

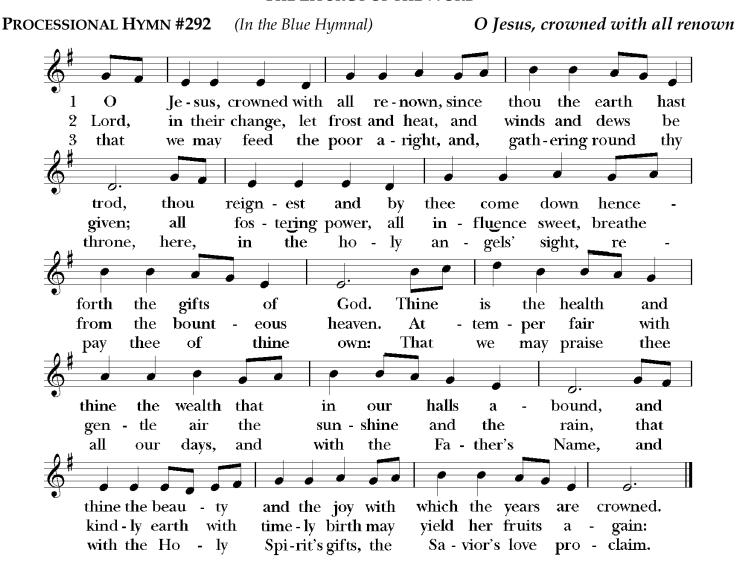
# Grace Episcopal Church

The Sixth Sunday of Easter
May 25, 2025
Holy Eucharist, Rite II
10:30 a.m.

**PRELUDE** 

Morning Has Broken - arr. J. Barr

### 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

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

Celebrant Let us pray.

O God, you have prepared for those who love you such good things as surpass our understanding: Pour into our hearts such love towards you, that we, loving you in all things and above all things, may obtain your promises, which exceed all that we can desire; 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 Acts 16:9-15

*Lector* A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

During the night Paul had a vision: there stood a man of Macedonia pleading with him and saying, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." When he had seen the vision, we immediately tried to cross over to Macedonia, being convinced that God had called us to proclaim the good news to them.

We set sail from Troas and took a straight course to Samothrace, the following day to Neapolis, and from there to Philippi, which is a leading city of the district of Macedonia and a Roman colony. We remained in this city for some days. On the sabbath day we went outside the gate by the river, where we supposed there was a place of prayer; and we sat down and spoke to the women who had gathered there. A certain woman named Lydia, a worshiper of God, was listening to us; she was from the city of Thyatira and a dealer in purple cloth. The Lord opened her heart to listen eagerly to what was said by Paul. When she and her household were baptized, she urged us, saying, "If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come and stay at my home." And she prevailed upon us.

- The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

## **PSALM 67** (responsively by whole verse)

- <sup>1</sup> May God be merciful to us and bless us, show us the light of his countenance and come to us.
- <sup>2</sup> Let your ways be known upon earth, your saving health among all nations.
- <sup>3</sup> Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.
- <sup>4</sup> Let the nations be glad and sing for joy, for you judge the peoples with equity and guide all the nations upon earth.

- <sup>5</sup> Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.
- <sup>6</sup> The earth has brought forth her increase; may God, our own God, give us his blessing.
- <sup>7</sup> May God give us his blessing, and may all the ends of the earth stand in awe of him.

THE EPISTLE

*Revelation 21:10, 22-22:5* 

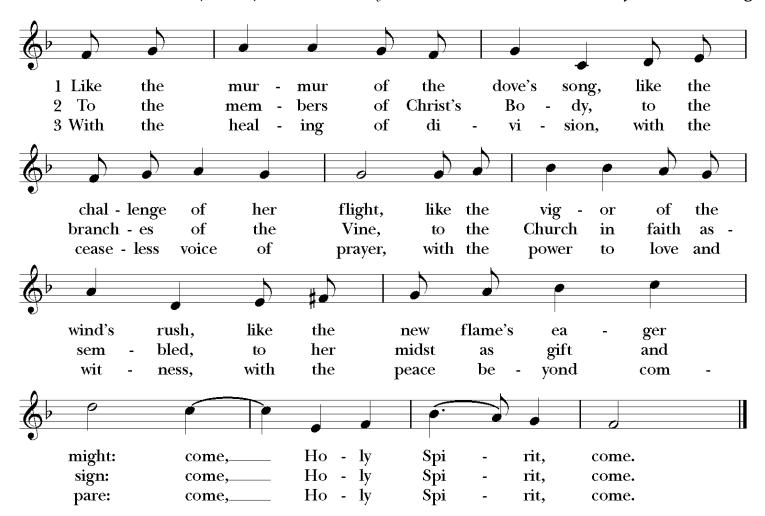
*Lector* A reading from the Revelation of John.

In the spirit the angel carried me away to a great, high mountain and showed me the holy city Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God.

I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb. And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God is its light, and its lamp is the Lamb. The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it. Its gates will never be shut by day— and there will be no night there. People will bring into it the glory and the honor of the nations. But nothing unclean will enter it, nor anyone who practices abomination or falsehood, but only those who are written in the Lamb's book of life.

Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb through the middle of the street of the city. On either side of the river is the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, producing its fruit each month; and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. Nothing accursed will be found there any more. But the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him; they will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. And there will be no more night; they need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.

