

5TH SUNDAY OF

# EASTER

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

APRIL 28, 2024

## We Gather

**Processional Hymn: #576**

*Here in Christ we gather*

*Please stand and sing as you are able.*

### 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 and sing as you are able.*

### 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.**

## We Hear God's Word

**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



© 1956. Jerome Webster Meachen

- All:*
- 24 **My praise is of him in the great<sup>l</sup> assembly; \* |  
I will perform my vows in the presence of those who worship | him. ||**
- 25 **The poor shall eat and be satisfied, and those who seek the Lord shall  
praise<sup>l</sup> him: \* |  
"May your heart live for | ever!" ||**
- 26 **All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the<sup>l</sup> Lord, \* |  
and all the families of the nations shall bow before | him. ||**
- 27 **For kingship belongs to the<sup>l</sup> Lord; \* |  
he rules over the | nations. ||**
- 28 **To him alone all who sleep in the earth bow down in<sup>l</sup> worship; \* |  
all who go down to the dust fall before | him. ||**
- 29 **My soul shall live for him; my descendants shall serve<sup>l</sup> him; \* |  
they shall be known as the Lord's for | ever. ||**
- 30 **They shall come and make known to a people yet<sup>l</sup> unborn \* |  
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.**

**Sequence Hymn: #448**     *O love, how deep, how broad, how high*     *Please stand as you are able.*  
(verse 1-2 before, verse 6 after Gospel)

**Gospel Reading: John 15:1-8**     *Please remain standing.*

*Deacon:*     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."

*Deacon:*     The Gospel of the Lord.

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

**Sermon:** The Rev. Chris Cole     *Silence for reflection after the sermon.*

## **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**     **Form IV—BCP pg. 388**     *Please kneel, sit, or stand.*

*Reader:*     Let us pray for the Church and for the world, especially...

*People:*     **St. Paul's, Altus; St. Luke's, Salto, Uruguay; Diocese of Southeast Florida; Diocese of Southwest Florida; Igreja Anglicana de Mocambique e Angola.**

*Reader:*     Grant, Almighty God, that all who confess your Name may be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world, especially...

*People:*     **Michael, our Presiding Bishop; Poulson, our Bishop; Chris & Tom, our clergy; Katherine & Audrey, our wardens; vestry, delegates, all who minister in Christ, and for all the holy people of God.**

*Silence.*

*Reader:* Lord, in your mercy

*People:* **Hear our prayer.**

*Reader:* Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the ways of justice and peace; especially our leaders...

*People:* **Joe, our President; Kamala, our Vice-president; Josh, our Congressman; James & Markwayne, our Senators; Kevin, our Governor; and Patrick, our Mayor.**

*Reader:* That we may honor one another and serve the common good.

*Silence.*

*Reader:* Lord, in your mercy

*People:* **Hear our prayer.**

*Reader:* Give us all a reverence for the earth as your own creation, that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others and to your honor and glory.

*Silence.*

*Reader:* Lord, in your mercy

*People:* **Hear our prayer.**

*Reader:* Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, especially...

*People:* **Anna, Audrey, Finley, Sophie, Jeremy, Ched, and William.**

*Reader:* And grant that we may serve Christ in them, and love one another as he loves us.

*Silence.*

*Reader:* Lord, in your mercy

*People:* **Hear our prayer.**

*Reader:* Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; especially...

*People:* **Johnson family, Ronnie, Mike, John, Rose, Karen, Adriana, Fred, Stuart, Nancy, Thomas, Catheryne, Jennifer, Patricia, Paula, Marlene, Alissa, Cathey, Frank, Charlie, Junior, Wesley, Ronna, Rob, Jeanne, Geneva, Glen, those impacted by war and violence, all emergency responders, United States Military, and those whose suffering is known only to God.**

*Reader:* Give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of your salvation.

*Silence.*

*Reader:* Lord, in your mercy

*People:* **Hear our prayer.**

*Reader:* We commend to your mercy all who have died, (*especially...*) that your will for them may be fulfilled; and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom.

