



Grace Episcopal Church

The Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

July 26, 2026

10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist II

Prelude: *Suite in F: Adagio*

G.F. Handel

Welcome and Announcements

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

The Opening Acclamation

Presider Blessed be the One, Holy, Living God.

People **Glory to God forever and ever.**

Opening Hymn: *O worship the King, all glorious above!*

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Collect for Purity

Hymn of Praise

verse 1 of 8

Morning has broken like the first morning,
black-bird has spoken like the first bird.
Praise for the singing! Praise for the morning!
Praise for them, springing fresh from the Word!

The Collect of the Day

BCP 231

The people sit.

Children's Moment - Sanctuary Scavenger Hunt

THE WORD OF GOD

The First Lesson: Genesis 29:15-28

Laban said to Jacob, "Because you are my kinsman, should you therefore serve me for nothing? Tell me, what shall your wages be?" Now Laban had two daughters; the name of the elder was Leah, and the name of the younger was Rachel. Leah's eyes were lovely, and Rachel was graceful and beautiful. Jacob loved Rachel; so he said, "I will serve you seven years for your younger daughter Rachel." Laban said, "It is better that I give her to you than that I should give her to any other man; stay with me." So Jacob served seven years for Rachel, and they seemed to him but a few days because of the love he had for her.

Then Jacob said to Laban, "Give me my wife that I may go in to her, for my time is completed." So Laban gathered together all the people of the place, and made a feast. But in the evening he took his daughter Leah and brought her to Jacob; and he went in to her. (Laban gave his maid Zilpah to his daughter Leah to be her maid.) When morning came, it was Leah! And Jacob said to Laban, "What is this you have done to me? Did I not serve with you for Rachel? Why then have you deceived me?" Laban said, "This is not done in our country — giving the younger before the firstborn. Complete the week of this one, and we will give you the other also in return

for serving me another seven years.” Jacob did so, and completed her week; then Laban gave him his daughter Rachel as a wife.

So Jacob rose early in the morning, and he took the stone that he had put under his head and set it up for a pillar and poured oil on the top of it. He called that place Bethel.

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

People **Thanks be to God.**

The people remain seated.

Response: *Spirit of the Living God*

(Songs of Grace)

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The Second Lesson: Romans 8:26-39

The Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified.

What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of

Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written,

“For your sake we are being killed all day long;
we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered.”

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

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

People **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Hymn: *Father, we thank thee who hast planted*

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Presider The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

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

The Gospel: Matthew 13:31-33,44-52

Jesus put before the crowds another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.”

He told them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened.”

“The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

“Have you understood all this?” They answered, “Yes.” And he said to them, “Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.”

Presider The Gospel of the Lord.

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

The Homily

The Reverend Robert Hartmans

The Prayers of the People

The people stand.

Leader We give you thanks and praise, O God of creation, for the grandeur of all that you have made, saying

People **We thank you, God.**

Leader For the healing waters of creation, which bring pleasure and health, purity and life,

People **We thank you, God.**

Leader For the richness of the good Earth that brings forth fruits and flowers, a pleasure to taste and a joy to behold,

People **We thank you, God.**

Leader For the soaring birds of the air, the crawling creatures on the Earth, the gliding fishes in the seas, for all creatures great and small with whom we share this precious web of life,

People **We thank you, God.**

Leader For the invigorating sunlight of day, the deepening mystery of night, the wonder of the stars, and the call of the unknown in the universe,

People **We thank you, God.**

Leader For those of your creation who are in sickness or trouble, especially: Linda & David Adams, Joan Aldrich, Judy Rhodes Baroody, Carol Booth, Martha Boyette, James Cannon, Anne Jarema, Todd Kaderabek, Muriel & John Kimbrough, Walt, Joyce & Diana Noble, the Moser family, Natalie & Andrew Owens, Wayne & Laura Parton, Elaine Potter, Kyle Rhodes, Ann Robinson, Jeff Russell, Nancy Sink, Laura, Tsz-yan (G-Yen) and Roger Snyder, Rita Spragg, Laurie Strickland, Lydia Vander Voort & Andy Steele, Jennifer Witt, Marla Woeckener, and all those you now name...

(All are invited to pray silently or aloud)

We remember those who have recently died, especially Shauna & Darren Nelson, and David Currence, and on the anniversary of their deaths we pray for Barbara Brown and Albert Rios, and for those who still grieve for them...Are there others?

(All are invited to pray silently or aloud)

Priest Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Leader From squandering resources, abusing our companion species,
and polluting the habitat we all share,

People **Good Lord, deliver us.**

Leader From the folly of imagining ourselves free from the fate of your
whole creation,

People **Good Lord, deliver us.**

Leader For the courage and wisdom to confess how little we have cared
for your gifts,

People **Strengthen us, O Spirit.**

Leader For the conviction that you have called us to love and restore the
Earth,

People **Strengthen us, O Spirit.**

Leader For repentance and the determination to begin our stewardship
anew,

People **Strengthen us, O Spirit.**

Priest O merciful Creator, your hand is open wide to satisfy the needs of
every living creature: Make us always thankful for your loving
providence; and grant that we, remembering the account that we
must one day give, may be faithful stewards of your good gifts;
through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit
lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever, Amen.

