

# Grace Episcopal Church The Second Sunday in Lent March 16, 2025 The Holy Eucharist: Rite I 10:30 a.m.



**PRELUDE** 

Prelude in C Major – A. Kehrer Prelude in G Major – L. Mourian

#### THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

PROCESSIONAL HYMN #598 (In the Blue Hymnal) Lord, Christ, when first thou cam'st to earth



#### 323 OPENING SENTENCES

Celebrant Bless the Lord who forgiveth all our sins;

*People* His mercy endureth for ever.

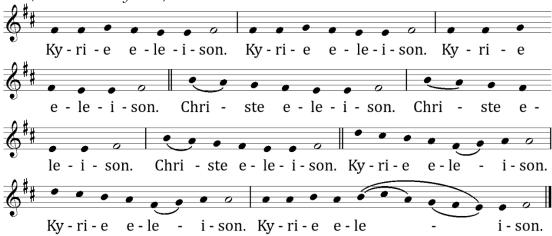
The Celebrant says

Almighty God, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love thee, and worthily magnify thy holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.** 

Hear what our Lord Jesus Christ saith:

Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it: Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.

**KYRIE #S86** (*In the Blue Hymnal*)



#### THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant The Lord be with you. **People** And with thy spirit

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

O God, whose glory it is always to have mercy: Be gracious to all who have gone astray from your ways, and bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of your Word, Jesus Christ your Son; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.** 

#### A READING FROM THE OLD TESTAMENT

Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18

*Lector* A Reading from the Book of Genesis.

The word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision, "Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great." But Abram said, "O Lord God, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" And Abram said, "You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir." But the word of the Lord came to him, "This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir." He brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your descendants be." And he believed the Lord; and the Lord reckoned it to him as righteousness.

Then he said to him, "I am the Lord who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to possess." But he said, "O Lord God, how am I to know that I shall possess it?" He said to him, "Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtledove, and a young pigeon." He brought him all these and cut them in two, laying each half over against the other; but he did not cut the birds in two. And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away.

As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram, and a deep and terrifying darkness descended upon him.

When the sun had gone down and it was dark, a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces. On that day the Lord made a covenant with Abram, saying, "To your descendants I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates."

- The Word of the Lord

#### Thanks be to God.

### **PSALM 27** (responsively by whole verse)

- <sup>1</sup> The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom then shall I fear? the Lord is the strength of my life; of whom then shall I be afraid?
- <sup>2</sup> When evildoers came upon me to eat up my flesh, it was they, my foes and my adversaries, who stumbled and fell.
- <sup>3</sup> Though an army should encamp against me, yet my heart shall not be afraid;
- <sup>4</sup> And though war should rise up against me, yet will I put my trust in him.
- <sup>5</sup> One thing have I asked of the Lord; one thing I seek; that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life;
- <sup>6</sup> To behold the fair beauty of the Lord and to seek him in his temple.
- <sup>7</sup> For in the day of trouble he shall keep me safe in his shelter; he shall hide me in the secrecy of his dwelling and set me high upon a rock.
- <sup>8</sup> Even now he lifts up my head above my enemies round about me.
- <sup>9</sup> Therefore I will offer in his dwelling an oblation with sounds of great gladness; I will sing and make music to the Lord.

- <sup>10</sup> Hearken to my voice, O Lord, when I call; have mercy on me and answer me.
- <sup>11</sup> You speak in my heart and say, "Seek my face." Your face, Lord, will I seek.
- <sup>12</sup> Hide not your face from me, nor turn away your servant in displeasure.
- <sup>13</sup> You have been my helper; cast me not away; do not forsake me, O God of my salvation.
- <sup>14</sup> Though my father and my mother forsake me, the Lord will sustain me.
- <sup>15</sup> Show me your way, O Lord; lead me on a level path, because of my enemies.
- <sup>16</sup> Deliver me not into the hand of my adversaries,

