



Grace Episcopal Church

The Seventh Sunday of Easter: The Sunday After Ascension Day

May 17, 2026

10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist II

Prelude: *God of Grace and God of Glory*

Wayne Wold

Welcome and Announcements

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

The Opening Acclamation

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ is Risen.

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

Opening Hymn: *See the Conqueror mounts in triumph*

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Collect for Purity

Gloria

Cassarino

Glory to God in the Highest and peace to his people 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 Collect of the Day

BCP 226

The people sit.

Children's Moment

Candle Prayer

The priest lights the Christ Candle from the Altar

Celebrant We send you forth with the light of Christ;

People **We are bound together: one congregation, one Lord, one worship.**

Music in Procession: *This is the day* (from *Songs of Grace*)

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THE WORD OF GOD

The First Lesson: Acts 1:6-14

When the apostles had come together, they asked Jesus, "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."

Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a sabbath day's journey away. When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying, Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer,

together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

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

People **Thanks be to God.**

The Psalm: 68:1-10, 33-36



May God arise and the enemy be put / **to flight;**
May those who hate / **the Lord flee!**
May they vanish like smoke when / **the wind blows;**
As wax melts near the fire, so may the / **wicked parish!**

But the righteous rejoice at the coming of / **the Lord;**
They dance for joy, singing praises to the / **name of God!**
They prepare a way for the one who rides up-on the cloud,
They exult in the name / **of the Lord!**

God, who lives in the ho-ly **temple,**
Cares for orphans and pro-tects the **widows,**
Provides the lonely with a home, sets / **prisoners free;**
But the rebels live in the / **scorching desert.**

O God, when you went forth before / **your people,**
When you marched a-cross the **desert,**
The earth quaked and the heavens / **poured down rain**
At your coming, God of Israel, / **Sinai's God**

You refreshed with rain your / **own land;**
When your heritage was faint, you / **gave it strength;**

Your people found a home / **in that land,**
Which your goodness provided / **for the poor.**

All you nations, sing praise / **to God,**
To the one who rides in the / **ancient heavens.**
God speaks in / **mighty thunder.**
Come, confess the power / **of our God.**

The glory of God is o-ver **Israel,**
the might of God is / **in the skies.**
Awesome is God in the / **holy place!**
The God of Israel gives power of strength / **to the people.**

The Second Reading: 1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11

Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that is taking place among you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice insofar as you are sharing Christ's sufferings, so that you may also be glad and shout for joy when his glory is revealed. If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the spirit of glory, which is the Spirit of God, is resting on you.

Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt you in due time. Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you. Discipline yourselves, keep alert. Like a roaring lion your adversary the devil prowls around, looking for someone to devour. Resist him, steadfast in your faith, for you know that your brothers and sisters in all the world are undergoing the same kinds of suffering. And after you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, support, strengthen, and establish you. To him be the power forever and ever. Amen.

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

People **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Hymn: *Hail the day that sees him rise*

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

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

The Gospel: John 17:1-11

Jesus looked up to heaven and said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed.

"I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one."

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord.

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

The Creed



1. We be-lieve in God al-might-y, Au-thor of all things that be. Ma-ker of the earth and hea-vens,
2. We be-lieve that Je-sus suf-fered, scourged & scorned & cru-ci-fied; ta-ken from the cross, was bu-ried;
3. We be-lieve in God's own Spi-rit, bond-ing all the saints with-in one church, cath-o-lic and ho-ly,



Keep-er of the sky and sea. We be-lieve in God's son, Je-sus, now for us both
True Life there had tru-ly died. We be-lieve that on the third day Christ was raised up
where for-give-ness frees from sin; in the bod-y's res-ur-rec-tion, for the break-ing



Lord and Christ, of the Spi-rit and of Ma-ry, born to bring a-bun-dant life.
from the grave, then as-cen-ded to God's right hand. He will come to judge and save.
of death's chain gives the life that's ev-er-last-ing. This the faith that we have claimed.

The Prayers of the People

Reader In the Glory of the Paschal light, we pray to God.

Reader God, awake those who sleep, raise us from death.

People **Christ will give us life!**

Reader God, you walked with the Disciples on the road to Emmaus, in this season of resurrection, give the Church the grace to recognize you anew, that we might serve you with courage and grace.

People **In the new Easter light we proclaim your redeeming work.**

Reader You redeemed Peter at breakfast by the fire. Bring new hope to your world, O God, that all might know the goodness of your Love.

People **Make us instruments of your peace.**

Reader Lead us from the empty tomb to proclaim your grace in this nation, and inspire our leaders toward peace and cooperation.

