

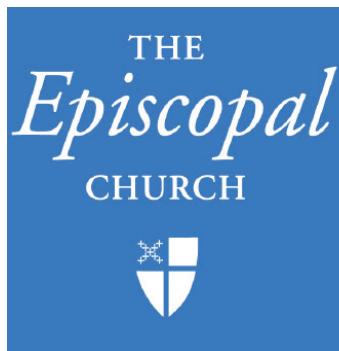


# Episcopal Church of the Resurrection

## Holy Eucharist, Rite II

### Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

### February 1, 2026 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.



GLORIFYING GOD BY  
REFRESHING SOULS | BRIDGING COMMUNITIES | ENGAGING PEOPLE IN SERVICE

Good morning! We're so glad you chose to be here at Resurrection today. Whether you're here for the first time, or are a life-long member, Resurrection is a hopeful, healing, transformation-minded kind of place, a place where everyone is welcome and can grow their relationship with God and with one another.

If you are here for the *first time* (or if you just haven't gotten around to it yet), please fill out a pew card and put it in the offering plate to let us know you were here. To receive our weekly email bulletin, be sure to include your email address. And let us know if you would like to connect with our parish life and ministries; we're happy to help you find your spot!

Our services follow *The Book of Common Prayer*, the red book in your pew rack. If you'd like to use the book to follow the service, instead of this order of service booklet, we begin on page 355. Unless otherwise marked, our hymns are from the blue *Hymnal 1982*. A hymn noted "S-xxx" is part of the service music, found at the front of the hymnal, appearing before the regular congregational hymns begin. For example, S-280 (*The Gloria*) is found before hymn 1.

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To learn more about Resurrection, check out [www.episcopalloudon.com](http://www.episcopalloudon.com),  
email us at [office@episcopalloudon.com](mailto:office@episcopalloudon.com), or  
find us on Facebook or Instagram.

Fill out a visitor card or email [office@episcopalloudon.com](mailto:office@episcopalloudon.com) to subscribe to our weekly church email, the *Parish Tidings*, for all the latest information from Resurrection.

If you can't make it here in person, join us at 10:30, live on Facebook:  
[facebook.com/episcopalloudon](https://facebook.com/episcopalloudon).

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# Holy Eucharist, Rite II

## The Word of God

Prelude      *Variations on “Slane”*

*arr. Mark Rippe*

### Entrance Hymn

*Rejoice, ye pure in heart! (Verses 1, 2, 4, 7)*

*Please stand as able.*

**Hymnal 556**

### Opening Acclamation

**BCP 355**

*Celebrant*    Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

*People*        **And blessed be God’s kingdom, now and forever. Amen.**

### Collect for Purity

*All*            **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 Gloria**    *(Spoken at 8:00. Sung at 10:30.)*

**Hymnal S-280**

**Glory to God in the highest,  
and peace to his people on earth.**

**Lord God, heavenly King,  
almighty God and Father,  
we worship you, we give you thanks,  
we praise you for your glory.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,  
Lord God, Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world:  
have mercy on us;  
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:  
receive our prayer.**

**For you alone are the Holy One,  
you alone are the Lord,  
you alone are the Most High,  
Jesus Christ,  
with the Holy Spirit,  
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

## Collect of the Day

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

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

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, you govern all things both in heaven and on earth: Mercifully hear the supplications of your people, and in our time grant us your peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

## The Lessons

### The First Lesson: Micah 6:1-8

*Lector* A reading from the Book of Micah.

Hear what the Lord says:

Rise, plead your case before the mountains,  
and let the hills hear your voice.

Hear, you mountains, the controversy of the Lord,  
and you enduring foundations of the earth;  
for the Lord has a controversy with his people,  
and he will contend with Israel.

“O my people, what have I done to you?

In what have I wearied you? Answer me!

For I brought you up from the land of Egypt,  
and redeemed you from the house of slavery;  
and I sent before you Moses, Aaron, and Miriam.

