

The Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany— Mission Sunday



**January 31, 2021
10:30AM**

The Liturgy of the Word

Processional Hymn: #778

We all are one in mission (vs. 1,2)

Please stand as you are able.

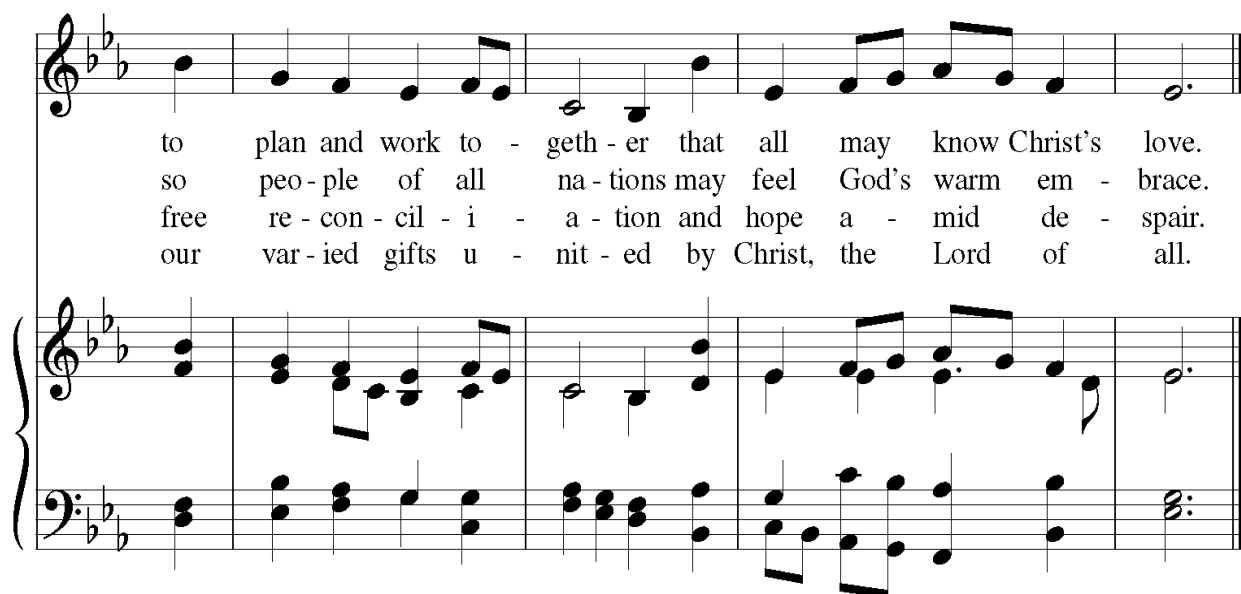
Words: Rusty Edwards; Music: David Evans

The musical score is written for a four-part setting (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) and piano accompaniment. It is in the key of B-flat major (two flats) and 4/4 time. The score is divided into three systems, each with a vocal staff and a piano accompaniment staff. The lyrics are written below the vocal staves.

1. We all are one in mis - sion, we all are one in call,
2. We all are called for ser - vice to wit-ness in God's name.
3. We all be - hold one vi - sion, a stark re - al - i - ty;
4. Now let us be u - nit - ed and let our song be heard.

our var - ied gifts u - nit - ed by Christ, the Lord of all.
Our min - is - tries are dif - f'rent, our pur - pose is the same:
the stew - ard of sal - va - tion was nailed up - on a tree.
Now let us be a ves - sel for God's re - deem - ing Word.

A sin - gle, great com - mis - sion com - pels us from a - bove
to touch the lives of oth - ers by God's sur - pris - ing grace,
Yet res - ur - rect - ed Jus - tice gives rise that we may share
We all are one in mis - sion, we all are one in call,



Introduction:

Celebrant: Welcome to the fourth Sunday of Epiphany at Grace Episcopal Church in Muskogee Oklahoma.

Because today is our parish annual meeting, we have taken some liberties with the readings and music today to help reinforce the idea that this church and ALL churches after this pandemic subsides will necessarily become mission-focused if not just plain old missions. Our lives in church will encompass two different activities – one is the work we do out there in the world for others. We do the work of Jesus in the world whether we are a schoolteacher, stay-at-home-mom, lawyer or Meals On Wings driver. The other activity is coming back together at church on Sunday morning to recharge our spiritual and social batteries.

