



Dedication of the  
St. Anna Alexander Chapel  
The Episcopal Diocese of Georgia

18 E. 34th Street  
Savannah, Georgia

**The Holy Eucharist**  
and  
**Chapel Dedication Honoring St. Anna Alexander**

**Holy, Holy, Holy**

1 Holy, holy, holy!  
Lord God Almighty!  
Early in the morning our song  
shall rise to thee;  
holy, holy, holy! merciful and mighty,  
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

2 Holy, holy, holy!  
All the saints adore thee,  
casting down their golden crowns  
around the glassy sea;  
cherubim and seraphim falling down  
before thee,  
who wert and art and evermore shalt be.

3 Holy, holy, holy!  
Though the darkness hide thee,  
though the eye made blind by sin  
thy glory may not see,  
only thou art holy;  
there is none beside thee,  
perfect in power, in love, and purity.

4 Holy, holy, holy!  
Lord God Almighty!  
All thy works shall praise thy name,  
in earth and sky and sea;  
holy, holy, holy! merciful and mighty,  
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

**The Word of God**

**Bishop** Alleluia. Christ is risen.

**People** *Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia.*

**The Bishop 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 Bishop then says**

Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal One,

**People** *Have mercy upon us.*

**The Collect of the Day**

**The Bishop says to the people**

The Lord be with you.

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

**Bishop** Let us pray.

**The Bishop says the Collect**

O God, you called Anna Alexander as a deaconess in your Church, and sent her as teacher and evangelist to the people of Georgia: Grant us the humility to go wherever you send us, and the wisdom to teach the word of Christ to whoever we meet, that all may come to the enlightenment which you intend for your people; through Jesus Christ, our Teacher and Savior.

**People**      *Amen.*

**The Lessons**

**The people sit. A Lesson is read, the Reader first saying**

A Reading from 2 Timothy (3:14-4:5)

But as for you, continue in what you have learned and firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it, and how from childhood you have known the sacred writings that are able to instruct you for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, so that everyone who belongs to God may be proficient, equipped for every good work. In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I solemnly urge you: proclaim the message; be persistent whether the time is favorable or unfavorable; convince, rebuke, and encourage, with the utmost patience in teaching. For the time is coming when people will not put up with sound doctrine, but having itching ears, they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own desires and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander away to myths. As for you, always be sober, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, carry out your ministry fully.

The Word of the Lord.

**People**      *Thanks be to God.*

The psalm appointed follows the Reading and is read responsively by whole verse.

**Psalm 78**

1 Hear my teaching, O my people; incline your ears to the words of my mouth.

2 I will open my mouth in a parable; I will declare the mysteries of ancient times.

3 That which we have heard and known, and what our forefathers have told us, we will not hide from their children.

4 We will recount to generations to come the praiseworthy deeds and the power of the LORD, and the wonderful works he has done.

5 He gave his decrees to Jacob and established a law for Israel,  
which he commanded them to teach their children;

6 That the generations to come might know, and the children yet unborn;  
that they in their turn might tell it to their children;

7 So that they might put their trust in God, and not forget the deeds of God,  
but keep his commandments;

**Then, all standing, a Deacon or a Priest reads the Gospel, first saying**

The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to Matthew (11:25-30)

**People** *Glory to you, Lord Christ.*

At that time Jesus said, ‘I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him. ‘Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.’

**After the Gospel, the Reader says**

The Gospel of our Savior.

**People** *Praise to you, Lord Christ.*

### **A Reflection on St. Anna Alexander's Life and Witness**

Anna Ellison Butler Alexander (1865-1947) was born to recently emancipated slaves on Butler Plantation in McIntosh County, Georgia. She was the first African-American set aside as a deaconess in the Episcopal Church on this day, May 3, in 1907. She founded Good Shepherd Church in rural Glynn County's Pennick community where she taught children to read—by tradition, from the Book of Common Prayer and the Bible—in a one-room schoolhouse. The school was later expanded to two rooms with a loft where Anna lived. She ministered in Pennick for 53 years, leaving a legacy of love and devotion still felt in Glynn County. She served in difficult times, however. The diocese segregated her congregations in 1907 and African-American congregations were not invited to another diocesan convention until 1947. Similarly, it was only in the 1950s that a woman set aside as a deaconess was recognized as being in deacon's orders. Her witness, wearing the distinctive dress of a deaconess, traveling by foot from Brunswick through Darien to Pennick, showing care and love for all whom she met, represents the best in Christian witness.

## The Prayers of the People

Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church;  
*That we all may be one.*

Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;  
*That your Name may be glorified by all people.*

We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons;  
*That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.*

We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;  
*That there may be justice and peace on the earth.*

Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;  
*That our works may find favor in your sight.*

Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;  
*That they may be delivered from their distress.*

Give to the departed eternal rest;  
*Let light perpetual shine upon them.*

We praise you for your saints, especially Blessed Anna Alexander, who have entered  
into joy;  
*May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.*

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.