O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab devised,  
what Balaam son of Beor answered him,  
and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal,  
that you may know the saving acts of the Lord.”

“With what shall I come before the Lord,

and bow myself before God on high?

Shall I come before him with burnt-offerings,  
with calves a year old?

Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams,  
with tens of thousands of rivers of oil?

Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression,  
the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?"

He has told you, O mortal, what is good;  
and what does the Lord require of you  
but to do justice, and to love kindness,  
and to walk humbly with your God?

*Lector*      The Word of the Lord.

*People*      **Thanks be to God.**

*Psalm 15      Domine, quis habitabit?*

**BCP 599**

*Lector*      We will read the Psalm responsively. (*Congregation reads the bold lines.*)

Lord, who may dwell in your tabernacle? \*

**who may abide upon your holy hill?**

Whoever leads a blameless life and does what is right, \*

**who speaks the truth from his heart.**

There is no guile upon his tongue; he does no evil to his friend; \*

**he does not heap contempt upon his neighbor.**

In his sight the wicked is rejected, \*

**but he honors those who fear the Lord.**

He has sworn to do no wrong \*

**and does not take back his word.**

He does not give his money in hope of gain, \*

**nor does he take a bribe against the innocent.**

Whoever does these things \*

**shall never be overthrown.**

*Lector and People*

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:  
As it was in the beginning, is now, and shall be for ever. Amen.**

## The Second Lesson: 1 Corinthians 1: 18-31

*Lector* A reading from the First Letter to the Corinthians.

The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written,

“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,  
and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.”

Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For God’s foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God’s weakness is stronger than human strength.

Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to reduce to nothing things that are, so that no one might boast in the presence of God. He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, in order that, as it is written, “Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.”

*Lector* The Word of the Lord.

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

## Sequence Hymn

*Blest are the pure in heart (verses 1, 2 & 3)*

*Please stand as able.*

**Hymnal 656**

## The Gospel: Matthew 5: 1-12

*Celebrant* The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

“Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

“Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

“Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

“Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

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

### Sequence Hymn

*Blest are the pure in heart (verse 4)*

**Hymnal 656**

### Sermon

The Rev. Dr. Trawin Malone

### The Nicene Creed

**BCP 358**

**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

*Common Worship*

*Please assume a posture of prayer, whether standing, kneeling, or sitting as able.*

<i>Intercessor</i>	Jesus calls us out of darkness into his marvellous light. Washed clean by the waters of baptism, let us pray that we may live the life to which he has called us. Lord Jesus, eternal Word, proclaimed as the Christ by John the forerunner, hear us as we pray for all who proclaim your word. Lord of truth, <b>hear our prayer.</b>
<i>Intercessor</i>	Lord Jesus, baptizing with the Spirit and with fire, strengthen us to withstand all the trials of our faith. Lord of truth, <b>hear our prayer.</b>
<i>Intercessor</i>	Lord Jesus, bringing forgiveness to all who repent, teach your Church dependence on your grace. Lord of truth, <b>hear our prayer.</b>
<i>Intercessor</i>	Lord Jesus, fulfilment of the promises of old, give hope to all who suffer or are ignored, praying especially for <b>Vicky &amp; Dave, Carolyn, Ruth &amp; Frank, Lee R., the Bailey family, the McAfee family, Diane &amp; Cal, Jim, Tom, Marshall S., Brenda B., Jackie C., David H.; all who are in pain or distress; and all who are suffering due to oppression, war, gun violence, or natural disasters.</b>
<i>People</i>	

*Intercessor*      Lord of truth,  
*People*            **hear our prayer.**

*Intercessor*      Lord Jesus, beloved Son of the Father, anoint us with the gifts of your  
                          Holy Spirit. Lord of truth,  
*People*            **hear our prayer.**

*Intercessor*      Lord Jesus, bringer of hope, share with all the faithful the riches of  
                          eternal life. Lord of truth,  
*People*            **hear our prayer.**

