Grace Episcopal Church

A Parish Church in the Episcopal Diocese of Atlanta established 1828



The Second Sunday of Easter April 27, 2025

Our Mission

Grace Episcopal Church is a congregation in communion with all that is in God, seen and unseen. We are led by the example of Jesus Christ and are empowered by the Holy Spirit to support each other through prayer, formation, worship, and service.

Our Vision

We will welcome all with kindness, acceptance, and love, with God's help. We are Grace, grounded in faith and relentless in compassion.

Holy Eucharist Rite I 8:15AM

Helpful notes: The 8:15 early service is a simple, contemplative service that offers you a time and space for prayer. It uses the more traditional language that can be found within the Anglican Tradition and primarily comes from the earlier 1928 Book of Common Prayer. Please feel free to take advantage of the quiet space before the service begins for your personal devotions.

Community Minute

Opening Acclamation

Celebrant	Alleluia! Christ is risen!
People	The Lord is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Collect for Purity

Almighty God, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love thee, and worthily magnify thy holy Name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Gloria

The Collect of the Day

Almighty and everlasting God, who in the Paschal mystery hast established the new covenant of reconciliation: Grant that all who have been reborn into the fellowship of Christ's Body may show forth in their lives what they profess by their faith; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

The First Reading: Acts 5:27-32	Leaflet, page 4
Psalm 150	Leaflet, page 4
The Second Reading: Revelation 1:4-8	Leaflet, page 4
The Gospel Reading: John 20:19-31	Leaflet, page 5
The Homily: The Rev. Dr. Stuart Higginbotham	
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The Prayers of the People	Leaflet, page 6
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The Great Thanksgiving: Eucharistic Prayer I	BCP 333
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BCP 323

BCP 324

Prelude Reverie, Aidan Voyles

Community Minute

Introit Little Lamb, Spiritual arr. Marshall Bartholomew G. Schirmer (1950) Chestatee High School Men's Quartet: Connor McClenathen, Corbin Larned, Matthew Brooksher, Mack Manning

Little Lamb, little innocent lamb, I'm a gonna serve God til I die. Hypocrite! Hypocrite! Tell you what he do I'm a gonna serve God til I die. He'll talk about me and he'll talk about you. Devil he's got a slippery shoe. Now if you don't mind, he gonna slip it on you. I'm a gonna serve God til I die.

Cause there ain't no dyin' over there, In that heavenly land. They'll be joy! Joy!

Just take one brick from Satan's wall, I'm a gonna serve God til I die. Satan's wall gonna tumble and fall.

At the Procession: Hymn 191

The Easter Acclamation

CelebrantAlleluia! Christ is risen!PeopleThe Lord is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Collect for Purity

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.*

Gloria S280 Hymns beginning with an S are found in the service music section at the front of the hymnal.

Collect of the Day

CelebrantThe Lord be with you.PeopleAnd also with you.CelebrantLet us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, who in the Paschal mystery established the new covenant of reconciliation: Grant that all who have been reborn into the fellowship of Christ's Body may show forth in their lives what they profess by their faith; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

The Blessing of the Children and Dismissal to Children's Chapel

Children ages three through second grade are invited to come forward.

People God of all, we thank you for the joy and wonder these children bring into our lives. May they learn about you and your Word, may they grow in loving-kindness, and may they know your presence is always with them. Amen.

Helpful notes: Our attention now turns to the assigned texts for the day, as we listen for the Spirit's guidance through ancient texts that connect with our present circumstances. We remember that it is not so much that "we read the texts," as it is that "the Spirit reads us through the texts." Following the readings, the preacher will offer a sermon that seeks to help nurture our personal and communal reflection.

Lux eoi

The First Reading: Acts 5:27-32

When the temple police had brought the apostles, they had them stand before the council. The high priest questioned them, saying, "We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name, yet here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and you are determined to bring this man's blood on us." But Peter and the apostles answered, "We must obey God rather than any human authority. The God of our ancestors raised up Jesus, whom you had killed by hanging him on a tree. God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior that he might give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey him."