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



THE GOSPEL John 14:23-29

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

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus said to Judas (not Iscariot), "Those who love me will keep my word, and my Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. Whoever does not love me does not keep my words; and the word that you hear is not mine, but is from the Father who sent me.

"I have said these things to you while I am still with you. But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid. You heard me say to you, `I am going away, and I am coming to you.' If you loved me, you would rejoice that I am going to the Father, because the Father is greater than I. And now I have told you this before it occurs, so that when it does occur, you may believe."

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

**SEQUENCE HYMN #513 (v. 3)** (*In the Blue Hymnal*)

Like the murmur of the dove's song

### 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, **Josey** Parker, and **Sheets Church Mission Trip Group.** 

and those with special needs:

Debbie Painter, Lou Adkins, Mark Adkins, Ella Asebes, Paul Batson, Jeannie Belk, Louise Billings, Sissy Bolstad, Judy Boyd, Mike Bralkowski, Alice Brandon & family, Susan Branscomb, Lynne Broch, Gayle Burke, Seraphina Byers, Lynne Cleckley, Joan Clodfelter, Morgan Curia, Becky Jo Davis, Susan Dixon, Renee Ewbank, Jenny Gallen, Shana Garland, 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 & Marlene Jones, Brian Kent, Diana Landschoot, Cara Lee, Lloyd Lohr, Warren MacKinstry, Debbie Mason, Kate McKenzie, Charles McNeair, Dan & Fran Moore, Angela Mott, Lori Parks, Walker Peoples, Gabby Plott, Ellen Rickert, Jacklyn Rojas, Melissa Routh, 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, Arthur Townsend, 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.

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.** 

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.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS** 

## THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

THE OFFERTORY SENTENCE

**OFFERTORY ANTHEM**All Creatures of our God and King – arr. J. Curnow

Wes Allred, Trombone

### 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)

CelebrantPeopleCelebrantThe Lord be with you.And also with you.Lift up your hearts.

People We lift them to the Lord.

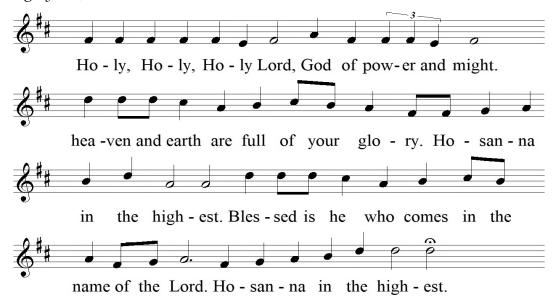
Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.People It is right to give him thanks and praise.

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 all 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** (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.

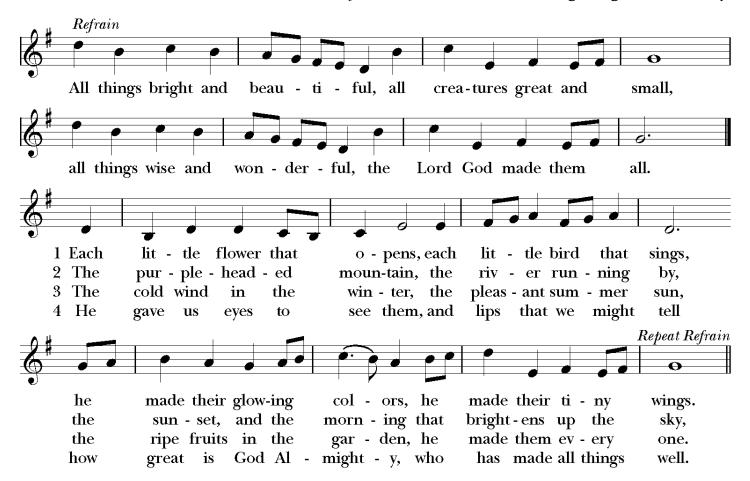
To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

#### THE BLESSING

The Celebrant blesses the people

May God bless the land and those who work it, Christ walk beside you in all your labors, and the Holy Spirit fill you with peace and purpose. And may 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!

People Thanks be to God! Alleluia, Alleluia!

**POSTLUDE** 

Prelude in E Minor - J. S. Bach

The flowers at the altar today are given to the glory of God by the Jobe Family in thanksgiving for the loving Grace Church community

## **WORSHIP LEADERS TODAY**

**Lector:** Karl Bolstad

**Intercessor:** Kristi Allred

**Lay Eucharistic Ministers:** Mary Matthews, Kathie Goodman

**Ushers:** Wes Allred, Chandler Allred

**Greeter:** Penny Taylor

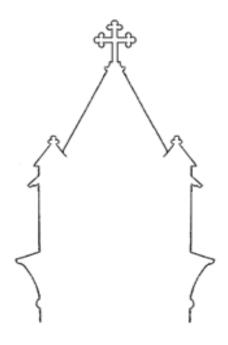
**Acolytes:** Tanner Sheets, Tucker Sheets

## **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 building next door) for refreshments and conversation. Today our hosts are members of the Parish Life Commission.

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

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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
Karl Bolstad
Bright Carter
Sally Dodd
Henry Duquette Junior Warden

Dan Briggs
Elizabeth Purdy
Mary Matthews Clerk of Vestry
Leslie Sheets Senior Warden

Kristi Allred
Lynn Meeks Treasurer
Neil Shepherd
Chuck Taylor

Vestry Person of the Month for May is Lynn Meeks.