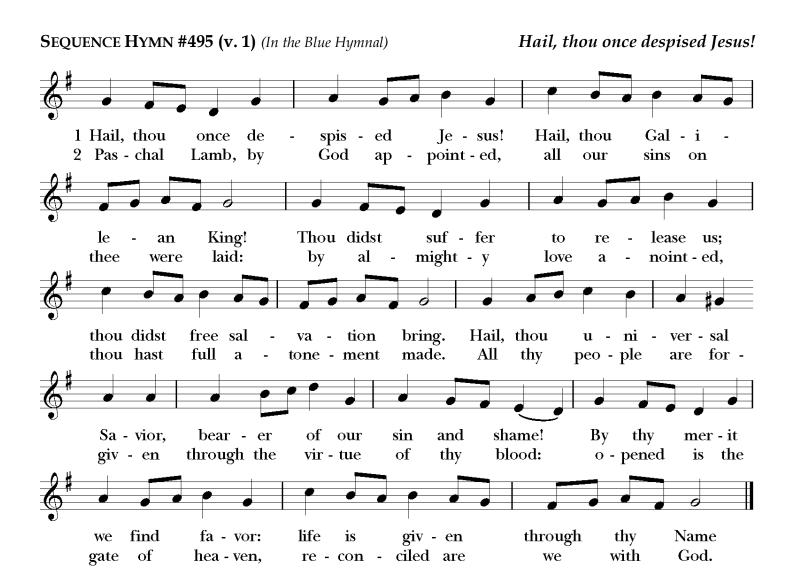
for false witnesses have risen up against me, and also those who speak malice.

- <sup>17</sup> What if I had not believed that I should see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living!
- <sup>18</sup> O tarry and await the Lord's pleasure; be strong, and he shall comfort your heart; wait patiently for the Lord.

*Lector* A Reading from Paul's letter to the Philippians.

Brothers and sisters, join in imitating me, and observe those who live according to the example you have in us. For many live as enemies of the cross of Christ; I have often told you of them, and now I tell you even with tears. Their end is destruction; their god is the belly; and their glory is in their shame; their minds are set on earthly things. But our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. He will transform the body of our humiliation that it may be conformed to the body of his glory, by the power that also enables him to make all things subject to himself. Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

- The Word of the Lord Thanks be to God.



THE GOSPEL Luke 13:31-55

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

People Glory be to thee, O Lord.

Some Pharisees came and said to Jesus, "Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you." He said to them, "Go and tell that fox for me, 'Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work. Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed outside of Jerusalem.' Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, 'Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.'"

-- The Gospel of the Lord People Praise be to thee, O Christ

**SEQUENCE HYMN #495 (v. 2)** (*In the Blue Hymnal*)

Hail, thou once despised Jesus!

**HOMILY** 

The Reverend Edward Kelaher

#### 326 THE NICENE CREED

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.

#### 328 Prayers of the People

Let us pray for the whole state of Christ's Church and the world.

Almighty and everliving God, who in thy holy Word hast taught us to make prayers, and supplications, and to give thanks for all men: Receive these our prayers which we offer unto thy divine Majesty, beseeching thee to inspire continually the Universal Church with the spirit of truth, unity, and concord; and grant that all those who do confess thy holy Name may agree in the truth of thy holy Word, and live in unity and godly love.

Give grace, O heavenly Father, to all bishops and other Ministers, especially Sean, our Presiding Bishop, Samuel and Jennifer our bishops, and Ed our priest, that they may, both by their life and doctrine, set forth thy true and lively Word, and rightly and duly administer thy holy Sacraments.

Lord in Your mercy

Hear our prayer

And to all thy people give thy heavenly grace, and especially to this congregation here present; that, with meek heart and due reverence, they may hear and receive thy holy Word, truly serving thee in holiness and righteousness all the days of their life.

Lord in Your mercy Hear our prayer

We beseech thee also so to rule the hearts of those who bear the authority of government in this and every land especially Donald, our President, Josh our Governor, and Jason our mayor and John and Tommy our Councilmen, that they may be led to wise decisions and right actions for the welfare and peace of the world.

Lord in Your mercy

Hear our prayer

Open, O Lord, the eyes of all people to behold thy gracious hand in all thy works, that, rejoicing in thy whole creation, they may honor thee with their substance, and be faithful stewards of thy bounty.

Lord in Your mercy

Hear our prayer

And we most humbly beseech thee, of thy goodness, O Lord, to comfort and succor all those who, in this transitory life, are in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness, or any other adversity.

