

Grace Episcopal Church

A Parish Church in the Episcopal Diocese of Atlanta

1828–2024



Fifth Sunday of Easter Year B

April 28, 2024

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

The Word of God

Opening Acclamation

BCP 323

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ is risen.

People *The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.*

Collect for Purity

BCP 323

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

BCP 324

The Collect of the Day

O Almighty God, whom truly to know is everlasting life: Grant us so perfectly to know thy Son Jesus Christ to be the way, the truth, and the life, that we may steadfastly follow his steps in the way that leadeth to eternal life; through the same thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The First Reading: Acts 8:26-40

Reader: Martha Nesbitt Leaflet, page 3

Psalm 22:24-30

Leader: Martha Nesbitt Leaflet, page 4

The Second Reading: 1 John 4:7-21

Reader: Steve Hatch Leaflet, page 4

The Gospel Reading: John 15:1-8

Leaflet, page 4

The Homily: The Rev. Dr. Stuart Higginbotham

The Nicene Creed

Leaflet, page 5

The Prayers of the People

Leader: Martha Nesbitt Leaflet, page 5

The Peace

BCP 332

The Offertory

The Great Thanksgiving: Eucharistic Prayer I

BCP 333

The Lord's Prayer

BCP 336

The Breaking of the Bread

BCP 337

Communion of the People

Prayer after Communion

BCP 339

The Blessing

The Dismissal

BCP 339

Holy Eucharist Rite II 10:45AM

Prelude

Prière à Notre-Dame from "Gothic Suite" Opus 25

Léon Boëllmann

Community Minute

Helpful notes: The word "liturgy" means "the public work of the people that has a personal cost." We invest our energy and resources into our common prayer. The opening portion of the liturgy invites us to gather in this space at this time, bringing all of ourselves into this shared worship as we focus our attention on God's love for us. We are made more aware of our union with God and with one another as we remember that our worship of God is the core element of our lives as Christians.

The Word of God

At the Entrance: Hymn 379

Abbot's Leigh

The Opening Acclamation

BCP 355

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ is risen.

People *The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.*

Collect for Purity

BCP 355

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: Hymn S280

1. Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and
 peace to his peo - ple on earth. 2. Lord God, heaven - ly
 King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we
 give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry. 3. Lord Je - sus
 Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, 4. you
 take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy

on us; 5. you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re -
 ceive our prayer. 6. For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One,
 you a - lone are the Lord, 7. you a - lone are the Most
 High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spi - rit, in the
 glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Let us pray.

Almighty God, whom truly to know is everlasting life: Grant us so perfectly to know your Son Jesus Christ to be the way, the truth, and the life, that we may steadfastly follow his steps in the way that leads to eternal life; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of 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 pray for our children as they learn about you and your Word. May they live fully, love well, and honor the light of Christ within themselves and within others. 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 and hymn, the preacher will offer a sermon that seeks to help nurture our personal and communal reflection.

The First Reading: Acts 8:26-40

Reader: Sue Bowron

Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” (This is a wilderness road.) So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. Then the Spirit said to Philip, “Go over to this chariot and join it.” So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?” He replied, “How can I, unless someone guides me?” And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this: “Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter, and like a lamb silent before its shearer, so he does not open his mouth. In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth.” The eunuch asked Philip, “About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?” Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, “Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?” He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of

them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People *Thanks be to God.*

The Gradual: Psalm 22:24-30 chanted by Grace Choir

BCP 612

- 24 My praise is of him in the great assembly; *
I will perform my vows in the presence of those who worship him.
- 25 The poor shall eat and be satisfied,
and those who seek the LORD shall praise him: *
"May your heart live for ever!"
- 26 All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD, *
and all the families of the nations bow before him.
- 27 For kingship belongs to the LORD; *
he rules over the nations.
- 28 To him alone all who sleep in the earth bow down in worship; *
all who go down to the dust fall before him.
- 29 My soul shall live for him;
my descendants shall serve him; *
they shall be known as the LORD'S for ever.
- 30 They shall come and make known to a people yet unborn *
the saving deeds that he has done.

The Second Reading: 1 John 4:7-21

Reader: Jo Brewer

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us. By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. So we have known and believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. We love because he first loved us. Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: *Thanks be to God.*

At the Sequence: Hymn 513

Bridegroom

The Gospel Reading: John 15: 1-8

Priest The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

People *Glory to you, Lord Christ.*

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.

Priest The Gospel of the Lord.

