



Primary

TAKE-HOME CARDS

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- *4. Samuel
- *5. Ruth
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Pentecost



* Art no longer available for publication.

JOSHUA

- After Moses' death, God chose Joshua to lead the people of Israel into the promised land.
- With God's help, Joshua fought and won the famous battle of Jericho.
- Joshua saw that the people were turning away from the God of their ancestors.
- Joshua called the people together at Shechem and challenged them to choose "whom they would serve."
- The people renewed their promise to serve God.
- As a reminder of this covenant, Joshua wrote down their decision and set up a great stone.

Under Joshua's leadership the people promised to serve God and not worship strange gods. Why is it important to keep our promises?

DEBORAH

- Deborah was known for her faith in God.
- When people had problems, they went to her for help. She was called a judge.
- Deborah was also a prophet—she knew ahead of time that the army of Canaan was going to destroy the Israelites.
- Deborah asked a man named Barak to lead the army. He accepted only when she agreed to go with him and help.
- With the help of God, Deborah and Barak won the battle.
- To celebrate this victory, she wrote "The Song of Deborah." (*Judges, ch. 5.*)

As a judge, Deborah listened to the problems of many people. Who listens to our problems and helps us?

GIDEON

- The Midianites began to raid the land and steal the crops of the Israelites.
- Young Gideon was hiding from the Midianites, beating grain. An angel of the Lord came to him and commanded him to lead in battle against this enemy.
- Gideon was unsure of himself. He was the youngest child in a weak clan.
- He asked God for several signs to prove he truly was called to do this task.
- Gideon defeated the powerful Midianite army with only 300 men and a surprise attack at night with trumpets and torches.

Gideon won the battle with God's help. When do we turn to God for help?

SAMUEL

- Hannah prayed for a son. She promised that her son would serve the Lord all the days of his life. In time, Samuel was born.
- When he was a young boy, Hannah took Samuel to the temple of the Lord to live and work with the old priest Eli.
- One night when Samuel was sleeping in the temple, he heard a voice calling his name. He ran to Eli, but Eli had not called him. This happened two more times.
- Finally, Eli knew the Lord must be calling Samuel. God gave Samuel a message about Eli's family.
- Samuel grew up to be a prophet for the people of Israel.

Samuel was a young child when the Lord first spoke to him. How does God speak to us?

RUTH

- When their husbands died in a far-away land, Ruth refused to be parted from Naomi, her mother-in-law.
- The two women returned to Bethlehem to live with Naomi's family.
- Ruth wanted to help and offered to glean in the fields to provide grain for their meals.
- Boaz, the owner of the fields, was impressed with Ruth's loyalty and hard work.
- Boaz instructed his servants to leave some good grain for Ruth.

Boaz was helpful to Ruth and Naomi in their time of need. How can we help people today who are hungry or have other needs?

DAVID

- The Ark of the Covenant held the Ten Commandments.
- For a long time, the people had moved the ark around, hiding it to keep it safe.
- When King David united Israel and brought peace, he wanted to bring the ark to the city of Jerusalem.
- The people celebrated the return of the ark in a great ceremony—singing and dancing in the streets.
- David provided a tent of meeting, and the ark was reverently placed inside.

The Ark of the Covenant held a copy of the Ten Commandments. Why are the Commandments still important for us?

SOLOMON

- Solomon was the son of King David. When David died, Solomon became king.
- Solomon knew about his father's dream to build a permanent house for the worship of God.
- It took Solomon seven years to build a beautiful temple.
- When the temple was dedicated, Solomon offered prayers, and there was a great celebration.
- Solomon reminded the people that the greatness of God could never fully be contained within the walls of any building.

Solomon built a great temple, yet he said that God was greater than any temple. How do we tell people about the greatness of God?

JOSIAH

- Josiah became king at the age of eight.
- Josiah's faith in God was stronger as he grew older. He did not want his people to worship strange gods.
- The temple Solomon built needed repairs. One day a priest found a long-neglected book in the temple.
- This book was filled with the laws of God. Josiah was sad and felt guilty because he knew these laws were not being kept.
- Josiah ordered the law of God to be read to the people. He called everyone back to worship and serve the Lord.
- He restored the Passover—the Hebrew celebration of freedom from slavery.

Josiah had great faith in God. How does our faith help us to be better leaders?



“ . . . and let thy saints rejoice in thy goodness.”

