

# St. Mark's Episcopal Church

*All are welcome. All are embraced. All are loved.*



May 12, 2024  
10:00 a.m.

*Welcome to St. Mark's Episcopal Church  
A house of prayer for all people in the historic Radcliffeborough  
neighborhood of Charleston, South Carolina*

The Rt. Rev. Ruth Woodliff-Stanley, Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of South Carolina  
The Very Reverend Dr. Michael Shaffer, Interim Rector  
Loretta Haskell, Organist & Choirmaster  
Alphonso Grayson, Senior Warden – Bob Waters, Junior Warden



Celebrate  
**50 Days**  
of Easter

*Hallelujah!*



*Welcome to Eastertide*  
*Easter Sunday is only a beginning!*

The Great Fifty Days of Easter, also referred to as the season of Eastertide, is a time when we celebrate the Resurrection of Christ and all that means for us, leading to the launching of the Christian Church and its mission on Pentecost.

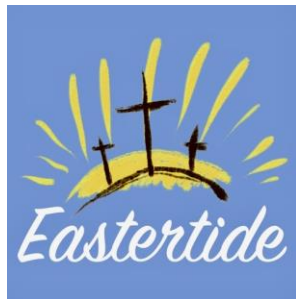
Although many people are familiar with Easter Day when the Church celebrates the resurrection of Jesus, you may not know that it always falls on the first Sunday after the first full moon on or after March 21. This was determined in 325CE at the Council of Nicaea in attempt to have all Christians celebrate on the same day with limited success, since Orthodox Christians use a different calendar. Eastertide is a season that actually lasts 50 days.

Why 50 days? It's actually quite simple. After the resurrection, Jesus spent forty days on earth before he ascended, which is commemorated on Ascension Day, May 9 this year. Then there were ten more days after that before the Day of Pentecost, or *Whitsunday*, which is celebrated on May 19 this year.

Luke writes in the first chapter of the Book of Acts that Jesus "presented himself alive to them after his suffering by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God." In chapter two, we hear the followers of Jesus gathered for the Day of Pentecost, which actually means "fifty." It happened during the Hebrew feast of *Shavuot*, which is why the followers of Jesus were gathering. The Hebrew festival was originally a harvest first fruits celebration and later it evolved into a commemoration of the giving of the Law to Moses on Mt. Sinai.

These Great Fifty Days are a celebration of the Resurrection of Christ and all that means for us, leading to the launching of the Christian Church and its mission on Pentecost. During this time, Episcopalians once again use the word *alleluia*, which they refrain from using during the penitential season of Lent and the confession is omitted from the liturgy. So, for the next few weeks, the priest will still exclaim "*Alleluia. Christ is Risen*" on Sunday mornings, to which the people will reply, "*The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.*" The Paschal Candle is lit on Easter and on Sundays during Eastertide which symbolizes the risen Christ. Paschal means "related to Easter or Passover," which is why Eastertide is sometimes called Paschaltide and Jesus is sometimes called the "Paschal Lamb." The church also uses white (and sometimes gold) vestments, which is the color designated for feasts and festivals. Eastertide ends on the Day of Pentecost, which commemorates the Holy Spirit descending on the disciples in the form of tongues of fire. Interestingly, word Pentecost means "fiftieth day" in Greek.

Easter and Eastertide are the high point of our Church year, so it makes sense we should celebrate for a prolonged period of time. After all, the main point of the whole gospel is to prepare us for an eternal feast!



