

**While we sing and hear music from African American composers throughout the year, we pay special tribute as we celebrate Black History Month by selecting the majority of our music for February from this great tradition of American music.**

**9:25 AM — At the ringing of the bell, please prepare for worship in silence.**

**Prelude**

**Meditation**

Composed by H. Leslie Adams

*A composer, pianist, educator and arts advocate, H. LESLIE ADAMS (1932-2024), performed with and had his compositions presented by symphonic orchestras internationally. Following early studies in voice, composition and piano at the prestigious Oberlin Conservatory of Music, Adams worked as a ballet accompanist in addition to composing and directing various ensembles across Ohio, New Mexico and the East Coast.*

**9:30 AM — All stand as able at the ringing of the bell to begin worship.**

**Processional Hymn (9:30 AM)**  
**#460, The Hymnal 1982 vss. 1, 3, 4**

**Alleluia! Sing to Jesus**

Words: William C. Dix (1837-1898)  
 Music: Hyfrydol

1 Alleluia! sing to Jesus!  
 his the scepter, his the throne;  
 Alleluia! his the triumph,  
 his the victory alone;  
 Hark! the songs of peaceful Zion  
 thunder like a mighty flood;  
 Jesus out of every nation  
 hath redeemed us by his blood.

3 Alleluia! bread of Heaven,  
 Thou on earth our food, our stay!  
 Alleluia! here the sinful  
 flee to thee from day to day:  
 Intercessor, friend of sinners,  
 earth's Redeemer, plead for me,  
 where the songs of all the sinless  
 sweep across the crystal sea.

4 Alleluia! King eternal,  
 thee the Lord of lords we own:  
 Alleluia! born of Mary,  
 earth thy footstool, heaven thy throne:  
 thou within the veil hast entered,  
 robed in flesh, our great High Priest:  
 thou on earth both Priest and Victim  
 in the eucharistic feast.

**Opening Acclamation**

p. 355, Book of Common Prayer

Officiant Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

**People And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

Officiant 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 in excelsis

S-280, The Hymnal 1982 (spoken at 7:45 AM; sung at 9:30 AM)

Setting by Robert Powell

Glory to God in the highest,  
and peace to his people on earth.

Lord God, heavenly King,  
almighty God and Father,  
we worship you, we give you thanks,  
we praise you for your glory.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,  
Lord God, Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world;

have mercy on us;  
you are seated at the right hand of the Father;  
receive our prayer.

For you alone are the Holy One,  
you alone are the Lord,  
you alone are the Most High,  
Jesus Christ,  
with the Holy Spirit,  
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.

O God, who before the passion of your only begotten Son revealed his glory upon the holy mountain: Grant to us that we, beholding by faith the light of his countenance, may be strengthened to bear our cross, and be changed into his likeness from glory to glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

*Please be seated for the readings.*

## The First Lesson: A reading from the Book of Exodus

Exodus 24:12-18

The Lord said to Moses, "Come up to me on the mountain, and wait there; and I will give you the tablets of stone, with the law and the commandment, which I have written for their instruction." So Moses set out with his assistant Joshua, and Moses went up into the mountain of God. To the elders he had said, "Wait here for us, until we come to you again; for Aaron and Hur are with you; whoever has a dispute may go to them." Then Moses went up on the mountain, and the cloud covered the mountain. The glory of the Lord settled on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it for six days; on the seventh day he called to Moses out of the cloud. Now the appearance of the glory of the Lord was like a devouring fire on the top of the mountain in the sight of the people of Israel. Moses entered the cloud, and went up on the mountain. Moses was on the mountain for forty days and forty nights.

Reader The Word of the Lord.  
**People Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm 2 (read in unison)

p. 586, Book of Common Prayer

- 1 Why are the nations in an uproar? \*  
Why do the peoples mutter empty threats?
- 2 Why do the kings of the earth rise up in revolt,  
and the princes plot together, \*  
against the Lord and against his Anointed?
- 3 "Let us break their yoke," they say; \*  
"let us cast off their bonds from us."
- 4 He whose throne is in heaven is laughing; \*  
the Lord has them in derision.
- 5 Then he speaks to them in his wrath, \*  
and his rage fills them with terror.
- 6 "I myself have set my king \*  
upon my holy hill of Zion."
- 7 Let me announce the decree of the Lord: \*  
he said to me, "You are my Son;  
this day have I begotten you."