The Peace

Presider 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: *House of the Rising Sun Meets Amazing Grace* Anon
Soloists: Patrice & Steve Crabtree

Doxology *Old 100th*

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise him, all creatures here below;
Praise him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving: Eucharistic Prayer B **BCP 367**

Presider The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Presider Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them to the Lord.**

Presider Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

Presider

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, through Jesus Christ our Lord. 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:



The Presider continues

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, 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, according to his command, O Father,

Presider and People

**We remember his death,
We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory;**

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all;
presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation. 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.**

The Lord's Prayer *(Traditional)*

BCP 364

The Breaking of the Bread

Fraction Anthem

Hurd



(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.)

An Invitation to Communion

All are invited to receive communion. Your participation is a blessing to us, and we want you to feel welcome and at ease to participate. The ushers will direct you from your pew. When you arrive at the communion rail, you are welcome to kneel or stand. As the priest comes to you, they will provide the host in wafer form; if you need gluten free, indicate this by placing your right hand over your heart. You may consume the host or hold it to dip in the chalice. If you would like to receive a blessing instead of the host, cross both hands over your chest. Next, the Chalice Bearer will come to you, and they will offer real wine consecrated from a common cup. You can drink from the cup, allowing the chalice bearer to guide the cup to your mouth. If you wish to dip your host wafer, hand that to the chalice bearer and they will do it for you. It is considered full communion to only receive the host if you do not wish to drink from the cup.

Communion Hymn: *O Food to pilgrims given*

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Sending Forth of the Lay Eucharistic Visitors

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

Presider (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 people stand.

Post Communion Prayer

BCP 365

The Blessing

Closing Hymn: *Praise, my soul, the King of heaven*

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Dismissal



The Aumbry Candle is given to the Glory of God by
Balfour & Carol Lynn Knight in loving memory of their parents.

The Altar Flowers are given to the glory of God by Eleanor Jameson in
loving memory of her parents, Mary Ida & Peter Sprague.



LAY MINISTERS

Crucifer: Jack Frue Torches: Steve Birkhofer, Greg Townsend

Chalicer: Lorie Tola Lectors: Steve Birkhofer, Vicki Vest

Intercessor: Jacintha Caufield Presenters: Judy & Earl Booze

Ushers: Vicki & Paul Vest Greeters: Melanie Druckenmiller, George Bottiger

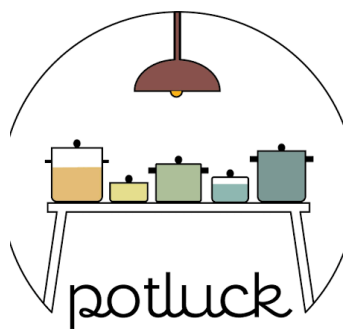
Streaming: James Cannon Vestry Person of the Day: Paul Vest



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Wiggle Church

During July and August, Grace Church is offering Wiggle Church during the service. Children aged 5-12 are welcome to join two adult supervisors for fun on the playground or in the parish hall, depending on weather. The group will come back to the sanctuary for communion.



Newcomer Potluck – July 31 at 6:00 p.m.

If you are new to Grace, have recently come back to us, or feel like a newcomer no matter how long you've been here, please join us on Friday, July 31 in the parish hall for a potluck dinner and meet-and-greet. **The church will provide fried chicken.** You bring your favorite sides or dessert, and plan to have a friendly, welcoming evening. Call Grace at 828-254-1086, or email office@graceavl.com to let us know

you're coming.

Advocacy and Action

Join us today at noon 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).



Follow the QR Code to Our Newsletter

Scan the QR code to take you to Growing in Grace, our weekly newsletter. If you'd like it to come to your inbox, send your email address to kimhys53@gmail.com.

Contacting Rev. Robert

Rev. Robert can be reached at hartmansrobert@gmail.com or by his cell: 423-400-0826 for any pastoral care concerns or to set up an appointment.

WEEKLY GATHERINGS

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd: *Sundays a.m.; Mondays p.m.*

We offer the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd for our children *Sundays 9:00 and 10:15 a.m.*, and *Monday afternoon 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, Carol Booth, Judy Rhodes Baroody, James Cannon, Anne Jarema, Todd Kaderabek, Muriel & John Kimbrough, the Moser family, Natalie & Andrew Owens, Wayne & Laura Parton, Gael Paschall, Elaine Potter, Kyle Rhodes, Debra Rice, Ann

Robinson, Jeff Russell, Laura, Tsz-yan (G-Yen) and Roger Snyder, Laurie Strickland, Lydia Vander Voort & Andy Steele, Jennifer Witt.