*The 1982 Hymnal, referred to as **Hymnal** and *Lift Every Voice and Sing II*, referred to as **LEVAS** are found in your pew. **WLP** designates the music comes from the publication *Wonder, Love and Praise*. If **BCP** appears, that is a reference to the red Book of Common Prayer, also found in your pew.*

## Opening Proclamation

*Hear what our Lord Jesus Christ 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 shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.*

**INTROIT**

Eden's Song

arr. Mark Schweizer

**OPENING HYMN**

Alleluia! Sing to Jesus

**Hymnal 460**

## A LITURGY OF THE WORD

*The Celebrant says.*

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

*People*      **The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

*The Celebrant says.*

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*The following is sung, all standing.*

1. Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and  
peace to his peo - ple on earth. 2. Lord God, heaven - ly  
King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we  
give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry. 3. Lord Je - sus  
Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, 4. you  
take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy  
on us; 5. you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re -  
ceive our prayer. 6. For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One,  
you a - lone are the Lord, 7. you a - lone are the Most  
High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spi - rit, in the  
glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

## THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

***People: And also with you.***

Celebrant: Let us pray.

O God, the King of glory, you have exalted your only Son Jesus Christ with great triumph to your kingdom in heaven: Do not leave us comfortless, but send us your Holy Spirit to strengthen us, and exalt us to that place where our Savior Christ has gone before; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, in glory everlasting. ***Amen.***

*Please be seated.*

## THE LESSONS

### FIRST READING: Acts 1:15-17, 21-26

In those days Peter stood up among the believers (together the crowd numbered about one hundred twenty persons) and said, "Friends, the scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit through David foretold concerning Judas, who became a guide for those who arrested Jesus-- for he was numbered among us and was allotted his share in this ministry. So one of the men who have accompanied us during all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, beginning from the baptism of John until the day when he was taken up from us-- one of these must become a witness with us to his resurrection." So they proposed two, Joseph called Barsabbas, who was also known as Justus, and Matthias. Then they prayed and said, "Lord, you know everyone's heart. Show us which one of these two you have chosen to take the place in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place." And they cast lots for them, and the lot fell on Matthias; and he was added to the eleven apostles.

Reader            The Word of the Lord.

***People            Thanks be to God.***

### Psalm 1

1 Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel of the wicked, \*  
nor lingered in the way of sinners,  
nor sat in the seats of the scornful!

***2 Their delight is in the law of the Lord, \*  
and they meditate on his law day and night.***

3 They are like trees planted by streams of water,  
bearing fruit in due season, with leaves that do not wither; \*  
everything they do shall prosper.

***4 It is not so with the wicked; \*  
they are like chaff which the wind blows away.***

5 Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when judgment comes, \*  
nor the sinner in the council of the righteous.

***6 For the Lord knows the way of the righteous, \*  
but the way of the wicked is doomed.***

**SECOND READING: 1 John 5:9-13**

If we receive human testimony, the testimony of God is greater; for this is the testimony of God that he has testified to his Son. Those who believe in the Son of God have the testimony in their hearts. Those who do not believe in God have made him a liar by not believing in the testimony that God has given concerning his Son. And this is the testimony: God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.

I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life.

Reader           The Word of the Lord.  
*People*           *Thanks be to God.*

*Please stand.*

**SEQUENCE HYMN**

My Faith Looks Up to Thee

**LEVAS 88**

**GOSPEL: John 17:6-19**

Priest            The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.  
*People*            *Glory to you, Lord Christ.*

Jesus prayed for his disciples, "I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one. While I was with them, I protected them in your name that you have given me. I guarded them, and not one of them was lost except the one destined to be lost, so that the scripture might be fulfilled. But now I am coming to you, and I speak these things in the world so that they may have my joy made complete in themselves. I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. I am not asking you to take them out of the world, but I ask you to protect them from the evil one. They do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. As you have sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. And for their sakes I sanctify myself, so that they also may be sanctified in truth."

Priest            The Gospel of the Lord.  
*People*            *Praise to you, Lord Christ.*

**TRANSITION SONG**

**In the Lord I'll be ever thankful**

**Song by Taizé**

*In the Lord I'll be ever thankful,  
In the Lord I'll rejoice.  
Look to God, do not be afraid,  
Lift up your voices, the Lord is near;  
Lift up your voices the Lord is near.*

**THE SERMON**

**The Very Reverend Dr. Michael Shaffer**

**THE NICENE CREED**

*We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.*

**THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE: Form IV**

Let us pray for the Church and for the world.

