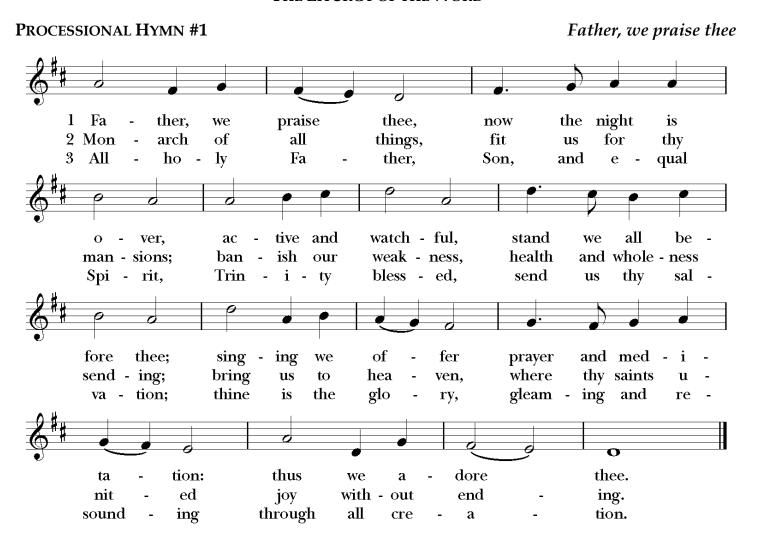


Grace Episcopal Church

The Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost September 8, 2024 The Holy Eucharist: Rite II 10:30 a.m.

Prelude Voluntary - M. Greene

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD



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

(Sung by All)

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THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant The Lord be with you.People And also with you.

Celebrant Let us pray.

Grant us, O Lord, to trust in you with all our hearts; for, as you always resist the proud who confide in their own strength, so you never forsake those who make their boast of your mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE FIRST LESSON Isaiah 35:4-7a

Lector A reading from the Prophet Isaiah.

Say to those who are of a fearful heart, 'Be strong, do not fear!

Here is your God.

He will come with vengeance,

with terrible recompense.

He will come and save you.'

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped;

then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.

For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert;

the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water;

- The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 146 (Responsively by whole verse)

¹ Hallelujah! Praise the Lord, O my soul! I will praise the Lord as long as I live; I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.

- ² Put not your trust in rulers, nor in any child of earth, for there is no help in them.
- ³ When they breathe their last, they return to earth, and in that day their thoughts perish.
- ⁴ Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help! whose hope is in the Lord their God;
- ⁵ Who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them; who keeps his promise for ever;

- ⁶ Who gives justice to those who are oppressed, and food to those who hunger.
- ⁷The Lord sets the prisoners free; the Lord opens the eyes of the blind; the Lord lifts up those who are bowed down;
- 8 The Lord loves the righteous; the Lord cares for the stranger; he sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way of the wicked.
- The Lord shall reign for ever,
 your God, O Zion, throughout all
 generations.
 Hallelujah!

THE EPISTLE James 2:1-17

Lector A reading from the letter of James.

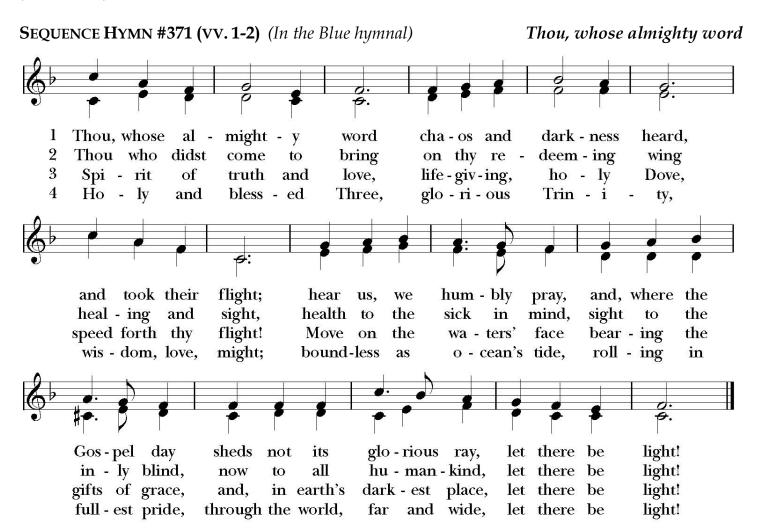
My brothers and sisters, do you with your acts of favoritism really believe in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ? For if a person with gold rings and in fine clothes comes into your assembly, and if a poor person in dirty clothes also comes in, and if you take notice of the one wearing the fine clothes and say, "Have a seat here, please," while to the one who is poor you say, "Stand there," or, "Sit at my feet," have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts? Listen, my beloved brothers and sisters. Has not God chosen the poor in the world to be rich in faith and to be heirs of the kingdom that he has promised to those who love him? But you have dishonored the poor. Is it not the rich who oppress you? Is it not they who drag you into court? Is it not they who blaspheme the excellent name that was invoked over you?