*Hold a moment of silence.*

*Celebrant*        Lord Jesus Christ, in you the Father makes us and all things new.  
                         Transform the poverty of our nature by the riches of your grace,  
                         and in the renewal of our lives make known your heavenly glory.  
*All*                   **Amen.**

## Confession of Sin

BCP 360

*Continuing in a posture of prayer, we will hold a moment of silence for individual, silent confessions before the priest leads us into the words of corporate confession.*

*Celebrant*    Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*Celebrant and People*  
**Most merciful God,**  
**we confess that we have sinned against you**  
**in thought, word, and deed,**  
**by what we have done,**  
**and by what we have left undone.**  
**We have not loved you with our whole heart;**  
**we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.**  
**We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.**  
**For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,**  
**have mercy on us and forgive us;**  
**that we may delight in your will,**  
**and walk in your ways,**  
**to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

## Absolution of Sin

*Celebrant* Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sin through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

## The Peace

*Please stand as able.*

*Celebrant* May the peace of Christ be always with you.

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

*Celebrant* Let us show one another a sign of God's peace.

## The Holy Communion

*Celebrant* Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. *Ephesians 5:2a*

*Offertory Hymn* *What does the Lord require*

*Hymnal 605*

*Doxology (sung together)*

*Hymnal 380, verse 3 only*

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
praise him all creatures here below;  
praise him above, ye heavenly host;  
praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

*Celebrant* For all things come from you, O Lord;  
*People* **and of your own have we given you.**

## The Great Thanksgiving

### Eucharistic Prayer B

*BCP 367*

**Sursum Corda (Lift Up Your Hearts)** (*Spoken at 8:00. Sung at 10:30.*)

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you,

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

*Celebrant* Lift up your hearts.

*People* **We lift them to the Lord.**

*Celebrant* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

*People* **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

*Celebrant* It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. Because in the mystery of the Word made flesh, you have caused a new light to shine in our hearts, to give the knowledge of your glory in the face of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

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** (*Spoken at 8:00. Sung at 10:30.*)

**Hymnal S-124**

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

*The people stand or kneel.*

*Celebrant* We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, 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, according to his command, O Father,

*Celebrant and People*

**We remember his death,**

**We proclaim his resurrection,**

**We await his coming in glory;**

*Celebrant* And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit.

In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

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.** *(Spoken at 8:00. Sung at 10:30.)*

**Hymnal S-146**

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

*All*  
**Our Father, who 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 trespasses,  
as we forgive those  
who trespass against us.  
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

*The Celebrant breaks the consecrated bread and a period of silence is kept.*

*Celebrant* Alleluia, Christ, our Passover is sacrificed for us;  
*People* **Therefore, let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

**Fraction Hymn (Spoken at 8:00. Sung at 10:30.)**

**Hymnal S-161**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: Have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: Have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: Grant us peace.**

*Celebrant* The Gifts of God for the People of God.

**Communion Music** *Lord Jesus, think on me*

**Hymnal 641**

*We encourage you to come forward to receive Holy Communion as you feel comfortable.*

*Remain seated, until the usher directs you forward to the communion rail. After receiving communion, return to your seat by the side aisle, so that traffic flows one way. If you would prefer communion be brought to you at your seat, please let an usher know and, as always, we will be happy to do so.*

*If you prefer not to receive communion, you may come forward to the altar rail along with those receiving communion. Please cross your arms over your chest to indicate that you prefer a blessing.*

**Post-Communion Prayer**

*Common Worship*

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

*All* **Eternal God,**  
**giver of love and power,**  
**your Son Jesus Christ**  
**has sent us into all the world**  
**to preach the gospel of his kingdom:**  
**confirm us in this mission,**  
**and help us to live the good news we proclaim;**  
**through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**Birthday and Anniversary Blessings**