Grant, Almighty God, that all who confess your Name may be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world.

*Silence*

Lord, in your mercy  
*Hear our prayer.*

Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the ways of justice and peace; that we may honor one another and serve the common good.

*Silence*

Lord, in your mercy  
*Hear our prayer.*

Give us all a reverence for the earth as your own creation, that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others and to your honor and glory.

*Silence*

Lord, in your mercy  
***Hear our prayer.***

Almighty God, whose blessed Son came not to be served but to serve, bless all who following in his steps live a life of service to others. Those who dedicate themselves in every season of life, in youth and advancing age, to service of nation and every human being, striving for justice, peace and equality for all people in their daily lives. By the power of your Holy Spirit, grant all who serve, wisdom, patience and courage, that they may minister in the name of Christ to the suffering, the friendless, and the needy; for the love of him who laid down his life for us.

*Silence*

Lord, in your mercy  
***Hear our prayer.***

Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, and grant that we may serve Christ in them, and love one another as he loves us. We invite your personal intercessions at this time, either aloud or in your heart. (Pause, followed by Intercessor Prayers)

*Silence*

Lord, in your mercy  
***Hear our prayer.***

Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of your salvation.

*Silence*

Lord, in your mercy  
***Hear our prayer.***

We commend to your mercy all who have died, that your will for them may be fulfilled; and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom.

*Silence*

Lord, in your mercy  
***Hear our prayer.***

*The Celebrant adds a concluding Prayer for Mothers on Mother's Day*





It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

But chiefly are we bound to praise you for the glorious resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; for he is the true Paschal Lamb, who was sacrificed for us, and has taken away the sin of the world. By his death he has destroyed death, and by his rising to life again he has won for us everlasting life.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Sanctus S 128

Schubert

*Celebrant and People*

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and  
might, Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord,  
God of power and might, hea - ven and earth are  
full, full of your glo - ry. Ho -  
san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na  
in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes  
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na  
in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

### *Celebrant*

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

### *Celebrant and People*

*Christ has died.*

*Christ is risen.*

*Christ will come again.*

### *The Celebrant continues.*

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

### *People and Celebrant sing*

*Our Father, which art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debt, 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, for ever and ever. Amen.*

## THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Celebrant: Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

*People: Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.*

**Fraction Anthem:** *Taste and see*

WLAP # 764

Copyright: Onelicense.net #A-609900.

Taste and see. Taste and see the good - ness  
of the Lord. O taste and see. Taste and  
see the good - ness of the Lord, of the Lord.

**Fine**

## INVITATION

*Celebrant* The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

*At St. Mark's Episcopal Church, all desiring a deepening and reaffirming relationship with Christ are invited to come forward for Holy Communion or for a blessing. This is the table not of the Church, but of Jesus Christ. It is made ready for those who love God. Come, not because the Church invites you; it is Christ who invites you to be fed and blessed here. For He knows you by name and calls you by name.*

*Communion will be offered in two kinds. The wine may be received by either sipping the chalice, allowing the Eucharistic Minister to dip your wafer in the wine, or dipping your wafer in the intinction chalice. If you do not wish to receive the wine, please indicate that by crossing your arms over your chest when the chalice reaches you. Communion in one kind (in bread only) is a perfectly valid way to receive the sacrament. Gluten free hosts are available upon request. For a blessing, cross your hands over your chest. If you would like to have communion brought to your seat, please let an usher know.*

## MUSIC AT COMMUNION

Jesu, Jesu  
Give Me Jesus

LEVAS 74  
LEVAS 91

*After Communion, the Celebrant says.*

Let us pray. *(All pray)*

*Almighty and everliving God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.*

## THE BLESSING

### PROCESSIONAL

Jesus Shall Reign Where'er the Sun

Hymnal 544

### DISMISSAL

Celebrant Alleluia, alleluia. Let us go forth in the name of the Christ.

