

Opening Scene: Invitation

CELEBRANT: Blessed be God in all his Saints

PEOPLE: And blessed be God's Kingdom, now and for ever

READER: *Ephesians 1:11-23*

In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

Scene 1: Samuel Seabury, First American Bishop

*CHILDREN'S CHORUS or solo accompanied by piano:
(Tune: Land of Rest, The Hymnal 1982, 304)*





When Jesus called his saints to serve
He called both free and slave
That every soul beneath the skin
Would be a soul to save

Acolyte and First Child come to the Paschal Candle stationed near the Altar.

ACOLYTE: Will anyone bring the light of Christ to a new America?

FIRST CHILD: My name is Samuel. I will bear the light of Christ to a new America.

The acolyte gives a candle to First Child, and lights it from the Paschal candle. As the Choir sings, a Crucifer leads him/her to a corner of the church. The Crucifer then returns to the front of the church.

CHOIR accompanied by piano: (Tune: African –American spiritual, LEVAS 67)

I heard the Lord
He called to me
I answered ‘Yes’ to Christ
He pointed to
A path unknown.
I found it was my journey home

NARRATOR: Samuel Seabury was an Anglican priest at the time of the American Revolution. He realized that the Declaration of Independence meant a break with the English Church as well as the British monarch, and that America would need Bishops of its own. After a long journey and persistent, he secured consecration in the Apostolic Succession from Bishops of the Scottish Episcopal Church, and so became the first Episcopal Bishop of the United States of America.

Scene 2: Absalom Jones, African American Priest

*CHILDREN’S CHORUS or solo accompanied by piano:
(Tune: Land of Rest, The Hymnal 1982, 304)*

