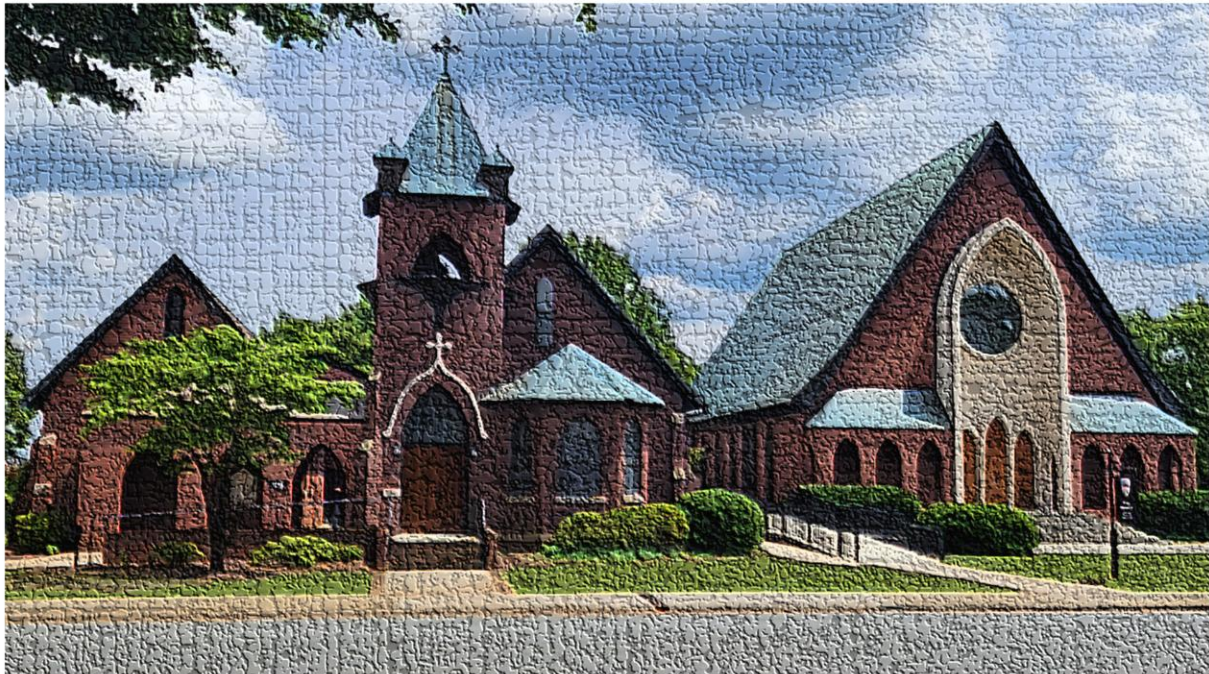


*A Service for the
Ending of a Pastoral Relationship*



Grace Episcopal Church

The Third Sunday of Easter

April 19, 2026

Holy Eucharist, Rite II

10:30 a.m.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN #208 (In the Blue Hymnal)

*The strife is o'er, the battle done**Antiphon (at the beginning)*

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!



- 1 The strife is o'er, the bat - tle done, the vic - to -
 2 The powers of death have done their worst, but Christ their
 *3 The three sad days are quick - ly sped, he ris - es
 4 He closed the yawn - ing gates of hell, the bars from
 5 Lord! by the stripes which wound - ed thee, from death's dread



- 1 ry of life is won; the song of tri - umph
 2 le - gions hath dis - persed: let shout of ho - ly
 3 glo - rious from the dead: all glo - ry to our
 4 heaven's high por - tals fell; let hymns of praise his
 5 sting thy serv - ants free, that we may live and



- 1 has be - gun. Al - le - lu - ia!
 2 joy out - burst. Al - le - lu - ia!
 3 ris - en Head! Al - le - lu - ia!
 4 tri - umphs tell! Al - le - lu - ia!
 5 sing to thee. Al - le - lu - ia! [Ant.]

