

Fifth Sunday of Easter



**May 2, 2021
10:30AM**

Introduction

Celebrant: Good morning and welcome to those of you with us in person and online. We are glad to have you join us today and we pray that you will remain with us. As a priest and leader of this congregation, I am always reminded of my role by these verses from Psalm 22. Jewish prayer never uses the word "God" so in this case they use "him." I would like to switch it back to use the word "God" for you:

*My praise is of God in the great assembly; [which is our gathering today]
I will perform my vows in the presence of those who worship God.
[As a result of this,] The poor shall eat and be satisfied,
and those who seek God shall praise God.*

So YOU are the great assembly gathered here and online. As a result of our praise and worship, the poor shall eat and be satisfied. Thank you for being here today. Let us begin.

Liturgy of the Word

Processional Hymn: #379 God is love, let heaven adore Him Please stand & sing as you are able.
Words: Timothy Rees; Music: Cyril Vincent Taylor

The musical score is written for three voices (Soprano, Alto, and Tenor) and a four-part harmony (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, and Bass). It consists of five systems of music, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The lyrics are written below the vocal lines. The key signature is one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is common time (C). The score ends with a double bar line.

1 God is Love, let heaven a - dore him; God is Love, let
2 God is Love; and Love en - folds us, all the world in
3 God is Love; and though with blind-ness sin af - flicts all

earth re - joice; let cre - a - tion sing be - fore him
one em - brace: with un - fail - ing grasp God holds us,
hu - man life, God's e - ter - nal lov - ing - kind - ness

and ex - alt him with one voice. God who laid the earth's foun-
ev - ery child of ev - ery race. And when hu - man hearts are
guides us through our earth - ly strife. Sin and death and hell shall

da - tion, God who spread the heaven a - bove, God who breathes through
break - ing un - der sor - row's i - ron rod, then we find that
nev - er us fi - nal tri - umph gain; God is Love, so

all cre - a - tion: God is Love, e - ter - nal Love.
self - same ach - ing deep with - in the heart of God.
Love for ev - er o'er the u - ni - verse must reign.

Opening Acclamation

Celebrant: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

People: **The Lord is Risen indeed. Alleluia!**

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.**

Gloria: #S-280

Please remain standing.



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

Collect of the Day

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Celebrant: Let us pray. Almighty God, whom truly to know is everlasting life: Grant us so perfectly to know your Son Jesus Christ to be the way, the truth, and the life, that we may steadfastly follow his steps in the way that leads to eternal life; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

First Lesson: Acts 8:26-40

Please be seated.

Reader: A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

An angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a wilderness road.) So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this: "Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter, and like a lamb silent before its shearer, so he does not open his mouth. In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth."

The eunuch asked Philip, "About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?" He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 22:24-30

Reader: My praise is of him in the great assembly; *

People: **I will perform my vows in the presence of those who worship him.**

Reader: The poor shall eat and be satisfied, and those who seek the LORD shall praise him: *

People: **"May your heart live for ever!"**

Reader: All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD, *

People: **and all the families of the nations shall bow before him.**

Reader: For kingship belongs to the LORD; *

People: **he rules over the nations.**

Reader: To him alone all who sleep in the earth bow down in worship; *

People: **all who go down to the dust fall before him.**

Reader: My soul shall live for him; my descendants shall serve him; *

People: **they shall be known as the LORD's for ever.**

Reader: They shall come and make known to a people yet unborn *

People: **the saving deeds that he has done.**

Second Lesson: 1 John 4:7-21

Reader: A reading from the first Letter of John.

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since

God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. We love because he first loved us. Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Gradual Hymn: **Come, my Way, my Truth, my Life** *Please stand & sing as you are able.*
Words: George Herbert; Music: Ralph Vaughan Williams

1 Come, my Way, my Truth, my Life: such a
2 Come, my Light, my Feast, my Strength: such a
3 Come, my Joy, my Love, my Heart: such a

way as gives us breath; such a truth as ends all
light as shows a feast; such a feast as mends in
joy as none can move; such a love as none can
strife; such a life as kill - eth death.
length; such a strength as makes his guest.
part; such a heart as joys in love.

