

The Liturgy of the Word
The Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost
November 15, 2020
Grace Episcopal Church

Opening

Officiant Christ has no body on earth now but yours, no hands but yours, no feet but yours; yours are the eyes through which he looks with compassion on the world; yours are the feet with which he walks to do good; yours are the hands with which he blesses all the world. *Theresa of Avila*

Prelude

Opening Acclamation and Collect for Purity

Celebrant Blessed be the one, Holy and Living God.

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

Celebrant Let us pray.

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. Amen.

Song of Praise

A Song of God's Love (1 John 4:7-11)

EOW 37

Beloved, let us love one another, *
for love is of God.

Whoever does not love does not know God, *
for God is Love.

In this the love of God was revealed among us, *
that God sent his only Son into the world,
so that we might live through Jesus Christ.

In this is love, not that we loved God but that God loved us *
and sent his Son that sins might be forgiven.

Beloved, since God loved us so much, *
we ought also to love one another.

For if we love one another, God abides in us, *
and God's love will be perfected in us.

Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

Blessed Lord, who caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: Grant us so to hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The First Lesson

Zephaniah 1:7,12-18

Be silent before the Lord God! For the day of the Lord is at hand; the Lord has prepared a sacrifice, he has consecrated his guests. At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps, and I will punish the people who rest complacently on their dregs, those who say in their hearts, "The Lord will not do good, nor will he do harm." Their wealth shall be plundered, and their houses laid waste. Though they build houses, they shall not inhabit them; though they plant vineyards, they shall not drink wine from them. The great day of the Lord is near, near and hastening fast; the sound of the day of the Lord is bitter, the warrior cries aloud there. That day will be a day of wrath, a day of distress and anguish, a day of ruin and devastation, a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness, a day of trumpet blast and battle cry against the fortified cities and against the lofty battlements. I will bring such distress upon people that they shall walk like the blind; because they have sinned against the Lord, their blood shall be poured out like dust, and their flesh like dung. Neither their silver nor their gold will be able to save them on the day of the Lord's wrath; in the fire of his passion the whole earth shall be consumed; for a full, a terrible end he will make of all the inhabitants of the earth.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 90:1-8, 12

Let us read together this portion of Psalm 70.

1 Lord, you have been our refuge
from one generation to another.

2 Before the mountains were brought forth, or the land and the earth were born,
from age to age you are God.

3 You turn us back to the dust and say,
"Go back, O child of earth."

4 For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past
and like a watch in the night.

5 You sweep us away like a dream;
we fade away suddenly like the grass.

6 In the morning it is green and flourishes;
in the evening it is dried up and withered.

7 For we consume away in your displeasure;
we are afraid because of your wrathful indignation.

8 Our iniquities you have set before you,
and our secret sins in the light of your countenance.

12 So teach us to number our days
that we may apply our hearts to wisdom.

The Second Lesson

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. When they say, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you

like a thief; for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. So then let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Hymn

O God, our help in ages past

Hymnal 680

The Gospel

Matthew 25:14-30

Jesus said, "It is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' But his master replied, 'You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'"

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

The Rev. April Berends

The Nicene Creed

BCP 358

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Anthem

The Call of Wisdom

Will Todd

*Lord of wisdom, Lord of truth, Lord of justice, Lord of mercy;
walk beside us down the years till we see you in your glory.
Striving to attain the heights, turning in a new direction,
entering a lonely place, welcoming a friend or stranger.
Refrain: I am here, I am with you. I have called: do you hear me?
I am here, I am with you.*

*Silver is of passing worth, gold is not of constant value,
jewels sparkle for a while; what you long for is not lasting.
Refrain*

*Rulers govern under me with my insight and my wisdom.
Those who know me know my love; those who seek me find their answer.
Refrain*

*God the Father and the Son, Holy Spirit coeternal.
Glory, glory be ascribed to you now and to the end of ages
Here, with you.
Refrain*

The Prayers of the People

Intercessor Let us offer our prayers for the church and the world.

Sustaining God, all creation bears witness to your glory. Make us good stewards of this world you have made, that we may use its resources to honor you and serve our neighbors.

Lord, in your mercy,

People Hear our prayer.

Intercessor Holy God, you sent your Son to live and die for us, and he taught us how to live as resurrection people. We pray for Michael, our Presiding Bishop; Brian, our Bishop; April and David, our priests, Keith, our seminarian; and for all ministers of your church, that we may be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world. Lord, in your mercy,

People Hear our prayer.

Intercessor Omnipotent God, your judgments are full of mercy. Guide the leaders of this land and all the nations by your holy wisdom, that all the families of the world may live in peace.
Lord, in your mercy,

People Hear our prayer.

Intercessor Reconciling God, you mend the divisions between us. Help us to face challenges with humility and gentleness, that our relationships with one another may reflect the life we share with you.

Lord, in your mercy,

People Hear our prayer.

