

The Episcopal Church of the Nativity

Announcements

17 May 2026

Welcome and Happy Eastertide! We are so glad you are here! This morning, the Rev. LaRae Rutenbar presides and preaches. Our musician is Sal Page.

Pentecost Is Next Sunday, May 24. Wear something red to help celebrate this major feast day, commemorating the descent of the Holy Spirit on the Apostles, marking the birth of the Church.

Who Knew? Easter isn't over yet! While Easter Day came and went last week, the joyous 50-day season continues through until the Day of Pentecost, May 24 this year. In the fourth century, an ecumenical council actually forbade kneeling during this period. Perhaps we should consider forgoing our kneeling "heresy" and stand during this season?

Spotlight on Hymnody: The text and tune of "All hail the power of Jesus' Name!" have been matched since the eighteenth century. Originally, the complete poem had eight stanzas, of which only six survive in our hymnal. The tune, called CORONATION, was composed by Oliver Holden of Charlestown, Massachusetts (today a neighborhood of Boston). One early published version contained this note about one choirmaster who loved this hymn: he "catching as it were the inspiration of the heavenly world, would join [the choir in singing], and lead them with the most ardent devotion."

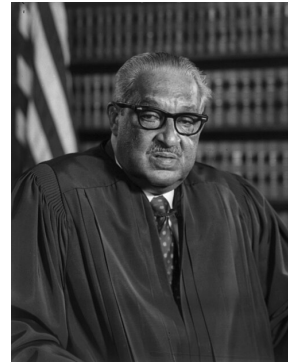
P.s., we omit stanzas that begin with an asterisk in our hymn singing here at Nativity. People far smarter than us have carefully examined each hymn, and indicated which stanzas can be left out without mangling the sense of the poetry—so for this hymn, we will sing stanzas 1, 2, 3, and 6.

Save the Date: Our annual welcome brunch will take place after church on June 14—to welcome back our seasonal members and to celebrate the beginning of summer (and, after this year, the end of winter!). To RSVP, call 231-582-2648.

Recommending: The Bible Project is a nonprofit, crowdfunded organization that makes free videos, podcasts, articles, and classes available to help people experience the Bible in a way that is approachable and transformative. They do this by showcasing the literary art of the Scriptures and tracing key biblical themes from Genesis to Revelation. To learn more: bibleproject.com.

Safe-Church Training will be offered in-person at the Church of the Transfiguration, Indian River, on Saturday, June 6. To register by June 2: <https://form.jotform.com/261125197734156>

Please Consider Supporting the Bishop Whittemore Foundation, a ministry of our diocese. In 2025, they awarded more than \$260,000 in grants to parishes across West Michigan. Your gift will strengthen Episcopal ministries and parish projects. Learn more or donate at www.whittemorefoundation.org.



Today, we commemorate Thurgood Marshall. Did you know he was an Episcopalian? The first Black justice on the United States Supreme Court, Marshall was a prominent figure in the movement to end racial segregation in American public schools. He won 29 of the 32 civil rights cases he argued before the Supreme Court as Solicitor General, culminating in the Court's landmark decision in *Brown v. Board of Education*, which rejected the "separate but equal" doctrine and held segregation in public education to be unconstitutional. President Lyndon B. Johnson appointed Marshall to the Supreme Court in 1967.

Born in Baltimore, Thurgood Marshall spent most of his adult life in Washington and New York, where he was Senior Warden of St. Philip's Church in Harlem. He served as a Deputy to General Convention in 1964, and he walked out of that convention in protest after a resolution to recognize a right to disobey immoral segregation laws was voted down.

He was added to the Episcopal Church's *Lessser Feasts and Fasts* calendar in 2009. May 17 was selected as the Feast of Thurgood Marshall to mark the Supreme Court's unanimous *Brown v. Board of Education* decision on this date in 1954.

Blessed be God in the angels and the saints.

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The Rev. Dr. J. Barrington Bates, *Priest-in-Charge*