People *Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.*

### CLOSING HYMN

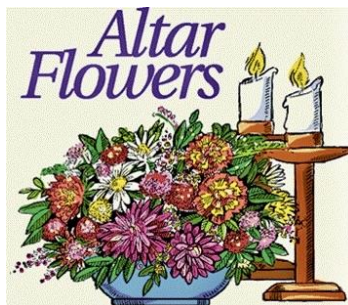
Thank You, Lord

*Sung by all.*

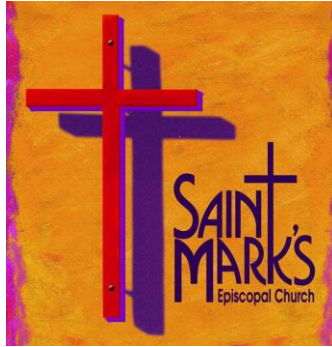
*Thank You, Lord (x's 3) I just want to thank you Lord.  
You've Been So Good (x's 3) I just want to thank you Lord.  
You've Been My Friend (x's 3) I just want to thank you Lord.*

### POSTLUDE

*The worship is over. Now the service begins.*



*The Flowers are given by Suzanne Hieserman  
to celebrate Jim's birthday and honor  
all the mothers of St. Mark's.*



SERVICE PARTICIPANTS:

The Very Reverend Dr. Michael Shaffer, *Celebrant & Preacher*  
Suzanne Hieserman, *Eucharistic Minister*  
Erin Shaffer, *Lector*  
Loretta Haskell, *Organist & Choirmaster*  
Angela Hare, Kristin Wallace & Jacqueline Storts *Altar Guild*  
Gin Waters & William Bugg, *Ushers*

*Announcements*

*Next Sunday wear RED!*



*Show up and witness to the coming of the Holy Spirit.*

Next Sunday we participate in one of the seven principal feasts in the Episcopal Church each year, the Feast of Pentecost. We will celebrate by again welcoming into our beloved community yet another child of God by baptism during our 10 AM worship service, followed by an old fashioned picnic on our front porch and lawn, sharing hot dogs, chips and the like, in fellowship with each other.

My understanding is that several years ago, our parishioner Anita Jefferson suggested everyone wear **RED** on Pentecost Sunday, to remind us of the fire of the Spirit. I think this a grand idea and encourage you to *wear red* next Sunday as an outward and visible sign of the inward and spiritual movement of the Holy Spirit taking place at St. Mark's.

Invite a friend. *We're having a party!*

# Social Media Boost

## Make a Special Offering of Financial Support this month!

Earlier this year the Vestry authorized spending an additional \$200 a month, for five months, to “boost” our outreach and St. Mark’s exposure on Social Media Platforms, which has evidenced amazing results. Our various platforms experienced a 32% increase in viewings in March over February, and in April we experienced an additional 16% increase in viewings over March. During this period 96% of viewings on our website were by “new visitors”, which highlights the church's growing reach and its ability to attract newcomers. At the same time our Average Sunday Worship Attendance has increased from 35 persons in January and February, to 49 persons in March and April.

***Please help us by making a special financial offering to help us raise \$1000 to pay for these efforts by placing a check into the offering plate, writing “media boost” on the memo line, or let Fr. Michael know if you would like to contribute to this effort electronically.***



### CAJM Celebration 2024

The 2024 CAJM Celebration will be held at Mt. Moriah Missionary Baptist Church, 7396 Rivers Ave, North Charleston, SC 29406, on Monday, May 20, 2024, from 6:30 PM to 8:00 PM. Registration is requested which can be done at the CAJM webpage. Meat plates and veggie plates are available for \$12.00, but one must register for those no later than Wednesday, May 15. Prizes will be awarded to the networks with the highest number of attendance or the highest number of financial commitments, so please make an effort to show up for St. Mark’s.