*Silence.*

*Reader:* Lord, in your mercy

*People:* **Hear our prayer.**

*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 Sentence

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

**Offertory Anthem: *Amazing Grace! Amazing Love!***

*Choir*

**Doxology: #380 v. 3**

*Please stand and sing as you are able.*

## We Share the Meal

*Eucharistic Prayer C*

**Sursum Corda: #S-120**

*Please remain standing.*

*Celebrant* *People*  
The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

*Celebrant* *People*  
Lift up your hearts. 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:* God of all power, Ruler of the Universe, you are worthy of glory and praise.

*People:* **Glory to you for ever and ever.**

*Celebrant:* At your command all things came to be: the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses, and this fragile earth, our island home.

*People:* **By your will they were created and have their being.**

*Celebrant:* From the primal elements you brought forth the human race, and blessed us with memory, reason, and skill. You made us the rulers of creation. But we turned against you, and betrayed your trust; and we turned against one another.

*People:* **Have mercy, Lord, for we are sinners in your sight.**

*Celebrant:* Again and again, you called us to return. Through prophets and sages you revealed your righteous Law. And in the fullness of time you sent your only Son, born of a woman, to fulfill your Law, to open for us the way of freedom and peace.

*People:* **By his blood, he reconciled us. By his wounds, we are healed.**

*Celebrant:* And therefore we praise you, joining with the heavenly chorus, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all those in every generation who have looked to you in hope, to proclaim with them your glory, in their unending hymn:

### **Sanctus: #S-125**

*Celebrant:* † And so, Father, we who have been redeemed by him, and made a new people by water and the Spirit, now bring before you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ our Lord.

*Celebrant:* On the night he was betrayed he took bread, said the blessing, broke the bread, and gave it to his friends, 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, gave thanks, 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." ††† Remembering now his work of redemption, and offering to you this sacrifice of thanksgiving:

*Celebrant & People:* **We celebrate his death and resurrection, as we await the day of his coming.**

*Celebrant:* Lord God of our Fathers; God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ: Open our eyes to see your hand at work in the world about us. Deliver us from the presumption of coming to this Table for solace only, and not for strength; for pardon only, and not for renewal. Let the grace of this Holy Communion make us one body, one spirit in Christ, that we may worthily serve the world in his name.

*People:* **Risen Lord, be known to us in the breaking of the Bread.**

*Celebrant:* Accept these prayers and praises, Father, through Jesus Christ our great High Priest, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, your Church gives honor, glory, and worship, from generation to generation. **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.**

### **Fraction Anthem: #S-154**

*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.*

*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.

1. Here, O Lord, your ser- vants gath - er, hand we link with hand;  
*1. Se - ka - i - no to - mo to te o tsu - na - gi,*  
 2. Man - y are the tongues we speak, scat - tered are the lands,  
 3. Na - ture's se - crets o - pen wide, chang - es nev - er cease.  
 4. Grant, O God, an age re - newed, filled with death - less love;

Look - ing toward our Sav - ior's cross, joined in love we stand.  
*Jyu - ji - ka no mo - to ni ta - tsu wa - re - ra,*  
 yet our heart are one in God, on in love's de - mands.  
 Where, oh where, can wea - ry soul find the source of peace?  
 help us as we work and pray, send us from a - bove

As we seek the realm of God, we u - nite to pray:  
*Ka - mi no mi - ku - ni o me a te to shi,*  
 E'en in dark - ness hope ap - pears, call - ing age and youth:  
 Un - to all those sore dis - tressed, torn by end - less strife:  
 truth and cour - age, faith and power, need - ed in our strife:

Je - sus Sav - ior, guide our steps, for you are the Way.  
*Shu Ye - su no mi - chi o su - su - mi ju - kan.*  
 Je - sus, teach - er, dwell with us, for you are the Truth.  
 Je - sus, heal - er, bring your balm, for you are the Life.  
 Je - sus, Mas - ter, be our Way, be our Truth, our Life.

Words: Tokuo Yamaguchi (b. 20th c.); trans. Everett M. Stowe (b. 20th c.); phonetic transcription from the Japanese by I-to Loh (b. 1936). Music: Isao Koizumi (b. 1907).