Opening Acclamation

Celebrant: Jesus told his disciples: "You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in My name."
(John 15:16)

Celebrant: Let us begin by blessing God. Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit

People: **And blessed be God's kingdom, now and forever. 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.**

1. Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and
peace to his peo - ple on earth. 2. Lord God, heaven - ly
King, al - mighty 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.

We Hear God's Word

Collect of the Day

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Celebrant: Let us pray. O God of all the nations of the earth: Remember the multitudes who have been created in your image but have not known the redeeming work of our Savior Jesus Christ; and grant that, by the prayers and labors of your holy Church, they may be brought to know and worship you as you have been revealed in your Son; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

First Lesson: Genesis 12:1-5

Please be seated.

Reader: A reading from the book of Genesis.

Now the LORD said to Abram, “**Go** from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

So Abram went, as the LORD had told him; and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran. Abram took his wife Sarai and his brother’s son Lot, and all the possessions that they had gathered, and the persons whom they had acquired in Haran; and they set forth to **go**.

Reader: The word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Isaiah 6:8

Reader: Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?”

People: **And I said, “Here am I; send me!”**

Second Lesson: Acts 2:41-42; 1:8

Reader: A reading from the book of Acts.

So then, those who had received his word were baptized; and that day there were added about three thousand souls. They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth.”

Reader: The word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**



1 I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my peo - ple cry.
2 I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my peo - ple's pain.
3 I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame.



All who dwell in dark and sin my hand will save. I, who
I have wept for love of them. They turn a - way. I will
I will set a feast for them. My hand will save. Fin - est



made the stars of night, I will make their dark - ness bright.
break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love a - lone.
bread I will pro - vide till their hearts be sat - is - fied.



Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?
I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send?
I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?



Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you



call - ing in the night. I will go, Lord, if you



lead me. I will hold your peo - ple in my heart.

Gospel: Luke 10:1-3; Mark 6:8-11

Please stand as you are able.

Reader: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke and Mark .
People **Praise to you, Lord Christ .**

Now after this the Lord appointed seventy others, and sent them in pairs ahead of Him to every city and place where He Himself was going to come. And He was saying to them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore beseech the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest. Go; behold, I send you out as lambs in the midst of wolves.

And hear Mark's Gospel on how you should go.

And He instructed them that they should take nothing for their journey, except a mere staff—no bread, no bag, no money in their belt—but to wear sandals; and He added, "Do not put on two tunics." And He said to them, "Wherever you enter a house, stay there until you leave town.

Reader: This is the Gospel of the Lord.
People: **Glory to you, Lord Christ**

Sermon

The Rev. Bob Wickizer

Get on the Bus

In the Episcopal Church, the preacher is allowed to completely change the readings for a given Sunday in the event of important milestones for the parish. This is to be the rare exception and today is one of those exceptions. For too many years on "annual meeting Sunday" we have looked backwards at the year behind us and patted ourselves on the back for good work, but no longer.

Last year was a dumpster fire we would all like to forget. Today we must look forward to the year 2021 and to the many years ahead. Today we must hear again God's call to every man, woman, and child in this parish. Today we must be inspired (that is, filled with the Spirit). Today we must be enthused (that is to be filled with God). Today we must recommit ourselves to serving as the heart and hands of Jesus. Today, we must direct our vision from maintenance of what is past to mission for what lies ahead.

The first stop on our journey is inspiration. You can spend hours on the Internet watching inspiring videos of people with no legs climbing mountains, of children starting social movements and successful non-profits, and of animals doing incredible things to return to their families. But most of us are not very young, we still have our legs, and we are not eagles, chickens or bunnies. Consider the Bible. Abram was seventy-five years old when God called him and told him to GO to Haran. His wife was no spring chicken either. But they went. Former president, Jimmy Carter, is 96 and is still building Habitat for Humanity houses.



