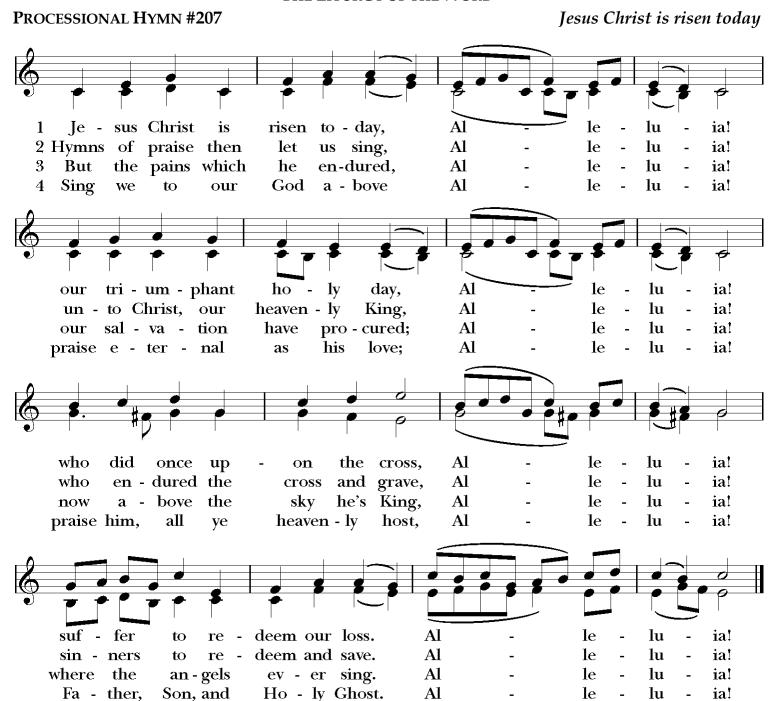


Grace Episcopal Church

Easter Day April 20, 2025 Holy Eucharist, Rite II 10:30 a.m. Overture *from Music for the Royal Fireworks* – G. F. Handel Hornpipe *from the Water Music* -Arrival of the Queen -

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD



355 OPENING ACCLAMATION AND COLLECT FOR PURITY

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ is risen!

People The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!

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.**



THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Almighty God, who through your only-begotten Son Jesus Christ overcame death and opened to us the gate of everlasting life: Grant that we, who celebrate with joy the day of the Lord's resurrection, may be raised from the death of sin by your life-giving Spirit; 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 Acts 10:34-43

Lector A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

Peter began to speak to Cornelius and the other Gentiles: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ--he is Lord of all. That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

PSALM 118:1-2, 14-24 (responsively by whole verse)

- ¹ Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his mercy endures for ever.
- Let Israel now proclaim,"His mercy endures for ever."
- ¹⁴ The LORD is my strength and my song, and he has become my salvation.
- ¹⁵ There is a sound of exultation and victory in the tents of the righteous:
- ¹⁶ "The right hand of the LORD has triumphed! the right hand of the LORD is exalted! the right hand of the LORD has triumphed!"
- ¹⁷ I shall not die, but live, and declare the works of the LORD.
- ¹⁸ The LORD has punished me sorely, but he did not hand me over to death.

- ¹⁹ Open for me the gates of righteousness;I will enter them;I will offer thanks to the LORD.
- ²⁰ "This is the gate of the LORD; he who is righteous may enter."
- ²¹ I will give thanks to you, for you answered me and have become my salvation.
- ²² The same stone which the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.
- ²³ This is the LORD's doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes.
- ²⁴ On this day the LORD has acted; we will rejoice and be glad in it.

THE EPISTLE 1 Corinthians 15:19-26

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

If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied.

But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died. For since death came through a human being, the resurrection of the dead has also come through a human being; for as all die in Adam, so all will be made alive in Christ. But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. Then comes the end, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father, after he has destroyed every ruler and every authority and power. For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. The last enemy to be destroyed is death.

- The Word of the Lord. All: Thanks be to God.



THE GOSPEL John 20:1-18

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

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him." Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, and the cloth that had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. Then the disciples returned to their homes.

But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. They said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him." When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?" Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away." Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to him in Hebrew, "Rabbouni!" (which means Teacher). Jesus said to her, "Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'" Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord"; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

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

SEQUENCE HYMN #208 (vv. 4-5)

The strife is o'er

THE SERMON

The Reverend Ed Kelaher, Rector

358 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.

392 PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE (FORM VI)

The Leader and People pray responsively

In peace, we pray to you, Lord God.