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

For Others: (Names will remain on the list for six weeks unless we hear otherwise).
Geraldine Allen (aunt of Carole McClellan); **Aubrey** (friend of Joe & Cheryl Aull); **Mike Baldwin** (friend of Beth & John Woodson); **Susan Barr** (sister-in-law of Mary Foster); **Ann Brown** (mother of Katherine Johnson), **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** (friend of Lynda McCredie); **Elizabeth & Mike Cogsdale** (friends of Fr. Timothy); **Presley Foxx** (granddaughter of Susan & Mark Sudimak); **Kathy Gerhardt** (daughter of Nancy Clark); **Nick & Gerry** (Bea Russell's sister-in-law); **Tom Hunnicutt** (friend of Rusty Herman); **Laura & Hanna Keith** (friends of Shannon Townsend); **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); **Steve Noble** (brother of Walt Noble); **Meredith Peppers** (aunt of Carol McClellan); **Carol Peindel** (friend of (Anne Jarema); **Kevin Randall** (friend of Ron & Jeanne Sims); **Sarah Ray** (cousin of Doug McClellan); **the Roberts Family** (friends of Vicki & Paul Vest); **Sarah Schuman** (niece of Fr. Timothy McRee); **Bill Staton** (friend of Jennifer Witt); **Wiley Thornton** (cousin of Carol McClellan); **Tom & Joan** (friends of James Cannon); **Stephanie Tugurian** (daughter of Jeanne & Ron Sims); **Ray Wesolowski** (father of Tim Wesolowski); **George White** (friend of Lorie Tola); **Lynn Whitehead** (friend of Ann Lewis); **Bev Whiting** (friend of Rusty Herman).

For the recently departed: **Shanna & Darren Nelson** (parents of **Muriel Nelson Kimbrough**); **David Currence**.

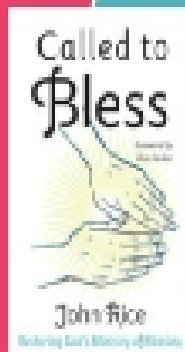
For those celebrating birthdays: **Pat Walters, Pam Maney, Patrick Young, John King, Barry Maney**.

For those celebrating anniversaries: **Terri & Jack Frue**.

For those in service to our country: **Danny Brossart** (grand-nephew of Louise Cate Wernicke); **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); **Jude Waigand** (grandson of Jennifer Witt); **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 Anglican Church of Papua New Guinea**; and in the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer, **St. James, Black Mountain, St. James, Hendersonville, St. James, Lenoir**.

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.



Called to Bless - Restoring God's Ministry of Blessing

August 22, 2026
9:00am to 3:00pm

Grace Episcopal Church

871 Merrimon Ave, Asheville, NC 28804

Rev. John Rice

Speaking words of blessing is praying for the fullness of God's intentions to be released into a person's life.

This workshop will lay the biblical foundation for blessing prayer, with the essentials being taught and practiced.

God is calling us to become men and women of blessing!

Cost:

Donation to help cover cost of lunch.

To Register:

Call 828-254-1086 (church office) or email
Anne Spruance, Grace Office Administrator, at
office@graceavl.com

Register by August 15, 2026



Back-to School Wish List for Foster Children

Crayola 24ct crayons (basic colors)

Crayola colored pencils

Crayola washable markers

#2 Ticonderoga pencils

Glue sticks

Pens (red, blue, black)

Highlighters

Pencil boxes/pouches

Pencil sharpeners

Scissors (elementary age +)

Beginner "fat" pencils

Pink or white erasers

Dividers

Loose leaf paper (wide/college)

1", 1.5", 2" binders

Pocket folders

Sticky notes

Composition books

Binders w/ clear plastic front

Plastic folders w/ pockets

Folders w/ pockets & brads

Pocket dictionary/thesaurus

Expo brand dry erase markers

(chisel/fine-tip)

Backpacks (all sizes, colors,

characters)



Grace Episcopal Church

871 Merrimon Avenue, Asheville, NC 28804

828-254-1086 * graceavl.com

Email: office@graceavl.com

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

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

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*

Judy Rhodes Baroody, *Taizé Music Coordinator*

Anne Spruance, *Office Administrator*

Katie Douglas, *Finance Manager*

Angel Stoudt, *Sexton*

Paula Foggo, *Nursery Care Leader*

Caroline Parson-Chambliss, Trinity Mickens

Nursery Workers





Welcome to Grace Episcopal Church

Founded in 1867 as Beaverdam Mission, we are members of the Body of Christ, the worldwide Anglican Communion, the Episcopal Church in the USA, and the Diocese of Western North Carolina. Grace Episcopal Church is a gathering place of those seeking to follow Jesus and to serve the world.

We would be happy to have you join our journey!

Our liturgy follows the 1979 Book of Common Prayer. We use the New Revised Standard Version of the Bible, the Hymnal 1982, and Songs of Grace (SOG). We print as much of the service in the bulletin as we can, so that it is easier to follow. There are also notations in italics about when to stand, kneel or sit.

Children are welcome and encouraged to join us in worship. There is also a nursery for children aged 0-4, and during July - August, Wiggle Church is available for people aged 5-12.

Everyone is welcome to join us for coffee and refreshments after the service.

Use the QR code below to link to Grace's Welcome Newcomer's page.