—II Chronicles 6:41d

ALL SAINTS' DAY

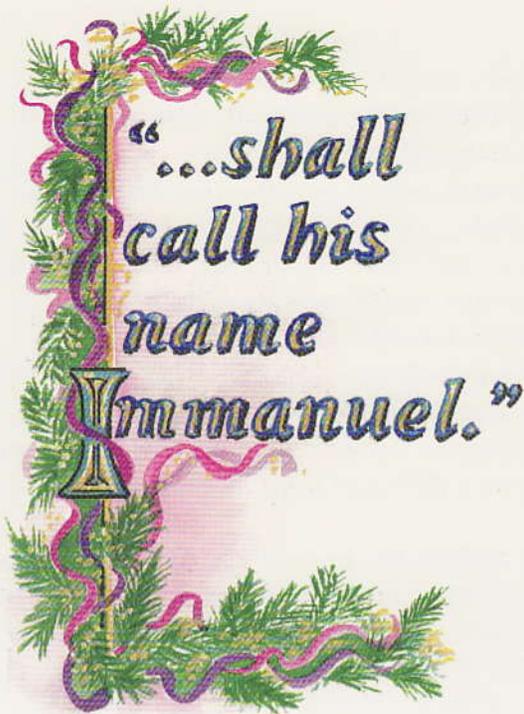
- On the feast of All Saints, we honor all the faithful and holy people of the Church.
- On All Saints' Day, churches all over the world gather to remember the faithful people of God who have lived before us—the “great cloud of witnesses” that we call saints (*Hebrews 12:1*).
- Every baptized Christian is a member of the “communion of saints.” We are all saints of God.
- On All Saints' Day, we remember and celebrate both the living saints and the saints who have died.

All Saints' Day (or the Sunday nearest November 1) is a major feast day of the Church. How do you celebrate this great day?

JESSE

- God promised to send a Messiah.
- God kept this promise in the birth of Jesus.
- Jesus had many ancestors. One of his ancestors was Jesse, the grandson of Ruth and father of David.
- The Jesse Tree stands for the family tree of Jesus.
- During Advent, as we prepare for the coming of Christ, we remember all the Hebrew people and the stories of Jesus' ancestors.

Family stories help us understand who we are. What are some of the stories you like best about your family?



IMMANUEL

- God's people waited a long time and endured many hardships waiting for the promised Messiah.
- Messiah means Savior—one who saves people.
- Long ago, the prophet Isaiah said that the Messiah would be called Immanuel, which means "God with us."
- The people thought that Immanuel would be like David and the other great kings.
- Today, we understand that Immanuel was to be a different kind of King and Savior.

In Scripture, in our prayers, and in our hymns, we call Jesus Christ the king. How is he king for us?

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JOSEPH AND THE ANGEL

- Joseph, a carpenter, was engaged to be married to Mary.
- An angel of the Lord came to Mary and told her she had been chosen to be the mother of Jesus, the long-expected Messiah.
- Joseph was troubled by this news and unsure about what to do.
- An angel came to Joseph in a dream to calm his fears and tell him about the child Jesus who would be born to Mary.
- Joseph did his part. He cared for Mary and the child Jesus.

Joseph was faithful to God, and he cared for Mary and the boy Jesus. How do we serve God in our families?

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CHRISTMAS TO EPIPHANY

- We celebrate Jesus' birth—the Nativity—on Christmas Day, December 25.
- Matthew's Gospel begins the Nativity story months before Jesus was born. The wise men had seen a special star and believed it meant a king was to be born.
- The wise men traveled with gifts for the child. They were led by the star to the stable in Bethlehem where Jesus lay.
- They were warned in a dream not to return to Herod, who wished to harm the newborn king.
- We celebrate the arrival of the wise men twelve days after Christmas on Epiphany, January 6.

Epiphany means "a showing forth" or "bringing to light." How do Epiphany celebrations in the Church bring light into our lives?

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FLIGHT INTO EGYPT

- King Herod told the wise men that he wanted to worship Jesus, the newborn Savior.
- Herod was quite jealous of this new king, and the wise men were warned in a dream not to return to him.
- The angry Herod ordered all male babies in Bethlehem killed.
- Joseph was warned of the danger in a dream.
- He and Mary fled to the land of Egypt and stayed there until Herod's death.
- Each year, on December 28, the Church remembers the children who died. They are called "The Holy Innocents."

King Herod was jealous of Jesus—the Messiah—the newborn king. What was he afraid might happen?



“But he who had received the one talent went and dug in the ground and hid his master's money.”

—Matthew 25:18

BEING A RESOURCEFUL SERVANT

- Jesus told a story about a master and three servants.
- Before going away, the master gave *talents*, very valuable amounts of money, to each servant for safekeeping.
- The first and second servants managed their talents wisely, doubling them.
- The third servant was afraid and simply buried his talent.
- When the master returned, he praised his good and faithful servants who had managed so wisely.
- He rebuked the third servant for hiding his talent and gave it to the others.

Jesus' stories, called parables, help people think about important truths. What does this parable of the talents make you think about?

BEING FORGIVEN

- Jesus told a story about a father who divided his property between his two sons.
- The younger son took his share, left home, and quickly wasted it all. He was poor and hungry.
- Soon the son realized that the pigs he cared for were better fed and cared for than he was.
- He decided to return to his father's house and ask for work there.
- When the father saw the son returning, he rushed to embrace him and ordered great feasting and celebrating.
- The son who was lost and dead was now found and alive.

The obedient older brother did not understand his father's welcome when the son returned. How do you explain the father's great joy?

