

The Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost



October 18, 2020
10:30 AM

We Gather

Instructions for standing, sitting, and kneeling are rubrics from the Book of Common Prayer. Any person who is unable to stand or kneel is welcome to sit for any part of the service regardless of the printed instruction. Please feel comfortable using any posture you wish.

Processional Hymn: #594 **God of grace and God of glory (v. 1,2,4)** *Please stand as you are able.*

Introduction: *Please be seated.*

Celebrant: Good morning to all of you here in person and online.

The apostle, Paul, began his letters to each of his churches with the phrase, "Grace to you, and peace." We will talk more about that today.

Please know that whether you are suffering from COVID or other health problems, or your job and financial well-being have been threatened by this pandemic, or if you are just lonely, bored, and eager to see this thing end, our hearts and prayers are with you. The love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit from the people of Grace may not fix all of your problems, but we are with you.

Let us begin our worship today by blessing God who is the source of our blessings.

Opening Acclamation / Call to Worship *Please stand as you are able.*

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

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

Collect for Purity

Celebrant: 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**

Song of Praise: #S-236 **Glory to You** *Please remain standing.*

Collect of the day *Please be seated.*

Celebrant: Almighty and everlasting God, in Christ you have revealed your glory among the nations: Preserve the works of your mercy, that your Church throughout the world may persevere with steadfast faith in the confession of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen**

We Hear God's Word

First Lesson: Exodus 33:12-23 *Please remain seated.*

Reader: A reading from the book of Exodus.

Moses said to the LORD, "See, you have said to me, 'Bring up this people'; but you have not let me know whom you will send with me. Yet you have said, 'I know you by name, and you have also found favor in my sight.' Now if I have found favor in your sight, show me your ways, so that I may know you and find favor in your sight. Consider too that this nation is your people." He said, "My presence will go with you, and I will give you rest." And he said to him, "If your presence will not go, do not carry us up from here. For how shall it be known that I have found favor in your sight, I and your people, unless you go with us? In this way, we shall be distinct, I and your people, from every people on the face of the earth."

The LORD said to Moses, "I will do the very thing that you have asked; for you have found favor in my sight, and I know you by name." Moses said, "Show me your glory, I pray." And he said, "I will make all my goodness pass before you, and will proclaim before you the name, 'The LORD'; and I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will show mercy on whom I will show mercy. But," he said, "you cannot see my face; for no one shall see me and live." And the LORD continued, "See, there is a place by me where you shall stand on the rock; and while my glory passes by I will put you in a cleft of the rock, and I will cover you with my hand until I have passed by; then I will take away my hand, and you shall see my back; but my face shall not be seen."

Reader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 99

Reader: The LORD is King; let the people tremble; *

People: **he is enthroned upon the cherubim; let the earth shake.**

Reader: The LORD is great in Zion; *

People: **he is high above all peoples.**

Reader: Let them confess his Name, which is great and awesome; *

People: **he is the Holy One.**

Reader: "O mighty King, lover of justice, you have established equity; *

People: **you have executed justice and righteousness in Jacob."**

Reader: Proclaim the greatness of the LORD our God and fall down before his footstool; *

People: **he is the Holy One.**

Reader: Moses and Aaron among his priests, and Samuel among those who call upon his Name, *

People: **they called upon the LORD, and he answered them.**

Reader: He spoke to them out of the pillar of cloud; *

People: **they kept his testimonies and the decree that he gave them.**

Reader: O LORD our God, you answered them indeed; *

People: **you were a God who forgave them, yet punished them for their evil deeds.**

Reader: Proclaim the greatness of the LORD our God and worship him upon his holy hill; *

People: **for the LORD our God is the Holy One.**

Second Lesson: 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

Reader: A reading from the book of Thessalonians

Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy, To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace.

We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. For we know, brothers and sisters beloved by God, that he has chosen you, because our message of the gospel came to you not in word only, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction; just as you know what kind of persons we proved to be among you for your sake. And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for in spite of persecution you received the word with joy inspired by the Holy Spirit, so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. For the word of the Lord has sounded forth from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but in every place your faith in God has become known, so that we have no need to speak about it. For the people of those regions report about us what kind of welcome we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols, to serve a living and true God, and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead-- Jesus, who rescues us from the wrath that is coming.