**The Blessing**

**Recessional Hymn**

*Lord, make us servants of your peace*

**Hymnal 593**

**The Dismissal**

*Celebrant* Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia, alleluia.  
*People* Thanks be to God. **Alleluia, alleluia.**

**Postlude**

# Parish Announcements, Prayers & Thanksgivings



## Equip Disciples

THE 42<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL CONVENTION OF THE  
EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF EAST TENNESSEE

**Friday & Saturday, February 20 & 21**

## 2026 Diocesan Convention

The 42nd annual convention of the Diocese of East Tennessee will take place Friday and Saturday, February 20 & 21, with the Eucharist taking place at Church of the Ascension and the business session taking place at the Episcopal School of Knoxville. *Learn more about diocesan convention at [www.dioceseconvention.org](http://www.dioceseconvention.org).*

## Book Conversation with Stephanie Spellers

**March 9 at 7 p.m. at St. John's Cathedral**

Bishop Brian Cole and St. John's Cathedral host this inspiring gathering with the Rev. Canon Stephanie Spellers, whose new book—*Church Tomorrow?: What the 'Nones' and 'Dones' Teach Us About the Future of Faith*—wrestles with the decline of traditional religion and the voices of nonreligious Millennials and Gen Zs.

Spellers traveled America to ask young 'Nones' and 'Dones': Why are they saying "no" to church? Where are they experiencing the sacred and belonging? What would they tell churches? And where do we go from here? If you're wondering about church tomorrow, let's listen today.

### *Our parish prayer list*

Vicky & Dave, Carolyn, Ruth & Frank, Lee R., the Bailey family, the McAfee family, Diane & Cal, Jim, Tom, Marshall S., Brenda B., Jackie C., David H.

### *Continuing prayers for*

Jim; Daphne; Rosemary O.; the Hentzel family; Pat; Claire; Sandy; Rob & Sherry; Cheri; Jane; Shannon; Jim; Mel; Wayne; Diana N.; Jack; Ashley; Raynella; Ed & Jean; Kim E.; Joe; Beverly; Grace; Virginia; Betty Anne; Janey; Johnny; and Karen H.

### *Pray for our vestry leaders*

Class of 2026: Alice A., Dianna S., Jenny L.  
Class of 2027: Bev B., Karen B., Mark H.  
Class of 2028: Holly P., Tom R., Bonnie S.  
Wardens: Bonnie S. and Mark H.;  
Treasurer: Sally Leonhard

### **Upcoming Birthdays**

Rosemary Kitts February 3  
Trish Dooner February 8  
Anne Wegener February 9  
Elizabeth Botica February 10  
Dianna Stimpson February 11  
Jean Cardwell February 12  
Tom Russell February 22  
Mark Blakley February 24  
Andrew Wilkinson February 24  
Andy Hadjian February 28  
Bill Perry February 29

### **Upcoming Anniversaries**

Jerry & Erlys Ploeger February 8  
John & Janet Cardwell February 9  
Jeff Lewis & Trish Dooner February 14

# For Your Calendars

THIS WEEK

<b>Feb. 1</b>	<b>8:00 a.m.</b>	<b>10:30 a.m.</b>		
Acolyte	Andrew Wilkinson	Mark Smith	Altar Guild	Keytha Graves & Drew Hawley
Euch. Minister	Mark Hennes	Jane Mocilac	Flower Guild	Rosemary Kitts
Lector	Alice Anderson	Tony Adams	Accompanist	Jedediah Dahl
Ushers	Carl Bye	Keytha Graves & Drew Hawley	Celebrant	Rebecca Bridges
Coffee Hour	Jen & Mark Hennes	Bill & Virginia Perry	Preacher	Trawin Malone
Video	n/a	Mark Blakley	Offering Counters	Ginny Tolbert
Chancellor	Peggy Rogers	David Baumgardner		& Liz Berg

