



Grace Episcopal Church

The Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

July 5, 2026

10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist II

Prelude: *A Mighty Fortress is Our God*

Jason Payne

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: *Brethren, we have met to worship*

1 Breth-ren, we have met to wor-ship and a - dore the Lord our God.
2 Sis - ters, will you come and help us? Mo-ses' sis - ter aid - ed him.
3 Is there here a trem-bling jail-er, seek-ing grace and filled with fears?
4 Let us love our God su - preme-ly; let us love each oth - er, too.

Will you pray with all your pow - er while we try to preach the word?
Will you help the trem-bling mourn-ers who are strug-gling hard with sin?
Is there here a weep-ing Mar - y pour-ing forth a flood of tears?
Let us love and pray for sin - ners till our God makes all things new.

All is vain un - less the Spir - it of the ho - ly One comes down.
Tell them all a - bout the Sav - ior. Tell them that he will be found.
Breth-ren, join your cries to help them; sis - ters, let your prayers a - bound!
Christ will call us home to heav - en; at his ta - ble we'll sit down.

Breth - ren, pray, and ho - ly man - na will be show-ered all a-round.
Sis - ters, pray, and ho - ly man - na will be show-ered all a-round.
Pray, O pray, that ho - ly man - na will be scat-tered all a-round.
Christ will gird him-self and serve us with sweet man-na all a-round.

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 230

The people sit.

THE WORD OF GOD

The First Lesson: Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67

The servant said to Laban, "I am Abraham's servant. The LORD has greatly blessed my master, and he has become wealthy; he has given him flocks and herds, silver and gold, male and female slaves, camels and donkeys. And Sarah my master's wife bore a son to my master when she was old; and he has given him all that he has. My master made me swear, saying, 'You shall not take a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites, in whose land I live; but you shall go to my father's house, to my kindred, and get a wife for my son.'

"I came today to the spring, and said, 'O LORD, the God of my master Abraham, if now you will only make successful the way I am going! I am standing here by the spring of water; let the young woman who comes out to draw, to whom I shall say, "Please give me a little water from your jar to drink," and who will say to me, "Drink, and I will draw for your camels also" —let her be the woman whom the LORD has appointed for my master's son.'

"Before I had finished speaking in my heart, there was Rebekah coming out with her water jar on her shoulder; and she went down to the spring, and

drew. I said to her, 'Please let me drink.' She quickly let down her jar from her shoulder, and said, 'Drink, and I will also water your camels.' So I drank, and she also watered the camels. Then I asked her, 'Whose daughter are you?' She said, 'The daughter of Bethuel, Nahor's son, whom Milcah bore to him.' So I put the ring on her nose, and the bracelets on her arms. Then I bowed my head and worshiped the LORD, and blessed the LORD, the God of my master Abraham, who had led me by the right way to obtain the daughter of my master's kinsman for his son. Now then, if you will deal loyally and truly with my master, tell me; and if not, tell me, so that I may turn either to the right hand or to the left."

And they called Rebekah, and said to her, "Will you go with this man?" She said, "I will." So they sent away their sister Rebekah and her nurse along with Abraham's servant and his men. And they blessed Rebekah and said to her, "May you, our sister, become thousands of myriads; may your offspring gain possession of the gates of their foes." Then Rebekah and her maids rose up, mounted the camels, and followed the man; thus the servant took Rebekah, and went his way. Now Isaac had come from Beer-lahai-roi, and was settled in the Negeb. Isaac went out in the evening to walk in the field; and looking up, he saw camels coming. And Rebekah looked up, and when she saw Isaac, she slipped quickly from the camel, and said to the servant, "Who is the man over there, walking in the field to meet us?" The servant said, "It is my master." So she took her veil and covered herself. And the servant told Isaac all the things that he had done. Then Isaac brought her into his mother Sarah's tent. He took Rebekah, and she became his wife; and he loved her. So Isaac was comforted after his mother's death.

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

People **Thanks be to God.**

Response: *Spirit of the Living God*

(Songs of Grace) 54

The Second Lesson: Romans 7:15-25a

I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. Now if I do what I do not want, I agree that the law is good. But in fact it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me. For I know that nothing good dwells within me, that is, in my flesh. I can will what is right, but I cannot do it. For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do. Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me.