Reader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Gradual Hymn: #482

Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy

Please stand as you are able.

Gospel: Matthew 22:15-22

Please remain standing as you are able.

Reader: The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

People: **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

The Pharisees went and plotted to entrap Jesus in what he said. So they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, "Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one; for you do not regard people with partiality. Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to the emperor, or not?" But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, "Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? Show me the coin used for the tax." And they brought him a denarius. Then he said to them, "Whose head is this, and whose title?" They answered, "The emperor's." Then he said to them, "Give therefore to the emperor the things that are the emperor's, and to God the things that are God's." When they heard this, they were amazed; and they left him and went away.

Reader: Alleluia! Alleluia! Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful people and kindle in them the fire of your love.

People: **Thanks be to God! Alleluia, Alleluia.**

Sermon: *The Rev. Bob Wickizer*

Please be seated.

Grace = Diversity, Connectedness and Security

I want to explore a single word today. It is found in the bible hundreds of times. We use it and misuse it in everyday speech. Different religious bodies have wildly differing understandings of the word. When I encounter this divergence of usage and understanding between evangelicals, fundamentalists, Pentecostals, Anglo-Catholics (such as ourselves), orthodox Christians, Jews and non-religious usage, I get suspicious.

Divergence of understanding of a key word in our faith often means that different groups are adding their own spin to the word to benefit their own perspective. Sometimes, adding a particular spin to a word can grow a big church or give a pastor a big bank account. I am from Missouri, and I am always on the lookout for spin. The motives for spin are seldom noble.

The word I want us to consider today is important, partly because it is the name of our church – Grace. Words are important because they not only embody a dictionary meaning, but they encapsulate a history and a culture of how the word came to be used in a certain way, how it evolved over time, and what its original context was.

Our project today is not to plow through how the word “grace” has been twisted and shifted from the first century to the present. What we need to understand is the frame of reference people had when they heard Paul’s salutation in his letters to Thessaloniki, Ephesus, Corinthos and other cities where his writings have been lost. “Grace to you and peace.” “χάρις ὑμῖν καὶ εἰρήνη” “What did Paul mean by “charis” (grace)?

Episcopalians don’t talk about grace very much. It was not a core teaching in seminary, and I am not sure why. If you go to a Presbyterian, Baptist or Evangelical seminary, it will be the focus of teaching. If you open the books of Calvinist and Arminian doctrines of grace, it will feel like Alice in Wonderland falling down a rabbit hole. On our journey today, we will encounter some of those familiar characters, the Mad Hatter, the Queen of Hearts, the White Rabbit and what trip to Wonderland would not be complete without the Cheshire Cat?

Alice peered into the hole at the base of the tree while thinking to herself, “That minister Sunday kept telling us ‘God’s grace is sufficient for you,’ and I wonder what he meant by that.” Suddenly she felt herself drawn into the hole and in an instant, she grew smaller and had the sensation of falling, most definitely falling.

After what seemed to be an interminable time, Alice plopped unceremoniously onto a dusty floor in a dimly lit room. Suddenly, a very large white rabbit burst into the room wearing a waistcoat and sporting an umbrella folded up in one hand. He looked at his watch with dismay shouting, “Oh dear! I shall be too late!” Alice blinked and said, “Late for what may I ask?” The rabbit seemed insulted and huffed, “Don’t you know that I must be on time for the King of Hearts to let me into the party.”

Slowly, in the dim corner of the room, a smile began to glow out of the darkness. The faint outline of a very fat cat emerged, and the cat began to purr or speak or something. Alice understood it perfectly well. “It doesn’t matter when you get to the party. You cannot buy a ticket or earn your way in. You just tell the King how thankful you are.” Alice wondered what kind of party it was and why rabbits were going.