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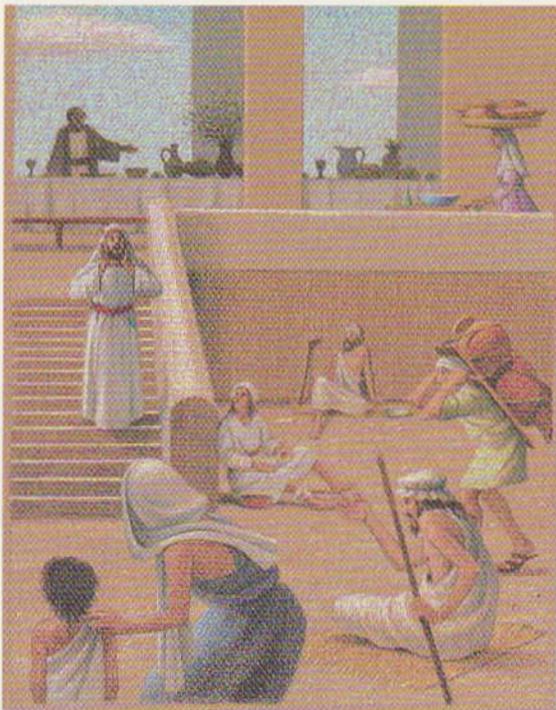
BEING A NEIGHBOR TO OTHERS

- Jesus told a story about a man who had been robbed and left for dead along the roadside.
- Two men passed by—a Levite and a priest—and neither did anything to help.
- The next passerby—a Samaritan—was someone who would not be expected to offer assistance.
- The Samaritan took the injured man to an inn, paid his expenses, and promised to come back.
- Jesus asked his listeners to judge which of these travelers was a neighbor to the injured man. He commanded all to go and be the same kind of neighbors to others.

This story is called the parable of the Good Samaritan. When have you had a chance to be a good neighbor to someone else?

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“And the master said to the servant, ‘Go out to the highways and hedges, and compel people to come in, that my house may be filled.’”

—Luke 14:23

WELCOMING ALL PEOPLE

- Jesus was at dinner on the sabbath when he noticed that all the guests wanted a place of honor. He told a parable about hospitality and sharing.
- In Jesus' story, many people were invited to a great dinner. No one came. They all gave excuses.
- The master was very angry. He sent his servant into the streets to invite all who were there to the dinner.
- The whole house was filled with the crippled, the poor, and the lame.
- Those who had refused earlier were not allowed to enjoy the dinner.

Jesus was at a dinner when he told this story *about* a dinner. He wanted us all to think about reaching out to others and sharing. When do you have a chance to do this?

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DORÉ. *The Last Supper*. From the Doré Bible Illustrations, Dover Publications, New York, 1974.

“Then (Jesus) took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, ‘This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.’ And he did the same with the cup after supper, saying, ‘This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood.’”

—*Luke 22:19-20 (NRSV)*

JESUS' LAST SUPPER

- During the last week of his life, Jesus and his twelve disciples were in Jerusalem.
- On Thursday, Jesus shared his last meal with the Twelve.
- We call this meal “The Last Supper.”
- After they had eaten, Jesus shared bread and wine with the disciples, saying, “This is a new covenant.”
- As Jesus told the disciples to continue sharing bread and wine, he said, “Do this in remembrance of me.”

Jesus and the disciples shared many meals. Why do we remember the Last Supper?



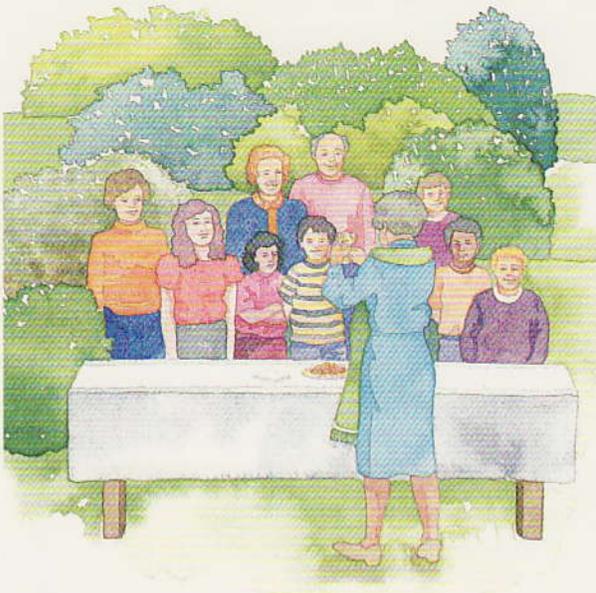
CHRISTIANS REMEMBER

- God has done many great things that God’s people remember.
- The people of God remembered how they were brought out of slavery in Egypt.
- The Passover meal each year is a special time for Jewish people to remember the Exodus.
- The coming of Jesus Christ is the greatest thing God has done for all of us.
- Jesus asked his disciples to remember him in the sharing of bread and wine.
- At Holy Eucharist we share bread and wine in remembrance of Jesus Christ.

As Christians, we remember all that Jesus did. How does our celebration of Holy Eucharist help us to remember?

“Do this in remembrance of me.”