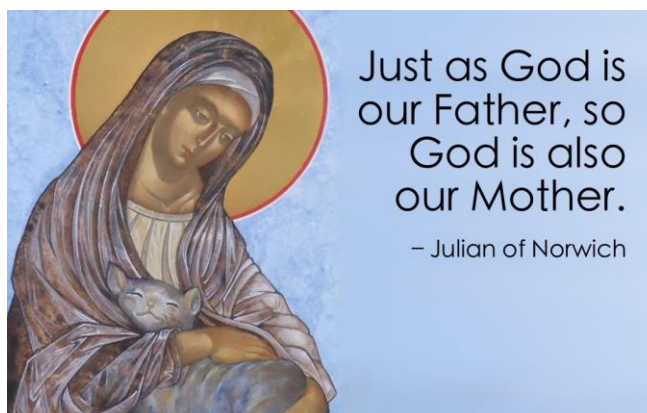


The Panorama Newspaper which is published in Columbia but covers news throughout South Carolina is available every week in the narthex. Please remember to pick up your copy either on your way in or out of the church.

**Altar Flower Donations** – Altar Flowers may be donated by signing up for any given Sunday in the Altar Flower Notebook in the church Narthex. Suggested donation is a minimum of \$40.00.

**Free parking** is available during Sunday Worship Services at Ashley Hall School parking lot, located at the corner of Warren and Smith Streets, only one block from St. Mark’s Church.

**Parish Office Hours** are every Friday, 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM. Other times, contact Fr. Michael at 843-830-1220.



### A Mother's Day Message from Fr. Michael

Many of you know that I always refer to the Holy Spirit as "she". Although I suspect some theologians or perhaps even clergy colleagues might object, on this Mother's Day let me share with you my thoughts about our Mothering God.

I believe that Scripture informs us that Yahweh, the God of Israel, is a gender-neutral term. The personal name of God, Yahweh, which is revealed to Moses in Exodus 3, is a remarkable combination of both female and male grammatical endings. The first part of God's name in Hebrew, "Yah," is feminine, and the last part, "weh," is masculine.

The Greek word for spirit, *paraclete*, is also gender neutral. Yet, in the Aramaic, the language Jesus spoke, the Spirit of Yahweh was referred to in the feminine, *rucha*, or *ruach*. Markios, an Egyptian monk who lived in c300-390, one of the most authoritative Desert Fathers of Egypt, picks up on this and repeatedly stressed that just as there is no human birth without a mother, there is also no spiritual birth without the Holy Spirit. When humanity is born anew in the Spirit, they become children of the Spirit, who is their mother.

Did you know that *Sophia* is the Greek word for *Wisdom*? She appears in the Old and New Testaments as a mother, a bride, and a child. She is present at creation. Scripture calls her divine, eternal, and all-powerful. She is ever present and knows all things. She is available to all, and She will blow into the hearts of anyone who listens to Her voice. In fact, the Church canonized the Book of Wisdom about Her in the Old Testament. The Orthodox liturgy calls upon Her before each gospel is read aloud, "Sofia!"

Just take a moment today and reflect quietly on words from the Wisdom of Solomon 7:24-28.

*For Wisdom is more mobile than any motion; because of Her pureness, she pervades and penetrates all things. For she is a breath of the power of God, and a pure emanation of the glory of the Almighty; therefore nothing defiled gains entrance into Her. For she is a reflection of eternal light, a spotless mirror of the working of God, and an image of his goodness. Although she is but one, she can do all things, and while remaining in Herself, she renews all things; in every generation, she passes into holy souls and makes them friends of God, and prophets; for God loves nothing so much as the person who lives with Wisdom.*

So, on this Mother's Day, let us be mindful that our Mothering God is the power of Yahweh and a reflection of eternal light. She teaches justice and courage. Yahweh loves nothing so much as the person who lives with Her. Look for Her and you will find her. She will dwell within each of us richly and guides us home. *Thanks be to God!*