

BETHEL

African Methodist Episcopal Church

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Sunday, March 01, 2026, at 10:30 a.m.

Second Sunday in Lent



The Reverend Brandon L. Thornton, *Pastor*

The Reverend Charles A. Lewis, *Presiding Elder, The Mobile District*
Bishop Julius H. McAllister Jr., *Presiding Prelate, Ninth Episcopal District*

Ministerial Staff

The Reverend Doctor Olivia Martin, *Itinerant Elder,*
Family, Community & Leadership Development Leader

The Reverend Irmatine Chastang, *Itinerant Elder,*
Congregational Care & Discipleship Leader

The Reverend Pamela Greene-Irby, *Itinerant Deacon,*
Worship & Evangelism Leader

Order of Worship

Worship Leader.....Rev. Brandon L. Thornton

THE PRAISE AND WORSHIP

THE DOXOLOGY

“Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow”

THE CALL TO WORSHIP.....Rev. Dr. Olivia Martin

Leader: I was glad when they said unto me, let us go into the house of the Lord. (Psalm 122:1)

People: We walk by faith and not by sight. (Romans 4:16)

Leader: Today is the Second Sunday in Lent, and God calls us to step out in faith. (Genesis 12:1-4a)

People: Our help comes from the Lord. (Psalm 121:2)

Leader: For God so loved the world. (John 3:16)

People: We believe and receive eternal life. (John 3:16)

The Opening Hymn.....Mass Choir and Congregation

Hymn # 243 – “Down at the Cross”

**Down at the cross where my Savior died, Down where for cleansing from sin I cried,
There to my heart was the blood applied; Glory to His name!**

**I am so wondrously saved from sin, Jesus so sweetly abides within,
There at the cross where He took me in; Glory to His name!**

**O precious fountain that saves from sin, I am so glad I have entered in;
There Jesus saves me and keeps me clean; Glory to His name!**

**Come to this fountain so rich and sweet; Cast thy poor soul at the Savior’s feet;
Plunge in today and be made complete; Glory to His name!**

Refrain:

**Glory to His name, Glory to His name;
There to my heart was the blood applied; Glory to His name!**

THE INVOCATION.....Rev. Irmatine Chastang

Matthew 17:1-9

And after six days Jesus taketh Peter, James and John his brother, and bringeth them up into an high mountain apart.

And was transfigured before them: and his face did shine as the sun, and his raiment was white as the light.

And, behold, there appeared unto them Moses and Elias talking with him.

The answered Peter, and said unto Jesus, Lord, it is good for us to be here: if thou wilt, let us make here three tabernacles; one for thee, and one for Moses, and one for Elias.

While he yet spake, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them: and behold a voice out of the cloud, which said, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him.

And when the disciples heard it, they fell on their face, and were sore afraid.

And Jesus came and touched them, and said, Arise, and be not afraid.

And when they had lifted up their eyes, they saw no man, save Jesus only.

And as they came down from the mountain, Jesus charged them, saying, Tell the vision to no man, until the Son of man be risen again from the dead.

The Decalogue

Minister: And God spake all these words saying, "I am the Lord thy God who brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. Thou shalt have no other gods before me."

People: Lord have mercy upon us and incline our hearts to keep this law.

Minister: Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of anything that is in earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth; thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them; for I the Lord thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me; and showing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments.

People: Lord have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.

Minister: Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain; for the Lord will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain.

People: Lord have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.

Hymn: My soul be on guard, Ten thousand foes arise; And hosts of sin are pressing hard, To draw thee from the skies.

Minister: Honor thy father and thy mother; that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee.

People: Lord have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.

Minister: Thou shalt not kill.

People: Lord have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.

Minister: Thou shalt not commit adultery.

People: Lord have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.

Minister: Thou shalt not steal.

People: Lord have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.

Minister: Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor.

People: Lord have mercy upon us and incline our hearts to keep this law.

Minister: Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's house; thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor anything that is thy neighbor's.

People: Lord have mercy upon us and write these laws upon our hearts.

Hymn" Nearer my God to thee. Nearer to thee, E'en though it be a cross that raiseth me; Still all my song shall be, Nearer, my God to thee, Nearer, my God, to thee, Nearer to thee.