The Word of the Lord. *Thanks be to God.*

Psalm 150 chanted by the Treble Choir, University of North Georgia

1	Hallelujah!
	Praise God in his holy temple; *
	praise him in the firmament of his power.
2	Praise him for his mighty acts; *
	praise him for his excellent greatness.
3	Praise him with the blast of the ram's-horn; *
	praise him with lyre and harp.
4	Praise him with timbrel and dance; *
	praise him with strings and pipe.
5	Praise him with resounding cymbals; *
	praise him with loud-clanging cymbals.
6	Let everything that has breath *
	praise the Lord.
	Hallelujah!

The Second Reading: Revelation 1:4-8

Reader: 8:15/Steven Hatch, 10:45/Donna Yaughn

John to the seven churches that are in Asia: Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth.

To him who loves us and freed us from our sins by his blood, and made us to be a kingdom, priests serving his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

Look! He is coming with the clouds; every eye will see him, even those who pierced him; and on his account all the tribes of the earth will wail. So it is to be. Amen. "I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.

The Word of the Lord. *Thanks be to God.*

At the Sequence: Hymn 205 verses 1, 4, 5

A Pastoral note on the Gospel Reading: Many translations of John's Gospel render the Greek term Ioudaioi as "the Jews." However, this translation overlooks a crucial distinction: Ioudaioi can encompass all inhabitants of the historical region of Israel but specifically denotes those from Judea, particularly urban leadership around Jerusalem. This translation obscures a central theme of Jesus' betrayal by Judean authorities, driven by fear of losing their power if not seen as loyal to Roman rule. The consequence of translating Ioudaioi as "the Jews" has been centuries of suffering for Jewish communities due to anti-Jewish interpretations of the text. Considering the historical violence against the Jewish people, a more accurate rendering could be "the Judeans," offering a clearer understanding of the narrative's context and implications.

4

Gelobt sei Gott

BCP 807

The Gospel Reading: John 20:19-31

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John. *Glory to you, Lord Christ.*

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

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

The Homily: The Rev. Dr. Stuart Higginbotham

Reflection *Nothin' Gonna Stumble My Feet* Chestatee High School Women's Trio: Madison Ladd, Payton Whitaker, Sydney Green

I've been a walking with the lord for many a day Nothing gonna stumble stumble my feet Trying to abide in the straight and narrow way Nothing gonna stumble stumble my feet But when my time on earth is done And I hear my name Oh when my time on earth is done These weary feet are gonna run

No not gonna stammer not gonna trip (not gonna stumble , O I'm not gonna slip) No I'm not gonna stumble no I'm not gonna slip No nothing gonna stumble stumble my feet When I go to walk that golden street

Now the devil is a liar, and a cheater too Nothing gonna stumble stumble my feet And if he gets his way, he'll make a slider out of you Nothing gonna stumble stumble my feet But if you listen for the spirit's voice In a moment of truth Oh if you listen for the spirits voice He'll help you make the right choice Greg Gilpin

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.

Prayers of the People Form VI

Leader: 8:15/Martha Nesbitt; 10:45/Jeff Whalen BCP 392

In peace, we pray to you, Lord God.

Silence

For all people in their daily life and work; For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.

For this community, the nation, and the world; For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.

For the just and proper use of your creation; For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.

For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble; For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.

For the peace and unity of the Church of God; For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth. For Sean our Presiding Bishop, and Rob our Bishop; and for all bishops and other ministers; *For all who serve God in his Church.*

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation, especially Jacqueline Groover.

Silence

The People may add their own petitions

Hear us, Lord; For your mercy is great.

We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life.

Silence

The People may add their own thanksgivings

We will exalt you, O God our King; And praise your Name for ever and ever.

We pray for all who have died, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom.

Silence

The People may add their own petitions

Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon them; *Who put their trust in you.*

Grace Episcopal Church is a congregation in communion with all that is in God, seen and unseen. We are led by the example of Jesus Christ and are empowered by the Holy Spirit to support each other through prayer, formation, worship, and service.

