

Grace Episcopal Church

A Parish Church in the Episcopal Diocese of Atlanta
established 1828



The Fourth Sunday of Easter
May 11, 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

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 God, whose Son Jesus is the good shepherd of thy people: Grant that when we hear his voice we may know him who calleth us each by name, and follow where he doth lead; who, with thee and the Holy Spirit, liveth and reigneth, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

The First Reading: Acts 9:36-43

Leaflet, page 4

Psalm 23

Leaflet, page 5

The Second Reading: Revelation 7:9-17

Leaflet, page 5

The Gospel Reading: John 10:22-30

Leaflet, page 6

The Homily: Evelyn Higginbotham

The Nicene Creed

Leaflet, page 6

The Prayers of the People

Leaflet, page 7

The Peace

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

Prelude *The Cross of Christ*

Music by George N. Allen, arranged Joyce Jones

Community Minute

At the Procession: Hymn 492

Finnian

The Easter Acclamation

Celebrant Alleluia! Christ is risen!

People *The 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

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People *And also with you.*

Celebrant Let us pray.

O God, whose Son Jesus is the good shepherd of your people: Grant that when we hear his voice we may know him who calls us each by name, and follow where he leads; who, with you and the Holy Spirit, lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. *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.

The First Reading: Acts 9:36-43

Reader: 8:15/Edith Collins, 10:45/Anna Kate Dobda

Now in Joppa there was a disciple whose name was Tabitha, which in Greek is Dorcas. She was devoted to good works and acts of charity. At that time she became ill and died. When they had washed her, they laid her in a room upstairs. Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, who heard that Peter was there, sent two men to him with the request, "Please come to us without delay." So Peter got up and went with them; and when he arrived, they took him to the room upstairs. All the widows stood beside him, weeping and showing tunics and other clothing that Dorcas had made while she was with them. Peter put all of them outside, and then he knelt down and prayed. He turned to the body and said, "Tabitha, get up." Then she opened her eyes, and seeing Peter, she sat up. He gave her his hand and helped her up. Then calling the saints and widows, he showed her to be alive. This became known throughout Joppa, and many believed in the Lord. Meanwhile he stayed in Joppa for some time with a certain Simon, a tanner.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

- 1 The Lord is my shepherd; *
I shall not be in want.
- 2 He makes me lie down in green pastures *
and leads me beside still waters.
- 3 He revives my soul *
and guides me along right pathways for his Name's sake.
- 4 Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil; *
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff, they comfort me.
- 5 You spread a table before me in the presence of those who trouble me; *
you have anointed my head with oil,
and my cup is running over.
- 6 Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, *
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

The Second Reading: Revelation 7:9-17

Reader: 8:15/Steven Hatch, 10:45/Virginia Munn

I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands. They cried out in a loud voice, saying,

“Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!”

And all the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, singing,

“Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom
and thanksgiving and honor
and power and might
be to our God forever and ever!
Amen.”

Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, "Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?" I said to him, "Sir, you are the one that knows." Then he said to me, "These are they who have come out of the great ordeal; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

For this reason they are before the throne of God,
and worship him day and night within his temple,
and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them.

They will hunger no more, and thirst no more;
the sun will not strike them,
nor any scorching heat;
for the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd,
and he will guide them to springs of the water of life,
and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

At the Sequence: Hymn 664 *verses 1 & 3*

Resignation

The Gospel Reading: John 10:22-30

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

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

At that time the festival of the Dedication took place in Jerusalem. It was winter, and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the portico of Solomon. So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, "How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly." Jesus answered, "I have told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father's name testify to me; but you do not believe, because you do not belong to my sheep. My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand. What my Father has given me is greater than all else, and no one can snatch it out of the Father's hand. The Father and I are one."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Homily: Evelyn Higginbotham

The Nicene Creed *All stand.*

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.

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 Joe Frink, nephew of Millie Stevens.

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

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 *The Lord is My Shepherd*

Howard Goodall

The Lord is my Shepherd
 I shall not want
 He maketh me to lie down in green pastures
 He leadeth me besides the still waters

The Lord is my Shepherd
 I shall not want
 He maketh me to lie down in green pastures
 He leadeth me besides the still waters

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death
 I will fear no evil
 Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death
 I will fear no evil

For you are with me
 You will comfort me
 You are with me
 You will comfort me

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
 All the days of my life
 And I will dwell in the House of the Lord forever
 Forever.

