

worlds that

are,

and

# Grace Episcopal Church

The Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost September 7, 2025 The Holy Eucharist: Rite II 10:30 a.m.

**PRELUDE** 

Toccata in E Minor - J. Pachelbel

be.

### THE LITURGY OF THE WORD



that

are

to

### 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** (Sung by all)



©Bill Herndon 2024

### 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.** 

*Lector* A reading from the Prophet Jeremiah.

The word that came to Jeremiah from the Lord: "Come, go down to the potter's house, and there I will let you hear my words." So I went down to the potter's house, and there he was working at his wheel. The vessel he was making of clay was spoiled in the potter's hand, and he reworked it into another vessel, as seemed good to him.

Then the word of the Lord came to me: Can I not do with you, O house of Israel, just as this potter has done? says the Lord. Just like the clay in the potter's hand, so are you in my hand, O house of Israel. At one moment I may declare concerning a nation or a kingdom, that I will pluck up and break down and destroy it, but if that nation, concerning which I have spoken, turns from its evil, I will change my mind about the disaster that I intended to bring on it. And at another moment I may declare concerning a nation or a kingdom that I will build and plant it, but if it does evil in my sight, not listening to my voice, then I will change my mind about the good that I had intended to do to it. Now, therefore, say to the people of Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem: Thus says the Lord: Look, I am a potter shaping evil against you and devising a plan against you. Turn now, all of you from your evil way, and amend your ways and your doings.

- The Word of the Lord Thanks be to God.

## PSALM 139:1-5, 12-17 (responsively by whole verse)

- <sup>1</sup> Lord, you have searched me out and known me; you know my sitting down and my rising up; you discern my thoughts from afar.
- <sup>2</sup> You trace my journeys and my resting-places and are acquainted with all my ways.
- <sup>3</sup> Indeed, there is not a word on my lips, but you, O Lord, know it altogether.
- <sup>4</sup> You press upon me behind and before and lay your hand upon me.
- <sup>5</sup> Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is so high that I cannot attain to it.
- <sup>12</sup> For you yourself created my inmost parts; you knit me together in my mother's womb.
- <sup>13</sup> I will thank you because I am marvelously made; your works are wonderful, and I know it well.

- <sup>14</sup> My body was not hidden from you, while I was being made in secret and woven in the depths of the earth.
- <sup>15</sup> Your eyes beheld my limbs, yet unfinished in the womb; all of them were written in your book; they were fashioned day by day, when as yet there was none of them.
- <sup>16</sup> How deep I find your thoughts, O God! how great is the sum of them!
- <sup>17</sup> If I were to count them, they would be more in number than the sand; to count them all, my life span would need to be like yours.

THE EPISTLE Philemon 1-21

Lector A reading from Paul's letter to Philemon.

Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother,

To Philemon our dear friend and co-worker, to Apphia our sister, to Archippus our fellow soldier, and to the church in your house:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

When I remember you in my prayers, I always thank my God because I hear of your love for all the saints and your faith toward the Lord Jesus. I pray that the sharing of your faith may become effective when you perceive all the good that we may do for Christ. I have indeed received much joy and encouragement from your love, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you, my brother.

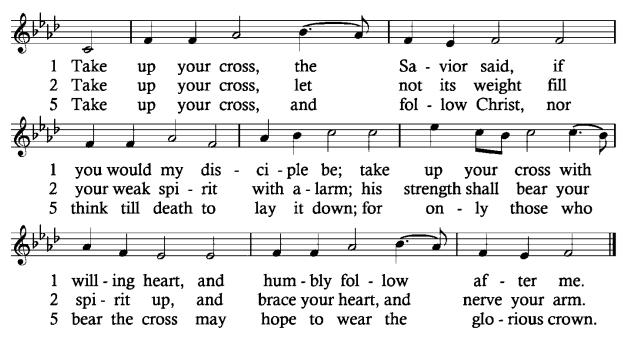
For this reason, though I am bold enough in Christ to command you to do your duty, yet I would rather appeal to you on the basis of love-- and I, Paul, do this as an old man, and now also as a prisoner of Christ Jesus. I am appealing to you for my child, Onesimus, whose father I have become during my imprisonment. Formerly he was useless to you, but now he is indeed useful both to you and to me. I am sending him, that is, my own heart, back to you. I wanted to keep him with me, so that he might be of service to me in your place during my imprisonment for the gospel; but I preferred to do nothing without your consent, in order that your good deed might be voluntary and not something forced. Perhaps this is the reason he was separated from you for a while, so that you might have him back forever, no longer as a slave but more than a slave, a beloved brother-- especially to me but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord.