We will welcome all with kindness, acceptance, and love, with God's help. We are Grace, grounded in faith and relentless in compassion.

The Peace

CelebrantThe peace of the Lord be always with you.PeopleAnd also with you.

Please be seated.

Helpful notes: We have arrived at the point of the liturgy that focuses our attention on Christ's presence with us in the Holy Eucharist. "Eucharist" means "thanksgiving," and we are called to remember our gratitude to God for the blessings of our lives. Together, we share in Holy Communion, which we believe is the Real Presence of Christ both within the bread and wine and within each soul present. We offer ourselves and visualize ourselves on the altar, as we pray for a transformation of heart that will nurture our ongoing lives. Faith Harvey (Region 6-AAA Literary Meet Women's Solo winner), Madison Ladd, Payton Whitaker, Sydney Green

I'm just a poor wayfaring stranger, Traveling through this world below, There is no sickness, no toil, no danger, In that bright land to which I go. I'm going there to see my father, And all my loved ones who've gone on.

I'm just going over Jordan, I'm just going over home.

I know dark clouds will gather 'round me, I know my way is hard and steep. But beauteous fields arise before me, Where God's redeemed, their vigils keep, I'm going there to see my mother, She said she'd meet me when I come.

So I'm just going over Jordan, I'm just going over home, I'm just going over Jordan, I'm just going over home.

At the Presentation: Hymn 174 verses 1, 4

The Great Thanksgiving Please continue standing as you are able.

Eucharistic Prayer A

CelebrantThe Lord be with you.PeopleAnd also with you.CelebrantLift up your hearts.PeopleWe lift them to the Lord.CelebrantLet us give thanks to the Lord our God.PeopleIt is right to give him thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

But chiefly are we bound to praise you for the glorious resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; for he is the true Paschal Lamb, who was sacrificed for us, and has taken away the sin of the world. By his death he has destroyed death, and by his rising to life again he has won for us everlasting life.

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: Hymn S130

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself, and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

Salzberg BCP 361 On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, 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 we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Celebrant and People Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: 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.*

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

Celebrant and People

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 Fraction Anthem: Hymn S154

CelebrantBehold who you are: The Body of Christ.PeopleMay we become what we receive.

Please be seated. Ushers will guide the congregation forward for Holy Communion.

Helpful notes: To receive, please proceed up the center aisle and fill around the altar from the back to the front. If you do not wish to receive the consecrated bread and wine, simply cross your arms over your chest. We will offer a blessing for you as we share in Holy Communion. You may stand or kneel at the altar rail. Please return to your seat by the side aisles.

Communion Music No Time

University of North Georgia Treble Choir

Rise, oh fathers, rise. Let's go meet Him in the sky. For we'll hear the angels singing In that morning. Yes I really do believe that Just before the end of time We will hear the angels singing In that morning. Rise, oh mothers, rise, ... Rise, oh sisters, rise, ... No time to tarry here,

For I'm on my journey home. Brothers, oh fare you well, For I'm on my journey home. No time to tarry here, No time to wait for you, Neighbors ... Sinners ...

Prayer after Communion Please kneel or stand as you are able.

Celebrant Let us pray.

Celebrant and People

Loving God, we give you thanks for restoring us in your image and nourishing us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood. Now send us forth a people, forgiven, healed, renewed; that we may proclaim your love to the world and continue in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.

The Blessing

Closing Hymn 182

The Dismissal

Let us go forth in the name of Christ. Alleluia! Alleluia! *Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!*

Postlude Toccata in F Major

Enriching Our Worship 1, page 70

Truro

Dietrich Buxtehude (1637 - 1707)

THIS MORNING

- We welcome the University of North Georgia Treble Choir, Dr. Emily Hobson-Gallardo, Director of Choral Activities.
- We also welcome Region 6-AAA Literary Meet Winners from Chestatee High School, Lisa Bassett, MME, Director of Choirs, Chestatee High School.

