



Grace Episcopal Church

The Fifth Sunday of Easter

April 28, 2024

10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist Rite II

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE: *When Love is Found*

Emma Lou Diemer

At the tolling of the tower bell, the congregation is asked to stand.

THE ACCLAMATION

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ is risen.

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

OPENING HYMN: *On this Day, The First of Days*

47

COLLECT FOR PURITY

Celebrant 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.

All **Amen.**

Gloria

Austin/Cassarino

Glor-y to God in the Highest and peace to his peo-ple on earth.

Lord God, Hea-ven-ly King, Al - mighty God and Fa - ther, we
 worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo-ry. 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 on us; you are seated at the
 right hand of the Fa-ther; re - ceive our prayer, for you a-lone are the
 ho-ly one, you a-lone are the Lord, you a-lone are the most high,
 Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spi-rit in the Glo-ry of God the
 Fa - ther. A - - - - - men.

THE WORD OF GOD

THE FIRST LESSON Acts 8:26-40

An angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a wilderness road.) So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

"Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter,
and like a lamb silent before its shearer,
so he does not open his mouth.

In his humiliation justice was denied him.
Who can describe his generation?
For his life is taken away from the earth."

The eunuch asked Philip, "About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?" He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.
People **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 22: 24-30 (Spoken in unison)

- 24 My praise is of him in the great assembly;
I will perform my vows in the presence of those who worship him.
- 25 The poor shall eat and be satisfied,
and those who seek the LORD shall praise him:
"May your heart live for ever!"
- 26 All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD,
and all the families of the nations shall bow before him.
- 27 For kingship belongs to the LORD;
he rules over the nations.
- 28 To him alone all who sleep in the earth bow down in worship;
all who go down to the dust fall before him.
- 29 My soul shall live for him;
my descendants shall serve him;
they shall be known as the LORD's for ever.
- 30 They shall come and make known to a people yet unborn
the saving deeds that he has done.

THE EPISTLE: 1 John 4:7-21

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but

perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. We love because he first loved us. Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL HYMN: *What Wondrous Love is This*

439

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

People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

THE GOSPEL: John 15: 1-8

Jesus said to his disciples, "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples."

Reader The Gospel of the Lord

People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Rev. Milly Morrow

THE HOMILY

Rev. Milly Morrow

THE NICENE CREED (*standing*)

BCP 358

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE: An Easter Form

Leader The Prayers of the People for The Great 50 Days of Easter is a form written for this special season. During the prayers, the congregation's response to: "Risen Lord" is: "Hear our Prayer."

Rejoicing in the mighty acts of God who has delivered his people from sin and death through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, let us lift our voices and pray,

Lector Risen Lord,
People **Hear our Prayer.**

Lector Let us give thanks to God for the multitude of blessings God showers upon us:
For our lives and for those whom we love,
For the beauty of this home God has created for us,
For our families and our friendships,
Let us give thanks to the God of Life.

Lector Risen Lord,
People **Hear our Prayer.**

Lector Let us pray for our clergy and our bishops, we pray for Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury; for Michael, our Presiding Bishop; for José our bishop; for Milly, our Rector. For the many lay people who serve the church, and serve the world through the church. For those who gather in worship and prayer.

Lector Risen Lord,
People **Hear our Prayer.**

Lector Let us pray for the newly baptized, that the joy of Easter may ever grow within them, and that the Spirit may guide them in lives of active faith.

Lector Risen Lord,
People **Hear our Prayer.**

Lector Let us pray for the nations and peoples of the world, that the powers that oppress and destroy may decline, And that justice, peace, and prosperity be lifted up.

Lector Risen Lord,
People **Hear our Prayer.**

Lector Let us pray for those who are sick, those who suffer, those who struggle: Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or Spirit, that the hope born of Easter give them peace, acceptance and renewal, and that through

their struggles they may come into closer communion with the God who redeems and restores.

Lector Risen Lord
People **Hear our Prayer.**

Lector We commend to your mercy all who have died, especially the families of Kay Strange, Thomas Marr, Patty Haring, Albert Sneed, Ernest Lee, Rick Arnett, Linda Swaim and the community of Christ School; and for the following persons on the anniversaries of their deaths: Jean Whitmire, Jamie McCredie, Lewis Payne Jr, Wanda Perry, Douglas Allen Campbell Sr, Annie Rugh Covington, Donald Keller, Pat Anderson... We pray that your will for them may be fulfilled; and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom.