She got up off the floor, dusted herself off and wandered down a long passageway. There were strange portraits of old men on the walls. She saw Augustine in his long robes, Jan Hus, John Calvin, Jacob Arminius, E. B. Pusey and C. S. Lewis. Although these were portraits in frames, the image of Lewis began to speak. “Alice” he said startling her. “Look at all these dead white guys. They got so wrapped up in words and logic. Yes, words and logic were their downfall. They were in love with their own scholarly achievements and they missed the point entirely.” The light on Lewis dimmed and Jan Hus came to the fore. “And if you look down the hall that way, you will find folks who aren’t dead yet, but they are in love with money and power and fame.” He paused almost regretfully and said, “I paid the price.” The portrait seemed to burst into flames.

One of the portraits flickered and Alice could see a man with a very large glass of wine who appeared to be drinking more than he was eating. Long ago, he was the mayor of Geneva and part of his annual compensation was 200 gallons of wine. Oh, how he loved his wine. She could see his thoughts emerge

almost like bubbles of print on a cartoon. "If I just emphasize how only a few select people are invited to the party, then I can control these unruly people with guilt and threats of not being invited."

Out of the long dark stretch of hallway, a shrieking woman's voice could be heard shouting in the darkness. "I've got 20,000 in this venue and another 10,000 across town. Another million watch me every day. This is such hard work, convincing everyone that they must do everything I tell them to get into the party." A regally dressed queen with garish makeup stepped into the light. She winks to Alice and says, "The trick is, they don't know they are working to get into MY party and not the king's."

The Red Queen disappeared down the hall in a haze of self-concern. That familiar smile began to emerge on one of the darkened portrait screens. In his mellifluous voice, that cat intones, "Life is a gift, Alice. Be thankful for what you have been given. When you recognize that everything is freely given to you, let that joy you feel overflow from you, and you will find that your life is a party, right NOW." [click]

Alice blinked in the sunlight and rubbed her head. "I must have bumped into the tree when I looked into the hole" she thought to herself. She saw some daffodils a few yards away. She smiled and said out loud as if for everyone to hear, "I'm going to take those flowers to Mrs. Jones. We haven't had a good chat and a cup of tea for a long time."

Silence for reflection after the sermon

Nicene Creed

All in unison; Please stand as you are able.

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. 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

Please kneel, sit or stand.

Reader: As we have offered gratitude for God's grace upon this community, let us now offer our gifts to the Lord, trusting that by the power of the Holy Spirit, we will be led to ever more faithful fellowship and service.

Reader: For peace from things that separate us from one another and for our salvation.

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Reader: For the peace of the whole world, for the welfare of the holy churches of God, especially...

People: **All Saint's, McAlester; Chapel of the Holy Family, Montevideo, Uruguay; Diocese of South Dakota; The Lusitanian Church.**

Reader: For this holy gathering and for those who enter with faith, reverence, and fear of God.

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Reader: For...

People: **Michael, our Presiding Bishop; Ed and Poulson, our Bishops; Bob and Tom, our clergy; Tim & Jennifer, our wardens; vestry, delegates, all who minister in Christ, and for all the holy people of God. Lord, have mercy.**

Reader: For the world and its leaders, our nation and its people. We pray for our leaders, especially...

People: **Donald, our President; Mike, our Vice-president; Markwayne, our Congressman; James & Jim, our Senators; Kevin, our Governor; and Marlon, our Mayor. Lord, have mercy.**

Reader: For prisoners, the oppressed, all those in need or suffering, especially...
People: **Barbara & Family, Blackwell Family, Brad, Brewer Family, James & Shirley, Judy, Sherri, Bea, Eathen, Linda, John, Vicki, Angie, Brian, Glen, Dante, Marilyn, Gary, Ann, Connie, Jan, all those affected by the pandemic, and those whose suffering is known only to God.**

Reader: We pray for those in the armed services. We pray for those who have died especially...
People: **Isabella Henderson. Lord, have mercy.**

Reader: For ourselves, our families, and those we love. We pray for those in our parish, especially...
People: **Edwyna, Myriah, Nikki, Barbara.**

Reader: Also those who are traveling, (*especially...*)
People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Reader: Bless all those everywhere who give themselves to the service of others; that with wisdom, patience, and courage, they may minister to the suffering, the friendless, and the needy for love of him who laid down his life for us.
People: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Reader: Remembering our most blessed Mary and all the saints, let us offer ourselves and one another to the living God through Christ.
People: **To you, O Lord.**

Reader: Heavenly Father, you have promised to hear what we ask in the Name of your Son: accept and fulfill our petitions, we pray, not as we ask in our ignorance, nor as we deserve in our sinfulness, but as you know and love us in your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.
People: **Amen.**

Confession and Absolution

Please kneel, sit or stand.