So if you consider me your partner, welcome him as you would welcome me. If he has wronged you in any way, or owes you anything, charge that to my account. I, Paul, am writing this with my own hand: I will repay it. I say nothing about your owing me even your own self. Yes, brother, let me have this benefit from you in the Lord! Refresh my heart in Christ. Confident of your obedience, I am writing to you, knowing that you will do even more than I say.

- The Word of the Lord Thanks be to God.

**SEQUENCE HYMN #675 (vv. 1-2)** (*In the Blue Hymnal*)

Take up your cross, the Savior said



THE GOSPEL Luke 14:25-33

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

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Now large crowds were traveling with Jesus; and he turned and said to them, "Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple. Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and estimate the cost, to see whether he has enough to complete it? Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it will begin to ridicule him, saying, 'This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.' Or what king, going out to wage war against another king, will not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to oppose the one who comes against him with twenty thousand? If he cannot, then, while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for the terms of peace. So therefore, none of you can become my disciple if you do not give up all your possessions."

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

**SEQUENCE HYMN #675 (v. 5)** (*In the Blue Hymnal*)

Take up your cross, the Savior said

THE HOMILY

The Reverend Edward 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.

### <sup>387</sup> 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, and **Josey** Parker, and those with special needs:

Jack Buckheit, Lou Adkins, Mark Adkins, Ella Asebes, Jeannie Belk, Louise Billings, Sissy Bolstad, Judy Boyd, Mike Bralkowski, Alice Brandon, Lynne Broch, Gayle Burke, Seraphina Byers, Lynne Cleckley, Joan Clodfelter, Becky Jo Davis, Susan Dixon, Renee Ewbank, Cathy Farley, Jenny Gallen, Shana Garland, Angie Gowen, Jane Grimes, Jim Hackney, Jimmy Hall, George Hanna, Semi Harne, Nancy Hinkle, Chris Hodges, Brittany Hudson, Nancy Hutchins, Vickie Johnson, Andrew Jones, David & Marlene Jones, Brian Kent, Diana Landschoot, Cara Lee, Lisa Lightfoot, Lloyd Lohr, Warren MacKinstry, Debbie Mason, Kate McKenzie, Charles McNeair, Arnold Miller, Angela Mott, Debbie Painter, Walker Peoples, Gabby Plott, Ellen Rickert, Jacklyn Rojas, Melissa Routh, Lucas Sanabria, Lynn Santolla, Suzy Sheets, Carol Sills, Talmadge Silversides, Morgan Simmons, Clyde Smith, Martha Ellen Smith, Sean Sullivan, Jackie Touchton, Brenda Tyndall, Perry Grimes Van Dyke, Sandy Wallace, Flynn Williams, Paul Wylie, and Charlotte Young, Tommy Younts, Edward.

"Are there others?"

Hear us, Lord; For your mercy is great.

### Celebrant

Lord Jesus Christ, you said to your apostles, "Peace I give to you; my own peace I leave with you:" Regard not our sins, but the faith of your Church, and give to us the peace and unity of that heavenly City, where with the Father and the Holy Spirit you live and reign, now and for ever. **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

*Our Father, Who Art in Heaven – J. S. Bach* 

Presentation of Gifts

-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)

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

*People* We lift them to the Lord.