So I find it to be a law that when I want to do what is good, evil lies close at hand. For I delight in the law of God in my inmost self, but I see in my members another law at war with the law of my mind, making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. Wretched man that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!

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

People **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Hymn: *Lord of all hopefulness*

482

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

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

The Gospel: Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

Jesus said to the crowd, "To what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another,

'We played the flute for you, and you did not dance;
we wailed, and you did not mourn.'

For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, 'He has a demon'; the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, 'Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!' Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds."

At that time Jesus said, "I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

"Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

Presider The Gospel of the Lord.

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

The Homily

The Reverend Timothy McRee

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, Walt, Joyce & Diana Noble, 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, 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 David Currence, and on the anniversary of their deaths we pray for Albert Hargrove, Dick Webster, Mildred Keith, Philip Walker, Jr., 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 Hymn: *How sweet the Name of Jesus sounds*

644

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:

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. Bless - ed is he who
 comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est. _____

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

(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: *Just as I am, without one plea*

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: *O beautiful for spacious skies*

719

Dismissal

Postlude: *Chorale Fantasy on "A Mighty Fortress"*

Micheal Bedford



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 Ginny & Artus Moser
in loving memory of their daughter Janette.



LAY MINISTERS

Crucifer: James Cannon Torches: Kyle Rhodes

Chalicerist: Susan Robinson Lectors: Hannah Buckner, Elaine Potter

Intercessor: Louise Cate Wernicke Presenters: Diane Wilkey, Jennifer Witt

Ushers: Jeanne & Ron Sims Greeters: Diane Wilkey, Cheryl Aull

Streaming: Ben Scales Vestry Member of the Day: Ron Sims



ANNOUNCEMENTS

First Sunday Offering

Today is the first Sunday of the month, when our open plate offering (undesignated cash, change and checks) goes to support the clergy's discretionary fund, enabling them to respond quickly to the emergency needs of others. Please be generous.

Contacting Rev. Robert

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



The Great Grace Pie Bake-Off – July 19

Fire up those ovens, flour-up those rolling pins, and bring your favorite pies to share at coffee hour on July 19, so we can crown the best. Several categories! Must be 90% homemade (That 10% cheat can only be applied to the crust.) Three categories – Berry, Cream and Savory, and you can submit one to each. Refrigeration will be available. Prizes awarded! Check GiG for more information (scan the QR code in the bulletin).

Newcomer Potluck – July 31

If you are new to Grace over the past 12 months, or have recently come back to us, please join us on Friday, July 31 in the parish hall for a pot luck dinner and meet-and-greet. More information to follow.

Adult Formation Group – Episcopal: Why, What, When, and How

The Rev. Robert Hartmans will facilitate discussions about the traditions, beliefs, structure, and oddities of the Episcopal Church. These discussions will be hosted at 9:15 a.m. in the parish hall and are appropriate for people 12 years and older. The discussions are aimed at providing a broad familiarity with The Episcopal Church. Persons who participate in the majority of sessions will be eligible for confirmation and reception.

Schedule of Classes:

Sunday, July 12: Where do Episcopalians come from?

Sunday, July 19: How do Episcopalians pray?

Sunday, July 26: All things Episcopal.

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).



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.

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 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, Carol Booth, Judy Rhodes Baroody, James Cannon, Anne Jarema, Todd Kaderabek, Natalie & Andrew Owens, Wayne & Laura Parton, Gael Paschall, Elaine Potter, Kyle Rhodes, Ann Robinson, Jeff Russell, Laura, Tsz-yan (G-Yen) and Roger Snyder, 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); **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); **Laurie Carter** (sister of Fr. Timothy); **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); **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); **George White** (friend of Lorie Tola); **Bev Whiting** (friend of Rusty Herman).

For the recently departed: **David Currence.**

For those celebrating birthdays: **Ann Lewis, Louise Cate Wernicke, Chal Vaughn, Nathaniel Potter.**

For those celebrating anniversaries: Anita & Guy Sayles, Shannon & Mark Wall.

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); **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 Church of Nigeria;** and in the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer, **Episcopal Chaplains serving the Armed Forces, VA Hospitals, and other organizations providing care for veterans.**

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 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. However, there is also a nursery for children aged 0-4.

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

Please stop by our Greeter's Table in the foyer to leave us your name and email address (if you wish to receive our newsletter).

