# Grace Episcopal Church

A Parish Church in the Episcopal Diocese of Atlanta
established 1828

Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost
November 8, 2026

**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 Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
*People* *And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.*

**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 blessed Son was manifested that he might destroy the works of the devil and make us the children of God and heirs of eternal life: Grant us, we beseech thee, that, having this hope, we may purify ourselves even as he is pure; that, when he shall appear again with power and great glory, we may be made like unto him in his eternal and glorious kingdom; where with thee, O Father, and thee, O Holy Ghost, he liveth and reigneth ever, one God, world without end. *Amen.*

**The First Reading: Wisdom 6:12–20** Leaflet, page 4

**Psalm 70** Leaflet, page 5

**The Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18** Leaflet, page 5

**The Gospel Reading: Matthew 25:1-13** Leaflet, page 5

**The Homily: The Rev. Dr. Stuart Higginbotham**

**The Nicene Creed** Leaflet, page 6

**The Prayers of the People** Leaflet, page 7

**The Confession and Absolution** 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

## Holy Eucharist Rite II 10:45AM

**Prelude** *Thou Shalt Bring Them In* George F. Handel, edited by Diane Bish

**Community Minute**

**At the Procession: Hymn 436** *Truro*

**Opening Acclamation**

Celebrant Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
*People* *And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.*

**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: Hymn S278** *Hymns beginning with an S are found in the service music section at the front of the hymnal.*

**The Collect of the Day**

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
*People* *And also with you.*
Celebrant Let us pray.

O God, whose blessed Son came into the world that he might destroy the works of the devil and make us children of God and heirs of eternal life: Grant that, having this hope, we may purify ourselves as he is pure; that, when he comes again with power and great glory, we may be made like him in his eternal and glorious kingdom; where he 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.*

**The First Reading: Wisdom 6:12–20** Reader: 8:15/Rachel Pearson, 10:45/Marsha Kump

Wisdom is radiant and unfading,
and she is easily discerned by those who love her,
and is found by those who seek her.
She hastens to make herself known to those who desire her.
One who rises early to seek her will have no difficulty,
for she will be found sitting at the gate.
To fix one's thought on her is perfect understanding,
and one who is vigilant on her account will soon be free from care,
because she goes about seeking those worthy of her,
and she graciously appears to them in their paths,
and meets them in every thought.
The beginning of wisdom is the most sincere desire for instruction,
and concern for instruction is love of her,
and love of her is the keeping of her laws,
and giving heed to her laws is assurance of immortality,
and immortality brings one near to God;
so the desire for wisdom leads to a kingdom.

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

**Psalm 70** *chanted by the parish choir* Leader: 8:15/Rachel Pearson BCP 682

1 Be pleased, O God, to deliver me; *
O Lord, make haste to help me.
2 Let those who seek my life be ashamed
and altogether dismayed; *
let those who take pleasure in my misfortune
draw back and be disgraced.
3 Let those who say to me "Aha!" and gloat over me turn back, *
because they are ashamed.
4 Let all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you; *
let those who love your salvation say for ever,
"Great is the Lord!"
5 But as for me, I am poor and needy; *
come to me speedily, O God.
6 You are my helper and my deliverer; *
O Lord, do not tarry.

**The Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18** Reader: 8:15/Steve Hatch, 10:45/ Jo Brewer

We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air; and so we will be with the Lord forever. Therefore encourage one another with these words.

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

**At the Sequence: Hymn 574** *verse 1 - All; verse 2 - Treble voices; verse 3 - Bass voices; verse 4 - All* *St. Petersburg*

**The Gospel Reading: Matthew 25:1-13**

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

Jesus said, "Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. But at midnight there was a shout, 'Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' But the wise replied, 'No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.' And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.' But he replied, 'Truly I tell you, I do not know you.' Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour."

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

**The Homily: The Rev. Dr. Stuart Higginbotham**

**The Nicene Creed** *Please stand*

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,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and became truly human.
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,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who 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 III** Leader: 8:15/Rachel Pearson, 10:45/Marsha Kump 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.*

For Sarah, Archbishop of Canterbury; Sean, our presiding bishop, Robert, our bishop in the Diocese of Atlanta; and for all priests, deacons, and those sharing in the leadership of this parish;
*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.*

Have compassion on Bob Goldmann, parishioner, Selva Del Mar Navarro Revolledo, grandmother of Camila González Abarca, and all those who suffer from any grief or trouble;
*That they may be delivered from their distress.*

Remembering especially Brad Honeycutt, cousin of Amanda McMillion, 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.

*Silence*

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 Confession and Absolution** BCP 360

Celebrant Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*Silence may be kept.*

*Most merciful God,*
*we confess that we have sinned against you*
*in thought, word, and deed,*
*by what we have done,*
*and by what we have left undone.*
*We have not loved you with our whole heart;*
*we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.*
*We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.*
*For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,*
*have mercy on us and forgive us;*
*that we may delight in your will,*
*and walk in your ways,*
*to the glory of your Name. Amen.*

*The Celebrant concludes with an absolution or suitable Collect.*

**The Peace**

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.
*People* *And also with you.*

**The Offertory Music** *How Can I Keep from Singing* American Tune, Bradley Ellingboe, Amy Thropp, flute

My life flows on in endless song; Above earth's lamentation,
I hear the sweet though far off hymn, That hails a new creation:
Through all the tumult and the strife, I hear the music ringing;
It finds an echo in my soul—How can I keep from singing?