—*I Corinthians 11:24c*



“For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.”

—*I Corinthians 11:26*

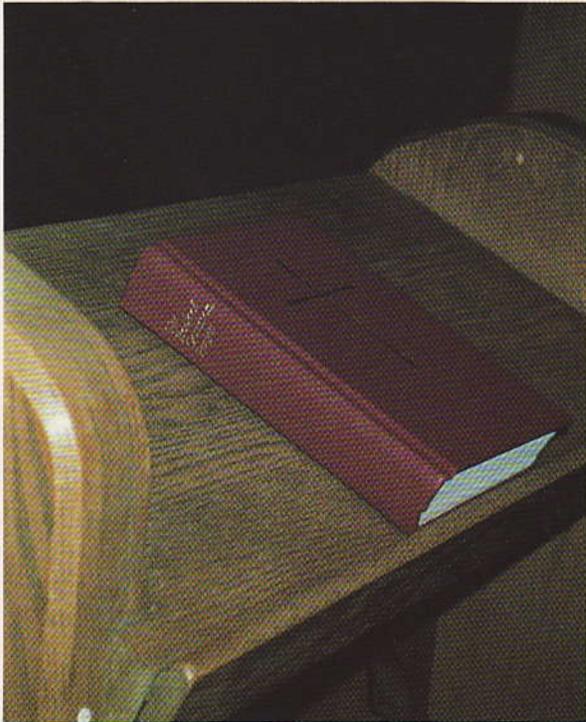
WE CELEBRATE HOLY EUCHARIST

- Holy Eucharist is one of the two great sacraments of the Church.
- In Eucharist, ordinary bread and wine are made sacred and holy.
- We break bread and drink wine at Holy Eucharist in remembrance of Jesus.
- At Holy Eucharist we say a prayer called “The Great Thanksgiving.”
- Holy Eucharist is a feast of celebration and thanksgiving for the good news of Jesus Christ.
- The Memorial Acclamation says:
Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

Listen carefully to the words of The Great Thanksgiving. What story does this prayer tell?

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Photograph by Amelia J. Gearey, Alexandria, Virginia.

“I commend you . . . remember me in everything and maintain the traditions . . .”

—*I Corinthians 11:2*

HOLY EUCHARIST

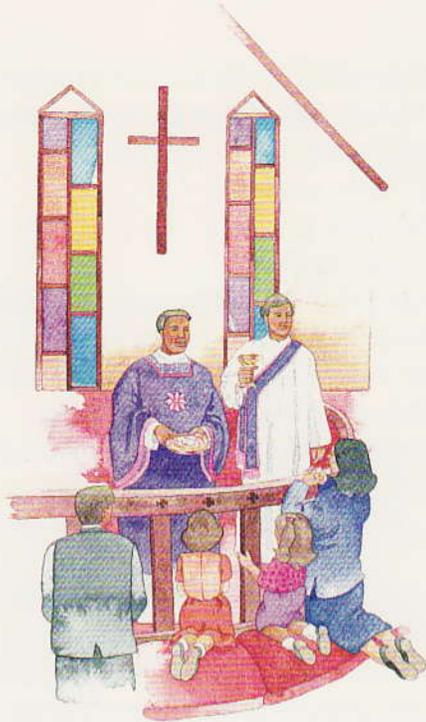
The Book of Common Prayer

- Holy Eucharist is the principal act of worship on the Lord’s Day.
- We use the Prayer Book to celebrate Eucharist. It contains the words Jesus used, and the words that the priest and people speak.
- Bishop Thomas Cranmer wanted the Church’s people to have a Prayer Book so they could worship God in the language of their time.
- Although revised many times, *The Book of Common Prayer* we use today still has many of the prayers Bishop Cranmer wrote.

The Book of Common Prayer is very important for Episcopalians of all ages. How does the Prayer Book help you?

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“Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body, for we all partake of one bread.”

—1 Corinthians 10:17

CELEBRATING HOLY EUCHARIST

- In all Episcopal churches, at a service of Holy Eucharist, there will be: a Holy Table (altar), people and a priest, bread and wine, readings from the Bible, and words from *The Book of Common Prayer*.
- But the celebration of Holy Eucharist will be different in each place because: buildings are not alike, and people make their own choices about furnishings, music, vestments, and other customs.

Talk with your parents and teachers about how Holy Eucharist is celebrated in your congregation. How would you describe the service to someone who has never been there?

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WATANABE, *The Last Supper*. Collection of Virginia Theological Seminary. Used by permission.

“So Jesus sent Peter and John, saying, ‘Go and prepare the passover for us, that we may eat it.’”

—Luke 22:8

THE DISCIPLES PREPARE THE PASSOVER

- In Jerusalem, during the last week of his life, Jesus sent Peter and John to prepare the passover meal for the twelve disciples.
- Jesus told them to find a man carrying a jar of water from the well. They followed this man to a house in the town.
- The owner of the house escorted them to a large upper room, furnished as Jesus had said.
- On Maundy Thursday of Holy Week, Christians remember the Last Supper, when Jesus washed the disciples’ feet and shared bread and wine.

