

Grace Episcopal Church

A Parish Church in the Episcopal Diocese of Atlanta
established 1828



Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 29, 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

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, you declare your almighty power chiefly in showing mercy and pity: Grant us the fullness of your grace, that we, running to obtain your promises, may become partakers of your heavenly treasure; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

The First Reading: Esther 7:1-6, 9-10; 9:20-22

Leaflet, page 4

Psalm 19:7-14

Leaflet, page 5

The Second Reading: James 5:13-20

Leaflet, page 5

The Gospel Reading: Mark 9:38-50

Leaflet, page 6

The Homily: The Rev. Dr. Stuart Higginbotham

The Nicene Creed

BCP 326

The Prayers of the People

Leaflet, page 7

The Confession and Absolution

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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

Lord Keep Us Steadfast in Thy Word, Opus 7, No. 8

Paul Manz (1964)

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.

At the Entrance: Hymn 450

Coronation

The Opening Acclamation

BCP 355

Celebrant Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People *And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.*

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 *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, you declare your almighty power chiefly in showing mercy and pity: Grant us the fullness of your grace, that we, running to obtain your promises, may become partakers of your heavenly treasure; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, 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 and hymn, the preacher will offer a sermon that seeks to help nurture our personal and communal reflection.

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: Esther 7:1-6, 9-10; 9:20-22

Reader: 8:15/Linden Gaspar, 10:45/Marsha Kump

The king and Haman went in to feast with Queen Esther. On the second day, as they were drinking wine, the king again said to Esther, “What is your petition, Queen Esther? It shall be granted you. And what is your request? Even to the half of my kingdom, it shall be fulfilled.” Then Queen Esther answered, “If I have won your favor, O king, and if it pleases the king, let my life be given me-- that is my petition-- and the lives of my people-- that is my request. For we have been sold, I and my people, to be destroyed, to be killed, and to be annihilated. If we had been sold merely as slaves, men and women, I would have held my peace; but no enemy can compensate for this damage to the king.” Then King Ahasuerus said to Queen Esther, “Who is he, and where is he, who has presumed to do this?” Esther said, “A foe and enemy, this wicked Haman!” Then Haman was terrified before the king and the queen.

Then Harbona, one of the eunuchs in attendance on the king, said, "Look, the very gallows that Haman has prepared for Mordecai, whose word saved the king, stands at Haman's house, fifty cubits high." And the king said, "Hang him on that." So they hanged Haman on the gallows that he had prepared for Mordecai. Then the anger of the king abated.

Mordecai recorded these things, and sent letters to all the Jews who were in all the provinces of King Ahasuerus, both near and far, enjoining them that they should keep the fourteenth day of the month Adar and also the fifteenth day of the same month, year by year, as the days on which the Jews gained relief from their enemies, and as the month that had been turned for them from sorrow into gladness and from mourning into a holiday; that they should make them days of feasting and gladness, days for sending gifts of food to one another and presents to the poor.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Gradual: Psalm 19:7-14

8:15/Leader: Linden Gaspar, 10:45/chanted by the choir BCP 607

- 7 The law of the Lord is perfect
and revives the soul; *
the testimony of the Lord is sure
and gives wisdom to the innocent.
- 8 The statutes of the Lord are just
and rejoice the heart; *
the commandment of the Lord is clear
and gives light to the eyes.
- 9 The fear of the Lord is clean
and endures for ever; *
the judgments of the Lord are true
and righteous altogether.
- 10 More to be desired are they than gold,
more than much fine gold, *
sweeter far than honey,
than honey in the comb.
- 11 By them also is your servant enlightened, *
and in keeping them there is great reward.
- 12 Who can tell how often he offends? *
cleanse me from my secret faults.
- 13 Above all, keep your servant from presumptuous sins;
let them not get dominion over me; *
then shall I be whole and sound,
and innocent of a great offense.
- 14 Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my
heart be acceptable in your sight, *
O Lord, my strength and my redeemer.

The Second Reading: James 5:13-20

Reader: 8:15/Steve Hatch, 10:45/Susan Carlson

Are any among you suffering? They should pray. Are any cheerful? They should sing songs of praise. Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord. The prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise them up; and anyone who has committed sins will be forgiven. Therefore confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective. Elijah was a human being like us, and he prayed fervently that it might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the earth. Then he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain and the earth yielded its harvest.

My brothers and sisters, if anyone among you wanders from the truth and is brought back by another, you should know that whoever brings back a sinner from wandering will save the sinner's soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

At the Sequence: Hymn 635

Wer nur den lieben Gott

The Gospel Reading: Mark 9:38-50

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

John said to Jesus, "Teacher, we saw someone casting out demons in your name, and we tried to stop him, because he was not following us." But Jesus said, "Do not stop him; for no one who does a deed of power in my name will be able soon afterward to speak evil of me. Whoever is not against us is for us. For truly I tell you, whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because you bear the name of Christ will by no means lose the reward.

