



# Grace Episcopal Church

The Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 17, 2023

The Holy Eucharist: Rite II - 10:30 a.m.

## THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

### PROCESSIONAL HYMN

#### 355 OPENING ACCLAMATION AND COLLECT FOR PURITY

*Celebrant* Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

*People* **And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

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

Glory to God in the highest,  
and peace to his people on earth.

Lord God, heavenly King,  
almighty God and Father,  
we worship you, we give you thanks,  
we praise you for your glory.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,  
Lord God, Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world;

have mercy on us;  
you are seated at the right hand of the Father;  
receive our prayer.

For you alone are the Holy One,  
you alone are the Lord,  
you alone are the Most High,  
Jesus Christ,  
with the Holy Spirit,  
in the glory of God the Father. **Amen.**

### THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

O God, because without you we are not able to please you, mercifully grant that your Holy Spirit may in all things direct and rule our hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

*Lector* A reading from the Book of Genesis.

Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?" So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, 'Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.' Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves." But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones." In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

- The Word of the Lord      **Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM 103:1-13** (*Responsively, by whole verse*)

<sup>1</sup> Bless the LORD, O my soul,  
and all that is within me, bless his holy Name.

<sup>2</sup> **Bless the LORD, O my soul,  
and forget not all his benefits.**

<sup>3</sup> He forgives all your sins  
and heals all your infirmities;

<sup>4</sup> **He redeems your life from the grave and  
crowns you with mercy and loving-kindness;**

<sup>5</sup> He satisfies you with good things,  
and your youth is renewed like an eagle's.

<sup>6</sup> **The LORD executes righteousness  
and judgment for all who are oppressed.**

<sup>7</sup> He made his ways known to Moses  
and his works to the children of Israel.

<sup>8</sup> **The LORD is full of compassion and mercy,  
slow to anger and of great kindness.**

<sup>9</sup> He will not always accuse us,  
nor will he keep his anger for ever.

<sup>10</sup> **He has not dealt with us according to our  
sins, nor rewarded us according to our  
wickedness.**

<sup>11</sup> For as the heavens are high above the earth,  
so is his mercy great upon those who fear him.

<sup>12</sup> **As far as the east is from the west,  
so far has he removed our sins from us.**

<sup>13</sup> **As a father cares for his children,  
so does the LORD care for those who fear him.**

**THE EPISTLE**

*Romans 14:1-12*

*Lector* A reading from Paul's letter to the Romans.

Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God.

We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living. Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. For it is written,

"As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me,  
and every tongue shall give praise to God."

So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

- The Word of the Lord      **Thanks be to God.**

*(Please stand)*

## SEQUENCE HYMN

### THE GOSPEL

*Matthew 18:21-35*

*Celebrant*      The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.  
*People*          **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Peter came and said to Jesus, "Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

"For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, 'Pay what you owe.' Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?' And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

-- The Gospel of the Lord      *People:* **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

## SEQUENCE HYMN

*(Please be seated)*

358 THE NICENE CREED (*All Standing*)

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.

## 388 PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE FORM IV AND CONFESSION OF SIN

Let us pray for the Church and for the world. 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.  
*Silence* Lord, in your mercy *Hear our prayer.*

Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the ways of justice and peace; that we may honor one another and serve the common good.  
*Silence* Lord, in your mercy *Hear our prayer.*

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* Lord, in your mercy *Hear our prayer.*

Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, and grant that we may serve Christ in them, and love one another as he loves us.  
*Silence* Lord, in your mercy *Hear our prayer.*

Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of your salvation.  
*Silence* Lord, in your mercy *Hear our prayer.*

We commend to your mercy all who have died, that your will for them may be fulfilled; and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom.  
*Silence* Lord, in your mercy *Hear our prayer.*

We pray for all who are traveling, especially **Cameron** Klass, **Julia** Klass, and **Josey** Parker and those with special needs:

**Beattie** Logan, **Lou** Adkins, **Mark** Adkins, **Amanda** Amon, **Ella** Asebes, **David** Bankston, **Rhonda** Bralkowski, **Alice** Brandon & family, **Gayle** Burke, **Art** Burkhart, **Emily** Duquette Byers, **Lynne** Cleckley, **Joan** Clodfelter, **Linda** Clodfelter, **Morgan** Curia, **Kat** Danze, **Tracy** Davis, **Susan** Dixon, **Renee** Ewbank, **Cathy** Farley, , **Jenny** Gallen, **Shana** Garland, **Frances** Garner, **Jane** Grimes, **George** Hanna, **Rob** Hare, **Kristen** Harris, **Nancy** Hinkle, **Chris** Hodges, **Jon** Huff, **Jahiya** Huntley, **Greg** Hutchins, **Tanya** Johnson, **Lindsay** Layfield, **Cara** Lee, **Warren** MacKinstry, **Debbie** Mason, **Kate** McKenzie, **Nicholas** Melomo, **Roan** Mitchell, **Dan & Fran** Moore, **Ronnie** Moretz, **O'Lema** Morgan, **Chocolate** Myers, **Howard** Palmer, **Jerry** Peace, **Fred** Pfohl, **Gabby** Plott, **Pat** Plummer, **Libby** Robert, **Gail** Rogers, **Jacklyn** Rojas, **Lucas** Sanabria, **Suzy** Sheets, **Patty** Short, **Talmadge** Silversides, **Annabell** Smith, **Dan Griff** Smith, **Martha Ellen** Smith, **Jackie** Touchton, **Brenda** Tyndall, **Perry** Grimes Van Dyke, **Kathy** Watson, **Flynn** Williams, **Mary & Jay** Williams, **Vickie** Wolfe, **Charlotte** Young, and **John** (withheld)

“Are there others?”

Hear us, Lord; *For your mercy is great.*

*Celebrant*

O Lord our God, accept the fervent prayers of your people; in the multitude of your mercies, look with compassion upon us and all who turn to you for help; for you are gracious, O lover of souls, and to you we give glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and for ever. **Amen.**

*Celebrant* Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*Celebrant and 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.**

*Please stand if you are able*

### 360 THE PEACE

*Celebrant* The peace of the Lord be always with you.  
*People* And also with you.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

#### OFFERTORY SENTENCE

#### PRESENTATION OF GIFTS

#### 361 THE GREAT THANKSGIVING (*Eucharistic Prayer A*)

*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.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

For by water and the Holy Spirit you have made us a new people in Jesus Christ our Lord, to show forth your glory in the world.

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            Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
                          heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.  
                          Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

*The people may stand or kneel*

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:

**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.**

And now, as our Savior Christ hath taught us, we are bold to say,

364	<b>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</b>	<b>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.</b>
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#### 364 THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

*Celebrant* Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

*People* **Therefore, let us keep the feast. Alleluia!**

#### INVITATION TO HOLY COMMUNION

*Facing the people, the Celebrant may say the following Invitation*

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.

*All baptized Christians of any denomination are invited to come forward for Holy Communion at the Lord's Table.*

*You may receive both the bread and wine, or only the bread or only the wine.*

*Receiving Communion in one or both forms is sufficient sacramentally.*

*If you prefer neither bread nor wine, you also are invited to come forward and to simply cross your arms over your chest as a sign for the minister to provide you with a holy blessing of the Lord.*

#### 366 POST-COMMUNION PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

*Celebrant and People*

**Almighty and everliving God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.**

## THE BLESSING

God Almighty, bless us with the Holy Spirit; guard us in our going out and coming in; keep us ever steadfast in thy faith, free from sin and safe from danger; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## DISMISSAL HYMN

## THE DISMISSAL

*The Celebrant dismisses the people*

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

*People* **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.**

## WORSHIP LEADERS TODAY

<b>Lector:</b>	Sally Dodd
<b>Intercessor:</b>	Staley Nance
<b>Lay Eucharistic Minister:</b>	Kathie Goodman, Miles Cleckley
<b>Ushers:</b>	Tommy Black, Sims Riggan
<b>Greeter:</b>	Sandy Reynolds
<b>Acolytes:</b>	Lyndon Briggs, Anderson Carter, Merritt Carter

## WELCOME GUESTS AND NEWCOMERS!

We are delighted to have you worship with us today, and we would welcome the opportunity to get acquainted. Please sign the Guest Book in the narthex and join us immediately following the service in the courtyard (weather permitting) or in the Parish Hall (in the adjacent building) for refreshments and conversation. **Today our hosts are Sandra & Bob Husted.**

Infants and young children are always welcome to worship with their families in the sanctuary. However, we also offer a nursery in our Undercroft downstairs (basement of the church). Children may remain there the entire service or will be walked up to the sanctuary during The Peace (please let the nursery attendant know your preference).

The restrooms are located in the rear hallway, and diaper-changing stations are provided in both rooms.

**During Holy Communion**, if you are unable to receive communion at the altar rail, please notify an usher so that communion can be brought to you.

Vestry Person of the Month for September is Sally Dodd.