At each Holy Eucharist, we hear again the words Jesus spoke at the Last Supper. What are we remembering at our celebration?

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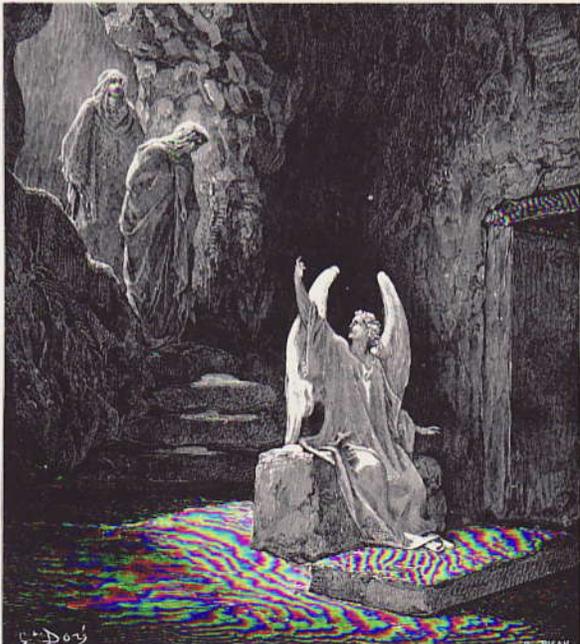
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JESUS WAS ARRESTED

- Following the Last Supper, Jesus went with his disciples to the Mount of Olives to pray.
- While Jesus prayed, the disciples fell asleep.
- Led by Judas, a crowd of soldiers came looking for Jesus. Judas kissed Jesus to let the soldiers know who he was.
- Jesus was arrested and taken to the high priest's house.
- The disciple Peter waited in the courtyard. Three times he was asked if he knew Jesus. Three times he denied it.
- Peter heard the cock crow. Then he realized he had denied Jesus, just as Jesus had predicted. He wept with shame.

Judas betrayed Jesus, and Peter denied him.

In what ways do people deny Jesus today?



DORÉ. *The Resurrection*. From the Doré Bible Illustrations, Dover Publications, 1974.

“Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, that the Son of Man must be handed over to sinners, and be crucified, and on the third day rise again.”

—*Luke 24:6-7* (NRSV)

JESUS DIED AND ROSE AGAIN

- Jesus was sentenced to death. Early on Friday morning he was nailed to a cross.
- Darkness covered the land. Jesus died.
- Joseph of Arimathea placed Jesus' body in a tomb.
- Jesus' followers were filled with sorrow.
- Women came on the first day of the week. They found the stone rolled away and the tomb empty.
- Two angels appeared, saying that Jesus had risen from the dead.
- The women ran to tell the disciples what they had seen and heard.

The events of Good Friday and Easter are the very heart of the Christian story. How does it make you feel to hear the story of Jesus' death and resurrection?

THE ROAD TO EMMAUS

- On the day of Jesus' resurrection, two of his followers were walking to Emmaus.
- As they were talking, the risen Jesus joined them, but they did not know him.
- The men spoke about Jesus' arrest, trial, and death on the cross, and told about three women who found the tomb empty.
- Jesus spoke about how the Scriptures had foretold all that they had described.
- Later, when they ate, Jesus took bread and broke it—just as he had at the Last Supper. The men recognized their Lord!
- Jesus vanished from their sight. The men returned to tell the disciples that Jesus had indeed risen from the dead.

The risen Jesus helped the men to know who he was. How does Jesus help us to know him today?



Washington National Cathedral. Aerial photograph by Robert Lautman, 1992. Used by permission.

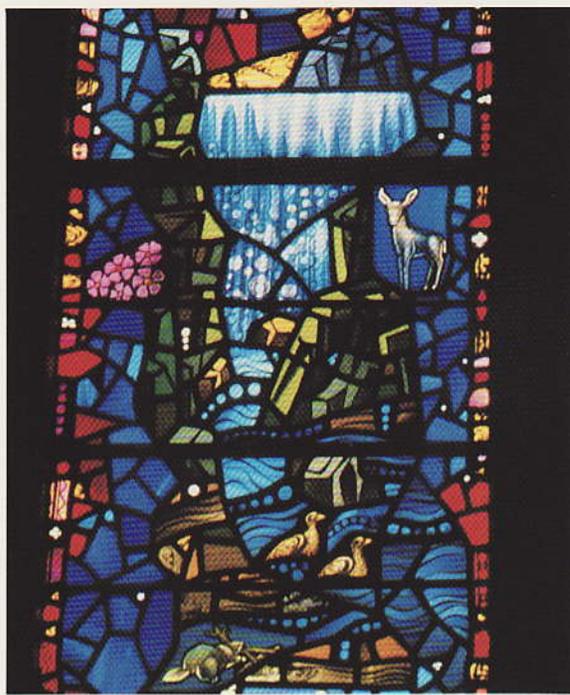
“I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, by our Lord Jesus Christ and by the love of the Spirit, to join me in earnest prayer to God . . .”