FOR YOUR CALENDAR

- Rebecca Parker and Fr. Stuart invite you to share a morning of **prayer and reflection** on Zoom, Saturday, May 3, as we engage in the deep tensions and opportunities of this time. Special reflection by Cynthia Bourgeault. Register by Tuesday, April 29 at www.gracechurchgainesville.org/what-is-mine-to-hold/
- Last **CE classes** of the church school year are May 4. At the forum that morning we'll hear more about our parish finances and endowment.
- **Graduate recognition** is May 18! High school and college graduates, please submit the information form at www.gracechurchgainesville.org/graduate before 9:00 AM on Monday, May 12 to be included in the slideshow.
- Grace Church Friends of Music welcomes virtuoso violinist Ava Pakiam, performing with pianist Cole Anderson, on Sunday, May 18 at 4:00 PM. She will offer a Q&A session at 3 PM in the nave for anyone interested.
- Grace Church, in collaboration with Cherokee Bluff Theatre, is thrilled to announce the launch of an exciting summer **Performing Arts Camp** for rising 3rd to 8th graders, June 16-20 and June 23-28. www.gracechurchgainesville.org/pac

THINGS TO NOTE

- Explore the Glimpses of Grace podcast on your podcast app of choice or at www.gracechurchgainesville.org/podcast.
- Prayer is at the heart of our life as a faith community. Grace Church invites members of the parish to **request prayer** at www.gracechurchgainesville.org/prayer.
- We invite **visitors and newcomers** to fill out a Welcome Card, online at www.gracechurchgainesville.org/welcome or in the pew (and dropped in the offering plate), so we can share information about Grace and answer any questions.
- The **nursery** is located in the children's education wing and is available to all children age 4 and under on Sunday mornings from 8:00 AM until noon.
- Services at Grace Church are **live-streamed/recorded** so that we may include those who cannot be with us physically. www.gracechurchgainesville.org/photo-video-policy.

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Prelude *Reverie*, Claude Debussy (1862-1928) | Introit *Little Lamb*, Spiritual, arr. Marshall Bartholomew G. Schirmer (1950) (Renewed) New York, NY, distributed by Hal Leonard | H191 Words: Christopher Wordsworth (1807-1885), alt.; Music: *Lux eoi*, Arthur Seymour Sullivan (1842-1900) | S280 Setting: Robert Powell (b. 1932) | H205 Words: Cyril A. Alington (1872-1955), alt. St. 5. Norman Mealy (b. 1923); By permission of Hymns Ancient & Modern Limited St.5, Copyright © 1971 by Walton Music Corporation, Used by permission.; Music: *Gelobt sei Gott*, Melchior Vulpius (1560?-1616) | *Nothin' Gonna Stumble My Feet* Music: Greg Gilpin Words: John Parker; Shawnee Press Inc., 2008 | *Poor Wayfaring Stranger*, American Folk Hymn, arr. Jonathan Rodgers Walton Music Corporation, 2013, A Division of GIA Publications | H174 Words: Latin, 1632; tr. Robert Campbell (1814-1868), alt ; Music: *Salzberg*, melody Jakob Hintze (1622-1703): harm. Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750) | S154 Setting: From *New Plainsong*; David Hurd (h.1950), Copyright © 1981, G.I.A. Publications, Inc. | *No Time*, Traditional Camp Meeting Song, arr. Susan Brumfield 1999 Plymouth Music, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33334 | H182 Words: Brian A. Wren (b.1936), rev. Copyright © 1975 by Hope Publishing Company. All Rights Reserved. Used by Permission; Music: *Truro*, melody from *Psalmodia Evangelica*, Part II, 1789; harm. Lowell Mason (1792-1872), alt. | Postlude *Toccata in F Major* Dietrich Buxtehude (1637 – 1707)

THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF ATLANTA

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Stuart Deaderick, Senior Warden Helen Scovill Anita Smith Term ends 2027 Sue Bowron Kimberley Boyd, Junior Warden

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Term ends 2028 Jim Bradley Jo Brewer Darlene Hauserman Jason Voyles

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