Gospel Reading: John 15:1-8 *Please continue standing as you are able.*

Celebrant: The Holy Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus said to his disciples, "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples."

Celebrant: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

What a wonderful gospel to preach from the perspective of a priest who also grows and makes wine. When people learn about my work as a priest and winemaker, they often make the connection with the wedding at Cana. They will say “Oh, you make wine just like Jesus did.” To which I reply, “Not exactly. He used water but I still have to use grapes.”¹

On his way to Jerusalem and the cross with the disciples, Jesus gives them this agricultural metaphor, “I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower.” Scholars have debated whether some quotes were actually said by Jesus. This one using grapevine pruning as the metaphor is universally accepted by scholars across the spectrum from liberal to conservative as being authentic words of Jesus.

In our six acres of vineyard, Gary and D.I. do 99% of the pruning. I have about 200 vines near my house, and I work on them from time to time. Gary gives me a refresher course on pruning every year. My work pruning is not nearly as artistic and fast as their work on 4,200 vines, but it is therapeutic to be out there early in the morning pruning away. The goal is six shoots on each cordon, and four buds on each shoot. “Cordon” is the French word for arm. The French looked at a grapevine as a person holding her arms out to each side. The feet are planted in the soil, the trunk of the body from the legs to the torso is the vertical trunk of the grapevine, and the cordons are the arms going out in both directions.²

Every vine presents a unique set of challenges. Usually there are too many shoots and too many buds. I imagine God walking through the vineyard of humanity with shears in hand. I can hear God’s footsteps just like Adam and Eve heard God walking after they had the encounter with the serpent and the apple tree. In the vineyard, God is not upset because of sin. God is just trying to make the vines produce better fruit.³

I don’t make a sharp association of one shoot for each person. Instead, I imagine the shoots represent all the different possibilities in our lives for growth. There may be one person on a cordon or there may be ten. At times I imagine God doing the pruning. At other times, I am praying about specific people and things in our parish community. Pruning can be meditative, prayerful work.⁴

A shoot growing out of the bottom of a cordon is almost never acceptable. I wonder if those sneaky shoots represent the things we do that we are not proud of and we try to hide them from others and from God. SNIP goes that shoot. The fruiting canes or shoots are ideally spaced about four inches or the separation of the knuckles on your fist apart on the cordon. Sometimes they are too close. Maybe one of those represents staying in Muskogee while the other represents taking that new job in Kansas City. SNIP, one possibility was just clipped off the vine.

Sometimes two shoots will emerge from the same general point on the cordon. One of them has to go, but which one? There may be three or four years of growth on a short branch coming off the cordon with a new shoot on top. Next to it might be another, pencil thin shoot sprouting right off the cordon. I see that branch coming off the vine as the things we tried in life that didn’t work out. Maybe it was a failed marriage or a job that went sideways. We shed tears coming up against a future that didn’t look so good. God gets out the short vine saw. A few quick strokes and that part of someone’s life comes to a rapid end. Now that person can devote all their energy into the thin shoot coming directly off the vine that is Jesus. We get our energy and sustenance from Jesus and not filtered through several years of going the wrong direction.



Sometimes on a beautiful spring morning, you find an entire cordon that has no growth, no shoots, no buds, no hope. This will require radical surgery. Like John the Baptist shaking his finger at the Pharisees in Matthew, “and even now the axe is laid at the root of the tree.” God saws off the entire cordon all the way back to the vertical trunk. These were people given the opportunity to abide in Christ but who chose other things such as narcissism, drug addiction, money, politics, fear, domination of others, power trips and so on. They were once part of the vine, but their fruit never ripened. Year after year the vinegrower tasted their bitter, unripe fruit and spit it out. Year after year the vinegrower said, “Give them another year.” Until now.

