

A close-up photograph of several pink peonies in full bloom, filling the entire background. The petals are layered and ruffled, with varying shades of pink from light to deep magenta. A dark teal horizontal band runs across the middle of the image, containing the main text.

The 6th Sunday of

Easter

*Welcome to our home!
We would love for you to join our family!*

Happy Mothers Day

May 14, 2023

We Gather

Processional Hymn: #525

The Church's one foundation

Please stand & sing.

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 in Excelsis: #S-278

Please remain standing.

Collect of the Day

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Celebrant: Let us pray. O God, you have prepared for those who love you such good things as surpass our understanding: Pour into our hearts such love towards you, that we, loving you in all things and above all things, may obtain your promises, which exceed all that we can desire; 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: Acts 17:22-31

Please be seated.

Reader: A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, "Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, 'To an unknown god.' What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. For 'In him we live and move and have our being'; as even some of your own poets have said, 'For we too are his offspring.'

Since we are God's offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead."

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 66:7-18

Read responsively by half-verse.

Reader: Bless our God, you peoples;

People: **make the voice of his praise to be heard;**

Reader: Who holds our souls in life,

People: **and will not allow our feet to slip.**

Reader: For you, O God, have proved us;

People: **you have tried us just as silver is tried.**

Reader: You brought us into the snare;

People: **you laid heavy burdens upon our backs.**

Reader: You let enemies ride over our heads; we went through fire and water;

People: **but you brought us out into a place of refreshment.**

Reader: I will enter your house with burnt-offerings and will pay you my vows,

People: **which I promised with my lips and spoke with my mouth when I was in trouble.**

Reader: I will offer you sacrifices of fat beasts with the smoke of rams;

People: **I will give you oxen and goats.**

Reader: Come and listen, all you who fear God,

People: **and I will tell you what he has done for me.**

Reader: I called out to him with my mouth,

People: **and his praise was on my tongue.**

Reader: If I had found evil in my heart,

People: **the Lord would not have heard me;**

Reader: But in truth God has heard me;

People: **he has attended to the voice of my prayer.**

Reader: Blessed be God, who has not rejected my prayer,

People: **nor withheld his love from me.**

Second Lesson: 1 Peter 3:13-22

Reader: A reading from the first letter of Peter.

Now who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated, but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and reverence. Keep your conscience clear, so that, when you are maligned, those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame. For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God's will, than to suffer for doing evil. For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water. And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Sequence Hymn: #2

Father, we praise thee
(v. 1-2 before, v. 3 after Gospel)

Please stand as you are able.

Gospel Reading: John 14:15-21

Please remain standing.

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

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

Jesus said, "If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

"I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them."

Celebrant: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Sermon: The Rev. Chris Cole

Please be seated.

We Pray

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 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.

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: **St. Philip's, Ardmore; Ardmore Village, Ardmore; Diocese of West Tennessee; Diocese of Western North Carolina; The Anglican Church of Nigeria.**

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

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Reader: We pray for...

People: **Michael, our Presiding Bishop; Poulson, our Bishop; Chris & Tom, our clergy; Alex & Audrey, 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; Josh, our Congressman; James & Markwayne, 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: **Johnson family, Ronnie, Julio, Niko, Mike, Steve, John, Nancy, Betty, Crystal, Melanie, Geneva, Fred, Glenn, Brittany, Rose, Karen, Nyla, Jeanne, Paul, Tracey, Jane, Adriana, Fred, Stuart, Jade, those impacted by war—especially in Ukraine, all emergency responders, United States Military, 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: **Jean, Rhonda, Ken, Nancy, Mary Beth, and Mike.**

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.**

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.

Offertory

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

During this time we make an offering to the church to help maintain its mission in creation. It is also a time in which we fully offer ourselves to be Christ in the world around us.

Offertory Hymn: #688

A mighty fortress is our God

Please remain seated & sing.

Doxology: #380 v. 3

Please stand & sing as you are able.

Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer A

Sursum Corda: #S-120

Please remain standing.

The musical notation is written on a single staff with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). It is divided into four lines of music, each with lyrics underneath. The first line is for the Celebrant and the second line is for the People. The third line is for the Celebrant and the fourth line is for the People. The lyrics are: "The Lord be with you. And al - so with you. Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. 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-130

Please sit or kneel after the Sanctus.

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.

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 persons are welcome to receive Holy Communion. Please tell the usher if you need communion brought to you at your seat. IF you wish to receive the bread only, hold your palms upward, consume the bread, and cross your arms over your chest when the chalice bearer approaches. Those who do not wish to receive Holy Communion are invited to come to the altar rail to receive a Blessing, indicate this by crossing your arms over your chest when the priest approaches.

Communion Hymn: #512

Come Gracious Spirit, heavenly Dove

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: #405

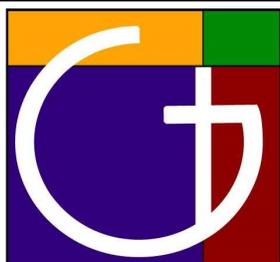
All things bright and beautiful

Please stand & sing.

Dismissal

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

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



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

Priest in Charge: The Rev. Chris Cole

Sr. Warden: Alex Wilson

Jr. Warden: Audrey Stone

Deacon Emeritus: The Rev. Thomas A. Harrington

Youth & Children's Director: Nancy Scott