People **In Easter we learn to honor one another and serve the common good.**

Reader The courageous women ran from the empty tomb to proclaim new life. The resurrected Christ is a mission of hope to those who suffer, we especially pray for Linda & David Adams, Joan Aldrich, Judy Rhodes Baroody, Martha Boyette, Anne Jarema, Todd Kaderabek, Mike Miller, Walt & Joyce Noble, Natalie & Andrew Owens, Wayne & Laura Parton, Elaine Potter, Kyle Rhodes, Ann Robinson, Jeff Russell, Nancy Sink, Becky & Bill Smith, Laura, Tsz-yan (G-Yen) and Roger Snyder, Susan & Mark Sudimak, Rita Spragg, Lydia Vander Voort & Andy Steele, Jennifer Witt, Marla Woeckener... and all those you now name.

(All are invited to pray silently or aloud)

God, resurrect us.

People **So that we may know the healing power of your love!**

Reader After you were raised you ate and drank with the disciples. Bring us, and all who have died, peace and assurance of the Resurrection. We especially pray for Allyn Aldrich and Ed Woeckener, and on the anniversary of their deaths we pray for Lois Saulnier and Charlie Brewer and for those who still grieve for them...Are there others?

(All are invited to pray silently or aloud)

God who resurrects;

People **Remind us daily to share in your eternal Kingdom.**

Reader In the Easter light, change our hearts that we might grow larger in faith and hope. Let us give thanksgiving for those celebrating

birthdays, especially Tahani Sticpewich, Shannon Wall, Lorie Tola, Monty Wooten, and Judy Rhodes, and for those celebrating anniversaries, especially Chris & Rich Thompson, and Hannah Buckner & Richard Jacobs.

People **Help us to reach out with Christ's life-giving hands.**

Priest Christ has burst forth from the tomb, making all things new. Grant that we may now live by faith, and with joy behold the coming of your resurrection work in the world around us.

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: *Jesus Christ, the Apple Tree*

Trad. English/arr. J.P. Cassarino

David Adams, Violin

Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow,

Praise God all creatures here below. Alleluia, alleluia!

Praise God above you heavenly host, Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost,

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

The Great Thanksgiving: Eucharistic Prayer 3 (from *Enriching Our Worship*)

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.

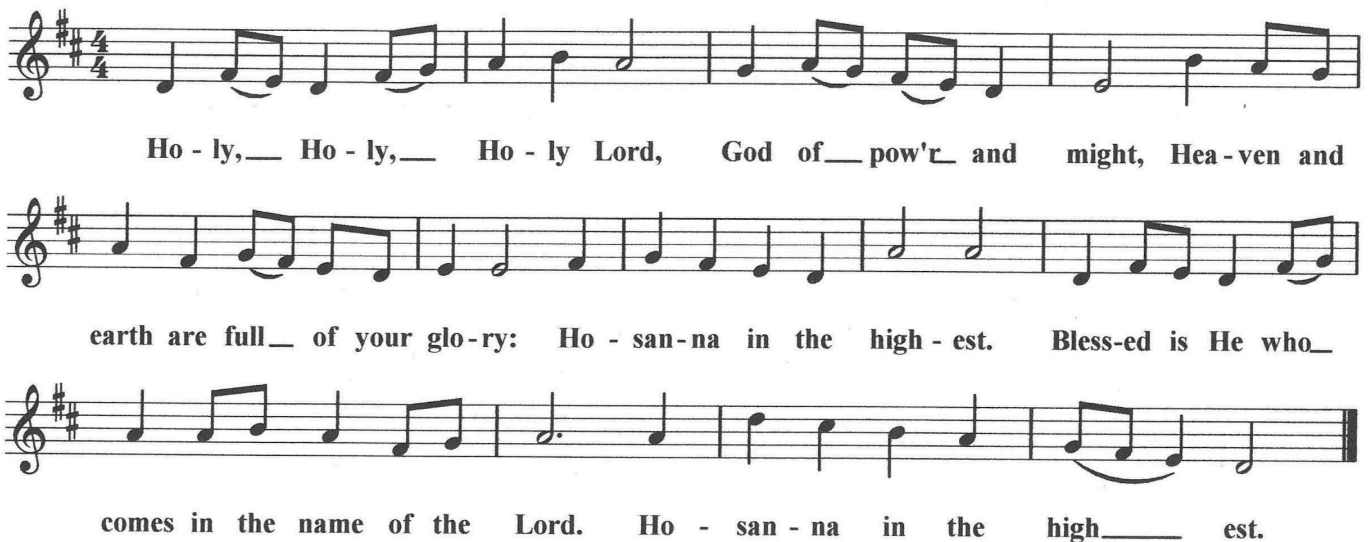
People **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Celebrant

