

BETHEL

African Methodist Episcopal Church

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Sunday, April 05, 2026, at 6:00 a.m.

Sunrise Service



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 – Sunrise Service

Leader: Early in the morning, while it was still dark, the women came to the tomb, carrying what they thought they needed—but God had already done what only He could do.

Congregation: The stone has been rolled away. The grave is empty. Christ is risen!

Leader: Why do you seek the living among the dead? He is not here—He has risen, just as He said! (Luke 24:5–6)

Congregation: We come not to mourn, but to rejoice—Jesus Christ is alive!

Leader: The same power that raised Jesus from the dead is at work even now—bringing life where there was death, hope where there was despair. (Romans 8:11)

Congregation: We stand in the power of the resurrection, called out of darkness into marvelous light!

Leader: Lift up your heads, O ye gates! Be lifted up, you everlasting doors, that the King of glory may come in! (Psalm 24:7)

Congregation: The King of glory has come—He is risen with all power in His hands!

Leader: This is the day the Lord has made—

Congregation: We will rejoice and be glad in it! (Psalm 118:24)

All: Hallelujah! Christ is risen indeed!

The Opening Hymn.....Rev. Pamela G. Irby

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,
Because He lives I can face tomorrow, Because He lives, Jesus lives, all fear is, All fear is**

**gone, Yes, I lives all fear is gone: Because I know He holds the future; And life is know He
holds the future; And life is worth the living just because He lives! Worth the living just
because He lives! Amen!**

THE INVOCATION.....Rev. Pamela G. Irby

Selection.....Mass Choir & Congregation

THE SCRIPTURE READING.....Bro. Gregory McGlasker

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 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 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:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

WHAT WAS GOD SAYING SPECIFICALLY TO ME DURING THE SERMON?