You do well if you really fulfill the royal law according to the scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." But if you show partiality, you commit sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it. For the one who said, "You shall not commit adultery," also said, "You shall not murder." Now if you do not commit adultery but if you murder, you have become a transgressor of the law. So speak and so act as those who are to be judged by the law of liberty. For judgment will be without mercy to anyone who has shown no mercy; mercy triumphs over judgment.

What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, and one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill," and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.

- The Word of the Lord Thanks be to God.

(Please stand)



THE GOSPEL Mark 7:24-37

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

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus set out and went away to the region of Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know he was there. Yet he could not escape notice, but a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit immediately heard about him, and she came and bowed down at his feet. Now the woman was a Gentile, of Syrophoenician origin. She begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter. He said to her, "Let the children be fed first, for it is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." But she answered him, "Sir, even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs." Then he said to her, "For saying that, you may go — the demon has left your daughter." So she went home, found the child lying on the bed, and the demon gone.

Then he returned from the region of Tyre, and went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis. They brought to him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they begged him to lay his hand on him. He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spat and touched his tongue. Then looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, "Ephphatha," that is, "Be opened." And immediately his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. Then Jesus ordered them to tell no one; but the more he ordered them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. They were astounded beyond measure, saying, "He has done everything well; he even makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak."

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

SEQUENCE HYMN #371 (VV. 3-4) (*In the Blue hymnal*)

Thou, whose almighty word

(Please be seated)

THE HOMILY The Rev. Edward Kelaher

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.

in accordance with the Scriptures;

On the third day he rose again

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

We look for the resurrection of the dead,

and the life of the world to come. Amen.

he ascended into heaven and is

forgiveness of sins.

387 PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE FORM III AND CONFESSION OF SIN

The Leader and People pray responsively

Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church; *That we all may be one.*

Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you; *That your Name may be glorified by all people.*

We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons;

That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.

We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world; *That there may be justice and peace on the earth.*

Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake; *That our works may find favor in your sight.*

Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble; *That they may be delivered from their distress.*

Give to the departed eternal rest;

Let light perpetual shine upon them.

We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy; May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others. Silence

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

Chris Hunter, Becky Lendahl, Lou Adkins, Mark Adkins, Amanda Amon, Ella Asebes, Paul Batson, Sissy Bolstad, Alice Brandon & family, Susan Branscomb, Lynne Broch, Gayle Burke, Seraphina Byers, Jean Campbell, Lynne Cleckley, John Clippard, Joan Clodfelter, Tom Cook, Morgan Curia, Dan DiRenzo, Susan Dixon, Kim Dube, Renee Ewbank, Jenny Gallen, Shana Garland, Jane Grimes, Jim Hackney, George Hanna, Rob Hare, Kristen Harris, Nancy Hinkle, Chris Hodges, Jahiya Huntley, Nancy Hutchins, Alisa Johnson, Andrew Jones, Chris Kearley, Brian Kent, Cara Lee, Warren MacKinstry, Liz Marr, Debbie Mason, Martha & Drew Mayse, Kate McKenzie, Charles McNeair, Phil Mickey, Roan Mitchell, Dan & Fran Moore, Chocolate Myers, Howard Palmer, Fred Pfohl, Thomas Pierce, Gabby Plott, Jacklyn Rojas, Melissa Routh, Christine Ryals, Lucas Sanabria, Lynn Santolla, Suzy Sheets, Patty Short, Talmadge Silversides, Robin Sink, Clyde Smith, Martha Ellen Smith, Vaughan Spencer, Dennis Terrell, Jackie Touchton, Brenda Tyndall, Perry Grimes Van Dyke, Flynn Williams, Mary & Jay Williams, Paul Wylie, and Charlotte Young.

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.

[&]quot;Are there others?" Hear us, Lord; For your mercy is great.

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 I Can See (On the Emmaus Road) - G. Gather/D. Meece

Neil Shepherd, Tenor

PRESENTATION OF GIFTS DOXOLOGY

-Lasst uns erfreuen

Praise God from whom all blessings flow.
Praise Him, all creatures here below.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host.
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Alleluia! Alleluia!

361 THE GREAT THANKSGIVING (Eucharistic Prayer A)

CelebrantThe Lord be with you.PeopleAnd also with you.CelebrantLift 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 #S127 (Front section of Blue Hymnal - Sung by All)



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,

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.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Celebrant Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

People Therefore, let us keep the feast. Alleluia!