Silence

For all people in their daily life and work;

For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.

For this community, the nation, and the world; we pray for Donald our President, Josh our Governor, Jason our Mayor, and John and Tommy our Councilmen;

For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.

For the just and proper use of your creation;

For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.

For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;

For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.

For the peace and unity of the Church of God;

For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.

For Sean our Presiding Bishop, Samuel and Jennifer our Bishops; and Ed our Priest; and all other bishops and ministers;

For all who serve God in his Church.

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

Diana Landschoot, Joshua Sheffield, Lou Adkins, Mark Adkins, Ella Asebes, Paul Batson, Jeannie Belk, Louise Billings, Sissy Bolstad, Mike Bralkowski, Alice Brandon & family, Susan Branscomb, Lynne Broch, Baylee Brown, Gayle Burke, Seraphina Byers, Lynne Cleckley, Joan Clodfelter, Morgan Curia, Becky Jo Davis, Roy Deese, Susan Dixon, Kim Dube, Renee Ewbank, Jenny Gallen, Shana Garland, James Giles, Angie Gowen, Earnest Graham, Jane Grimes, Jim Hackney, George Hanna, Semi Harne, Carol Harris, Nancy Hinkle, Chris Hodges, Brittany Hudson, Nancy Hutchins, Vickie & Mike Johnson, Andrew Jones, David Jones, Brian Kent, Cara Lee, Warren MacKinstry, Debbie Mason, Kate McKenzie, Charles McNeair, Dan & Fran Moore, Angela Mott, Howard Palmer, Lori Parks, Walker Peoples, Gabby Plott, Ellen Rickert, Jacklyn Rojas, Melissa Routh, Christine Ryals, Lucas Sanabria, Lynn Santolla, Suzy Sheets, Elizabeth Shuman, Carol Sills, 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?"

Hear us, Lord; For your mercy is great.

We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life. Silence

The People may add their own thanksgivings

We will exalt you, O God our King; And praise your Name for ever and ever.

We pray for all who have died, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom. *Silence*The People may add their own petitions

Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon them; Who put their trust in you.

The celebrant adds a concluding Collect.

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.**

We pray to you also for the forgiveness of our sins. Silence

Celebrant and People

Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father;

In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and left undone; and so uphold us by your Spirit that we may live and serve you in newness of life, to the honor and glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. 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.

THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

THE OFFERTORY SENTENCE

OFFERTORY ANTHEM (choir only)

O Sing Unto the Lord - N. Rawsthorne

PRESENTATION OF GIFTS DOXOLOGY

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)

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.

But chiefly are we bound to praise you for the glorious resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; for he is the true Paschal Lamb, who was sacrificed for us, and has taken away the sin of the world. By his death he has destroyed death, and by his rising to life again he has won for us 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)



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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:

Celebrant and People 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 has 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.

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 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.

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.

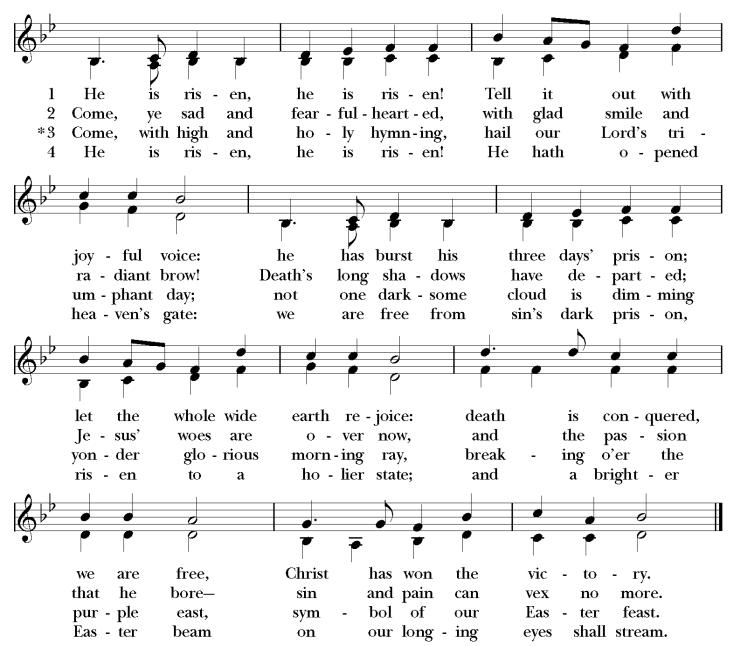
And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord.

