

BETHEL

African Methodist Episcopal Church

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Sunday, July 5, 2026, at 10:30 a.m.

Communion Sunday



The Reverend Brandon L. Thornton, *Pastor*

The Reverend Charles A. Lewis, *Presiding Elder, Mobile District*

Bishop Julius H. McAllister Jr., *Presiding Prelate, Ninth Episcopal District*

Ministerial Staff

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 *(Tune: Old 100th)*
“Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow”

THE CALL TO WORSHIP.....Rev. Brandon L. Thornton

Leader: I was glad when they said unto me, let us go into the house of the Lord, our feet shall stand within thy gates, O Jerusalem

People: For a day in thy courts is better than a thousand. I shall rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than to dwell in the tents of wickedness.

Leader: Because of the house of the Lord our God I will seek thy good.

People: Those that he planted in the house of the Lord, shall flourish in the courts of our God.

Leader: Blessed are they that dwell in thy house . Lord, I have loved thy habitation , the place where thy honor dwelleth.

People: For the Lord is in his holy temple; let all the earth keep silence before him.

Leader: Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in thy sight O Lord, my strength and my Redeemer.

All: O sing unto the Lord a new song, for he has done marvelous things. Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all the earth, sing praises.

The Opening Hymn.....Mass Choir

Hymn # 450 – “Blessed Assurance, Jesus Is Mine”

Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine! O what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God, Born of His spirit washed in His blood.

Perfect submission, perfect delight, Visions of rapture now burst on my sight;
Angels descending, bring from above Echoes of mercy, whispers of love.

Perfect submission, all is at rest; I in my Savior am happy and blest,
Watching and waiting, looking above, Filled with His goodness, lost in His love.

Refrain:

This is my story, this is my song, Praising my Savior all the day long;
This is my story, this is my song, Praising my Savior all the day long.

THE INVOCATION.....Rev. Pamela Greene-Irby

Selection.....Mass Choir

THE SCRIPTURE READING..... Dr. Olivia Martin

Gospel Lesson:

Matthew 16:16-19, 25-30

Verses 16-19

“Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.” Jesus replied, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by flesh and blood, but by my Father in heaven. And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.”

Verses 25-28

For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will find it. What good will it be for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul? For the Son of Man is going to come in his Father’s glory with his angels, and then he will reward each person according to what they have done. “Truly I tell you, some who are standing here will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom.”

The Decalogue (Contemporary Abridged).....Rev. Brandon L. Thornton

From all that dwells below the skies, let the Creator's praise arise; Let the Redeemer's name be sung, through every land by every tongue.

Minister: Let us express our commitment to keep God's law.

People: God of our salvation, only you are God. We will make no idols. We will not invoke with malice Your name, O God. We will remember the Sabbath Day and keep it holy. We will honor our father and our mother. We will not commit murder. We will not commit adultery. We will not steal. We will not be a false witness. We will not covet anything that belongs to our neighbor.

Singing: Nearer My God to Thee!

Minister: And He said unto Him, you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it, you shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the law and the prophets.

Singing: 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

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

THE ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF VISITORS & ANOUNCEMENTS.....

The Bringing of the Tithes and Offering.....Steward

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

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 *(Tune: Duke Street)*

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?