All thanks and praise are yours at all times and in all places, our true and loving God; through Jesus Christ, your eternal Word, the Wisdom from on high by whom you created all things. You laid the foundations of the world and enclosed the sea when it burst out from the womb; You brought forth all creatures of the earth and gave breath to humankind. Wondrous are you, Holy One of Blessing, all you create is a sign of hope for our journey; And so as the morning stars sing your praises we join the heavenly beings and all creation as we shout with joy:

Sanctus

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 Celebrant continues

Glory and honor are yours, Creator of all, your Word has never been silent; you called a people to yourself, as a light to the nations, you delivered them from bondage and led them to a land of promise. Of your grace, you gave Jesus to be human, to share our life, to proclaim the coming of your holy reign and give himself for us, a fragrant offering. Through Jesus Christ our

Redeemer, you have freed us from sin, brought us into your life, reconciled us to you, and restored us to the glory you intend for us.

We thank you that on the night before he died for us Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, gave it to his friends and said: "Take, eat, this is my Body, broken for you. Do this for the remembrance of me." After supper Jesus took the cup of wine, said the blessing, gave it to his friends and said: "Drink this, all of you: this cup is the new Covenant in my Blood, poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me."

And so, remembering all that was done for us: the cross, the tomb, the resurrection and ascension, longing for Christ's coming in glory, and presenting to you these gifts your earth has formed and human hands have made, we acclaim you, O Christ:

Celebrant and People

Dying, you destroyed our death. Rising, you restored our life. Christ Jesus, come in glory!

The Celebrant continues

Send your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts of bread and wine that they may be to us the Body and Blood of your Christ. Grant that we, burning with your Spirit's power, may be a people of hope, justice and love. Giver of Life, draw us together in the Body of Christ, and in the fullness of time gather us with all your people into the joy of our true eternal home. Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, we worship you our God and Creator in voices of unending praise.

Celebrant and People

Blessed are you now and for ever. AMEN.

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

(gluten free wafers available upon request)

Communion Hymn: *Thou, who at thy first Eucharist didst pray*

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Sending Forth of the Lay Eucharistic Visitors

When a Eucharistic Minister is to be sent forth, the following is said

Celebrant (Cliff/Lorie/James), in the name of God and this congregation, we send you forth bearing these holy gifts, that those to whom You go may share with us in the Communion of Christ's body and blood.

People **We who are many are one body because we all share one bread and one cup.**

The Blessing

Closing Hymn: *Crown him with many crowns*

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Dismissal

Postlude: *God of Grace and God of Glory*

Paul Manz



The Aumbry Candle is given to the Glory of God by
Kim & Rick Hayes in thanksgiving for their Grace Church family.

The Altar Flowers are given to the glory of God by
~~ Kristen Dusenbery in loving memory and thanksgiving for her father, the
Rev. Dr. Donald H. Larsen, for his life and ministry to the world's refugees.
~~ Sandra Duncan in loving memory of Bill Moody.



LAY MINISTERS

Crucifer: Ali Schaefer Torches: Steve Birkhofer, Jack Frue
Chalicer: Elaine Potter Lectors: John Woodson, Louise Wernicke
Speaking in Tongues: Debra Rice, Jim Hayes, Diane Wilkey, George Davis
Intercessor: Elise Cassarino Presenters: Lucy & Larry Bowen
Ushers: Kyle, Lucy & Charlie Rhodes
Greeters: Ginny Moser, Melanie Druckenmiller
Vestry Member of the Day: Rusty McCredie
Streaming: James Cannon Violin: David Adams

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Robert's Office Hours

Rev. Robert can be found at the church on Tuesday afternoons, Monday and Thursday mornings, and by appointment. He can be reached in person or at hartmansrobert@gmail.com or by his cell 423-400-0826 for any pastoral care concerns.

Foyer Groups are Back! See the last page of the bulletin.

Children's Chapel

Every Sunday, the 10:30 service will begin with a Children's Moment followed by a procession to the Children's Chapel for ages 5-12. Children will return during the passing of the peace. Children are welcome to join the chapel or remain with their grown-ups in the congregation. If you would like to get involved, please email Casey Miller, casandra.miller@gmail.com.