In 1546 Michelangelo thought he had done it all. In despair he felt like his life was over. He planned to move back to Florence and retire at 71. Then the pope asked him to oversee the construction of St. Peter's Basilica at the Vatican. Michelangelo was a self-taught architect. He knew that Bramante and later architects had been a disaster for this project. Reluctantly he accepted the job. The first thing he discovered was that there was rampant corruption, cronyism, lack of accounting, funds going everywhere except into the building, and that forty years of construction was substandard and had to be demolished and started over. Can you imagine going to the pope after a few months on the job and giving that bad news?



Michelangelo spent the next eighteen years of his life building the largest and most complicated project ever. When he died at 89, St. Peter's Basilica was not completed until 62 years later. Today, it is a masterpiece. The moral of these stories is: It's never too late to start and none of us is too old for God's dream.



Our second stop is enthusiasm; literally to be filled with God. Who cannot forget Isaiah's vision in chapter six where the angels and seraphs are flying around God's throne? A coal is placed on Isaiah's mouth to purify it. Out of this mystical vision, God thunders, "Whom shall I send? Who will go for us?" I imagine this scene where Isaiah wakes into the world where he has been asleep. He stands, looks up at the heavens and shouts, "Here am I; send me!"

In this passage, Isaiah was filled with the glory of God. Just before this verse, the angels sing "Holy, Holy, Holy..." from which we get our Sanctus. But sometimes, it works in reverse. Sometimes you must move ahead and go. You step out in faith. When you arrive at the next stop on your mission, God will fill you up there.



Our third stop requires us to recommit and rededicate ourselves to the ministries God gives us.

Celebrant: Do you believe in God the Father?

People: **I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

Celebrant: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

People: **I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

Celebrant: Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

People: **I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.**

Celebrant: Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?

People: **I will, with God's help.**

Celebrant: Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

People: **I will, with God's help.**

Celebrant: Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?

People: **I will, with God's help.**

Celebrant: Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?

People: **I will, with God's help.**

Celebrant: Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?

People: **I will, with God's help.**

Finally, we must look forward. Within a few weeks, this church will open its doors again for in-person worship. Yes, we have lost people for various reasons. Yes, our budget is an enormous challenge. But we are the faithful remnant. We are determined to be a continuing force for good in this community. We are strong. We are smart. And we are creative. We will do what it takes to keep this bus moving down the road.



And down the road we must go. To building a refreshing green space for rest on the corner. To opening our parking lot and parish hall for after school programs. To classes for conflict management, parenting and financial management for adults. To a welcoming social environment where our bonds of friendship reflect the love of Christ. We don't believe in guilt. We try hard to welcome and not to judge. And we go back to the table every Sunday where we are reminded that we belong to God and we raise up the best in every human being.



God may ask some of you to do new things in the weeks and months ahead. Some of you may respond with a reluctant "yes" like Michelangelo. Others may respond enthusiastically like Isaiah. However you respond to God's call, you must move your feet and get on the bus.

Silence for reflection after the sermon.

Special Song:

People Get Ready

Written By Curtis Mayfield

Chorus

Verse 2

People get ready, there's a train a-comin'
You don't need no baggage,
you just get on board
All you need is faith to hear the diesels hummin'
Don't need no ticket, you just thank the Lord

There ain't no room for the hopeless sinner
Who would hurt all mankind just to save his own,
Have pity on those whose chances grow thinner
So there's no hiding place against the kingdom's throne

Verse 1

Chorus

People get ready, there's a train to Jordan
Picking up passengers coast to coast
Faith is the key, open the doors and board 'em
There's hope for all among those loved the most

So, people get ready, there's a train a-comin'
You don't need no baggage,
you just get on board
All you need is faith to hear the diesels hummin'
Don't need no ticket, you just thank the Lord

Nicene Creed

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: Bound together in Christ in the communion of the Holy Spirit, let us pray with one heart and mind to God our Father.

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: **Christ Memorial, El Reno; The Church of the Holy Spirit, Salto, Uruguay; Diocese of California; The Anglican Church of Burundi.**

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; Poulson, our Bishop; Bob & 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: **Joe, our President; Kamala, 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, Angie, Brian, Glen, Dante, Marilyn, Gary, Ann, Connie, Jan, Thomas, Cedric, Mary-Margaret, Cliff, Gabriella, Esther, Ann, Ronald, Michael, all those affected by the pandemic, all the front line workers involved with patient care, all first responders, law enforcement, all fire and safety personnel, all United States Military serving at home and abroad, 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: **Lord, have mercy.**

Reader: For ourselves, our families, and those we love. We pray for those in our parish, especially ...