Lector Risen Lord
People **Hear our Prayer.**

The celebrant leads a concluding prayer.

THE CONFESSION OF SIN

BCP 360

THE PEACE

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People **And also with you.**

The Ministers and People greet one another in the name of the Lord.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

OFFERTORY ANTHEM: *Christ is Made the Sure Foundation*

Dale Wood

DOXOLOGY:

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING: EUCHARISTIC PRAYER A

BCP 361

SANCTUS:

James P. Cassarino



Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly Lord, God of pow' r and might, Hea - ven and
earth are full of your glo - ry: Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high est.

THE LORD'S PRAYER *(Traditional)*

BCP 364

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

FRACTION ANTHEM:

Cassarino



Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia
Christ our Pass - o - ver is sac - ri - ficed for us,
There - fore let us keep the feast.
Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

All who seek God or a deeper life in Christ are welcome to receive Holy Eucharist. To receive the bread, extend your hands towards the priest. Gluten free wafers are available. To receive the wine, guide the bottom of the chalice with both hands. To receive a blessing instead of the bread and wine, simply cross your arms across your chest.

COMMUNION HYMN: <i>I Come with Joy to Meet My Lord</i>	304
POST COMMUNION PRAYER	BCP 365
THE BLESSING	
CLOSING HYMN: <i>Lord Dismiss Us With Thy Blessing</i>	344
DISMISSAL	
POSTLUDE: <i>Postlude on "Ellacombe"</i>	Jason D. Payne



The Aumbry Candle is given to the Glory of God by Dodie & John King.

The flowers are given to the Glory of God by Teesha Johnson in loving memory of her dear friends Liza Burke and Rory Domitrovitz.

LAY MINISTERS

Acolyte: Cole Woodcox Chalicer: Cheryl Deyton

Lectors: John Woodson, Elise Cassarino Intercessor: Kristen Dusenbery

Ushers: Jeanne and Ron Sims

Greeters: Jennifer Witt, Diane Wilkey

Vestry Member of the Day: Rusty McCredie

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ECW SAVE THE DATE — Saturday, May 4th, at 10:00 AM

Join us for coffee, treats, and a meeting! It's a social gathering and we will be discussing upcoming events. All women of the church are automatically members of ECW and encouraged to attend. We especially welcome newcomers to Grace!

JONES ELEMENTARY FOOD DRIVE

The Outreach Committee is hosting an end of school food drive for 50 families in need at Jones Elementary School. Look for the brown bags in the pew on Sundays during the month of May. The deadline for non perishable food donations is Sunday May 26th. Our goal is to pack each bag with canned fruit, canned vegetables, canned meat, pasta and

sauce, rice and beans, soup, mac n cheese, peanut butter, and jelly. We are also asking for perishable food donations of fresh fruit and loaves of bread to be dropped off at the church between May 26-May30th.

Questions please email Sarah Beasley at sdkbeasley@gmail.com.

THE PASTORAL CARE TEAM AT GRACE

Reach out to us with any pastoral care needs you, or your family, may have, by emailing the team at Pastoralcare@graceavl.com. You can also email, text or call Rev. Milly at 828.772.1429, Sunday through Thursday from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., unless it's a pastoral emergency.

HAVE YOU ACCESSED OUR MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY? An online directory is available to our members. *If you want to know how to become a member of Grace, please contact Rev. Milly Morrow at milly@graceavl.com.*

For further information about ongoing programs at Grace, please visit our website at graceavl.com.

THIS WEEK'S SERVICES AND MEETINGS

Date and Time	Service or Meeting	Location
Sunday 4/28 9 am	Children's Sunday School	Atrium
Sunday, 10:30 am	Holy Eucharist Service*	Sanctuary/YouTube**
Mondays, 10:30 am	Monday Morning Bible Study	Zoom **
Mondays 1 pm	Chair Aerobics	Parish Hall
Tuesdays 6pm	Taize	Sanctuary
Wednesday, 9:30 am	Pastoral Care Team Meeting	Zoom
Wednesdays, 1-3pm	Praying Together with Rev. Milly - <i>by appointment</i>	Sanctuary
Wednesdays, 5:30pm	Centering Prayer	Zoom**
Wednesdays, 6:30pm	Choir Rehearsal	Sanctuary
Thursdays, 8am	Women Walking the Way	Beaver Lake

OUR PRAYER LIST

For Parishioners: Eva Dupree; Kathleen Griffin, Susan and Lisa; Don and Ann Lewis; Nancy Lewis; Gracie Russell; Laura and Tsz-yan (GN) Snyder; Jackie Schauer; Kelly Thompson, Adair and Angela; Kathy Wrinn.