**The People may add their own petitions. The Bishop adds a concluding Collect.  
The Bishop and People process to the Chapel for the Dedication.**

**Bishop** All your works praise you, O God,  
**People** And your faithful servants bless you.  
**Bishop** Through the Cross of Jesus,  
**People** We have been brought near and reconciled to God.

**Bishop**  
Let us pray. Blessed are you, O God, ruler of the universe. Your gifts are many, and in  
wisdom you have made all things to give you glory. Be with us now and bless us as we  
dedicate this Chapel to your praise and in honor of Blessed Anna Alexander. As often as  
we worship you here, precede us and abide with us. Be known to us in the Word spoken  
and heard, in fellowship with one another, and in the breaking of bread. Give us joy in

all your works, and grant that this Chapel, dedicated to Blessed Anna Alexander, may be a place where your will is done and your name is glorified; through Jesus Christ our Savior, in the power of the Holy Spirit, we pray. *Amen.*

### **The Peace**

**All stand. The Bishop says to the people**

The peace of Christ be always with you.

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

### **Eucharistic Prayer D**

**Bishop** The Lord be with you.

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

**Bishop** Lift up your hearts.

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

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

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

#### **The Bishop proceeds**

It is truly right to glorify you and to give you thanks; for you alone are God, living and true, dwelling in light inaccessible from before time and forever. Fountain of life and source of all goodness, you made all things and fill them with your blessing; you created them to rejoice in the splendor of your radiance. Countless throngs of angels stand before you to serve you night and day; and, beholding the glory of your presence, they offer you unceasing praise. Joining with them, and giving voice to every creature under heaven, we acclaim you, and glorify your Name, as we say,

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

*Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.*

*Hosanna in the highest.*

#### **Then the Bishop continues**

We acclaim you, holy God, glorious in power. Your mighty works reveal your wisdom and love. You formed us in your own image, giving the whole world into our care, so that in obedience to you our Creator, we might rule and serve all your creatures. When our disobedience took us far from you, you did not abandon us to the power of death.

In your mercy you came to our help, so that in seeking you we might find you.

Again and again you called us into covenant with you, and through the prophets you taught us to hope for salvation. Holy God, you loved the world so much that in the fullness of time you sent your only Son to be our Savior. Incarnate by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, Jesus lived as one of us, yet without sin. To the poor he proclaimed the good news of salvation; to prisoners, freedom; to the sorrowful, joy.

To fulfill your purpose Jesus gave himself up to death; and, rising from the grave, destroyed death, and made the whole creation new. And that we might live no longer for ourselves, but for Christ who died and rose for us, you sent the Holy Spirit, your own first gift for those who believe, to complete your work in the world and to bring to fulfillment the sanctification of all.

When the hour had come for Jesus to be glorified by you, his heavenly Father, having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end; at supper with them Jesus 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 Jesus 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.”

Almighty God, we now celebrate this memorial of our redemption. Recalling Christ’s death and descent among the dead, proclaiming Christ’s resurrection and ascension to your right hand, awaiting Christ’s coming in glory; and offering to you, from the gifts you have given us, this bread and this cup, we praise you and we bless you.

**Bishop and People**

*We praise you, we bless you, we give thanks to you, and we pray to you, Lord our God.*

**The Bishop continues**

God our Creator, we pray that in your goodness and mercy your Holy Spirit may descend upon us, and upon these gifts, sanctifying them and showing them to be holy gifts for your holy people, the bread of life and the cup of salvation, the Body and Blood of our Savior Jesus Christ.

Grant that all who share this bread and cup may become one body and one spirit, a living sacrifice in Christ, to the praise of your Name. Remember, Lord, your one holy catholic and apostolic Church, redeemed by the blood of your Christ. Reveal its unity, guard its faith, and preserve it in peace. And grant that we may find our inheritance with Blessed Anna Alexander and all the saints who have found favor with you in ages past. We praise you in union with them and give you glory through Jesus Christ our Savior.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, all honor and glory are yours, Almighty God and Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, for ever and ever. **AMEN.**

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray,

**People and Bishop**

*Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your Name, your kingdom come,  
your will be done, on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.*

**The Breaking of the Bread**

**The Bishop breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept.**

**Then the Bishop says**

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

**Facing the people, the Bishop says the following Invitation or similar words.**

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.

**After Communion, the Bishop and People pray together**

*Eternal God, you have graciously accepted us as living members of our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.*

*Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you  
with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Savior. Amen.*

**The Bishop blesses the people.**

**The People are dismissed with these words**

Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

**People**    *Thanks be to God.*

## Amazing Grace

Amazing grace! How sweet the sound  
That saved a wretch like me!  
I once was lost, but now am found;  
Was blind, but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,  
And grace my fears relieved;  
How precious did that grace appear  
The hour I first believed.

The Lord has promised good to me,  
His word my hope secures;  
He will my shield and portion be,  
As long as life endures.

Through many dangers, toils and snares,  
I have already come;  
'Tis grace hath brought me safe thus far,  
And grace will lead me home.

When we've been there ten thousand  
years,  
Bright shining as the sun,  
We've no less days to sing God's praise  
Than when we'd first begun.