# 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: LEVAS #138**    *Lord, I want to be Christian*    *Please stand & sing as you are able.*

1. Lord, I want to be a Chris-tian In my heart, In my heart;—  
2. Lord, I want to be more lov-ing In my heart, In my heart;—  
3. Lord, I want to be more ho-ly In my heart, In my heart;—  
4. I don't want to be like Ju-das In my heart, In my heart;—  
5. Lord, I want to be like Je-sus In my heart, In my heart;—

1. Lord, I want to be a Chris-tian In my heart, \_\_\_\_\_  
2. Lord, I want to be more lov-ing In my heart, \_\_\_\_\_  
3. Lord, I want to be more ho-ly In my heart, \_\_\_\_\_  
4. I don't want to be like Ju-das In my heart, \_\_\_\_\_  
5. Lord, I want to be like Je-sus In my heart, \_\_\_\_\_

In my heart, \_\_\_\_\_ In my heart, \_\_\_\_\_  
 In my heart, In my heart, In my heart,

1. Lord, I want to be a Chris-tian In my heart. \_\_\_\_\_  
 2. Lord, I want to be more lov-ing In my heart. \_\_\_\_\_  
 3. Lord, I want to be more ho-ly In my heart. \_\_\_\_\_  
 4. I don't want to be like Ju-das In my heart. \_\_\_\_\_  
 5. Lord, I want to be like Je-sus In my heart. \_\_\_\_\_

Words: Traditional. Music: Negro Spiritual; arr. Edward C. Deas. Copyright © Sunday School Publishing Board.

**Dismissal**

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

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

**THANKS TO THOSE SERVING THIS WEEK:**  
**Celebrant..... The Rev. Chris Cole**  
**1st Reader/Chalice..... Stephen Bradley**  
**2nd Reader/Chalice..... David Wilcox**  
**Head Usher/Greeter..... David Wilcox**  
**Altar Guild..... Marlene Odom & Cathey Bentley**  
**Media..... Alex Wilson**  
**1st Cross..... Mimi Louis**  
**Torch/Plates..... Killian Stratton**  
**2nd Cross..... Pat Wilcox**

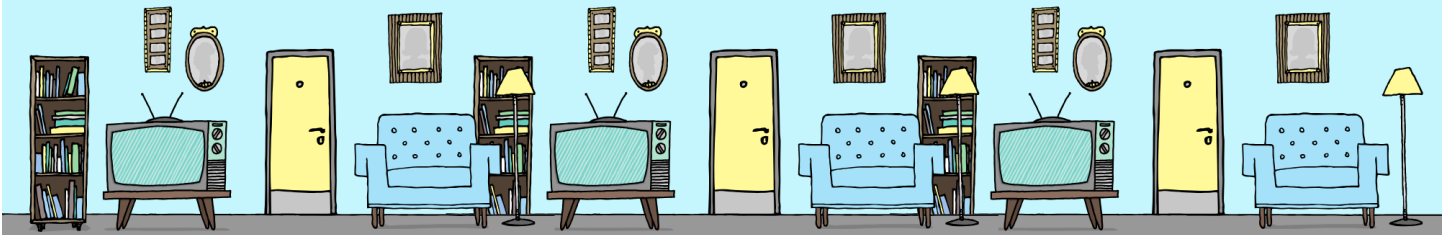
FOR ONE WEEKEND ONLY!

# THE ANNUAL GRACE RUMMAGE SALE

MAY 3-4 | 9:00AM

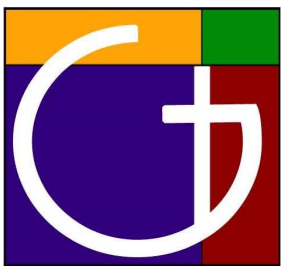
We are taking donations for a selection of used, but not abused, items ranging from toys, books, clothing, household appliances, pet supplies, and more!

Items can be dropped off at the church beginning April 25th.  
See B.J. Charbonneau for more information.



APRIL  
VESTRY PERSON  
OF THE MONTH:

Lance  
Scott



Grace Episcopal

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**Social Media:** [Facebook.com/GraceMuskogee](https://www.facebook.com/GraceMuskogee) & [Twitter.com/GraceMuskogee](https://twitter.com/GraceMuskogee)

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

**Priest in Charge:** The Rev. Chris Cole

**Sr. Warden:** Katherine Coburn

**Jr. Warden:** Audrey Stone

**Deacon Emeritus:** The Rev. Thomas A. Harrington

**Organist/Choirmaster:** Malcolm McGuire

**Youth & Children's Director:** Nancy Scott