To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

THE BLESSING

The Celebrant blesses the people

May the God of peace, who raised from the dead our Lord Jesus, provide us with every good thing we need in order to do his will; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**



THE DISMISSAL

Celebrant Let us go forth in the name of the Risen Christ. Alleluia, Alleluia!

People Thanks be to God! Alleluia, Alleluia!

POSTLUDE

Toccata from the 5th Organ Symphony – C. M. Widor

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

WORSHIP LEADERS TODAY

Lector: Mary Bolstad

Intercessor: Elizabeth Purdy

Lay Eucharistic Ministers: Pam Harvey, Tommy Black

Ushers: Wes Allred, Chandler Allred

Greeter: Sandra Husted

Acolytes: Ward Inabinett, Hadley Briggs, Jack Briggs

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.

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.

The beautiful flowers in the church today are given to the Glory of God and:

In loving memory of David Garner and Rhonda Bralkowski by Frances Garner.

In loving memory of Jeff Kaley and Bobby Hedrick by Renee Kaley & family.

In honor of our grandchildren, Chandler, Blair, Walker, and Eli, by Kathy & Russ Johnson.

In honor of all of our Sunday School Teachers and Youth Leaders, by Kathy & Russ Johnson.

In love and thanksgiving for all the prayers & support for me the last nine or so months by Kathie Goodman.

In loving memory of Elizabeth and Jerry Witt by Sandra and Bob Husted.

In loving memory of our parents, Mr. & Mrs. Hilliard Black and Mr. & Mrs. W. R. Curlee, by Tommy & Pat Black.

In loving memory of my mom by Judie Reed.

In loving memory of Nancy Rains Phillips by Gayle W. Burke.

In memory of his beloved sister, Elisabeth Robert, and his parents, Warren and Betty MacKinstry, by Warren & Belinda MacKinstry.

In honor of our daughters, Heather, Amy, and Sara, and their precious families, by Warren and Belinda MacKinstry.

In thanksgiving for Helen Thompson by Patty & Ed Kelaher.

In thanksgiving for Tommy, Kim, Kate, Finn, Pam, Al, Fiona, & Lucas, by Patty & Ed Kelaher.

In honor of Donna Long and in memory of BA Long by Dan, Laurie, Sidney, Lyndon, Hadley, and Jack Briggs.

In honor of Joan Briggs and in memory of Jack Briggs by Dan, Laurie, Sidney, Lyndon, Hadley, and Jack Briggs.



The beautiful flowers in the church today are given to the Glory of God and:

In loving memory of Douglas Meeks and Myra Leonard by Lynn Meeks and Max Leonard.

In honor of my girls Tamara and Barbara, and my grandchildren Levi, Dakota, Tori, Katie and Abby, by Lynn Meeks.

In loving memory of Renae Telford by Emely Telford.

In loving memory of Warner & Marie Jensen by Emely Telford.

In loving memory of our parents by Henry & Mimi Duquette.

In honor of my children, Jennifer, Eleanor, Ben, and Emily, and my grandchildren, Baylee, Kayleb, and Benny, by Susan Terrell.

In memory of my parents, Lois and John Connor, my parents-in-law, Ethel and Charles Terrell, Sr., and Benjamin and Charles Terrell, Jr, by Susan Terrell.

In loving memory of Jean Taylor by Marilyn & Chuck Taylor.

In loving memory of Donald Latta by Marilyn & Chuck Taylor.

In honor of Linda, Ann, Gail, Elizabeth, and Alexa, by Louie Cox.

In honor of Ben, Scott, Will, Luke, and Eric, by Linda & Louie Cox.

In loving memory of Ruth, Bob, Nellie, Hamilton, Louise, Fred, and Lloyd, by Linda & Louie Cox.

In honor of the Grace Church Altar Guild, past and present, by Linda & Louie Cox.

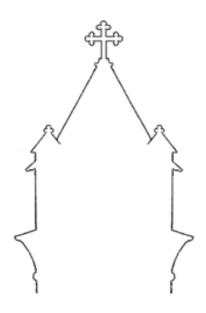
In honor of the Grace Church Choir by Linda & Louie Cox.

In loving memory of our grandson, Nicholas Melomo and in honor of our grandsons, Henry Melomo, Will Walser, and Sam Walser, by Peggy & Max Walser.

In loving memory of Mary's parents, Ruth & James Buckner, by Karl & Mary Bolstad.

In loving memory of Karl's parents, Harriet & Don Bolstad, by Karl & Mary Bolstad.







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 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 April is Kristi Allred.