- 8 Ask of me, and I will give you the nations for your inheritance \*  
and the ends of the earth for your possession.
- 9 You shall crush them with an iron rod \*  
and shatter them like a piece of pottery."
- 10 And now, you kings, be wise; \*  
be warned, you rulers of the earth.
- 11 Submit to the Lord with fear, \*  
and with trembling bow before him;
- 12 Lest he be angry and you perish; \*  
for his wrath is quickly kindled.
- 13 Happy are they all \*  
who take refuge in him!

## The Second Lesson: A reading from the Second Letter of Peter

2 Peter 1:16-21

We did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we had been eyewitnesses of his majesty. For he received honor and glory from God the Father when that voice was conveyed to him by the Majestic Glory, saying, "This is my Son, my Beloved, with whom I am well pleased." We ourselves heard this voice come from heaven, while we were with him on the holy mountain. So we have the prophetic message more fully confirmed. You will do well to be attentive to this as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. First of all you must understand this, that no prophecy of scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, because no prophecy ever came by human will, but men and women moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.

Reader The Word of the Lord.  
**People Thanks be to God.**

**The Sequence Hymn (9:30 AM)**  
**#129, The Hymnal 1982 vss. 1-3**

### Christ upon the mountain peak

Words: Brian A. Wren  
Music: Mowsley

1 Christ upon the mountain peak  
stands alone in glory blazing;  
let us, if we dare to speak,  
with the saints and angels praise him.  
Alleluia!

2 Trembling at his feet we saw  
Moses and Elijah speaking.  
All the prophets and the Law  
shout through them their joyful greeting.  
Alleluia!

3 Swift the cloud of glory came.  
God proclaiming in its thunder  
Jesus as his Son by name!  
Nations cry aloud in wonder!  
Alleluia!

## The Holy Gospel

Deacon The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to Matthew.  
**People Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Matthew 17:1-9

Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became dazzling white. Suddenly there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. Then Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good for us to be here; if you wish, I will make three dwellings here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." While he was still speaking, suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud a voice said, "This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!" When the disciples heard this, they fell to the ground and were overcome by fear. But Jesus came and touched them, saying, "Get up and do not be afraid." And when they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus himself alone. As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus ordered them, "Tell no one about the vision until after the Son of Man has been raised from the dead."

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

*Sequence hymn continued.*

4 This is God's beloved Son!  
Law and prophets fade before him;  
first and last and only One,  
let creation now adore him!  
Alleluia!

*All are seated as invited by the preacher.*

## The Sermon

*All remain seated for a moment of silence following the sermon.*

The Rev. Mawethu Ncaca, Assoc. Rector

*All stand in body or spirit for*

**The Nicene Creed**

**We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father.**

**Through him all things were made.  
For us and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven:  
by the power of the Holy Spirit  
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,  
and was made man.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius  
Pilate; he suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and  
his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,**

**who proceeds from the Father and the Son.**

**With the Father and the Son**

**he is worshiped and glorified.**

**He has spoken through the Prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.**

**We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.**

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,**

**and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

**Prayers of the People—Form IV** (*The Leader and People pray responsively*)

p. 388, Book of Common Prayer

Leader Let us pray for the Church and for the world.

Grant, Almighty God, that all who confess your Name may be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world. *Silence.*

Lord, in your mercy

**Hear our prayer.**

Guide the people of this land, and all of the nations, in the ways of justice and peace; that we may honor one another and serve the common good. *Silence.*

Lord, in your mercy

**Hear our prayer.**

Give us all a reverence for the earth as your own creation, that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others and to your honor and glory. *Silence.*

Lord, in your mercy

**Hear our prayer.**

Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, and grant that we may serve Christ in them, and love one another as he loves us. *Silence.*

Lord, in your mercy

**Hear our prayer.**

Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of your salvation, especially; **Carol, John, Tammy, Jim, Pat, Jane, Reta, Greta, Cindy, Jack, Elizabeth, Marita, Dee.** We pray for all those on our parish prayer list who live with chronic illnesses, and for all those we name to you now... (*You may speak additional names aloud or in silence*).

Lord, in your mercy

**Hear our prayer.**

We pray for those celebrating birthdays this week; Patricia Blanck, Sheldon Channer, Jessica Mitnaul, Ric Munz, Jane Hill, and Moe Isenberg... (*You may speak additional names aloud or in silence*).