People *Praise to you, Lord Christ.*

The Homily: The Rev. Dr. Stuart Higginbotham

The Nicene Creed *said by all*

BCP 358

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.

The Prayers of the People Form III

Leader: Jo Brewer BCP 387

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 our Presiding Bishop, Michael; our bishop, Robert; 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.

Remembering parishioners Jo Lineberger and Tom Mundy; Evelyn Luke, sister of parishioner Marsha Kump; have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;
That they may be delivered from their distress.

Remembering those who have died, especially David Tate, brother-in-law of parishioner Frank Rinker; give to the departed eternal rest;
Let light perpetual shine upon them.

We praise you for your saints 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.

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

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People *And 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.

The Offertory Anthem

Salvation is Created

Paul Tschesnokopff
arr. Walter Ehret

Psalm 74

Salvation is created, in the midst of the earth, O God, O our God. Alleluia.

At the Presentation: Hymn 205 verses 1, 5

Gelobt sei Gott

The Holy Communion

The Great Thanksgiving *Please stand as you are able.*

BCP 361

Eucharistic Prayer A

The musical notation consists of four staves, each with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The lyrics are as follows:

Celebrant The Lord be with you. *People* And al - so with you.

Celebrant Lift up your hearts. *People* We lift them to the Lord.

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Celebrant

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. (the Celebrant will offer a prayer for the day)

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

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and
might, Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord,
God of power and might, hea - ven and earth are
full, full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na
in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na
in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Celebrant

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. 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.

Celebrant

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,

People and Celebrant

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

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.
Christ our Pass - o - ver is sac - ri - ficed for us;
there - fore let us keep the feast.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

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Prelude Prière à Notre-Dame from "Gothic Suite" Opus 25, Léon Boëllmann Schott Music Hymn 379 Words: Timothy Rees (1874-1939), alt. Music: *Abbot's Leigh*, Cyril Vincent Taylor (b.1907) Music: Copyright © 1942. Renewal 1970 by Hope Publishing Company. All rights Reserved. Used by Permission. Hymn 379 Words: Copyright held by A. R. Mowbray & Co. Ltd. Music: Copyright © 1942 Renewal 1970 by Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL. 60188. All Rights Reserved. Used by Permission. Hymn 513 Words: Carl P. Daw, Jr. (b. 1944) Music: *Bridegroom*, Peter Cutts (b. 1937) Music: Copyright © 1969 by Hope Publishing Company. All rights Reserved. Used by Permission Hymn 513 Words: © 1982, Carl P. Daw, Jr. Music: Copyright © 1969 by Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights Reserved. Used by Permission The Offertory Anthem *Salvation is Created*, Paul Tschesnokopff, arr. Walter Ehret Psalm 74 ~ *Salvation is created, in the midst of the earth, O God, O our God. Alleluia.* Hymn 297 Words: Scott Francis Brenner (b. 1903), alt. Music: *Erhalt uns, Herr*, melody from *Geistliche Lieder*; 1543 Hymn 297 Words: Reprinted and used from THE WORSHIP-BOOK- SERVICES AND HYMNS©1972, The Westminster Press. Hymn 299 Words: John W. Arthur (1922-1980), alt. Music: *Lledrod*, melody from Llyfr Tonau Cynulleidfaol, 1859 Hymn 299 Words: By permission of Mary Arthur Hymn 529 Words: John Oxenham (1852-1941), alt. Music: *McKee*, Afro-American spiritual; adapt. and harm. Harry T. Burleigh (1866-1949) Words: Reprinted by permission of The American Tract Society, Garland, Texas. Music: Copyright ©1940, Henry T. Burleigh. Used by permission of the Estate of Henry T. Burleigh

THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF ATLANTA

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*To contact vestry members please go to the
parish website to the "about" tab.*

Term ends 2025

Frank Rinker—Administration, Compassion

Julia Greene—Junior Warden

Beth Neidenbach—Participation, Formation, Compassion

Sally Pittman—Participation, Formation

Term ends 2026

Jim Brim—Compassion

Stuart Deaderick—Senior Warden

Helen Scovill—Compassion

Anita Smith—Compassion, Formation, Liturgy & Creative Expression

Term ends 2027

Sue Bowron—Administration, Liturgy & Creative Expression

Kimberley Boyd—Compassion

Steve Carlson—Administration

Cheryl Kelley—Formation, Compassion

Amy Munn—Treasurer

Doug McDuff—Assistant Treasurer

Susan Lahey—Clerk of the Vestry

Jason Voyles—Chancellor

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