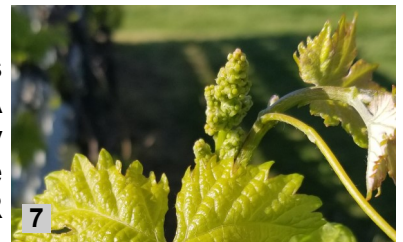
The vinegrower gently takes a new shoot off the trunk and instead of clipping that shoot off the trunk, it is trained up on the cordon wire to become the next possibility of Jesus giving life to a whole collection of people. The new group on the new cordon might be a church like Grace. It will take a year or two for the new shoot to become a full cordon. For the next two years as the new cordon develops, the vinegrower will wrap it around the supporting wire one and a half times tying it with vineyard tape to the wire. Each wrap is a prayer from God for the group.

This cordon supports a whole church community. Each bud on that cordon is a possible new shoot, a life flourishing and producing great fruit. Some shoots are too close or come off the bottom. But perhaps they don’t get thrown into the fire but instead they become shoots on another cordon. Perhaps they hit the ground and grow roots right there where the vinegrower will transplant them to become a new vine.⁵

And sometimes, in late April of 2020 and 2021, a killing frost descends on the vineyard. Thousands of buds bursting open, new shoots and even tiny clusters of flowers that would have become fruit are frozen in a few hours before dawn. The vibrant green promise of spring is replaced by a brown pall of death. It is a frightening, depressing sight. The vinegrower hopes and prays for new life to appear on those vines. Like people, grapevines are resilient.⁶

It takes a few weeks, but slowly, the secondary buds do their work. New shoots appear unfolding tiny leaves and flowers to become this year’s vintage. There will be fewer shoots and less fruit this year. A natural disaster hit the vineyard like an earthquake or flood or a deadly virus strikes a city. But the vinegrower desires life. Abundant life abiding in the vine may not mean MORE fruit. It may mean BETTER fruit, lives fully lived loving other humans the way Jesus loves us.⁷

Grace Church is a whole community growing on a cordon. We have taken our hits with frosts and disease. We have lost some shoots to pruning that were hard to see go, but we have new shoots popping up off the cordon. Our hope is for good fruit this season. I can tell you that while 2020 was a tough year and produced one third as much fruit, it was a fabulous vintage. The wine is fantastic. And the year ahead is looking to be another year of less quantity but much better quality.⁸



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 sit, kneel 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: **St. Paul's, Altus; St' Luke, Salto, Uruguay; Diocese of Louisiana; The Anglican Church of Korea.**

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 & Pat, 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, Cliff, Esther, Ann, Ronald, Michael, Sheila, J.J., Marlee, Carl, all those affected by the pandemic, all the front line workers involved with patient care, all first responders, postal workers, 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 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: **Carrie, Josh, Elijah, Noah.**

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.**

Greet one another in the name of Christ.

Announcements, Birthdays & Anniversary Blessings

Please be seated.

Welcome to our guests today. If you are new to Grace for the first time or even if you have been here once or twice before, please fill out a visitor card and put it in the plate. We promise not to harass you, but we would like to include you on our weekly email broadcasts and other event notifications. Thank you for the blessing of your presence today.

Celebrant: Let us with gladness present the offerings and oblations of our life and labor to the Lord.

Offertory

During this time we make an offering to the church to help maintain it's mission in creation. Its also a time in which we fully offer ourselves to be Christ in the World around us.

Offertory Hymn: LEVAS #72

Just A Closer Walk with Thee

Remain seated.

1. I am weak but thou art strong;
2. Through this world of toil and snares,
3. When my fee - ble life is o'er,

Refrain: Just a clos - er walk with thee,

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'Just A Closer Walk with Thee'. It features a treble and bass staff in 4/4 time, with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The lyrics are written below the notes, with three verses and a refrain. The first verse is '1. I am weak but thou art strong;', the second is '2. Through this world of toil and snares,', and the third is '3. When my fee - ble life is o'er,'. The refrain is 'Refrain: Just a clos - er walk with thee,'. The music is written in a simple, accessible style, suitable for a church service.