Lord, in your mercy

**Hear our prayer.**

We commend to your mercy all who have died. We pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom...  
(*You may speak additional names aloud or in silence*).

Lord, in your mercy  
**Hear our prayer.**

Celebrant Let us say together the Prayer for Transition (*Composed by Lois Sauer, Licensed Lay Preacher*)

**People** **Ever-present and Holy God, as you continue to invite new people into St. John's, we ask your ongoing guidance and blessing upon us, that we may always become more fully the people and congregation you would have us to be. Keep our hearts deeply grounded in your divine love, that we may grow in steadfast love and gentleness for one another. Inspire our leadership with wisdom and creativity to navigate the ongoing changes that lay before us. In this season of transition, we particularly pray for our Sr. Warden Camille, vestry, staff, search committee, our Interim Rector, Rev. Stephanie, and our eventual new rector. Fill all of us with courage, kindness, and patience as we walk the Way of Love with one another and with the broader diverse community around us. All this we ask in the name of your son Jesus, who lives and reigns in each of us every day. Amen.**

Celebrant

O Lord our God, accept the fervent prayers of your people; in the multitude of your mercies, look with compassion upon us and all who turn to you for help; for you are gracious, O lover of souls, and to you we give glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and for ever. **Amen.**

### **Confession and Absolution**

p. 360, Book of Common Prayer

Deacon/Celebrant Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

**People** **Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

Celebrant Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

### **The Peace**

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**People** **And also with you.**

*Please be seated.*

### **Welcome & Parish Announcements**

Commissioning of Vestry Members

Celebrant Let us pray. *Silence.*

O Eternal God, the foundation of all wisdom and the source of all courage: Enlighten with your grace the Wardens and Vestry of this congregation, and so rule their minds, and guide their counsels, that in all things they may seek your glory and promote the mission of your Church; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

In the Name of God and of this congregation, I commission you as members of the Vestry of St. John's.

## **The Holy Communion**

### **The Offertory**

*If you are viewing our livestream, you may wish to prepare your financial offering for mailing at this time. Anyone may give online at [www.stjohnswf.org/give](http://www.stjohnswf.org/give) OR Text "STJOHNSWF" to 73256 to give using your mobile device.*

**Offertory Anthem (9:30 AM)****Sacred Harp Suite**

Texts by Robert Robinson, George Atkins and Isaac Watts  
Tunes from The Sacred Harp, Columbian Harmony, and Southern Harmony  
Arrangement by Mary McDonald

**CANTATE**

*Come, Thou Fount of ev'ry blessing, tune my heart to sing Thy grace.  
Streams of mercy never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise.  
I am bound for the kingdom, will you go to glory with me?  
Hallelujah, praise the Lord.*

*Christians, we have met to worship and adore the Lord our God.  
Will you pray with all your power while we try to preach the Word?  
All is vain unless the Spirit of the Holy One come down.  
Christians, pray and holy manna will be showered all around.*

*My Shepherd will supply my need Jehovah is His name.  
In pastures fresh, He makes me feed beside the living stream.  
He brings my wand'ring spirit back when I forsake His ways;  
And leads me, for His mercy's sake, in paths of truth and grace.*

*Here I raise mine Ebenezer. Hither by Thy help I'm come;  
And I hope by Thy good pleasure safely to arrive at home.  
I am bound for the kingdom. Will you go to glory with me?  
Hallelujah, praise the Lord.*

*All stand in body or spirit for*

**The Doxology**

(7:45 AM—spoken)

**All things come of thee, O Lord, and of thine own have we given thee.**

(9:30 AM—sung—Hymn 380 vs. 3)

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below;  
Praise God above, ye heavenly host: Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

*All stand in body or spirit for*

**The Great Thanksgiving**

p. 361 Book of Common Prayer, Eucharistic Prayer B

Celebrant 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 God thanks and praise.**

Celebrant It is right, and a good and joyful thing...who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

**The Sanctus—*holy, holy, holy* (7:45 spoken, 9:30 sung)**

**S-130 (front of hymnal)**

Franz Schubert/arr. Richard Proulx

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of Power and might,  
heaven and earth are full , full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.**

Celebrant We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation ...Therefore, according to his command, O Father:

**All**  
**We remember his death,  
We proclaim his resurrection,  
We await his coming in glory;**

*The Celebrant continues.*

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine. ....