We pray for all who are traveling, especially **Cameron** Klass, **Julia** Klass, **Josey** Parker, and **Ashley & Cody** Strahm,

and those with special needs:

Angie Gowen, Baylee Brown, Roy Deese, Lou Adkins, Mark Adkins, Ella Asebes, Paul Batson, Louise Billings, Sissy Bolstad, Mike Bralkowski, Alice Brandon & family, Susan Branscomb, Lynne Broch, Gayle Burke, Seraphina Byers, Lynne Cleckley, Joan Clodfelter, Tom Cook, Morgan Curia, Susan Dixon, Kim Dube, Renee Ewbank, Jenny Gallen, Shana Garland, James Giles, Earnest Graham, Jane Grimes, Jim Hackney, George Hanna, Carol Harris, Nancy Hinkle, Chris Hodges, Brittany Hudson, Nancy Hutchins, Alisa Johnson, Vickie & Mike Johnson, Andrew Jones, David Jones, Brian Kent, Cara Lee, Warren MacKinstry, Debbie Mason, Kate McKenzie, Charles McNeair, Dan & Fran Moore, Cheri Morris, Howard Palmer, Walker Peoples, Gabby Plott, Ellen Rickert, Jacklyn Rojas, Melissa Routh, Christine Ryals, Lucas Sanabria, Lynn Santolla, Suzy Sheets, Elizabeth Shuman, Talmadge Silversides, Morgan Simmons, Clyde Smith, Martha Ellen Smith, Sharon Smith, Sean Sullivan, Jackie Touchton, Brenda Tyndall, Perry Grimes Van Dyke, Sandy Wallace, Flynn Williams, Paul Wylie, and Charlotte Young.

"Are there others?" Lord in Your mercy Hear our prayer

And we also bless thy holy Name for all thy servants departed this life in thy faith and fear, beseeching thee to grant them continual growth in thy love and service; and to grant us grace so to follow the good examples of all thy saints, that with them we may be partakers of thy heavenly kingdom.

Grant these our prayers, O Father, for Jesus Christ's sake, our only Mediator and Advocate. Amen.

## 331 CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION OF SINS

Let us humbly confess our sins until Almighty God.

Minister and People

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against thee

in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved thee with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of thy Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in thy will, and walk in thy ways, to the glory of thy Name. Amen.

The Bishop when present, or the Priest, stands and says

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who of his great mercy hath promised forgiveness of sins to all those who with hearty repentance and true faith turn unto him, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and bring you to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.** 

#### 332 THE PEACE

*Celebrant* The peace of Christ be always with you.

People And with thy spirit.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS** 

#### THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

**OFFERTORY SENTENCE** 

OFFERTORY VOLUNTARY

**PRESENTATION OF GIFTS** The offering is brought forward as the hymn is played.

**PRESENTATION OF GIFTS DOXOLOGY #705 (V. 3)** (In the Blue Hymnal)

With gratitude and humble trust
we bring our best to thee
to serve thy cause and share thy love
with all humanity.
O thou who gavest us thyself
in Jesus Christ thy Son,
help us to give ourselves each day
until life's work is done.

# 333 THE GREAT THANKSGIVING (Eucharistic Prayer I)

Celebrant The Lord be with you.People And with thy spirit.Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

*People* We lift them up unto the Lord.

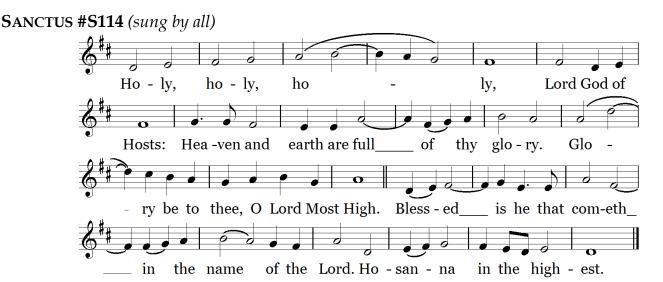
Celebrant Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.

*People* It is meet and right so to do.

It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto thee, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord, who was in every way tempted as we are, yet did not sin; by whose grace we are able to triumph over every evil, and to live no longer unto ourselves, but unto him who died for us and rose again.

Therefore with Angels and Archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious Name; evermore praising thee, and singing,



The People may stand or kneel. The Celebrant continues.

All glory be to thee, Almighty God, our heavenly Father, for that thou, of thy tender mercy, didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption; who made there, by his one oblation of himself once offered, a full, perfect, and sufficient sacrifice, oblation, and satisfaction, for the sins of the whole world; and did institute, and in his holy Gospel command us to continue, a perpetual memory of that his precious death and sacrifice, until his coming again.

