

God Our Father, Christ Our Redeemer, Holy Spirit Our Comforter,  
Humankind Our Family

## Saint John AME Church

708 15<sup>th</sup> Street North

Birmingham, Alabama 35203

The Reverend Dr. Ronald D. Sterling, Pastor || Sister Kim C. Sterling, First Lady

## Holy Communion



**Sunday, May 4, 2025**

**Third Sunday of Easter**

**The Praise & Worship.....Music Ministry**

**The Doxology**

**AMEC Hymn No. 647 [Tune: Old 100]**

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

**The Call to Worship..... Pastor Sterling**

**Minister:** I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the Lord! Our feet have been standing within your gates, O Jerusalem!

**People:** **For a day in your courts is better than a thousand, elsewhere, I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of wickedness.**

**Minister:** For the sake of the house of the Lord our God, I will seek your good.

**People:** **They are planted in the house of the Lord, they flourish in the courts of our God.**

**Minister:** O Lord, I love the habitation of your house, and the place where your glory dwells.

**People:** **But the Lord is in His holy temple; let all the earth keep silence before Him.**

**Minister:** Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in your sight, O Lord, my Rock, and my Redeemer.

**People:** **O sing to the Lord a new song, for He has done marvelous things! Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth, sing praises!**

**The Hymn of Celebration..... "All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name"**

All hail the power of Jesus' name! Let angels prostrate fall;  
Bring forth the royal diadem, and crown Him Lord of all;  
Bring forth the royal diadem, and crown Him Lord of all.

Ye chosen seed of Israel's race, ye ransomed from the fall,  
Hail him who saves you by his grace, and crown him Lord of all,  
Hail Him who saves you by his grace, and crown Him Lord of all.

Sinners, whose love can ne'er forget the wormwood and the gall,  
Go spread your trophies at His feet, and crown Him Lord of all.  
Go spread your trophies at His feet, and crown Him Lord of all.

Let every kindred, every tribe on this terrestrial ball,  
To Him all majesty ascribe, and crown Him Lord of all.  
To Him all majesty ascribe, and crown Him Lord of all.

O that with yonder sacred throng, we at His feet may fall!  
We'll join the everlasting song, and crown Him Lord of all.  
We'll join the everlasting song, and crown Him Lord of all

**The Invocation**

**The Choral Response.....“Sweet Hour of Prayer”**

Sweet hour of prayer! Sweet hour of prayer! That calls me from a world of care  
And bids me at my Father's throne, Make all my wants and wishes known  
In seasons of distress and grief, My soul has often found relief,  
And oft escaped the tempter's snare, By thy return, sweet hour of prayer!

Sweet hour of prayer! Sweet hour of prayer! Thy wings shall my petition bear  
To Him whose truth and faithfulness, Engage the waiting soul to bless  
And since He bids me seek His face, Believe His word and trust His grace,  
I'll cast on Him my every care, And wait for thee, sweet hour of prayer!

**The Scripture Lesson (s)**

**Old Testament .....Brother Brandon Cleveland**  
**Psalm 30**

1 I will extol you, O Lord, for you have drawn me up  
and have not let my foes rejoice over me.  
2 O Lord my God, I cried to you for help,  
and you have healed me.  
3 O Lord, you have brought up my soul from Sheol;  
you restored me to life from among those who go down to the pit.  
4 Sing praises to the Lord, O you his saints,  
and give thanks to his holy name.  
5 For his anger is but for a moment,  
and his favor is for a lifetime.  
Weeping may tarry for the night,  
but joy comes with the morning.  
6 As for me, I said in my prosperity,  
“I shall never be moved.”  
7 By your favor, O Lord,  
you made my mountain stand strong;  
you hid your face;  
I was dismayed.  
8 To you, O Lord, I cry,  
and to the Lord I plead for mercy:  
9 “What profit is there in my death,  
if I go down to the pit?  
Will the dust praise you?  
Will it tell of your faithfulness?  
10 Hear, O Lord, and be merciful to me!  
O Lord, be my helper!”  
11 You have turned for me my mourning into dancing;  
you have loosed my sackcloth  
and clothed me with gladness,  
12 that my glory may sing your praise and not be silent.  
O Lord my God, I will give thanks to you forever!

**New Testament .....Sister MiChelle Vaughner Knight**

**Revelation 5:11-14**

11 Then I looked, and I heard around the throne and the living creatures and the elders the voice of many angels, numbering myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands, 12 saying with a loud voice,

“Worthy is the Lamb who was slain,  
to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might  
and honor and glory and blessing!”

**Gospel.....Sister Brittany Ford**

*(Please stand for the reading of the Gospel)*

**John 21:15-19**

15 When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?” He said to him, “Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.” He said to him, “Feed my lambs.” 16 He said to him a second time, “Simon, son of John, do you love me?” He said to him, “Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.” He said to him, “Tend my sheep.” 17 He said to him the third time, “Simon, son of John, do you love me?” Peter was grieved because he said to him the third time, “Do you love me?” and he said to him, “Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you.” Jesus said to him, “Feed my sheep. 18 Truly, truly, I say to you, when you were young, you used to dress yourself and walk wherever you wanted, but when you are old, you will stretch out your hands, and another will dress you and carry you where you do not want to go.” 19 (This he said to show by what kind of death he was to glorify God.) And after saying this he said to him, “Follow me.”

**Hymn No. 69 From All That Dwell Below the Skies**

*From all that dwell below the skies, Let the Creator's praise arise; Let the Redeemer's name be sung, Through every land, by every tongue.*

**The Decalogue (Contemporary)**

**Minister:** Hear the commandments of God to his people: I am the Lord your God who brought you out of bondage. You shall have no other gods but me.

**People:** **Amen, Lord, have mercy.**

**Minister:** You shall not make for yourself any idol.

**People:** **Amen, Lord, have mercy.**

**Minister:** You shall not invoke with malice the Name of the Lord your God.

**People:** **Amen, Lord, have mercy.**

**Minister:** Remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy.

**People:** **Amen, Lord, have mercy.**

**Minister:** Honor your father and your mother.

**People:** **Amen, Lord, have mercy.**

**Minister:** You shall not commit murder.

**People:** **Amen, Lord, have mercy.**

Minister: You shall not commit adultery.

People: **Amen, Lord, have mercy.**

Minister: You shall not steal.

People: **Amen, Lord, have mercy.**

Minister: You shall not be a false witness.

People: **Amen, Lord, have mercy.**

Minister: You shall not covet anything that belongs to your neighbor.

People: **Amen, Lord, have mercy.**

### **The 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.*

### **The Blessing of the Offertory (Tithes/Offerings/Benevolent)**

*All things come of Thee, O Lord; and of Thine own have we given Thee. Amen.*

### **The Pastor's Words and Greetings to Visitors**

**The Hymn of Preparation.....Music Ministry**

**The Sermon.....Pastor Sterling**

### **The Invitation to Christian Discipleship**

**The Communion Hymn....."There Is a Fountain Filled with Blood"**

### **The Solicitation**

### **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 Your divine Majesty, provoking most justly Your 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 You in newness of life, to the honor and glory of Your name, through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

### **The First Collect**

### **The Second Collect**

### **The Prayer of Adoration**

**The Prayer of Humiliation**

**The Prayer of Consecration**

**The Elements**

**The Prayer**

**The Apostles' Creed**

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried. The third day, He arose from the Dead; He ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, The Church Universal, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen

**The Doxology**

**The Benediction.....Pastor Sterling**