Antiphon (at the end)

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

OPENING ACCLAMATION AND COLLECT FOR THE DAY

Celebrant: Alleluia, Christ is risen.

People: **The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

Celebrant: There is one Body and one Spirit;

People: **There is one hope in God's call to us;**

Celebrant: One Lord, one Faith, one Baptism;

People: **One God and Father of all.**

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Lord, you have apportioned to your people the manifold gifts of the Spirit: Grant amid the changes of the world that your Church may abide, and be strengthened in ministry through continuous outpouring of your gifts; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

ANTHEM

With a Voice of Singing – M. Shaw, arr. A. Carpeneter

THE LESSON

1 Corinthians 3:4-11

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

For when one says, "I belong to Paul," and another, "I belong to Apollos," are you not merely human?

What then is Apollos? What is Paul? Servants through whom you came to believe, as the Lord assigned to each. I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth. The one who plants and the one who waters have a common purpose, and each will receive wages according to the labor of each. For we are God's servants, working together; you are God's field, God's building.

According to the grace of God given to me, like a skilled master builder I laid a foundation, and someone else is building on it. Each builder must choose with care how to build on it. For no one can lay any foundation other than the one that has been laid; that foundation is Jesus Christ.

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

SOLO

Lungi dal caro bene – G. Sarti

Hadley Briggs, Soprano

PSALM 119:89-96 (Responsively by whole verse)

17 But the merciful goodness of the Lord endures for ever on those who fear him, and his righteousness on children's children;

18 On those who keep his covenant and remember his commandments and do them.

19 The Lord has set his throne in heaven, and his kingship has dominion over all.


20 Bless the Lord, you angels of his, you mighty ones who do his bidding, and hearken to the voice of his word.

21 Bless the Lord, all you his hosts, you ministers of his who do his will.


22 Bless the Lord, all you works of his, in all places of his dominion; bless the Lord, O my soul.

SEQUENCE HYMN #296 (vv. 1-3) (In the Blue Hymnal)


We know that Christ is raised




We know that Christ is raised and dies no more. _____
 We share by wa - ter in his sav - ing death. _____
 The Fa - ther's splen - dor clothes the Son with life. _____
 A new cre - a - tion comes to life and grows _____



Em - braced by death he broke its fear - ful hold; _____
 Re - born we share with him an Eas - ter life _____
 The Spi - rit's pow - er shakes the Church of God. _____
 as Christ's new bo - dy takes on flesh and blood. _____



and our de - spair he turned to blaz - ing joy. _____
 as liv - ing mem - bers of a liv - ing Christ. _____ Al - le -
 Bap - tized we live with God the Three in One. _____
 The u - ni - verse re - stored and whole will sing: _____



lu - ia! _____ Al - le - lu - ia! A - men.

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

Now on that same day two of Jesus' disciples were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. And he said to them, "What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?" They stood still, looking sad. Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, "Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?" He asked them, "What things?" They replied, "The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but they did not see him." Then he said to them, "Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?" Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.

As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. But they urged him strongly, saying, "Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over." So he went in to stay with them. When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. They said to each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?" That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. They were saying, "The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!" Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

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

SEQUENCE HYMN #296 (v. 4) *(In the Blue Hymnal)*

We know that Christ is raised

THE SERMON

The Reverend Stephen Becker

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.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE *(Form III)*

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.

The Celebrant concludes with an absolution or a suitable 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.**

THE ENDING OF A PASTORAL RELATIONSHIP *(from The Book of Occasional Services 2022)*

Just before the Peace, the Minister addresses the congregation with these or similar words

On the 19th day of September 2021, I was inducted by Bishop Diocesan, Samuel Rodman, as Rector, Time-Certain, of Grace Episcopal Church, Lexington, NC. I have, with God's help and to the best of my abilities, exercised this trust, accepting its privileges and responsibilities.

After prayer and careful consideration, it now seems to me that I should leave this charge, and I publicly state that my tenure as rector of Grace Church ends this day, as I take leave to follow God's continual call on my life as a priest, retired.