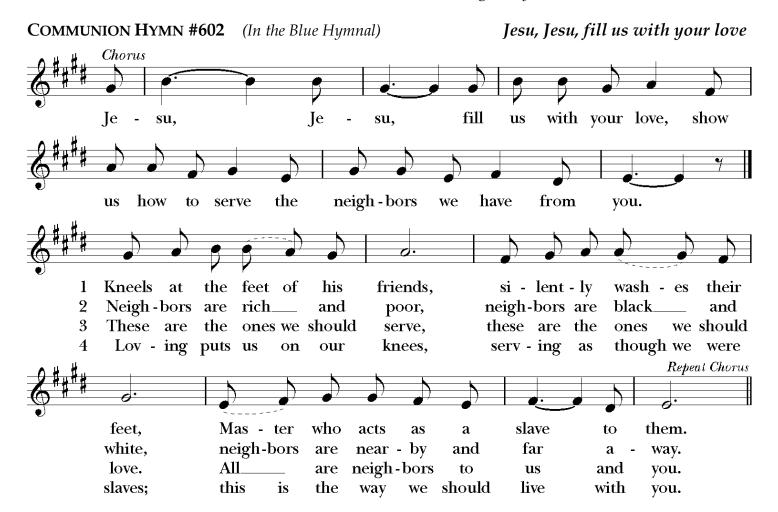
INVITATION TO HOLY COMMUNION

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 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.

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.



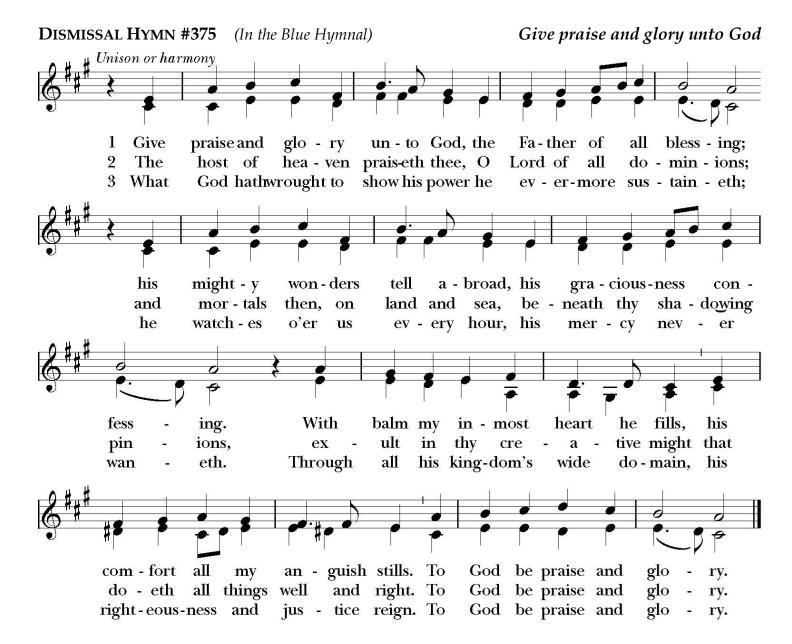
365 POST-COMMUNION PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

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.

THE BLESSING

The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God almighty, \maltese the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**



THE DISMISSAL

Celebrant Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia!

People Thanks be to God! Alleluia, Alleluia!

POSTLUDE

Organ Voluntary in C Major - A. Kehrer

The flowers at the altar today are given to the glory of God by Chris & Mike Hodges in honor of our Grace Church family.

WORSHIP LEADERS TODAY

Lector: Karl Bolstad Intercessor: Melissa Helms

Lay Eucharistic Ministers: Mary Matthews Ushers: Bill Gilleland

Pam Harvey Richie Wiederhold

Acolytes: Anderson Carter **Greeter:** Mary-Cameron Welborn

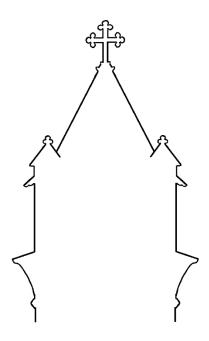
Tanner Sheets Merritt Carter

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 Undercroft (downstairs) for refreshments and conversation.

Infants and young children are always welcome to worship with their families in the sanctuary. 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 Reverend Edward T. Kelaher, Rector Bill Herndon, Organist and Choir Director Joan Clodfelter, Minister of Music Emerita Kathy Johnson, Christian Education Director Maureen Tincher, Parish Administrator John Taylor, Facilities Manager



THE VESTRY

| 2025 | 2026 | 2027 |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------|
| Wes Allred Sr. Warden | Karl Bolstad | Dan Briggs |
| Thompson Miller Asst. Treasurer | Bright Carter | Melissa Helms |
| Marjorie Parker Jr. Warden | Sally Dodd clerk | Mary Matthews |
| Marilyn Taylor | Henry Duquette Asst. Jr. Warden | Leslie Sheets |
| Lynn Meeks Treasurer (Ex-Officio) | - | |

The Vestry Person of the Month for September is Melissa Helms.