Minister: Hear what Christ our Savior saith, Thou shall love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment and the second is like unto it: Thou shall love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

Gloria Patri:

Glory be to the Father, and to The Son, and to The Holy Ghost. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end, Amen. Amen

THE MINISTRY OF MUSIC.....Mass Choir & Congregation

THE ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF VISITORS & ANOUNCEMENTS.....

THE MINISTRY OF MUSIC.....Mass Choir & Congregation

The Bringing of the Tithes and Offering.....Rev. George Odom, Sr.

THE MINISTRY OF GIVING

This is my seed. It shall meet all my needs.

I give it today, because I obey – my God and His command.

My tithe is out of obedience and love. My offering is my sacrifice.

My return shall be magnified, because I've learned to give right.

I'm the head and not the tail, a lender and not a borrower, on top and not beneath.

Because I give, I am blessed – in the city and in the field.

I'm blessed because I give my God my best.

Today and every day, I am blessed!

THE SERMON.....*The Rev. Brandon I. Thornton*

THE INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP/ ALTAR CALL

THE HOLY COMMUNION

THE GENERAL CONFESSION

Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Maker of all things, Judge of all men, we acknowledge and bewail our manifold sins and wickedness which we from time to time most grievously have committed by thought, word and deed against Thy divine Majesty, provoking most justly Thy wrath and indignation against us.

We do earnestly repent and are heartily sorry for these our misdoings; the remembrance of them is grievous unto us. Have mercy upon us, have mercy upon us, most merciful Father for Your Son our Lord Jesus Christ's sake; forgive us all that is past, and grant that we may ever hereafter serve and please Thee in newness of life, to honor and glory of Your, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE SHARING OF THE ELEMENTS

(Elements have been pre-consecrated)

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.

Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil:

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

THE PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

O Lord, our heavenly Father, we Your humble servants, desire Your fatherly goodness mercifully to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving; most humbly beseeching You to grant that by the merits and death of your Son, Jesus Christ, and through faith in his blood, we and your whole church may obtain remission of our sins and all other benefits of His passion. And here we offer and present unto You, O Lord, ourselves, our souls and bodies, to be a reasonable, holy, and living sacrifice unto You; beseeching You that all we who are partakers of this Holy Communion may be filled with Your grace and heavenly benediction. And although we be unworthy, through our manifold sins, to offer unto You any sacrifice, yet we beseech You to accept this our bounden duty and services; not weighing our merits, but pardoning our offenses, through Christ our Lord; by whom and with whom in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory be unto You, O Father Almighty, world without end. Amen.

THE DOXOLOGY

THE BENEDICTION

The peace of God which passeth all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of His Son Jesus Christ our Lord, and blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. Amen.

THE POSTLUDE

Lenten Services 2026
6:15 P.M. Praise & Worship
6:30 P.M. Worship Service

Mobile District
Presiding Elder
Reverend Charles Lewis

Ash Wednesday February 18, 2026	Emanuel AME Church 654 St. Michael Street Mobile, Alabama 36602	Rev. John L. Dees, Jr.
February 25, 2026	Metropolitan AME Church 750 Martin Luther King. Ave. Mobile, Ala 36603	Rev. Kimberly Martin
March 4, 2026	Friendship AME Church Glover Land Daphne, Alabama 36526	Rev. Twilla Burns
March 11, 2026	St. Stephen AME Church 2707 St. Josephine St. Mobile, Ala. 36607	Rev. Rosalind Amos
March 18, 2026	Greater Pine Grove AME Church 800 Dr. Thomas Avenue S. Prichard, Alabama 36610	Rev. Willie Burns
March 25, 2026	Smith Memorial AME Church 6501 Felhorn Road Mobile, Alabama 36603	Rev. Samantha Lightner
April 1, 2026	Bethel AME Church 714 Savannah Street Mobile, AL 36603	Rev. Brandon L. Thornton

SERMON APPLICATION

HEARING GOD’S WORD IN THE SERMON

Since we forget 90% of what we hear, it has been suggested that note-taking will double the percentage of what we may receive during the hearing of God’s Word.

PARTICIPATE IN THE SERMON

SERMON SCRIPTURE: _____

SERMON TITLE: _____

SUPPORTING SCRIPTURES: _____

THE OUTLINE OF THE MAIN POINTS:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

WHAT WAS GOD SAYING SPECIFICALLY TO ME DURING THE SERMON?