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

Silence may be kept.

Celebrant 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.

Celebrant: Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through the grace of Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.
Amen.

Peace

Please stand as you are able.

Celebrant: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Greet one another in the name of Christ.

Announcements; Anniversary and Birthday Blessings

Offertory Sentence: Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God.
Ephesians 5:2

Offertory Hymn:

Here am I Lord.

Please remain seated.

Doxology:

Praise God from whom all blessings flow

Please stand as you are able.

The Great Thanksgiving

Sursum Corda

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.**

Sanctus: #S-130

Holy, holy, holy Lord

Please stand, sit, or kneel.

Lord's Prayer:

Celebrant: And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to pray:

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.**

Fraction Anthem: #S-164

Jesus, Lamb of God

Please remain seated.

Breaking of the Bread

A period of silence is kept.

Please come forward to receive communion while maintaining distances from one another. The celebrant will give you a small plastic bag with several consecrated communion wafers in it. You are not to consume it at church. Instead, take it home, say the prayers on the card and consume it with family and friends. You are the light of the world. Take the body of Christ with you this week and feed on it in your heart while praying for others.

Celebrant: The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

Communion Hymn:

I love you lord.

Please remain seated.

We Go Out To Do Our Work

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Celebrant and People: **Almighty God, giver of every good gift. All that we have and all that we are comes from you. Accept the humble gifts of who we are with our differences, our goodness, and our mistakes. Help us be the blessing to others that you are to us. Help us not to fear but to love fearlessly. Help us not to worry but to get busy and help. We ask you to remind us in our hearts and minds of the great needs of so many in the world today for love, truth, and clarity. Keep the clouds of darkness and confusion away as we work to make the world a better place. Thank you for the gift of the Holy Spirit who guides, defends, and protects us. And who leads us into all truth. Amen**

Pentecost Blessing

Celebrant: May the Holy Spirit, the breath of God, stream within us.

May the breath of God renew us.

May the breath of God invigorate us.

May we walk with confidence into this new day. **Amen**

Sending

Celebrant: Go in peace, glorifying the Lord by your life. Alleluia, Alleluia.

People: **Thanks be to God, Alleluia, Alleluia.**

Recessional Hymn: #544 **Jesus shall reign where're the sun (v.1,5)**

Please stand as you are able.

All Saints' Commemoration
Sunday, November 1, 2020

Grace Episcopal Church will be celebrating The Feast of All Saints' on Sunday, the 1st of November. This is a special day in our church year in which we as Christians remember those whom we love and who have preceded us in death. We, as a community, will remember the names of our loved ones who are in the Kingdom of Heaven during 10:30 AM service.

Please help us compile a list by clearly PRINTING individual names, i.e., Mary and John Smith, instead of Mr. and Mrs. John Smith. You may list as many names as you wish.

Please return this request by Monday, October 26th

- in the offering plate
- mail it
- Email office@gracemuskogee.org

All names will be read at the 10:30 AM services.

“For All the Saints Who From Their Labors Rest”



Grace Episcopal

218 N. 6th Street Muskogee, OK 74401

Phone: (918) 687-5416

Email: Office@GraceMuskogee.org;

Website: www.GraceMuskogee.org

Ministers: All the People of God (BCP p. 855)

Rector: The Rev. Bob Wickizer; **Rector's Email:** bob@gracemuskogee.org

Deacon, emeritus: The Rev. Thomas A. Harrington

Music Director: Kenneth Yadon

Youth & Children's Director: Nancy Scott