For in the night in which he was betrayed, he took bread; and when he had given thanks, he brake it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take, eat, this is my Body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Likewise, after supper, he took the cup; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink ye all of this; for this is my Blood of the New Testament, which is shed for you, and for many, for the remission of sins. Do this, as oft as ye shall drink it, in remembrance of me."

Wherefore, O Lord and heavenly Father, according to the institution of thy dearly beloved Son our Savior Jesus Christ, we, thy humble servants, do celebrate and make here before thy divine Majesty, with these thy holy gifts, which we now offer unto thee, the memorial thy Son hath commanded us to make; having in remembrance his blessed passion and precious death, his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension; rendering unto thee most hearty thanks for the innumerable benefits procured unto us by the same.

And we most humbly beseech thee, O merciful Father, to hear us; and, of thy almighty goodness, vouchsafe to bless and sanctify, with thy Word and Holy Spirit, these thy gifts and creatures of bread and wine; that we, receiving them according to thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ's holy institution, in remembrance of his death and passion, may be partakers of his most blessed Body and Blood.

And we earnestly desire thy fatherly goodness mercifully to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving; most humbly beseeching thee to grant that, by the merits and death of thy Son Jesus Christ, and through faith in his blood, we, and all thy whole Church, may obtain remission of our sins, and all other benefits of his passion.

And here we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, ourselves, our souls and bodies, to be a reasonable, holy, and living sacrifice unto thee; humbly beseeching thee that we, and all others who shall be partakers of this Holy Communion, may worthily receive the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son Jesus Christ, be filled with thy grace and heavenly benediction, and made one body with him, that he may dwell in us, and we in him.

And although we are unworthy, through our manifold sins, to offer unto thee any sacrifice, yet we beseech thee to accept this our bounden duty and service, not weighing our merits, but pardoning our offenses, through Jesus Christ our Lord; By whom, and with whom, in the unity of the Holy Ghost, all honor and glory be unto thee, O Father Almighty, world without end. **AMEN.** 

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

336 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 Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

*People* Therefore let us keep the feast.

# FRACTION ANTHEM #S158 (In the Blue Hymnal)

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us.

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us.

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, grant us thy peace.

#### PRAYER OF HUMBLE ACCESS

The following prayer may be said. The People may join in saying this prayer

We do not presume to come to this thy Table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in thy manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under thy Table. But thou art the same Lord whose property is always to have mercy. Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of thy dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.

#### 338 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.

#### <sup>339</sup> Post-Communion Prayer of Thanksgiving

Almighty and everliving God, we most heartily thank thee for that thou dost feed us, in these holy mysteries, with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and dost assure us thereby of thy favor and goodness towards us; and that we are very members incorporate in the mystical body of thy Son, the blessed company of all faithful people; and are also heirs, through hope, of thy everlasting kingdom. And we humbly beseech thee, O heavenly Father, so to assist us with thy grace, that we may continue in that holy fellowship, and do all such good works as thou hast prepared for us to walk in; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honor and glory, world without end. Amen.

#### THE BLESSING

And now may the peace of God, which passeth 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, ‡ the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, be amongst you, and remain with you always. **Amen.** 



#### THE DISMISSAL

Celebrant Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People Thanks be to God.

# **POSTLUDE**

### WORSHIP LEADERS TODAY

Lector:Kristi AllredGreeter:Frances GarnerIntercessor:Staley NanceAcolytes:Hadley BriggsUshers:Richie Wiederhold, Tommy BlackTucker SheetsLEM:Staley Nance, Karl BolstadChandler Allred

# **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 Parish Hall (in the adjacent building) for refreshments and conversation. **Today our host is the Parish Life Commission.** 

Infants and young children are always welcome to worship with their families in the sanctuary. However, we also offer a nursery in our Parish Hall (adjacent building). Children will be walked up to the sanctuary during The Peace.

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**

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

The Reverend Edward T. Kelaher, Rector Bill Herndon, Organist and Choir Director Kathy Johnson, Christian Education Director Maureen Tincher, Parish Administrator John Taylor, Facilities Manager Joan Clodfelter, Minister of Music Emerita



### THE VESTRY

2026	2027	2028
Karl Bolstad	Dan Briggs	Kristi Allred
Bright Carter	Elizabeth Purdy	Lynn Meeks Treasurer
Sally Dodd	Mary Matthews Clerk of Vestry	Neil Shepherd
Henry Duquette Junior Warden	Leslie Sheets Senior Warden	Chuck Taylor

Vestry Person of the Month for March is Mary Matthews.