"If any of you put a stumbling block before one of these little ones who believe in me, it would be better for you if a great millstone were hung around your neck and you were thrown into the sea. If your hand causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life maimed than to have two hands and to go to hell, to the unquenchable fire. And if your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life lame than to have two feet and to be thrown into hell. And if your eye causes you to stumble, tear it out; it is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and to be thrown into hell, where their worm never dies, and the fire is never quenched.

"For everyone will be salted with fire. Salt is good; but if salt has lost its saltiness, how can you season it? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Homily: The Rev. Dr. Stuart Higginbotham

The Nicene Creed

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: 8:15/Linden Gaspar, 10:45/Nancy Richardson 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 all bishops, 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 Carol Johnson and Marsha Conner, parishioners; Kristen Nielsen, granddaughter of Ray and Roberta Schuetze; and Matthew Carlson, son of Susan and Steve Carlson; have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;
That they may be delivered from their distress.

Remembering Bobbie Baker Wagner, mother of Ben Wagner, 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

The People may add their own petitions.

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

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence may be kept.

Leader and People

*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 a suitable Collect.

The Peace

BCP 360

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 *He That Shall Endure to the End* from *Elijah* Op. 70, MWV A 25, Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)

He that shall endure to the end, shall be saved. Matthew 24:13-14

At the Presentation: Hymn 423 verses 1 & 2

St. Denio

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

BCP 361

Eucharistic Prayer A

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.

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

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:

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,

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

BCP 364

The Fraction Anthem: Hymn S155

Celebrant Behold who you are: The Body of Christ.

People *May we become what we receive.*

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

Communion Music

Via Dolorosa

Aidan Voyles, piano

Billy Sprague and Niles Borop

Hymn 328

Song 46

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

BCP 365

Celebrant Let us pray.

*Eternal God, heavenly Father,
you have graciously accepted us as living members
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ,
and you have fed us with spiritual food
in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.
Send us now into the world in peace,
and grant us strength and courage
to love and serve you
with gladness and singleness of heart;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

Helpful notes: We remember now that we have not left the world; rather, we have brought our entire selves into this time and space to be transformed by the Spirit's presence in our hearts. Now, we give thanks for this time of shared prayer, and we look toward the ways we can embody the Light of Christ in the world.

The Blessing

Closing Hymn 397

Nun danket alle Gott

The Dismissal

BCP 366

Postlude

Now Thank We All Our God

arr. Siegfried Karg-Elert (1877-1933) arr. Diane Bish

FOR YOUR CALENDAR

- The annual **Blessing of Animals** is this afternoon from 2:00-3:00 PM. Weather permitting, we will gather on the Brenau lawn. Donations for the Humane Society are welcome.
- Grace Men Sing has its **first rehearsal** following the 10:45 AM service this morning. They will sing for the 10:45 AM service on October 20. All tenors or basses are invited! Contact Lynn Swanson: lswanson@gracechurchgainesville.org
- Grace parishioners are invited to a **Fellowship Night** at Cork It on Monday, September 30 at 6:00 PM.
- We will gather to **celebrate the ministry of The Rev. Dr. Park** at Grace on Sunday, October 27. There will be a breakfast reception at 9 AM and Dr. Park will preach at the combined service of worship at 10 AM.
- **Christian Education** (Sunday School) classes for children, youth, and adults will meet from 9:30-10:30 AM most Sundays until May 4. This fall, CE will *not* meet on October 13 or October 27.

THINGS TO NOTE

- Our annual stewardship campaign, **Behold Who You Are**, is underway. Please consider making a pledge to support the mission and ministry of Grace Church online at www.gracechurchgainesville.org/pledge.
- Explore the **Glimpses of Grace** podcast on Spotify or your podcast app of choice! Episodes are also available on our website at www.gracechurchgainesville.org/podcast.
- Join Fr. Stuart on a **pilgrimage to Greece** October 13-21, 2025. Learn more at www.gracechurchgainesville.org/greece.
- Registration for the January **women's retreat** is open to the public at www.gracechurchgainesville.org/womens-retreat.
- 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.
- Do you receive our **weekly newsletter**? Join the email list at www.gracechurchgainesville.org/subscribe.
- 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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**THE EPISCOPAL
DIOCESE OF ATLANTA**

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VESTRY & OFFICERS *Emails found at www.gracechurchgainesville.org/about/vestry*

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

**CHILDREN OF GRACE
PRESCHOOL**

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