

# BETHEL

## African Methodist Episcopal Church

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**Sunday, April 05, 2026, at 10:30 a.m.**



**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. Brandon Thornton**

**Call to Worship – Resurrection Sunday & Holy Communion**

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

**People: Our feet shall stand within thy gates, O Jerusalem.**

Leader: For this is the day which the Lord hath made;

**People: We will rejoice and be glad in it. (Psalm 118:24)**

Leader: Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

**People: Therefore let us keep the feast. (1 Corinthians 5:7–8)**

Leader: The Lord is risen indeed;

**People: And hath appeared unto many. (Luke 24:34)**

Leader: He was delivered for our offenses, and raised again for our justification. (Romans 4:25)

**People: Thanks be unto God, who giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. (1 Corinthians 15:57)**

Leader: But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread, and drink of that cup. (1 Corinthians 11:28)

**People: For as often as we eat this bread, and drink this cup, we do show the Lord’s death till He come. (1 Corinthians 11:26)**

Leader: Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith. (Hebrews 10:22)

**People: Having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water.**

**All: Hallelujah! Christ is risen, and we worship at His table in the beauty of holiness.**

**Amen.**

**The Opening Hymn.....Sis. Kim Scott**  
**Hymn # 281 (AAHH) – “Because He Lives”**

**God sent His Son, they called Him Jesus, He came to love, heal, and forgive;  
He lived and died to buy my pardon, An empty grave is there to prove my Savior lives.**

**Refrain:**

**How sweet to hold a newborn baby, And feel the pride, and joy He gives;  
But greater still the calm assurance, This child can face uncertain days because He lives.**

**Refrain:**

**And then one day I’ll cross the river, I’ll fight life’s final war with pain;  
And then as death gives way to vict’ry, I’ll see the lights of glory and I’ll know He lives.**

**Refrain:**

**Because He lives I can face tomorrow, Because He lives All fear is gone;  
Because I know He holds the future, And life is worth living just because He lives.  
Because He, Because He lives I can face tomorrow, Because He lives I can face tomorrow.**

**THE INVOCATION.....Rev. Irmatine Chastang**

**Selection.....Mass Choir & Congregation**

**THE SCRIPTURE READING.....Rev. Dr. Olivia Martin**

**No. 721 – “Easter Day”**

Now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept.  
For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.

But some men will say, How are the dead raised up? and with what body do they come?  
All flesh is not the same flesh: but there is one kind of flesh of men, another flesh of beasts, another of fishes, and another of birds.

There are also celestial bodies, and bodies terrestrial: but the glory of the celestial is one, and the glory of the terrestrial is one, and the glory of the terrestrial is another.

There is one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars: for one star differs from another star in glory.

So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown in corruption, it is raised in incorruption: It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory: it is sown in weakness, it is raised in power. It is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body.

So it is written. The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam was made a quickening spirit.

Behold, I show you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed.

For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. Thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my beloved brethren, be you steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as you know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord,

### 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 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 shalt 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. Pamela G. Irby**

**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**

**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:**

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**WHAT WAS GOD SAYING SPECIFICALLY TO ME DURING THE SERMON?**