Intercessor Merciful God, you look with tenderness on your people in need. Minister to those who live in the midst of illness, poverty and oppression, and help us to seek and serve Christ in our neighbors. We pray especially for

Roberta, David, Edith, Terrie, Alex, Roberta, Jeanette, Wanda, Emma, Darlene, Andrea, Steve, Jim, Celeste, Judy, Bethann, Julie, Dwight, Angela, James and Barbara, Trevor, Emily, Ted, Deb, Michael, Tom, Jeanette, Jane, Bo and Mary Minor, Helen, Nancy, Charlotte, Tyler, Jeff, Rebecca, J.R., Peggy, William, Timothy, Donald, Robert, Cooper, Sally Charles, Jonathan, Steven, John, Libby, Elaine, Jean, Barbara, Elizabeth, John, Joyce, Jim, Mary Ruth, and Ann;

We pray for Wil, Jake, Kevin, Tripp, Mike, Alexander, Russel, Logan, Jim, Sean, Evan, and all of our Armed Forces, here and abroad;

We pray for Bren who is deployed as a nurse in the pandemic.

We pray for Angela, who is with child.

We pray for all whose homes are in peril or uprooted because of climate change, for all displaced because of hurricanes, fires or other disasters.

We pray for all who remain on the front lines of this pandemic: for health care providers, those who grow and process food, staff grocery stores, provide transit, transport supplies, care for the young and the aged and those who are sick. We pray for all suffering from illness, those who have died, and all who grieve as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Lord, in your mercy,

People Hear our prayer.

Intercessor Eternal God, you have made for us a home in heaven. Bless those who have died, especially Breezie, and bring us with them to the joyful banquet of your unending love.

(The congregation is invited to name others, aloud or silently.)

Lord, in your mercy,

People Hear our prayer.

Officiant You, O God, are our dwelling place from generation to generation, our shield from anguish and distress. You arm us as children of light with the hope of salvation, and you protect us by your love. Give us grace to build up and encourage one another, as we seek wisdom and abundant life in the strength of your Word and the assurance of your Spirit. **Amen.**

Confession and Absolution

**Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

Officiant Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through the grace of Jesus Christ,
strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit, keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

The Peace

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

The Blessing

Postlude

Worship Leaders

Officiants	The Rev. April Berends, The Rev. David Burman
Preacher	The Rev. April Berends
Lectors	Jim Harris, Laura Bertrand
Guest Organist	Patrick Rice
Director of Music	David Long
Singers	Steven Hinkle, David Long, Megan Long, Elisabeth Schrock, Janelle Wagoner, Trevor Wagoner
Video	Richard Lanham, Janelle Wagoner

Announcements

Join Us for Online Worship at 9am & 10:45am Sundays

During this time of Social Distancing, we will continue to stream videos for Morning Prayer worship on our [Facebook](#) page and [website](#) at 9am and again at 10:45am. Bulletins for each week's service will be sent along with the Grace Notes weekend issue, and will be posted on the website alongside the video for the service. If you miss the 9am or 10:45am video streams, you can always go back and watch later.

In-person Worship on November 15th at 4:30pm

Weather permitting, Grace will hold outdoor, in-person on All Saints' Sunday, November 8th, at 4:30pm. We will meet on the yard just behind the pavilion and the community gardens. In an effort to protect the health of our neighbors, participants must sign up in advance, and we will be limiting the attendance for this service to 30 households. You will receive an email confirming successful registration, and if the service is over capacity at the time you sign up, you will receive priority for next week's service.

Each household unit is asked to keep 12-15 feet distance from your closest neighbor on the lawn. **Please wear a mask, and bring your own lawn chair or blanket.** If you are unable to bring your own chair, please email David Burman at dburman@saygrace.net, and we will arrange to have one available for you.

Sign up at www.saygrace.net.

Clergy Outdoor Office Hours

The Rev. April Berends will be in the courtyard on Monday, November 16th from 8:30am-11:30am. The Rev. David Burman will be in the courtyard from 1pm-4pm on Friday, November 20th. As always, if you would like to meet for prayer or conversation outside of office hours, our priests would be happy to see you. Contact April (aberends@saygrace.net) or David (dburman@saygrace.net) to set up an appointment.

Sacred Ground Dialogues around Racial Healing

The Sacred Ground dialogue circle on racial healing meets Wednesdays at 7pm via Zoom. Sacred Ground focuses on issues of race and racism and the difficult, transformative conversations that we need to have around these issues. Sacred Ground sessions invite participants to understand the racial history of this country and the church in order to faithfully respond to the challenges around race that surround us today. Unfortunately, this group has reached capacity. Stay tuned for additional offering on racial justice and other topics.

Morning Prayer and Compline

All are invited to escape from the madness and rest your mind and soul via Morning Prayer on weekdays and Saturday at 9:00 a.m., and services of Compline at 8:00 p.m. each evening. We all need reminders of essential realities that transcend the medical and political context in which we find ourselves.

Here are the links for Daily Morning Prayer and Compline:

[Weekday Morning Prayer](#)

[Weekday Compline](#)

Community Care in Anxious Times

Grace check-in team leaders are continuing to contact parishioners via phone, text and/ or email. Please take a moment to pick up or write back to let them know if you're okay and/or if you need help, pastorally or physically. The leaders of these groups will be in close communication with our priests and our network of volunteers. If you are a new member of Grace and we do not have your information in the directory, please fill out the New Member form [here](#) and let us know if you would like to be added to a check-in group. If you have an urgent pastoral need, please call the parish office at (423)243-3250 and leave a message on the **main line**. We will be checking these messages regularly even if we aren't in the office.