**At the Presentation: Hymn 408** *verses 1 & 3* *Mit freuden zart*

**The Great Thanksgiving: Eucharistic Prayer B** *Please stand as you are able.* BCP 361

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. (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**

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, 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, according to his command, O Father,

*We remember his death,*
*We proclaim his resurrection,*
*We await his coming in glory;*

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

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,

*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 S161**

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. To receive, proceed up the center aisle and kneel or stand at the rail in front of the altar. 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. Return to your seat by the side aisles.*

**Communion Music**

**Hymn 455** *Dunedin*

**Hymn 324** *Picardy*

**Prayer after Communion** *Please kneel or stand as you are able.* BCP 366

Let us pray.

*Almighty and everliving God,*
*we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food*
*of the most precious Body and Blood*
*of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ;*
*and for assuring us in these holy mysteries*
*that we are living members of the Body of your Son,*
*and heirs of your eternal kingdom.*
*And now, Father, send us out*
*to do the work you have given us to do,*
*to love and serve you*
*as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord.*
*To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit,*
*be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.*

**The Blessing**

**Closing Hymn 57** *Helmsley*

**The Dismissal**

**Postlude** *Trumpet Allemande* Anthony Holborne, edited Diane Bish

## FOR YOUR CALENDAR

- Our **Episcopal Youth Community** will gather for fun and fellowship from 5 – 7 PM this evening Sunday, November 8.
- **Charis Circles** will meet in the parish hall at 6:30 PM on Wednesday, November 11.
- All are invited to a worship service on Saturday, November 14 that will be filmed for the **Grace 200 documentary**. We'll take a mid-day break from filming for our **Thanksgiving Potluck Feast**. Join us as we give thanks for 200 years of God's grace and celebrate the faithful community that continues that story today. www.gracechurchgainesville.org/grace200
- Join us at 4 PM on Sunday, November 15 for an **organ concert** by Herb Buffington followed by **Choral Evensong**.
- On Sunday, November 29, parishioners of all ages are invited to come make **Advent wreaths** together from 9:30-10:30 AM in the Parish Hall. Details on our website.
- The annual Patrick Kelley Memorial **Blood Drive** will be held at Grace Church on Saturday, December 12 in the parish hall. Details and appointment link on our website.
- The parish choir will offer **Advent Lessons & Carols** on Sunday, December 13 during the 10:45 AM worship service.

## THINGS TO NOTE

- The **altar flowers** this morning are given to the glory of God by Vance Holifield in celebration of Vance and Margaret Holifield's 57th wedding anniversary.
- The Outreach Committee has designated November as **Volunteer Blitz Month** at Grace Church! Track your hours at the information station or online at www.gracechurchgainesville.org/volunteer-month/
- **Christian Education** (CE/Sunday School) classes meet most Sundays from 9:30 – 10:30 AM. Visit our website to learn more about offerings for children, youth, and adults.
- Explore the **Glimpses of Grace** podcast on your podcast app of choice or at www.gracechurchgainesville.org/podcast.
- **Altar flowers** may be given in memory or honor of loved ones at www.gracechurchgainesville.org/flowers.
- 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 9 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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S278 William Mathias (b.1934); S278 ©1976, Oxford University Press, Inc. | H408 Words: Johann Jacob Schütz (1640-1690); tr. Frances Elizabeth Cox (1812-1897), alt., Music: *Mit Freuden zart*, melody from "Une Pastourelle gentile," 1529; Adapt. *Pseaumes cinquante de David*, 1547, and *Kirchengeseng darinnen die Heubtartickel des Christlichen Glaubens gefasset*, 1566 | S130 Setting: From Deutsche Messe, Franz Peter Schubert (1797-1828); arr. Richard Proulx (b. 1937), Adaptation copyright © 1985, G.I.A. Publications, Inc. | S161 Setting: From New Plainsong; David Hurd (b.1950) | *Thou Shalt Bring Them In*, George F. Handel, edited by Diane Bish, 1980 Gentry Publications | H436 Words: Georg Weissel (1590-1635); tr. Catherine Winkworth (1827-1878); Music: *Truro,* melody from *Psalmodia Evangelica, Part II,* 1789; harm. Lowell Mason (1792-1872), alt. | H574 Words: William Boyd Carpenter (1841-1918), alt.; Music: *St. Petersburg*, Dimitri S. Bortniansky (1751-1825) | How Can I Keep from Singing, American Tune, Bradley Ellinboe, 1988 Neill A. Kjos Publishing, San Diego, CA | H455 Words: Horatius Bonar (1808-1889); Music: *Dunedin*, Vernon Griffiths (b. 1894) | H324 Words: Liturgy St. James; para. Gerard Moultrie (1829-1885); Music: *Picardy*, French carol, 17th cent; melody from *Chansons populaires des Provinces de France*, 1860 | H57 Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788); Music: *Helmsley*, melody Augustine Arne (1710-1778) | *Trumpet Allemande* Anthony Holborne, edited Diane Bish, 1980 Gentry Publications

**THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF ATLANTA**

The Right Rev. Robert C. Wright, Bishop
Website: www.episcopalatlanta.org

**GRACE CHURCH**

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**PRIEST ASSOCIATES, RETIRED**

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

**VESTRY & OFFICERS**

Term ends 2027 Sue Bowron
Kimberley Boyd, Junior Warden
Steve Carlson
Cheryl Kelley
Term ends 2028 Jim Bradley
Jo Brewer
Jeff Whalen
Jason Voyles, Senior Warden
Term ends 2029 Laura Rives
Tracy Troutman
Ben Wagner
Spencer Walker
Rachel Pearson, Treasurer
Doug McDuff, Assistant Treasurer
Rob Harris, Clerk of the Vestry

**CHILDREN OF GRACE PRESCHOOL**

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