1. Je - sus, keep me from all wrong; — I'll be sat - is - fied as
 2. If I fal - ter, Lord, who cares? — Who with me my bur - den
 3. Time for me will be no more; — Guide me gent - ly, safe - ly

Refrain: Grant it, Je - sus, is my plea, — Dai - ly walk - ing close to

D.C. for Refrain

1. long — As I walk, let me walk close to thee.
 2. shares? — None but thee, dear — Lord, none but thee.
 3. o'er — To Thy king - dom — shore, to thy shore.

Refrain: thee, — Let it be, dear — Lord, let it be.

Doxology

Please stand as you are able.

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.

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.**

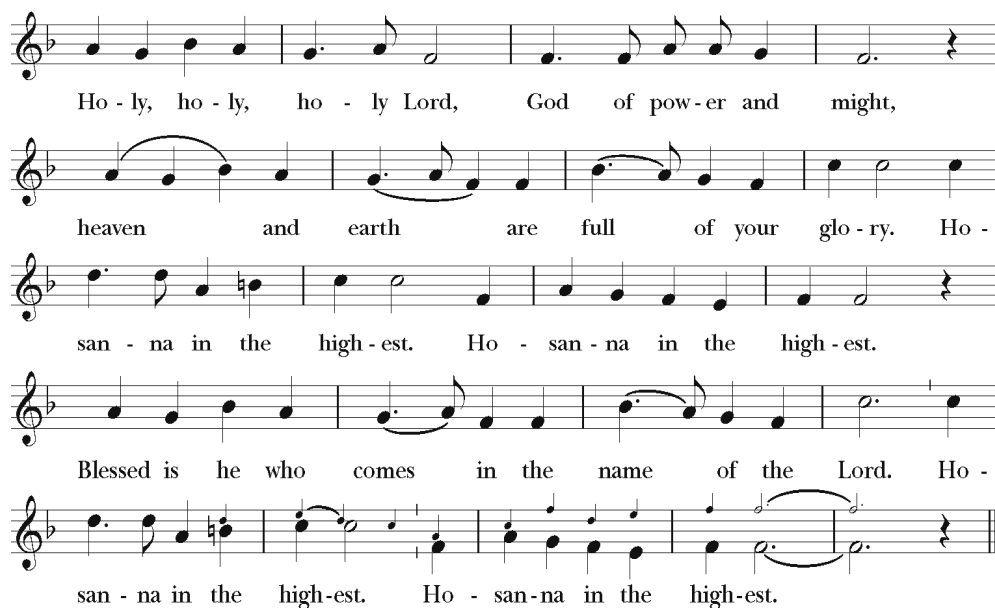
Then, facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds

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.

But chiefly are we bound to praise you for the glorious resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; for he is the true Paschal Lamb, who was sacrificed for us, and has taken away the sin of the world. By his death he has destroyed death, and by his rising to life again he has won for us everlasting life.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Sanctus: #S-125



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

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.

At the following words concerning the bread, the Celebrant is to hold it, or lay a hand upon it; and at the words concerning the cup, to hold or place a hand upon the cup and any other vessel containing wine to be consecrated.

Celebrant: 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.

Celebrant: 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 forever
AMEN.