—*Romans 15:30* (NRSV)

The Book of Common Prayer

- Episcopalians use *The Book of Common Prayer* for public and private prayer.
- The major sections of the Prayer Book are:
 - The Daily Office
 - Pastoral Offices
 - Sacraments: Holy Baptism and Holy Eucharist
 - Episcopal Services
 - The Psalter
 - Prayers and Thanksgivings
- All over the world, members of the Anglican Communion use a form of the Prayer Book.

The Book of Common Prayer is the special treasure of the Episcopal Church. What makes this book different from other books you use?



Detail from *Odyssey of the Spirit* (Lewis and Clark window), Washington National Cathedral.

“From the rising of the sun to its setting the name of the Lord is to be praised!”

—*Psalm 113:3*

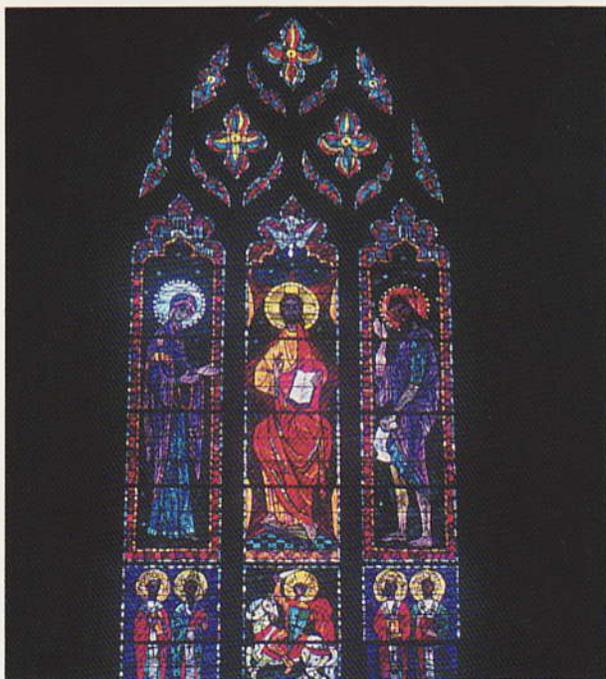
THE CHURCH'S PEOPLE PRAY ALL THROUGH THE DAY

- Since ancient times people have prayed to God all through the day.
- Episcopalians can use *The Book of Common Prayer* each day.
- The Prayer Book section named “The Daily Office” provides orders for:
 - Morning Prayer
 - Noonday Prayer
 - Evening Prayer
 - Compline
- Each order contains Scripture, Psalms, and prayers for use by individuals or groups at these times of day.

How do the prayers of the Daily Office help you offer prayers to God?

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Detail from *Orthodox Stream of Christianity* (window), Washington National Cathedral. Used by permission.

“Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life; and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.”

—*Psalm 23:6*

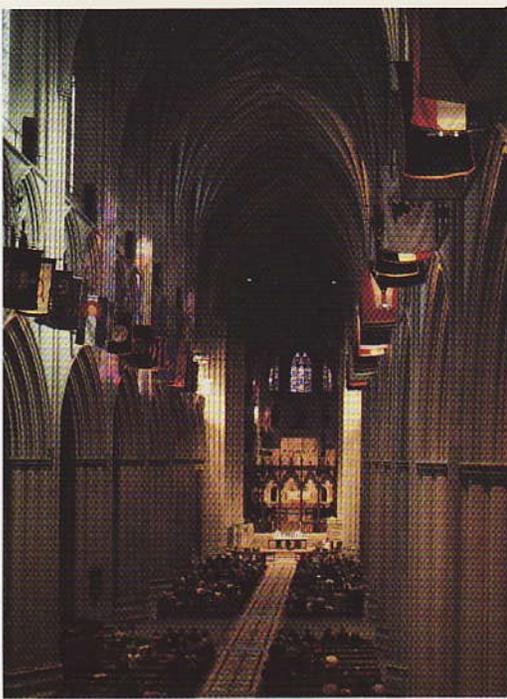
PASTORAL OFFICES

- Throughout our lives, the Church's prayers and ministry offer us strong support.
- *The Book of Common Prayer* provides orders of prayer—called “Pastoral Offices”—for:
 - Thanksgiving for the birth or adoption of a child
 - Confirmation
 - Marriage
 - Reconciliation
 - Ministry to the sick
 - Burial
- The words and directions for these services are available to everyone.

How do the Pastoral Offices help us to receive the Church's care and prayers?

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Nave, Sunday Service. Washington National Cathedral. Used by permission.

“Let thy priests be clothed with
righteousness, and let thy saints shout
for joy.”

