033
28 th (Friday)	Parish Office Closed	
29 th (Saturday)	Parish Picnic	10:00am—3:00pm Sesquicentennial Park 9564 Two Notch Rd. Columbia, SC 29223
30 th (Sunday)	Choir Rehearsal	8:30am--9:15am Hurley Choir Room
	The Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost w/The Holy Eucharist: Rite II	10:00am/Nave
	Ushers Meeting (St. David Guild)	11:45am Nave
31 st (Monday)		

***Just a reminder to keep your financial obligations (pledges, etc.)
to the church up to date over the summer months.**

Parish Office Hours: 10:00am—2:00pm (M-Th)

LITURGY NOTES
THE FEAST OF SAINT MARY, THE VIRGIN
(AUGUST 15th)

from the Satucket Lectionary

The honor paid to Mary, the virgin mother of Jesus Christ our Lord and God, goes back to the earliest days of the Church. Indeed, it goes back further, for even before the birth of her Son, Mary prophesied, “From this time forth, all generations shall call me blessed.”

The New Testament records several incidents from the life of the Virgin: her betrothal to Joseph, the Annunciation by the angel Gabriel that she was to bear the Messiah, her Visitation to Elizabeth the mother of John the Baptist, the Nativity of our Lord, the visits of the shepherds and the magi, the Presentation of the infant Jesus in the Temple at the age of forty days, the flight into Egypt, the Passover visit to the Temple when Jesus was twelve, [Matthew 1:16,18-25; 2; Luke 1:26-56; 2]; the wedding at Cana in Galilee and the performance of her Son’s first miracle at her intercession [John 2:1-11], the occasions when observers said, “How can this man be special? We know his family!” [Matthew 13:54-56 = Mark 6:1-3 = Luke 4:22; also John 6:42], an occasion when she came with others to see him while he was preaching [Matthew 12:46-50 = Mark 3:31-35 = Luke 8:19-21], her presence at the foot of the Cross, where Jesus commends her to the care of the Beloved Disciple [John 19:25-27], and her presence with the apostles in the upper room after the Ascension, waiting for the promised Spirit [Acts 1:14]. She is thus seen to be present at Most of the chief events of her Son’s life.

Besides Jesus himself, only two humans are mentioned by name in the Creeds. One is Pontius Pilate, Roman procurator of Judea from 26 to 36 AD. That Jesus was crucified by order of Pontius Pilate pins down the date of his death within a few years, and certifies that we are not talking, like the worshippers of Tammuz or Adonis, about a personification or symbol of the annual death and resurrection of the crops. His death is an event in history, something that really happened. The other name is that of Mary. The Creeds say that Christ was “born of the virgin Mary.”

That is to say, they assert on the one hand that he was truly and fully human, born of a woman and not descended from the skies like an angel. On the other hand, by telling us that his mother was a virgin they exclude the theory that he was simply an ordinary man who was so virtuous that he eventually, at his baptism, became filled with the Spirit of God. His virgin birth attests to the fact that he was always more than merely human, always one whose presence among us was in itself a miracle, from the first moment of his earthly existence. In Mary, Virgin and Mother, God gives us a sign that Jesus is both truly God and truly Man.

It sometimes happens that someone will report an appearance of the Virgin Mary, bearing a message, usually encouraging faithfulness in prayer. A reader has asked, "How far back do such reports go?" According to Donald Attwater (Penguin Dictionary of Saints), Gregory of Nyssa (335-395) says that the earliest known report of a supernatural appearance of the Blessed Virgin to anyone was of one to Gregory Thaumaturgos (213-270). At the request of a Roman Catholic list member, I point out that the genuineness of these appearances is not official Roman Catholic doctrine. It is perfectly possible to reject all such appearances as delusions, and still be a Roman Catholic in good standing.

Little is known of the life of the Virgin Mary except insofar as it intersects with the life of her Son, and there is an appropriateness in this. The Scriptures record her words to the angel Gabriel, to her kinswoman Elizabeth, to her Son on two occasions. But the only recorded saying of hers to what may be called ordinary, run-of-the-mill hearers is her instruction to the servants at the wedding feast, to whom she says simply, indicating her Son, "Whatever he says to you, do it." This we may take to be the summation of her message to the world. If we listen to her, she will tell us, "Listen to Him. Listen to my Son. Do what He tells you." When we see her, we see her pointing to her Son. If our regard for the Blessed Virgin does not have the immediate effect of turning our attention from her to the One whom she carried in her womb for nine months and suckled at her breast, to the Incarnate God, the Word made flesh, then we may be sure that it is not the kind of regard that she seeks. A right regard for her will always direct us to Him Who found in her His first earthly dwelling-place.

The Collect for Saint Mary, the Virgin

O God, you have taken to yourself the blessed Virgin Mary, mother of your incarnate Son: Grant that we, who have been redeemed by his blood, may share with her the glory of your eternal kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

Music Acknowledgment & Permission for Use

Psalm Antiphon

The Portland Psalter

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The Gospel Alleluia

from *The Lectionary Mass; 1998*

Opening Acclamation, *Gloria, Sursum corda,*

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***Sanctus et Benedictus*, Memorial Acclamation, Fraction Anthem, & the Great Amen**

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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, *Parliamentarian*

~

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*
Beverly Turner—*Lay Eucharistic Visitor*

~

Patricia Cokley, *Parish Treasurer*
Darnell Holmes, William Smith, Jr., *Asst. Parish Treasurers*
Sheryl D. Belcher, *Assoc. Parish Treasurer*

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<http://www.stlukescolasc.org> (Website)
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“The Episcopal Church is a secret too well kept. Many are starved for what we experience daily and too easily take for granted. Invite others to come to your parish to experience this joy.”
Louie Crew, author of *101 Reasons to be Episcopalian*