



Grace Episcopal Church

The Twenty-second Sunday after Pentecost

October 29, 2023

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

PRELUDE

God Himself is Present - setting by M. Burkhardt

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

PROCESSIONAL HYMN #688 *(In the Blue Hymnal)*

A mighty fortress is our God



1 A might - y for - tress is our God, a bul - wark nev - er
2 Did we in our own strength con - fide, our striv - ing would be
3 And though this world, with dev - ils filled, should threat - en to un -
4 That word a - bove all earth - ly powers, no thanks to them, a -



fail - ing; our help - er he a - mid the flood
los - ing; were not the right man on our side,
do us; we will not fear, for God hath willed
bid - eth; the Spi - rit and the gifts are ours



of mor - tal ills pre - vail - ing: for still our an - cient foe
the man of God's own choos - ing: dost ask who that may be?
his truth to tri - umph through us; the prince of dark - ness grim,
through him who with us sid - eth: let goods and kin - dred go,



doth seek to work us woe; his craft and power are great,
Christ Je - sus, it is he; Lord Sa - ba - oth his Name,
we trem - ble not for him; his rage we can en - dure,
this mor - tal life al - so; the bo - dy they may kill:



and, armed with cru - el hate, on earth is not his e - qual.
from age to age the same, and he must win the bat - tle.
for lo! his doom is sure, one lit - tle word shall fell him.
God's truth a - bid - eth still, his king - dom is for ev - er.

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 (*Hymnal S280, front section of hymnal, sung by all*)

*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.

Almighty and everlasting God, increase in us the gifts of faith, hope, and charity; and, that we may obtain what you promise, make us love what you command; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

THE FIRST LESSON

Leviticus 19:1-2, 15-18

Lector A reading from the Book of Leviticus.

The LORD spoke to Moses, saying:

Speak to all the congregation of the people of Israel and say to them: You shall be holy, for I the LORD your God am holy.

You shall not render an unjust judgment; you shall not be partial to the poor or defer to the great: with justice you shall judge your neighbor. You shall not go around as a slanderer among your people, and you shall not profit by the blood of your neighbor: I am the LORD.

You shall not hate in your heart anyone of your kin; you shall reprove your neighbor, or you will incur guilt yourself. You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against any of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the LORD.

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

PSALM 1 (*Responsively, by whole verse*)

¹ Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel of the wicked,
nor lingered in the way of sinners,
nor sat in the seats of the scornful!

² **Their delight is in the law of the LORD,
and they meditate on his law day and night.**

³ They are like trees planted by streams of water,
bearing fruit in due season, with leaves that do not wither;
everything they do shall prosper.

⁴ **It is not so with the wicked;
they are like chaff which the wind blows away.**

⁵ Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when judgment comes,
nor the sinner in the council of the righteous.

⁶ **For the LORD knows the way of the righteous,
but the way of the wicked is doomed.**

THE EPISTLE

1 Thessalonians 2:1-8

Lector A reading from Paul's first letter to the Thessalonians.

You yourselves know, brothers and sisters, that our coming to you was not in vain, but though we had already suffered and been shamefully mistreated at Philippi, as you know, we had courage in our God to declare to you the gospel of God in spite of great opposition. For our appeal does not spring from deceit or impure motives or trickery, but just as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the message of the gospel, even so we speak, not to please mortals, but to please God who tests our hearts. As you know and as God is our witness, we never came with words of flattery or with a pretext for greed; nor did we seek praise from mortals, whether from you or from others, though we might have made demands as apostles of Christ. But we were gentle among you, like a nurse tenderly caring for her own children. So deeply do we care for you that we are determined to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you have become very dear to us.

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

(Please stand)

Chorus

Je - su, Je - su, fill us with your love, show
us how to serve the neigh - bors we have from you.

1 Kneels at the feet of his friends, si - lent - ly wash - es their
2 Neigh - bors are rich and poor, neigh - bors are black and
3 These are the ones we should serve, these are the ones we should
4 Lov - ing puts us on our knees, serv - ing as though we were

Repeat Chorus
feet, Mas - ter who acts as a slave to them.
white, neigh - bors are near - by and far a - way.
love. All are neigh - bors to us and you.
slaves; this is the way we should live with you.

THE GOSPEL

Matthew 22:34-46

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

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

When the Pharisees heard that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, and one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. "Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?" He said to him, "'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets."

Now while the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them this question: "What do you think of the Messiah? Whose son is he?" They said to him, "The son of David." He said to them, "How is it then that David by the Spirit calls him Lord, saying,

'The Lord said to my Lord,

"Sit at my right hand, until I put your enemies under your feet"?"