People: **Cathey, Thomas, Carole, Cathryn.**

Reader: Also those who are traveling, (*especially...*)

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

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. **Amen.**

Confession and Absolution

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

Silence is observed.

Celebrant & 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 our Lord 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.**

Announcements, Birthdays & Anniversary Blessings

Please be seated.

Celebrant: Ascribe to the Lord the honor due his Name; bring offerings and come into his courts with thanksgiving

Offertory

Please be seated

Offertory Anthem:

Lord, Here I Am

Vocalist: Lora Sellers

Doxology:

Please stand and sing as you are able.

*3 Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; praise him, all crea - tures here be - low; praise him a - bove, ye heaven - ly host: praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

Celebrant: O gracious God

People: **We offer you these gifts which you have given us; this bread and this wine. With them we offer ourselves, our lives, and our work, to become through your Holy Spirit a reasonable, holy, and living sacrifice. Amen**

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.**

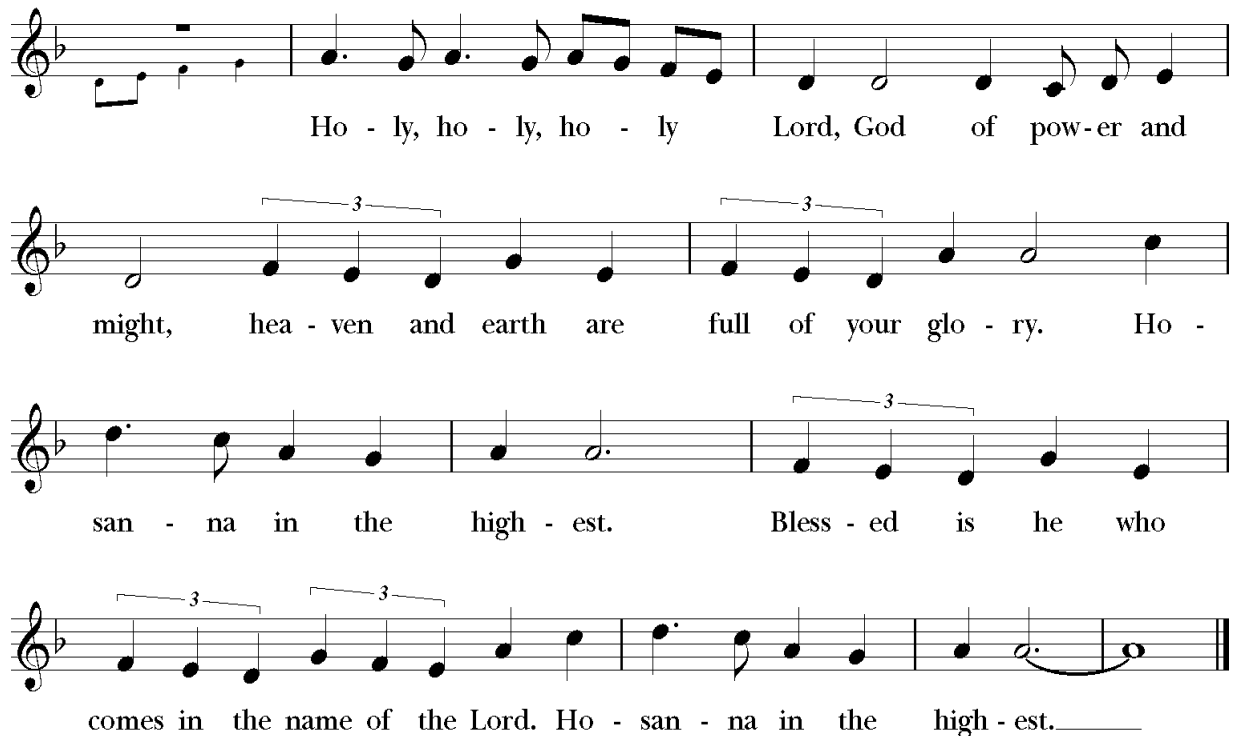
Then, facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds

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.