....By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Celebrant And now as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to pray:

**All**  
**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.  
Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the Kingdom, and the power, and the glory for ever and ever. Amen.**

*All stand in body or spirit.*

### **The Breaking of the Bread**

#### **Fraction Anthem**

*Recognized as one of the leading Episcopalian musicians in the United States, DAVID HURD (b. 1950) has served in academia as a faculty member of The General Theological Seminary in New York City, heading the Church Music and Chapel Music Divisions.*

#### **At 7:45 AM, spoken**

Celebrant Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.  
Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

**People** **Therefore let us keep the feast.  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

#### **At 9:30 AM, sung**

**S-154** (front of Hymnal 1982), **Christ our Passover**  
Setting by David Hurd

**Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.  
Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;  
Therefore let us keep the feast.  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

### **The Communion of the People**

All are welcome to receive Holy Communion or to receive a blessing (instead of the bread and wine) at the altar rail. If you prefer to receive a blessing, simply cross your arms over your chest to signal the clergy. If you need a gluten free wafer, please extend your hands with palms down. If you need to be served in your seat, please inform an usher. At this time, we will refrain from offering the common cup (drinking from a common chalice) and will offer the wine by intinction only (dipping the communion wafer in the cup of wine.) If you wish to receive the wine, please hold the wafer in your fingers as the chalice bearer comes to you and take care to dip only the wafer into the wine (and not your fingers.) If you are not comfortable receiving the wine this way, please know that receiving only the consecrated bread at Holy Communion (or the wine only) is still considered full Communion.

**Communion Hymn (9:30 AM)**    **Sing alleluia forth in duteous praise**    Words: Latin, 5th-8th cent.; ver. Hymnal 1940  
  **#777, Wonder, Love, and Praise**    Music: Robert Buckley Farlee (b. 1950)

1 Sing alleluia forth in duteous praise, ye citizens of heav'n, O sweetly raise an endless alleluia.	3 Then let the holy city raise the strain, and with glad songs resounding wake again an endless alleluia.
2 Ye pow'rs who stand before the eternal Light, let all your choirs re-echo to the height an endless alleluia.	4 Ye who have fought and joined the starry throng, ye victors, now take up the eternal song, an endless alleluia.

*Communion hymn continued.*

5 Your songs of triumph shall forever ring,  
the hymns which tell the honor of your King,  
an endless alleluia.

6 Such song is rest and food and deep delight  
to saints forgiven; let them all unite  
an endless alleluia.

7 Almighty Christ, to thee our voices sing  
all laud forevermore; to thee we bring  
an endless alleluia.

*All stand in body or spirit for*

### **The Postcommunion Prayer**

Celebrant Let us pray.

All **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 Celebrant blesses the People.*

(9:30 AM) **All children here today are invited to join the clergy at the church door during the hymn.  
The children will help send us out with the words of Dismissal.**

**The Dismissal Hymn (9:30 AM)**  
**#618, The Hymnal 1982**

1 Ye watchers and ye holy ones,  
bright seraphs, cherubim, and thrones,  
raise the glad strain, Alleluia!  
Cry out, dominions, princedoms, powers,  
virtues, archangels, angels' choirs,  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

2 O higher than the cherubim,  
more glorious than the seraphim,  
lead their praises, Alleluia!  
Thou bearer of the eternal Word,  
most gracious, magnify the Lord,  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

**Ye watchers and ye holy ones**

Words: John Athelstan Laurie Riley  
Music: Lasst uns erfruen

3 Respond, ye souls in endless rest,  
ye patriarchs and prophets blest,  
Alleluia, alleluia!  
Ye holy twelve, ye martyrs strong,  
all saints triumphant, raise the song,  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

4 O friends, in gladness let us sing,  
supernal anthems echoing,  
Alleluia, alleluia!  
To God the Father, God the Son,  
and God the Spirit, Three in One,  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

### **The Dismissal**

Youth Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.  
All **Thanks be to God.**

### **Postlude**

### **King of Kings**

Setting by Ralph Simpson

*As an active organist throughout his life, RALPH SIMPSON (1933-2024) was the first African American to earn a Ph.D. in music from Michigan State University. A native of Birmingham, Alabama, following high school, Simpson enlisted in the U.S. Army and was stationed in France (1955-1957), where he served as organist to the Chaplain. Following his return to the states, Simpson taught at Alabama State University in addition to Dillard and Fisk Universities; retiring as Music Chairperson at Tennessee State University in 2005.*