Advocacy and Action

Join us at noon on the fourth Sunday of the month in the downstairs conference room. All are welcome. If you're interested in meeting with a group of like-minded Grace members and friends to discuss how we might help bring justice in a more effective and joyful way, together rather than alone, please send an email or text to Tahani Sticpewich (828-301-0550; tahaniweb@gmail.com).

Jones Elementary School Annual Food Drive

April 19-May 24 – Grace is collecting the donations and Mosaic Realty group will be packing and delivering bags to the 50 family homes in June. We need 50 of each item: Oatmeal, Rice, Peanut Butter, Jelly, Beans, Soup, Proteins, Macaroni and Cheese, Canned Fruit and Canned Vegetables. Contact Sarah Beasley at sdkbeasley@gmail.com with questions.

Pastoral Care Team

You might not know that there is a dedicated group of lay people who meet every week to pray for those on our parish prayer list and coordinate pastoral care. They are led by Lorie Tola and Cliff Albertson and they direct our clergy and other resources to meet people at Grace in difficult moments. If you are interested in their work please talk to Cliff, Lorie, or to Rev. Robert. We would love to plug you into the care network at Grace.

WEEKLY GATHERINGS

No Class today – Catechesis of the Good Shepherd: *Sundays a.m.; Mondays p.m.* We offer the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd for our children *Sundays between 9:00 and 10:15 a.m.*, and a *Monday afternoon class from 3:30-4:30 p.m.* Children may attend either one or both at any time. Contact Shannon Townsend for further information at gstownsend@att.net or 828-713-5081.

Monday Morning Bible Study: *Mondays at 10:30 a.m.*

We study the scriptures for the upcoming Sunday service. Please join us virtually by clicking on the button at graceavl.com.

Chair Aerobics: *Tuesdays at 1:15 p.m.*

All are invited! Join Susan Robinson for a chair exercise class in the Parish Hall. Bring a pair of dumbbells. There is no fee to participate. This class is appropriate for people of all abilities. It can be done standing or seated. If you have questions, email Susan at SusanMac2@gmail.com.

Taizé: *Tuesdays at 6:00 p.m.*

Weekly Taizé services are held in the sanctuary. Healing prayer is offered throughout the service for oneself or on behalf of someone else. For more information on Taizé at Grace, visit: graceavl.com/taize-grace.

Soaking Prayer: *Wednesdays at 12:00 noon*

Our Soaking Prayer Service continues every Wednesday from noon to 12:45. Come and see if this might be that special spiritual discipline that you have been looking for. All are welcome!

Women Walking the Way: *Thursdays at 8:20 a.m.*

Meet in the Bird Sanctuary parking lot by Beaver Lake for a walk around the lake and some spiritual reflection with like-minded women. For more information, contact Ann Lewis at annaflewis7@gmail.com or call her at 815-441-2282.

GRACE'S PRAYER LIST

For Congregants: **Linda & David Adams, Judy Rhodes Baroody, Anne Jarema, Todd Kaderabek, Mike Miller, Natalie & Andrew Owens, Wayne & Laura Parton, Gael Paschall, Elaine Potter, Kyle Rhodes, Ann Robinson, Jeff Russell, Becky & Bill Smith, Laura, Tsz-yan (G-Yen) and Roger Snyder, Susan & Mark Sudimak, Lydia Vander Voort & Andy Steele, Jennifer Witt.**

For Homebound Congregants and Those in Healthcare Facilities: **Joan Aldrich, Martha Boyette, Walt & Joyce Noble, Nancy Sink, Rita Spragg, Marla Woeckener.**

For Others: (Names will remain on the list for six weeks unless we hear otherwise). **Allen** (brother of Cheryl Aull); **Geraldine Allen** (aunt of Carole McClellan); **the Anderson Family** (friends of Bonnie Kistler); **Aubrey** (friend of Joe & Cheryl Aull); **Betsy Baldwin** (mother of Karen Baldwin); **Susan Barr** (sister-in-law of Mary Foster); **Bob Brennan** (relative of Anne Jarema); **Channon, Mark & Tiffany Brown** (friends of Robert Hartmans); **the Brongel family** (daughter and family of Jackie Schauer); **Christa Brigman** (friend of Ginny Moser); **Betty Ann Bryant** (friend of Rusty Herman); **Marcie Coleman** (cousin of Linda McCredie); **Elizabeth & Mike Cogsdale**

