

Grace Episcopal Church

The Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost
October 26, 2025
The Holy Eucharist: Rite II
10:30 a.m.

BCP **PRELUDE**

Blessed Ye Who Live in Faith Unswerving – J. Brahms

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

PROCESSIONAL HYMN #668 (*In the Blue Hymnal*)

Come, thou fount of every blessing

1 Come, thou fount of ev - ery bless - ing, tune my
 2 Here I find my great - est trea - sure; hith - er,
 3 Oh, to grace how great a debt - or dai - ly

heart to sing thy grace! Streams of mer - cy nev - er
 by thy help, I've come; and I hope, by thy good
 I'm con - strained to be! Let thy good - ness, like a

ceas - ing, call for songs of loud - est praise.
 plea - sure, safe - ly to ar - rive at home.
 fet - ter, bind my wan - dering heart to thee:

Teach me some me - lo - dious son - net, sung by
 Je - sus sough me when a stran - ger wan - dering
 prone to wan - der, Lord, I feel it, prone to

flam - ing tongues a - bove. Praise the mount! Oh, fix me
 from the fold of God; he, to res - cue me from
 leave the God I love; here's my heart, oh, take and

on it, mount of God's un - chang - ing love.
 dan - ger, in - ter - posed his pre - cious blood.
 seal it, seal it for thy courts a - bove.

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)

Organ *Unison Voices*

Glo - ry to God in the high-est, and
 peace to his peo-ple on earth. Lord God, hea-ven-ly King,
 al - migh-ty God and Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we
 give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.
slower
 Lord Je - sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa - ther,
 Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world:
 have mer-cy up-on us; you are seat-ed at the right hand
a tempo
 of the Fa-ther: re-ceive our prayer. For you a - lone
 are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Ho-ly Spi - rit,
 in the glo-ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

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THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, increase in us the gifts of faith, hope, and charity; and, that we may obtain what you promise, make us love what you command; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

THE OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Sirach 25:12-17

Lector A reading from the Wisdom of Jesus, Son of Sirach.

Give to the Most High as he has given to you,
and as generously as you can afford.
For the Lord is the one who repays,
and he will repay you sevenfold.
Do not offer him a bribe, for he will not accept it
and do not rely on a dishonest sacrifice;
for the Lord is the judge,
and with him there is no partiality.
He will not show partiality to the poor;
but he will listen to the prayer of one who is wronged.
He will not ignore the supplication of the orphan,
or the widow when she pours out her complaint.

- The Word of the Lord **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 84:1-6 (*responsively by whole verse*)

¹ How dear to me is your dwelling, O Lord of hosts!
My soul has a desire and longing for the courts of the Lord;
my heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God.

² **The sparrow has found her a house
and the swallow a nest where she may lay
her young;
by the side of your altars, O Lord of hosts,
my King and my God.**

³ Happy are they who dwell in your house!
they will always be praising you.

⁴ **Happy are the people whose strength is in
you!
whose hearts are set on the pilgrims' way.**

⁵ Those who go through the desolate valley
will find it a place of springs,
for the early rains have covered it with pools of water.

⁶ **They will climb from height to height,
and the God of gods will reveal himself in
Zion.**

THE EPISTLE

2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18

Lector A reading from the second letter to Timothy.

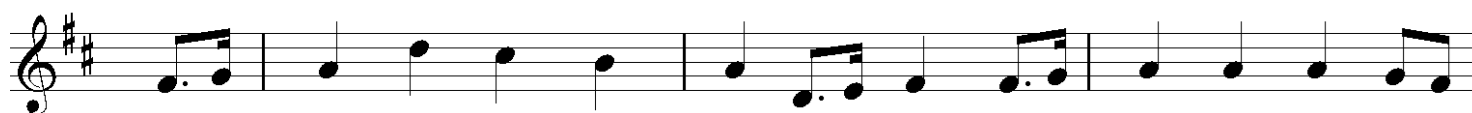
I am already being poured out as a libation, and the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. From now on there is reserved for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will give me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have longed for his appearing.

At my first defense no one came to my support, but all deserted me. May it not be counted against them! But the Lord stood by me and gave me strength, so that through me the message might be fully proclaimed and all the Gentiles might hear it. So I was rescued from the lion's mouth. The Lord will rescue me from every evil attack and save me for his heavenly kingdom. To him be the glory forever and ever. Amen.