—*Psalm 132:9*

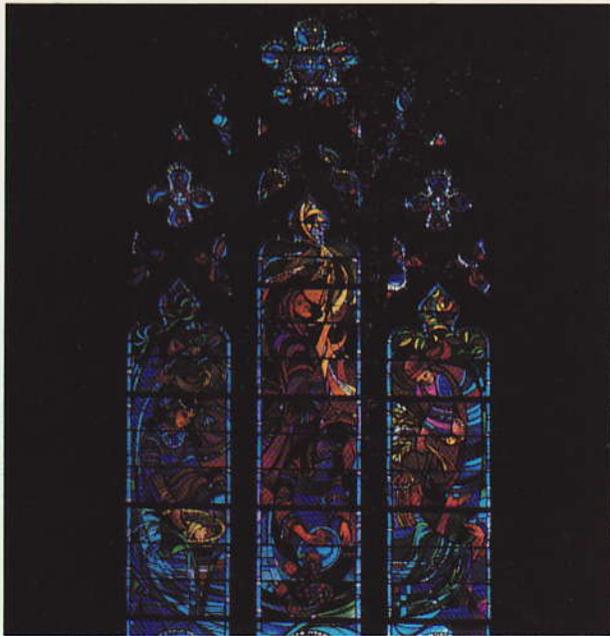
EPISCOPAL SERVICES

- The word “Episcopal” means “ruled by bishops.”
- The Episcopal Church elects bishops to oversee, visit, and care for its churches and their congregations.
- The section of *The Book of Common Prayer* titled “Episcopal Services” is used by bishops as they carry out their work in the Church.
- Bishops ordain those whom God calls for ministry as deacons, priests, and bishops.
- The “Episcopal Services” conducted by bishops include the Celebration of a New Ministry, and the Consecration of a Church or chapel.

Who is the bishop of your diocese? How can you tell someone is a bishop?

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The Women of the Bible (YWCA window). Washington National Cathedral. Used by permission.

“Praise the Lord, all nations! Extol him, all peoples! For great is his steadfast love toward us; and the faithfulness of the Lord endures for ever. Praise the Lord!”

—*Psalm 117*

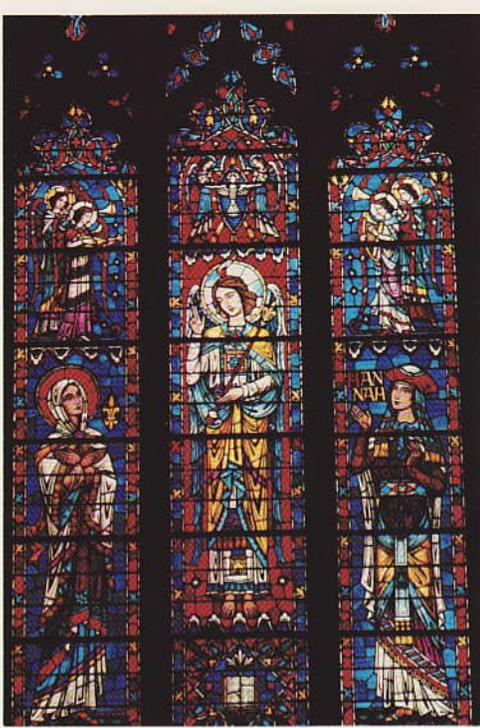
THE PSALTER

- *The Book of Common Prayer* contains all 150 Psalms found in the Bible.
- We call this section of the Prayer Book “The Psalter.”
- The psalms were the first hymnbook of God’s people.
- Psalms are read or sung in different ways in the worship of a congregation.

How are psalms used in services at your church? What is your favorite psalm? Why do you like it?

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Detail from *Angels of the Annunciation* (window), Washington National Cathedral. Used by permission.

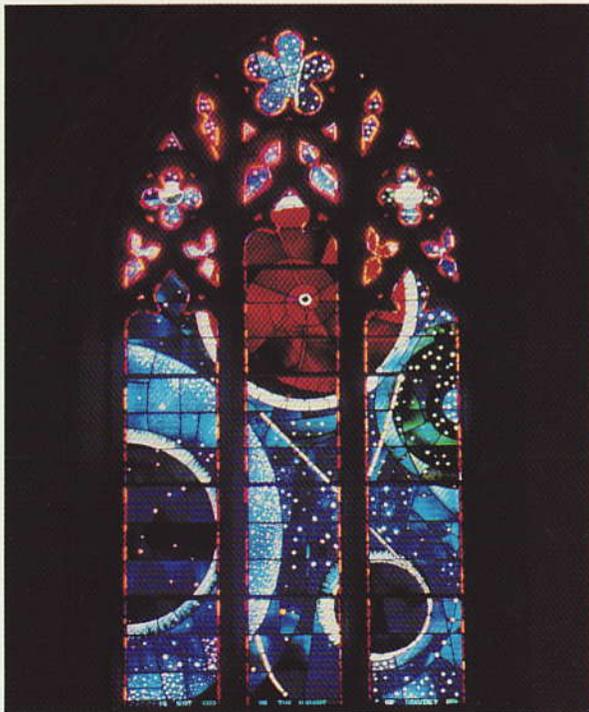
“The Lord has heard my supplication; the Lord accepts my prayer.”

—*Psalm 6:9*

PRAYERS AND THANKSGIVINGS

- *The Book of Common Prayer* includes a section of “Prayers and Thanksgivings” that can be used for public worship or private devotion.
- Some are very old prayers with words treasured by many generations of Episcopalians.
- Some prayers were written especially for this Prayer Book.
- We can turn to these prayers when we want to join in praying with other people.
- We can say these when we pray by ourselves.