(friends of Fr. Timothy); **Presley Foxx** (granddaughter of Susan & Mark Sudimak); **Kathy Gerhardt** (daughter of Nancy Clark); **Gerry & Nick** (Bea Russell's sister-in-law); **Brady Gotwald** (great-nephew of Vicki & Paul Vest); **Tom Hunnicutt** (friend of Rusty Herman); **Robert & Katie Lyons** (friends of Ginny Moser); **Sally Mackay** (mother of Leslie Heiser); **Daniel McRee** (son of Fr. Timothy McRee) and **David** (husband of Daniel McRee); **Judy Wells Meehan** (friend of Rusty Herman); **Brian Moore** (nephew of Rusty Herman); **Robert Noble, Jr.** (brother of Walt Noble); **Meredith Peppers** (aunt of Carol McClellan); **Val & Kip Pritchard** (friends of Cliff Albertson); **Kevin Randall** (friend of Ron & Jeanne Sims); **Sarah Ray** (cousin of Doug McClellan); **Sarah Schuman** (niece of Fr. Timothy McRee); **Wiley Thornton** (cousin of Carol McClellan); **Susan Thigpen** (friend of Jennifer Witt); **Tom & Joan** (friends of James Cannon); **Stephanie Tugurian** (daughter of Ron & Jeanne Sims); **George White** (friend of Lorie Tola); **Bev Whiting** (friend of Rusty Herman).

For the recently departed: **Allyn Aldrich, Ed Woeckener.**

For those celebrating birthdays: **Tahani Sticpewich, Shannon Wall, Lorie Tola, Monty Wooten, Judy Rhodes.**

For those celebrating anniversaries: **Chris & Rich Thompson, Hannah Buckner & Richard Jacobs.**

For Those in Service to Our Country: **Tommy Brown** (grandson of Marla Woeckener); **Matt & Martha Cardenas** (daughter & son-in-law of Hannah Buckner); **John Davids** (nephew of Elaine Potter); **Matthew George** (son of Zoe Davis); **Jason Marino** (son of Lynda McCredie); **John Massey** (son-in-law of Mary Foster); **Brady Paschall** (granddaughter of Gael Paschall); **Sarah Jane Wilkey** (daughter of Diane & Tony Wilkey).

For Those in the Episcopal Church: Sarah, Archbishop of Canterbury; Sean, our presiding Bishop; José, our Bishop; the clergy, vestry, staff, ministries, and people of this parish; in the Anglican Cycle of Prayer, we pray for The Episcopal Church in Jerusalem and the Middle East; and in the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer, Ascension, Hickory.

For our Nation and the Wider World: For the President and his Cabinet; for Congress; and for our country; for victims of violence around the world; for local agencies and those who work for relief of the poor; for stewardship of the environment; for resolution of crises throughout our world.



Grace's Mission Statement

Grace Church exists as a diverse community of the Body of Christ, to serve Jesus Christ our Lord. Our mission is to nurture and develop each individual to reach out and share God's love.



Grace Episcopal Church

871 Merrimon Avenue, Asheville, NC 28804

828-254-1086 * graceavl.com

Office Hours: Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 9:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Wednesday 9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

office@graceavl.com

The Right Reverend José McLoughlin, *Bishop of WNC*

The Reverend Robert Hartmans

Priest in Charge

The Reverend Timothy McRee

The Reverend John Rice

Clergy

James Cassarino, *Director of Music*

Cathy Adkins, *Organist*

Anne Spruance, *Office Administrator*

Katie Douglas, *Finance Manager*

Angel Stoudt, *Sexton*

Paula Foggo

Nursery Supervisor

Caroline Parson-Chambliss

Trinity Mickens

Nursery Workers

Foyer Groups are Back!

Foyer Groups are small lunch/dinner groups, usually eight people, who get together to share a meal and get to know one another better. You can meet in a home, restaurant, or somewhere else like a picnic by the river. Unless you're meeting at a restaurant, plan on bringing something to share. But don't worry. You don't have to be able to cook. In this "foodie town" there is plenty you can buy, and several restaurants offer takeout family-size servings if your group wants to chip in for a main dish and a salad. This isn't an effort to prove we're good cooks; it's an opportunity to get together and socialize. The plan is to meet once a month for four months. One of those four times will be hosted by Robert and Casey Hartmans at their home. This will be a good opportunity to also get to know them better. Hosts are needed to organize the dates, places, and meals.

If you are interested in participating or hosting, please fill out the form. It can be given to Lucy Bowen, left at the church office, or put in the collection plate. You may also contact Lucy at lucyabowen@yahoo.com or text 229-224-5891. She hopes to gather names of interested participants through the end of May with tentative start dates in June.

I am interested in participating in a Foyer Group.

Name _____

Email address _____

Phone # _____

I am willing to host _____

I would prefer to meet for Lunch _____ Dinner _____