

THE 5TH SUNDAY OF



EASTER

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

MAY 18, 2025

We Gather

Processional Hymn: #304 *I come with joy to meet my Lord* *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-280

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 11:1-18

Please be seated.

Reader: A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

Now the apostles and the believers who were in Judea heard that the Gentiles had also accepted the word of God. So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him, saying, "Why did you go to uncircumcised men and eat with them?" Then Peter began to explain it to them, step by step, saying, "I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision. There was something like a large sheet coming down from heaven, being lowered by its four corners; and it came close to me. As I looked at it closely I saw four-footed animals, beasts of prey, reptiles, and birds of the air. I also heard a voice saying to me, 'Get up, Peter; kill and eat.' But I replied, 'By no means, Lord; for nothing profane or unclean has ever entered my mouth.' But a second time the voice answered from heaven, 'What God has made clean, you must not call profane.' This happened three times; then everything was pulled up again to heaven. At that very moment three men, sent to me from Caesarea, arrived at the house where we were. The Spirit told me to go with them and not to make a distinction between them and us. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered the man's house. He told us how he had seen the angel standing in his house and saying, 'Send to Joppa and bring Simon, who is called Peter; he will give you a message by which you and your entire household will be saved.' And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as it had upon us at the beginning. And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said, 'John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.' If then God gave them the same gift that he gave us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could hinder God?"

When they heard this, they were silenced. And they praised God, saying, "Then God has given even to the Gentiles the repentance that leads to life."

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 148

Reader: Hallelujah! Praise the Lord from the heavens;

People: **praise him in the heights.**

Reader: Praise him, all you angels of his;

People: **praise him, all his host.**

Reader: Praise him, sun and moon;

People: **praise him, all you shining stars.**

Reader: Praise him, heaven of heavens,

People: **and you waters above the heavens.**

Reader: Let them praise the Name of the Lord;

People: **for he commanded, and they were created.**

Reader: He made them stand fast for ever and ever;

People: **he gave them a law which shall not pass away.**

Reader: Praise the Lord from the earth,

People: **you sea-monsters and all deeps;**

Reader: Fire and hail, snow and fog,

People: **tempestuous wind, doing his will;**

Reader: Mountains and all hills,

People: **fruit trees and all cedars;**

Reader: Wild beasts and all cattle,

People: **creeping things and winged birds;**

Reader: Kings of the earth and all peoples,

People: **princes and all rulers of the world;**

Reader: Young men and maidens,

People: **old and young together.**

Reader: Let them praise the Name of the Lord,

People: **for his Name only is exalted, his splendor is over earth and heaven.**

Reader: He has raised up strength for his people and praise for all his loyal servants,

People: **the children of Israel, a people who are near him. Hallelujah!**

Second Lesson: Revelation 21:1-6

Reader: A reading from the Revelation to John.

I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them as their God; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them; he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away."

And the one who was seated on the throne said, "See, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true." Then he said to me,

"It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life."

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Sequence Hymn: #529

In Christ there is no east or west
(verse 1-2 before, verse 3 after Gospel)

Please stand as you are able.

Gospel Reading: John 13:31-35

Please remain standing.

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

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

At the last supper, when Judas had gone out, Jesus said, "Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, 'Where I am going, you cannot come.' I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

Deacon: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Sermon: The Rev. Kenneth Orsburn

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; Diocese of Tennessee; Diocese of Upper South Carolina; The Episcopal Church in Jerusalem & The Middle East.**

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: **Sean, our Presiding Bishop; Poulson, our Bishop; Tom, our clergy; Katherine and B.J., 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: **Donald, our President; J.D., our Vice-President; Josh, our Congressman; James and 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, and Jeremy.**
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: **Ronnie, Nancy, Catheryne, Paula, Ched, Falling family, Joe, Connie, Dorothy, Marlene, Larry, Ron, Tony, Kelli, Cedric, Ricky, Sharon, Brent, Robert, Mike, Ann, 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.

Collect for the Parish and Search Process

BCP Page 817

Celebrant: Almighty and everliving God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth, hear our prayers for this parish family. Strengthen the faithful, arouse the careless, and restore the penitent. Grant us all things necessary for our common life and bring us all to be of one heart and mind, especially as we go through our search process. Guide us to the priest that you want us to have; through our Lord Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

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 Hymn: #583

O holy city, seen of John

Please remain seated.

Doxology: #380 v. 3

Please stand and sing as you are able.

We Share the Meal

Eucharistic Prayer C

Please remain standing.

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 our 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.

Communion Hymn: #321 ***My God thy table now is spread***

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.**

Please stand and sing as you are able.

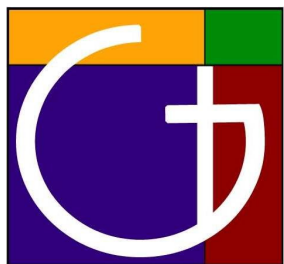
Recessional Hymn: #577

Here in Christ we gather, love of Christ our calling

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)

Sr. Warden: Katherine Coburn

Jr. Warden: B.J. Charbonneau

Deacon Emeritus: The Rev. Thomas A. Harrington

Youth & Children's Director: Nancy Scott