The Minister, Bishop, or Bishop's Deputy says:

Do you, the people of Grace Church recognize and accept the conclusion of this pastoral relationship?

People: **We do.**

The Minister may present to the warden(s) a letter of resignation, the keys of the parish, the parish register, or other symbols fitting to the occasion.

PRESENTATION BY CONGREGATION

The Wardens and Vestry may offer words and other expressions of thanks and of Godspeed to the departing minister.

Then the departing Minister and the congregation then say together the following prayer:

Minister: Let us pray.

O God, you have bound us together for a time as priest and people to work for the advancement of your kingdom in this place: We give you humble and hearty thanks for the ministry which we have shared in these years now past.

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 SOLO

I Can See On the Emmaus Road – G. Gaither and D. Meece
Neil Shepherd, Tenor

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! 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*)

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:

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.

COMMUNION VOLUNTARIES *Largo from the New World Symphony – A. Dvorak, arr. W. A. Fisher*
Karl Bolstad, Harmonica

Wondrous Love – arr. B. Roberts

Wes Allred, Trombone

365 POST-COMMUNION PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Celebrant and People

**Eternal God, heavenly Father,
you have graciously accepted us as living members
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ,
and you have fed us with spiritual food
in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.
Send us now into the world in peace,
and grant us strength and courage
to love and serve you
with gladness and singleness of heart;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

THE BLESSING

The Celebrant blesses the people

May God, who has led us in the paths of justice and truth, lead us still, and keep us in his ways.
Amen.

May God, whose Son has loved us and given himself for us, love us still, and establish us in peace.
Amen.

May God, whose Spirit unites us and fills our hearts with joy, illumine us still, and strengthen us for the years to come. **Amen.**

And the blessing of God Almighty, ✠ the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. **Amen.**

1 He is ris - en, he is ris - en! Tell it out with
 2 Come, ye sad and fear - ful - heart - ed, with glad smile and
 *3 Come, with high and ho - ly hymn - ing, hail our Lord's tri -
 4 He is ris - en, he is ris - en! He hath o - pened
 joy - ful voice: he has burst his three days' pris - on;
 ra - diant brow! Death's long sha - dows have de - part - ed;
 um - phant day; not one dark - some cloud is dim - ming
 hea - ven's gate: we are free from sin's dark pris - on,
 let the whole wide earth re - jice: death is con - quered,
 Je - sus' woes are o - ver now, and the pas - sion
 yon - der glo - rious morn - ing ray, break - ing o'er the
 ris - en to a ho - lier state; and a bright - er
 we are free, Christ has won the vic - to - ry.
 that he bore— sin and pain can vex no more.
 pur - ple east, sym - bol of our Eas - ter feast.
 Eas - ter beam on our long - ing eyes shall stream.

THE DISMISSAL

Celebrant Let us go forth in the name of the Risen Christ. Alleluia, Alleluia!
People Thanks be to God! Alleluia, Alleluia!

POSTLUDE

Tocatta in F Major – J. S. Bach

*The flowers at the altar today are given to the glory of God
 by the Grace Church Choir
 in celebration of the marriage of Josh & Samantha Mathews.*

WORSHIP LEADERS TODAY

Lector: Neil Shepherd
Intercessor: Staley Nance
Lay Eucharistic Ministers: Tommy Black, Pam Harvey
Ushers: Wes Allred, Chandler Allred
Greeter: Penny Taylor
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 and join us immediately following the service in the Parish Hall (in the building next door) for refreshments and conversation.

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 Stephen Becker, Interim Rector
Bill Herndon, Organist and Choir Director
Kathy Johnson, Christian Education Director
Summer Blackburn, Youth Leader
Maureen Tincher, Parish Administrator
John Taylor, Facilities Manager
Joan Clodfelter, Minister of Music Emerita

THE VESTRY

2027

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

2028

Kristi Allred
Lynn Meeks Treasurer
Neil Shepherd
Chuck Taylor

2029

Kristie Miller
Marjorie Parker Senior Warden
Cathy Riggan
Mary-Cameron Welborn

Vestry Person of the Month for April is Dan Briggs.