At the Presentation

Lass uns erfreuen

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>1. Now all the vault of Heav'n resounds
 In praise of love that still abound,
 Christ hath triumphed, He is living!
 Sing, choirs of angels, loud and clear,
 Repeat their song of glory here,
 Christ hath triumphed, Christ has triumphed!
 Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.</p> | <p>2. Adoring praises now we bring
 And with the heavenly blessed sing,
 Christ has triumphed, Alleluia!
 Be to the Father, and our Lord,
 To Spirit blest, most holy God,
 All the glory, never ending!
 Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.</p> |
|--|---|

The Great Thanksgiving *Please continue standing as you are able.*

BCP 361

Eucharistic Prayer A

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People And also 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.

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.

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

Celebrant Behold who you are: The Body of Christ.

People *May 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

Hymn 646

Dominus regit me

Hymn 708

Sicilian Mariners

Be Thou my Vision

Aidan Voyles, Traditional Irish, transcribed by Mary E. Byrne

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

Enriching Our Worship 1, page 70

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 522

Austria

The Dismissal

Let us go forth in the name of Christ. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Postlude *Toccata in C*

Johann Pachelbel (1653-1706)

FOR YOUR CALENDAR

- On Sunday, May 18 at 9:30 in the Parish Hall, we will have a special Forum session led by Charles Helmer, our Third Order Franciscan. This meeting will be for those interested in learning more about the **Franciscan Way** - a path of simplicity, peace, and service inspired by St. Francis of Assisi.
- **Graduate recognition** is May 18! High school and college graduates, please submit the information form at www.gracechurchgainesville.org/graduate before 9:00 AM tomorrow 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.
- Save the date for an important **Town Hall Meeting** on June 8 at 9:30 AM.
- 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

- The **altar flowers** are given by Michael Castellana and Wayne White to the glory of God and in honor of their mothers, Elesina Castellana and Ruth White. Flowers may be given in memory or honor of loved ones at www.gracechurchgainesville.org/flowers.
- Regular Sunday **CE classes** are on summer break and will resume September 7.
- 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 *The Cross of Christ*, Music by George N. Allen, arranged Joyce Jones, 2000 Fred Bock Music Company | H492 Words: John Ellerton (1826-1893), alt.; Music: Finnian, Christopher Dearnley (b.1930) By permission of Oxford University Press. | S280 Setting: Robert Powell (b. 1932) | H664 Words: Isaac Watts (1674-1748); para of Psalm 23; Music: *Resignation*, American folk melody | *The Lord is My Shepherd*, Howard Goodall, Faber Music (2002) | S130 Setting: From *Deutsche Messe*, Franz Peter Schubert (1797-1828); arr. Richard Proulx (b. 1937), Adaptation copyright © 1985, G.I.A. Publications, Inc. | S154 Setting: From *New Plain-song*; David Hurd (h.1950), Copyright © 1981, G.I.A. Publications, Inc. | H646 Words: Henry Williams Baker (1821-1877); para. of Psalm 23; Music: *Domineus regit me*, John Bacchus Dykes (1823-1876); desc. David Willcocks (b. 1919) | H708 Words: *Hymns for the Young*, ca. 1830, alt.; Music: *Sicilian Mariners*, Sicilian melody, from *The European Magazine and London Review*, 1792 | *Be Thou my Vision*, Traditional Irish, transcribed by Mary E. Byrne | H522 Words: John Newton (1725-1807), alt.; Music: *Austria*, Franz Joseph Haydn (1732-1809); desc. Michael E. Young (b. 1939) | Postlude *Toccata in C*, Johann Pachelbel (1653-1706)

**THE EPISCOPAL
DIOCESE OF ATLANTA**

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The Rev. Betsy Jennings Powell, MD
The Rev. Cynthia Park, PhD

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Term ends 2026 Jim Brim
Stuart Deaderick, Senior Warden
Helen Scovill
Anita Smith
Term ends 2027 Sue Bowron
Kimberley Boyd, Junior Warden
Steve Carlson
Cheryl Kelley
Term ends 2028 Jim Bradley
Jo Brewer
Darlene Hauserman
Jason Voyles
Amy Munn, Treasurer
Doug McDuff, Assistant Treasurer
Susan Lahey, Clerk of the Vestry
Jason Voyles, Chancellor

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