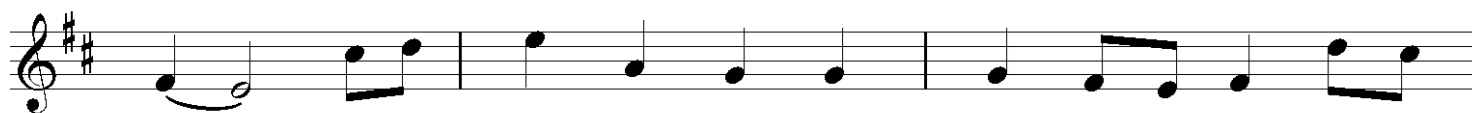
- The Word of the Lord **Thanks be to God.**

SEQUENCE HYMN #546 (vv. 1-3) *(In the Blue Hymnal)*

Awake, my soul



1 A - wake, my soul, stretch ev - ery nerve, and press with vi - gor
2 A cloud of wit - ness - es a - round hold thee in full sur -
3 'Tis God's all - an - i - mat-ing voice that calls thee from on
4 Then wake, my soul, stretch ev - ery nerve, and press with vi - gor



on; a heaven - ly race de - mands thy zeal, and
vey; for - get the steps al - read - y trod and
high; 'tis his own hand pre - sents the prize to
on; a heaven - ly race de - mands thy zeal, and



an im - mor - tal crown, and an im - mor - tal crown.
on - ward urge thy way, and on - ward urge thy way.
thine as - pir - ing eye, to thine as - pir - ing eye.
an im - mor - tal crown, and an im - mor - tal crown.

THE GOSPEL

Luke 18:9-14

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.
People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Jesus told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous and regarded others with contempt: "Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee, standing by himself, was praying thus, 'God, I thank you that I am not like other people: thieves, rogues, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give a tenth of all my income.' But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even look up to heaven, but was beating his breast and saying, 'God, be merciful to me, a sinner!' I tell you, this man went down to his home justified rather than the other; for all who exalt themselves will be humbled, but all who humble themselves will be exalted."

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

SEQUENCE HYMN #546 (v. 4) (*In the Blue Hymnal*)

Awake, my soul

THE HOMILY

The Reverend Kenneth Kroohs

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.

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 **Brianna** Cantrall,

and those with special needs:

Ed Kelaher, **Lisa** Shepherd, **Jennifer & Michael** Hinton, **Lou** Adkins, **Mark** Adkins, **Ella** Asebes, **Jeannie** Belk, **Louise** Billings, **Sissy** Bolstad, **Judy** Boyd, **Mike** Bralkowski, **Alice** Brandon, **Lawson** Brashear, **Lynne** Broch, **Jack** Buckheit, **Gayle** Burke, **Seraphina** Byers, **Lynne** Cleckley, **Joan** Clodfelter, **Bob** Cook, **Susan** Dixon, **Renee** Ewbank, **Cathy** Farley, **Jenny** Gallen, **Shana** Garland, **Angie** Gowen, **Jane** Grimes, **Jimmy** Hall, **George** Hanna, **Semi** Harne, **Nancy** Hinkle, **Chris** Hodges, **Bob** Holcomb, **Brittany** Hudson, **Nancy** Hutchins, **Andrew** Jones, **Marlene** Jones, **Ray** Kent, **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, **Jenny** Hedrick Stilwell, **Sean** Sullivan, **Reid** Taylor, **Jackie** Touchton, **Brenda** Tyndall, **Perry** Grimes Van Dyke, **Sandy** Wallace, **Flynn** Williams, **Paul** Wylie, **Charlotte** Young, **Tommy** Younts, and **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 ANTHEM (*Choir Only*)

In This Very Room – Ron and Carol Harris

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! 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 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*)

Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might.
hea - ven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na
in the high - est. Bles - sed is he who comes in the
name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

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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:

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,

364 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.
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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