For Homebound Parishioners and Those in Healthcare Facilities: Bill Coward; Ed Denison; Carl Dobson; Bobbie Eblen; Dorothy Engel; Eunice Ferguson; Linda Hundredmark; Marion

Mayfield-Johnson; Ginny Price; Nancy Sink; Rita Spragg; Shirley Turner

For For Others: (Names will remain on the list for 6 weeks unless we hear otherwise.)

Wes Auret (godson of Elaine Potter); **Anya; Allen** (brother of Cheryl Aull); **Gabriel and Lara Brongel and family** (grandson and daughter of Jackie Schauer); **Cherie Brown** (daughter of Ed and Maria Woeckener); **Jackie Haines** (sister of Carol Booth); **J.R. Hunnicutt** (friend of Dodie King); **Ashley Israel** (daughter of Jennifer Witt); **Jim Kaderabek** (father of Todd Kaderabek); **Dennis Mason** (friend of Pat Walters); **Megan; David Moltke-Hansen and Patricia Poteat** (friends of Jeanne and Ron Sims); **Barney Noble** (son of Joyce and Walt Noble); **Meredith Peppers** (cousin of Carole McClellan); **Bob Sharpe** (friend of Kathleen Griffin); **Kay and David Sutton** (sister-in-law of Ginny Moser); **J.C. Strange** (friend of Rusty Herman); **Barry Swaim** (brother in law of Cathy Adkins); **Thandi Tutu-Gxashe; Karen** (friend of Lucy and Larry Bowen); **Lorie; Charlie Rhodes** (son of Kyle Rhodes); **William Neumann.**

For Those Who Have Died and Their Families: **Kay Strange, Thomas Marr, Linda Swaim, Patty Harring, Albert Sneed, Ernest Lee, and the community of Christ School.**

For Those in Service to Our Country: **Tommy Brown** (grandsons of Ed & Marla Woeckener); **Martha and Matt Cardenas** (daughter & son-in-law of Hannah Pennell); **Matthew George** (son of Zoe Davis); **Jason Marino** (son of Lynda McCredie); **Jonah Silvers** (son of Mark Silvers and Chance Wyatt); **Sarah Jane Wilkey** (daughter of Diane & Tony Wilkey).

For Those in the Episcopal Church: **Michael** (our presiding Bishop); **José** (our Bishop); **the clergy, vestry, staff, ministries, and people of this parish; Church of the Advocate.**

For our President Joe Biden, his Cabinet, Congress & our country; for victims of violence across the world; for local agencies & those who work for relief of the poor; for better stewardship of the environment; for resolution of crises throughout our world.

Please go to graceavl.com/spiritual-growth/prayer-ministries/ for more opportunities to request prayer. Get permission from anyone you would like to add to this list and contact our Pastoral Care Ministry at pastoralcare@graceavl.com or contact the church.

ELECTRONIC GIVING MADE EASY

Grace Church receives electronic giving via our website at graceavl.com. There is a “Give to Grace” button on the top blue banner of our home page. Additional ways to give to our “virtual collection plate” and various fundraising efforts are through the Simple Church app and the Venmo app @GraceEpiscopal-Church.

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The Right Reverend José McLoughlin, *Bishop*
The Reverend Milly Morrow, *Rector*
James Cassarino, *Director of Music*
Cathy Adkins, *Organist*
Jill Stevenson, *Office Manager*
Katie Douglas, *Finance Manager*
Angel Stoudt, *Sexton*
Archie Clarkson, *Tech Director*
Katherine Johnson, *Wedding Coordinator*

Grace Church is a place where we hope you experience the empowering presence of the living God and where we collaborate with God in building the Kingdom of Heaven, here on earth. We are grateful you are among us today.