If David thus calls him Lord, how can he be his son?" No one was able to give him an answer, nor from that day did anyone dare to ask him any more questions.

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

SEQUENCE HYMN #602 (v. 4)

Jesu, Jesu, fill us with your love

(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:

Lou Adkins, **Mark** Adkins, **Amanda** Amon, **Ella** Asebes, **David** Bankston, **Rhonda** Bralkowski, **Alice** Brandon & family, **Gayle** Burke, **Art** Burkhardt, **Emily** Duquette Byers, **Lynne** Cleckley, **John** Clippard, **Joan** Clodfelter, **Linda** Clodfelter, **Morgan** Curia, **Tracy** Davis, **Susan** Dixon, **Renee** Ewbank, **Cathy** Farley, **Jenny** Gallen, **Shana** Garland, **Jane** Grimes, **George** Hanna, **Rob** Hare, **Kristen** Harris, **Nancy** Hinkle, **Chris** Hodges, **Jon** Huff, **Jahiya** Huntley, **Greg** Hutchins, **Tanya** Johnson, **Chris** Kearley, **Lindsay** Layfield, **Cara** Lee, **Beattie** Logan, **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, and **Charlotte** Young.

“Are there others?”

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

Celebrant

Almighty and eternal God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth: Mercifully accept the prayers of your people, and strengthen us to do your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **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

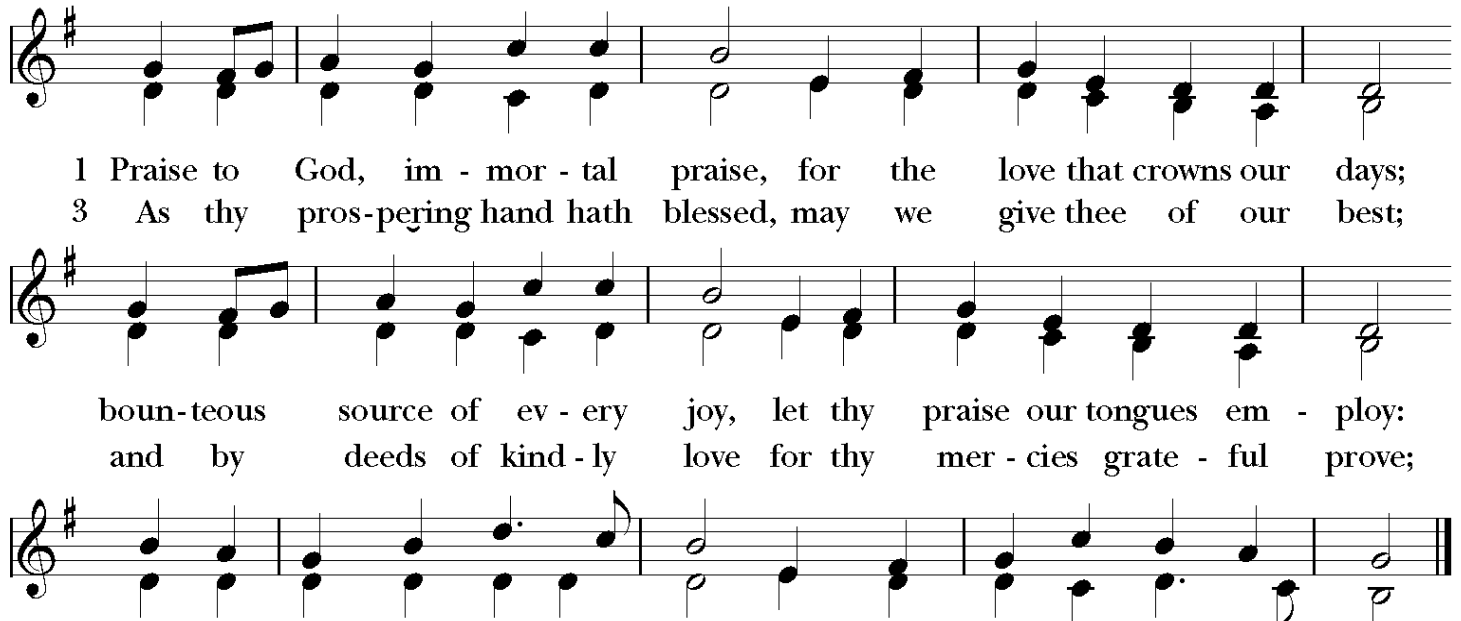
THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

