The Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany

The Collect of the Day
Set us free, O God, from the bondage of our sins, and give us the liberty of that abundant life which you have made known to us in your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Collect for Absalom Jones
Set us free, heavenly Father, from every bond of prejudice and fear; that, honoring the steadfast courage of your servant Absalom Jones, we may show forth in our lives the reconciling love and true freedom of the children of God, which you have given us in your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

The Feast of Absalom Jones
On February 13, the church celebrates the Rev. Absalom Jones, the first African American ordained priest in the Episcopal Church.

Jones was born into slavery in Delaware in 1746. While still a slave, he married Mary King, who was also a slave, in 1770. He worked for eight years to buy his wife’s freedom so that their children would be free, and seven years later, he was able to purchase his own freedom.

Jones became an active member of St. George’s Methodist Episcopal Church in Philadelphia, serving as lay preacher for the black members of the congregation. A gifted orator, Jones increased black membership in the church at such a rapid rate that white parishioners began trying to segregate the congregation; black parishioners were told by church officials that they would have to sit in the balcony. After a Sunday service in November 1786, when ushers tried to force all black parishioners, including Jones and Richard Allen, who had been a fellow member of St. George’s, founded the Free African Society in 1787, a nondenominational mutual aid society designed to assist freed slaves.

By 1791, the African Society had evolved into the African Church, which was received into the Episcopal Diocese of Pennsylvania in 1794. The diocese renamed the church St. Thomas’ African Episcopal Church, and it became the first black Episcopal parish in the United States. In 1804 Jones became the first ordained priest of African descent in the Episcopal Church.

GIRL SCOUT COOKIES!
All Souls’ Girl Scout Troop will be in our church hall after 10:30 Mass today in Taylor Hall. There will be a full selection of the assortment and both cash and credit cards will be joyfully accepted. Thanks for taking care of our scout troop!

VESTRY MEETING
The All Souls’ Vestry Meeting will be held this Wednesday, February 12, from 6:30pm to 8:30pm in Taylor Hall. Please pray for all your Vestry Members and Warden.

ASH WEDNESDAY
February 26th is Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent. Fr. Tim will be at the corner of Lincoln Road and Collins Avenue from 8:30am to 11am. Ashes will be distributed here at the church after the Noon Day Mass and at 5:30pm with a prayer service. Please remember that this is a HOLY Day and fasting and prayer is appropriate. God bless you in Lent!

PRAYER LIST UPDATE
This quarter we begin a new prayer list cycle. Please remember to send an email to parishoffice@allsoulsmb.org with prayer intentions. Thanks!

HOSPITALITY
If your First Name begins with K – M, a reminder that there is an opportunity for you to provide a much-needed food item for our hospitality next Sunday, February 16th. Thank you for your continuing support and participation.

THE BLESSING OF RELATIONSHIPS
In honor of St. Valentine there will be a short Celebration of Love today after the 10:30 Mass. All who are in a relationship or marriage are welcome to come to the altar for a special blessing. All are welcome.

WE HOLD IN PRAYER
Heavenly Father, giver of life and health: Comfort and relieve your sick servants, and give your power of healing to those who minister to their needs, that those for whom our prayers are offered may be strengthened in their weakness and have confidence in your loving care; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen ♠


For those living with HIV/AIDS and their families.
We pray for the dying and those who watch and care for them and mourn for their loss.

We pray for the Faithful Departed
We pray for all our Loved ones, our Friends & our Neighbors.
We pray for those celebrating birthdays and anniversaries.