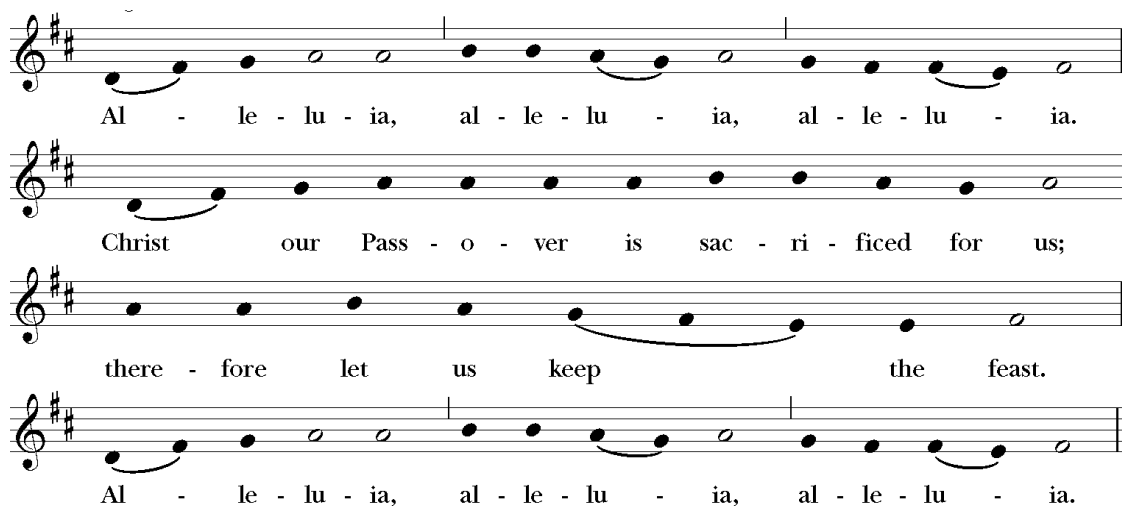
Lord's Prayer

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

Celebrant & 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.**

Breaking of the Bread *The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept.*

Fraction Anthem: #S-154



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.

At Grace Episcopal Church, "All baptized Christians from any church are welcome to receive Holy Communion."

Communion Song:

Ken Yadon

We Go Out To Do Our Work

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Celebrant & People: **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.**

Easter Blessing

Celebrant: May Almighty God, who has redeemed us and made us his children through the resurrection of his Son our Lord, bestow upon you the riches of his blessing. **Amen.**

May God, who through the water of baptism has raised us from sin into newness of life, make you holy and worthy to be united with Christ for ever. **Amen.**

May God, who has brought us out of bondage to sin into true and lasting freedom in the Redeemer, bring you to your eternal inheritance. **Amen.**

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 Hymn: #494 *Crown him with many crowns* *Please stand & sing as you are able.*

Words: Matthew Bridges; Music: George Job Elvey

1 Crown him with man - y crowns, the Lamb up - on his throne; Hark!
3 Crown him the Lord of life, who tri - umphed o'er the grave, and
5 Crown him the Lord of heaven, en - throned in worlds a - bove; Crown

1 how the heaven - ly an - them drowns all mu - sic but its own; a -
3 rose vic - to - rious in the strife for those he came to save; his
5 him the King, to whom is given the won - drous name of Love. Crown

1 wake, my soul, and sing of him who died for thee, and
3 glo - ries now we sing who died, and rose on high, who
5 him with man - y crowns, as thrones be - fore him fall, crown

1 hail him as thy match - less King through all e - ter - ni - ty.
3 died, e - ter - nal life to bring, and lives that death may die.
5 him, ye kings, with man - y crowns, for he is King of all.

Dismissal

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

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



THANKS TO THOSE SERVING THIS WEEK:

Celebrant The Rev. Bob Wickizer
1st Reader..... Kaia Holder
2nd Reader..... Mimi Louis
Head Usher..... David Wilcox
1st Cross/Server..... Thomas Bentley
Torch Braden
2nd Cross Terra Tomblinson



ON THE ALTAR:

Flowers on the altar today are given in thanksgiving of their anniversary by John & Melody Freie

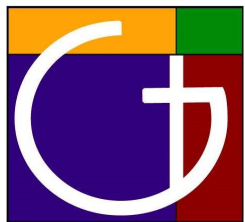
Communion Wine for 2021 is given by Mike Alberty in loving memory of his parents.

Bread today is not sponsored. If you are interested in sponsoring the communion bread, please contact the front office.

MAY VESTRY PERSON OF THE MONTH:

Alex Wilson





Grace Episcopal

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Rector: The Rev. Bob Wickizer

Rector's Email: bob@gracemuskogee.org

Deacon: The Rev. Thomas A. Harrington

Music Director: Ken Yadon