OFFERTORY SENTENCE

OFFERTORY VOLUNTARY

Consecrated, Lord, to Thee - D. Wagner

PRESENTATION OF GIFTS #288 (vv. 1-3) *(The offering is brought forth while the hymn is being sung)*



1 Praise to God, im - mor - tal praise, for the love that crowns our days;
3 As thy pros-pering hand hath blessed, may we give thee of our best;
boun-teous source of ev - ery joy, let thy praise our tongues em - ploy:
and by deeds of kind - ly love for thy mer - cies grate - ful prove;
all to thee, our God, we owe, source whence all our bless - ings flow.
sing - ing thus through all our days praise to God, im - mor - tal praise.

361 THE GREAT THANKSGIVING *(Eucharistic Prayer B)*

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.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord; who on the first day of the week overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of 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 (*sung by all*) (*From Wonder, Love, and Praise*)

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

The people may stand or kneel

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, 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, according to his command, O Father,

We remember his death, We proclaim his resurrection, We await his coming in glory;

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

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 has taught us, we are bold to say,

364 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.
---	---

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

The blessing of the Lord rest and remain on all his people, in every land and of every tongue. The Lord meet in mercy all who seek him. The Lord comfort all who suffer and mourn. The Lord hasten his coming, and give us and all his people peace by all means. **Amen.**

DISMISSAL HYMN #680 (vv. 1-4, 6) *(In the Blue Hymnal)*

O God, our help in ages past



1 O God, our help in a - ges past, our hope for years to come,
2 un - der the sha - dow of thy throne thy saints have dwelt se - cure;
3 Be - fore the hills in or - der stood, or earth re - ceived her frame,
4 A thou - sand a - ges in thy sight are like an eve - ning gone;
6 O God, our help in a - ges past, our hope for years to come,

1 our shel - ter from the storm - y blast, and our e - ter - nal home:
2 suf - fi - cient is thine arm a - lone, and our de - fense is sure.
3 from ev - er - last - ing thou art God, to end - less years the same.
4 short as the watch that ends the night be - fore the ris - ing sun.
6 be thou our guide while life shall last, and our e - ter - nal home:

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.**

POSTLUDE

A Mighty Fortress - setting by M. Leavitt

*The flowers on the altar today are given to the glory of God
by Thompson, Kristie, Austin, and Will Miller
in loving memory of Daniel Griffith Smith.*

WORSHIP LEADERS TODAY

Lector:	Tere Wagner
Intercessor:	Elizabeth Purdy
Lay Eucharistic Minister:	Karl Bolstad, Kathie Goodman
Ushers:	Joe Wallace, Richard Wolfe
Greeter:	Mary-Cameron Welborn
Acolytes:	Lyndon Briggs Jack Briggs Fisher Welborn

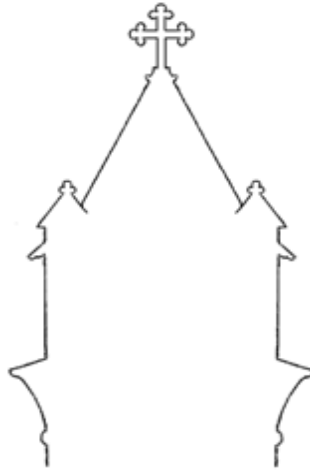
WELCOME GUESTS AND NEWCOMERS!

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 Leslie and Logan Sheets.**

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.



GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

419 S. Main Street
Lexington, North Carolina 27292-3234
phone: 336-249-7211

email: gracechurch@gracelexingtonnc.org
www.gracelexingtonnc.org



The Most Reverend Michael Curry, Presiding Bishop
The Right Reverend Samuel Rodman, Diocesan Bishop
The Right Reverend Jennifer Brooke-Davidson, Assistant Bishop
The Reverend Edward T. Kelaher, Rector
Joan Clodfelter, Minister of Music
Kathy Johnson, Christian Education Director
Maureen Tincher, Parish Administrator
John Taylor, Facilities Manager

THE VESTRY

2024

Lynn Meeks Treasurer
Sandy Reynolds Asst. Clerk
Logan Sheets
Susan Terrell

2025

Wes Allred Sr. Warden
Thompson Miller Asst. Treasurer
Marjorie Parker Jr. Warden
Marilyn Taylor

2026

Karl Bolstad
Bright Carter
Sally Dodd Clerk
Henry Duquette Asst. Jr. Warden

Vestry Person of the Month for October is Henry Duquette.