How can the prayers and thanksgivings in the Prayer Book help you to pray? Which ones would you choose?



Science and Technicians (Space window), Washington National Cathedral. Used by permission.

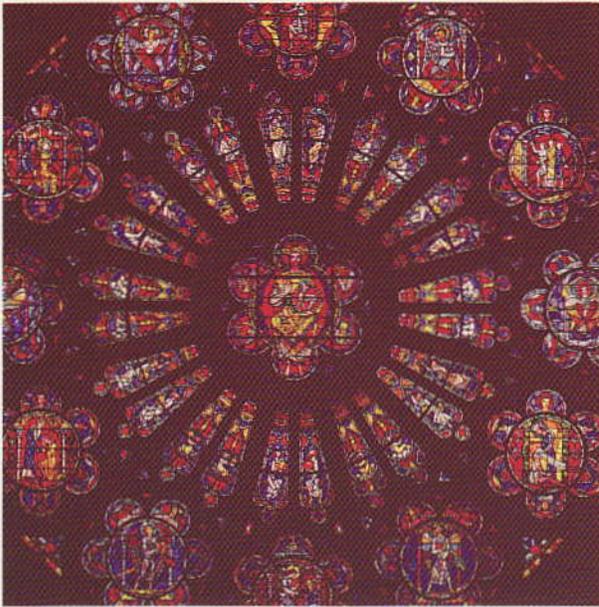
“To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under heaven.”

—*Ecclesiastes 3:1* (KJV)

SEASONS OF THE CHURCH YEAR

- The Calendar of the Church Year is different from the regular calendar.
- The first season, *Advent*, starts on the Sunday closest to November 30.
- *Christmas* is a 12-day celebration of Jesus’ birth.
- On January 6, we begin the season of *Epiphany*.
- *Lent* is a 40-day season that ends with Holy Week.
- *Easter* celebrates Jesus’ resurrection and lasts 50 days.
- *The Day of Pentecost* begins the longest period of the Church Year. All through the months, we seek to live as Christ’s people in the world.

How can you mark the Church seasons— at home, at school, at play?



The Church Triumphant (South Rose window). Washington National Cathedral. Used by permission.

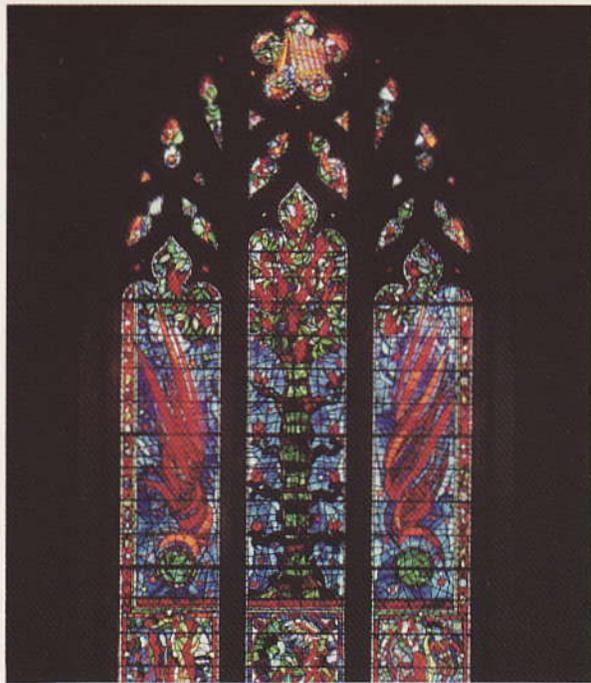
“The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all the saints. Amen.”

—*Revelation 22:21*

THE CALENDAR OF THE SAINTS

- The Episcopal Church has a Calendar of the Church Year that lists the days for honoring Saints.
- We honor saints from all parts of the world and from all periods of history.
- *The Book of Common Prayer* includes Collects for many of the Saints on the church’s calendar.
- Remembering the Saints helps us to see how people’s lives are changed by their faith in God.

Of all the Saints you know about, which are your favorites? Why?



White Memorial Window (Wings of Faith window). Washington National Cathedral. Used by permission.

“This Jesus God raised up, and of that we all are witnesses. Being therefore exalted at the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, he has poured out this which you see and hear.”

—*Acts 2:32-33*

THE CHURCH CELEBRATES PENTECOST

- After Easter, Jesus was with the apostles until he ascended into heaven.
- Jesus instructed the apostles to tell the world what they had seen.
- He promised God’s Spirit would be with them.
- The apostles were all in Jerusalem for the Jewish feast of Pentecost.
- The Holy Spirit came upon the apostles with mighty wind and tongues of flame.
- Everyone began to speak, each in his own language, yet all could understand.
- Peter declared that this was the fulfillment of God’s promise of the Holy Spirit.

Why do Christians consider the Day of Pentecost to be a very important celebration—a principal feast?