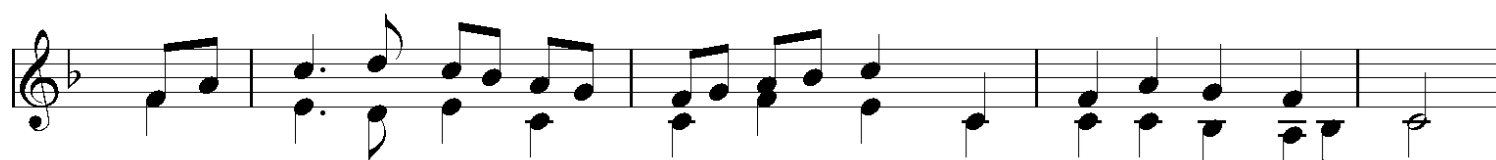
May the blessing of God almighty, ✠ Father, Son and Holy Spirit which is upon you, be with you always. **Amen.**



1 I sing the al-might - y power of God, that made the moun-tains rise,
 2 I sing the good - ness of the Lord, that filled the earth with food;
 3 There's not a plant or flower be - low, but makes thy glo - ries known;



that spread the flow - ing seas a - broad and built the lof - ty skies.
 he formed the crea-tures with his Word, and then pro-nounced them good.
 and clouds a - rise, and tem-pests blow, by or - der from thy throne;



I sing the wis - dom that or - dained the sun to rule the day;
 Lord, how thy won - ders are dis - played, wher - e'er I turn my eye,
 while all that bor - rows life from thee is ev - er in thy care,



the moon shines full at his com-mand, and all the stars o - bey.
 if I sur - vey the ground I tread, or gaze up - on the sky!
 and ev - ery-where that I could be, thou, God, art pres-ent there.

THE DISMISSAL

Celebrant Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia, Alleluia!
People Thanks be to God! Alleluia, Alleluia!

POSTLUDE

Toccata in D Minor – J. S. Bach

*The flowers at the altar today are given to the glory of God
 by Chris & Mike Hodges
 in honor of our Grace family
 and in loving memory of Dorrie Stocking & C.L. Van Dyke.*

WORSHIP LEADERS TODAY

Lector: Jim Nance
Lay Eucharistic Ministers: Karl Bolstad, Tommy Black
Ushers: Joe Wallace, Tommy Black

Intercessor: Elizabeth Purdy
Greeter: Frances Garner
Acolytes: Fisher Welborn
Tanner Sheets

Today we welcome as our guest priest The Reverend Kenneth Kroohs.

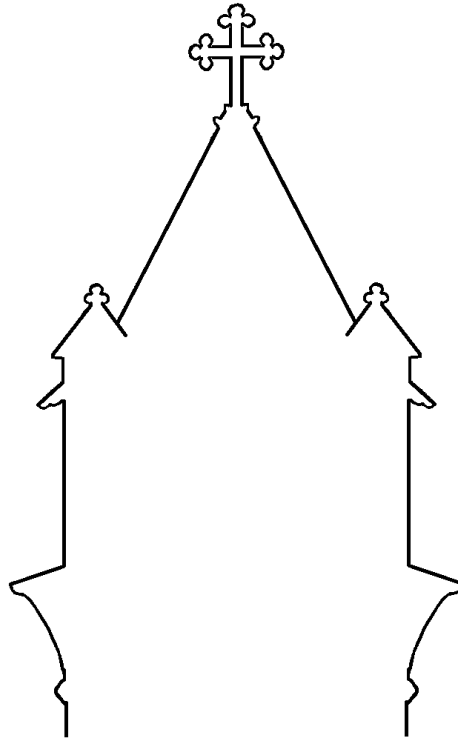
The Rev. Ken Kroohs is in his third career. (4th if you include retirement!) He has degrees and work time in Civil Engineering and City Planning before being ordained. Kroohs has served at St. Paul's in Thomasville, St. Christopher's in High Point, and an interim year at All Saints in Greensboro. His retirement ministry focus is helping churches to reach out to new people so they might consider being involved in a church community. He invites discussion about his sermon: KenKroohs700@gmail.com

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 Merritt Carter, Sally Dodd, and Barbara Presnell.**

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

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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

2027

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

2028

Kristi Allred
Lynn Meeks Treasurer
Neil Shepherd
Chuck Taylor

Vestry Person of the Month for October is Henry Duquette.