NEXT WEEK

<b>Feb. 8</b>	<b>8:00 a.m.</b>	<b>10:30 a.m.</b>		
Acolyte	Jack Lefler	Monty Ross	Altar Guild	Jenny Lucas & Dianna Stimpson
Euch. Minister	Andrew Wilkinson	Drew Hawley	Flower Guild	Dianna Stimpson
Lector	Mark Hennes	Liz Berg	Accompanist	Kate Lee
Ushers	Jen Hennes	Garry Lucas & Art Stewart	Celebrant/Preacher	Rebecca Bridges
Coffee Hour	Peggy Rogers	Jenny Lucas	Offering Counters	Jean Cardwell
Video	n/a	Bob Cantine		& Monty Ross
Chancellor	Holly Pate	Art Stewart		

## This week at Resurrection

### Sunday, February 1

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist, spoken  
10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist, choral

### Monday, February 2

12:00 p.m. Companions group

### Tuesday, February 3

1:00 p.m. Education for Ministry group

### Sunday, February 8

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist, spoken  
10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist, choral

## Upcoming Parish & Diocesan Events

### Saturday, February 14

CPR/AED training at Tellico Village F.D.

### Friday, February 20

Diocesan Convention

### Saturday, February 21

Diocesan Convention

### Saturday, February 21

Men's Group, 9 a.m., Parish Hall

### Monday, March 9, 7 p.m.

Bishop Brian Cole in conversation with the Rev. Canon Stephanie Spellers at St. John's Cathedral

*To contact our priest, the Rev. Dr. Rebecca Bridges,  
email [rector@episcopalloudon.com](mailto:rector@episcopalloudon.com)  
or call the church at (865) 986-2390.*

*Urgent pastoral needs after hours: (865) 242-9240.*

# Visual Commentary on Scripture

Laura James, *A Sermon for our Ancestors*, 2006, Acrylic on canvas, 37 x 30.5 cm, Private Collection; © Laura James/

Laura James, a contemporary American artist, merges the style of Ethiopian Christian art with scenes from the eighteenth-century American South, when the transatlantic slave trade sold millions of Africans into slavery in the Americas. Not surprisingly, given the cruelty of American plantation slavery, James's work emphasizes the blessings for the persecuted (Matthew 5:10–12). The connection to Africa also renders James's use of Ethiopic tradition particularly powerful.

In the large central canvas, a Black Christ delivers a snippet from the Sermon on the Mount to groups of assembled enslaved people, many in chains. He gives them the exhortation that follows the blessing on the persecuted: 'Rejoice and be glad...' (Matthew 5:12) and then the famous 'salt and light' sayings (Matthew 5:13–14). The smaller images surrounding the central scene depict nine (rather than eight) Beatitudes. The two blessings on the persecuted, usually treated together as the eighth and final Beatitude (Matthew 5:10–11), are depicted separately in two scenes at the lower right. One shows a slave auction and the other a man lashing his enslaved fellow while being watched by the white master who commanded him to do so (in the latter, one may understand the persecuted as both the enslaved person receiving the punishment and the one forced to mete it out).

In each scene, those receiving Christ's blessings are African men and women at various stages of their enslavement, with the exception of a white man ('the merciful') who conceals two enslaved people under a blanket in the bottom of his boat. Of all the individual Beatitude scenes, the largest appears just above the central section; those who mourn witness a lynching while two white men observe with folded arms.

Representing Christ as an African places him in solidarity with those enslaved. Unlike them, he is not barefoot, perhaps gesturing ever so quietly to the promise of the Black spiritual that 'All God's Children Got Shoes'. The work's title points both to the past (enslaved Africans) and to present-day African American viewers ('our ancestors'). The message is clear: the suffering enslaved, and their present-day descendants who suffer still, are the blessed.

## Commentary source

Rebekah Eklund. 2018. 'Black is Blessed,' in *The Visual Commentary on Scripture* edited by Ben Quash. (London: The Visual Commentary on Scripture Foundation). [Accessed 28.1.2026] <https://thevcs.org/blessed#black-blessed>