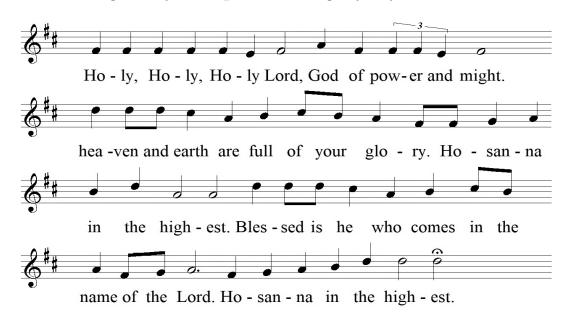
Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.People It is right to give him thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

For you are the source of light and life, you made us in your image, and called us to new life in Jesus Christ our Lord.

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)



©Bill Herndon 2024

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.

### 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.

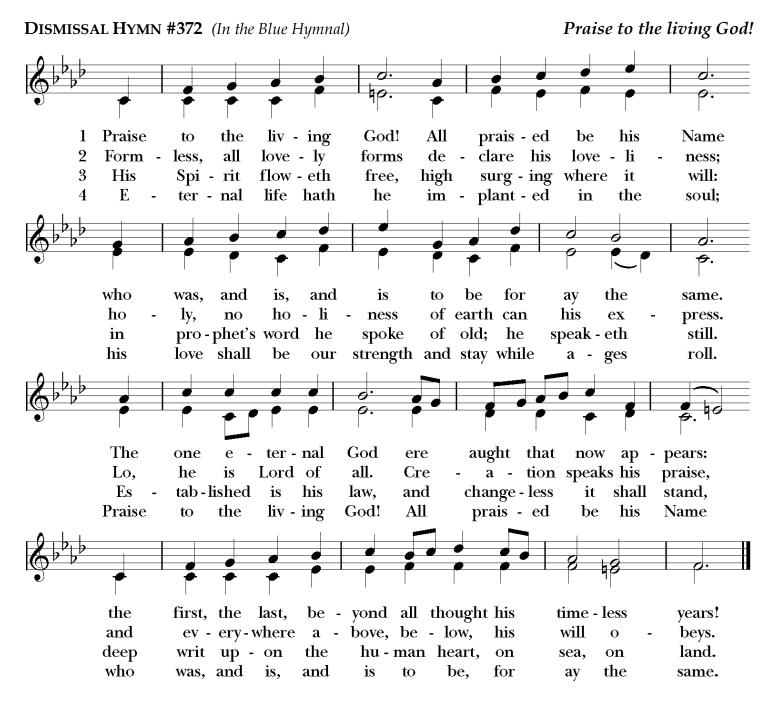
### 366 POST-COMMUNION PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

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

Go in peace, shaped by the hands of God, who forms you with care, redeems you in Christ's love, and breathes new life through the Spirit. And the blessing of God Almighty, \(\frac{\dagger}{\tau}\) 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, Alleluia!

People Thanks be to God! Alleluia, Alleluia!

**POSTLUDE** 

Prelude, Fugue, & Chaconne in C Major - D. Buxtehude

The flowers at the altar today are given to the glory of God by Belvie & Bill Gilleland in honor of her mother Bennie Wagner and in loving memory of their parents, Belford Wagner, and Georgia & Bill Gilleland, Sr.

### WORSHIP LEADERS TODAY

Lector: Kathy Young Intercessor: Elizabeth Purdy

Lay Eucharistic Ministers: Pam Harvey, Tommy Black Greeter: Penny Taylor Ushers: Wes Allred, Chandler Allred Acolytes: Hadley Briggs

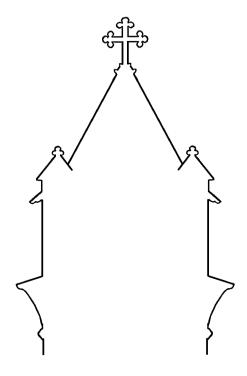
Tanner Sheets Merritt Carter

# 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 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 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 September is Dan Briggs.