Because in the mystery of the Word made flesh, thou hast caused a new light to shine in our hearts, to give the knowledge of thy glory in the face of thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

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:#S-129



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and
might, hea - ven and earth are full of your glo - ry. 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.

Then the Celebrant continues:

Please stand or kneel.

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 & 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.

Lord's Prayer

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

People & 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**

Breaking of the Bread

A moment of silence is kept following the breaking of the bread.

Fraction Anthem: #S-154

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.

Celebrant: These are 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.

At Grace Episcopal Church, all are welcome to receive Holy Communion.

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 Solo:

Ken Yadon

We Go Out To Do Our Work

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Celebrant & People: Gracious God, giver of every good gift, thank you for teaching me to be generous as you have been generous with me. Thank you for showing me all that I am and all that I have are gifts from you and that these gifts from you, Lord are meant to be shared.

Show me the joys of generosity and help me understand that others who may be unknown to me, depend upon me for help. Remind me that in my world of community, parish, family and friends, we need Good Samaritans to heal the wounds inflicted by the world. Lord, make me a gift to others in your name. Amen.

Blessing

Celebrant: And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. **Amen.**

Recessional: #537

We all are one in mission (vs. 3,4)

Please stand as you are able.

Words: Rusty Edwards; Music: David Evans

1. We all are one in mis - sion, we all are one in call,
2. We all are called for ser - vice to wit - ness in God's name.
3. We all be - hold one vi - sion, a stark re - al - i - ty;
4. Now let us be u - nit - ed and let our song be heard.

our var - ied gifts u - nit - ed by Christ, the Lord of all.
Our min - is - tries are dif - f'rent, our pur - pose is the same:
the stew - ard of sal - va - tion was nailed up - on a tree.
Now let us be a ves - sel for God's re - deem - ing Word.

The musical score is written for a four-part vocal choir (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) and piano accompaniment. The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The piano part features a steady bass line and chords that support the vocal melody. The lyrics are printed below the vocal staves, with line numbers 1 through 4 corresponding to the four parts of the choir.

A sin - gle, great com - mis - sion com - pels us from a - bove
to touch the lives of oth - ers by God's sur - pris - ing grace,
Yet res - ur - rect - ed Jus - tice gives rise that we may share
We all are one in mis - sion, we all are one in call,

to plan and work to - geth - er that all may know Christ's love.
so peo - ple of all na - tions may feel God's warm em - brace.
free re - con - cil - i - a - tion and hope a - mid de - spair.
our var - ied gifts u - nit - ed by Christ, the Lord of all.

Sending

Celebrant: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Grace Update

Monitoring COVID

We are monitoring the COVID statistics in Muskogee County carefully. As soon as we see two weeks in a row of declining statistics, we will fling open our doors for in-person worship. Of course, we will continue to wear masks and take recommended precautions.

Ash Wednesday February 17 at 6 pm

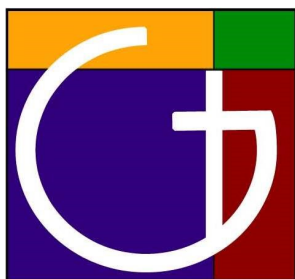
We will be open for regular Ash Wednesday service and imposition of ashes. You may attend the service in-person or pull into the driveway on 6th Street from 11:00AM –2:00PM or 6:45PM -7:15PM for “Ashes to go”

Lent February 17 – March 21

Whether we are open for in-person worship during Lent remains to be determined from health statistics.

Palm Sunday & Easter Sunday March 28 & April 4

We are praying for a glorious Palm Sunday and Easter. When regular Sunday worship resumes, we will have 8:30 and 10:30 worship in the main church. Remember to bring a friend to church.



Grace Episcopal

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Email: Office@GraceMuskogee.org;

Website: www.GraceMuskogee.org

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

Rector: The Rev. Bob Wickizer

Deacon: The Rev. Thomas A. Harrington

Music Director: Ken Yadon

Rector's Email: bob@gracemuskogee.org

Youth & Children's Director: Nancy Scott

