

The Liturgy of the Word
The Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost
November 8, 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 *French Suite 4* J.S. Bach
Allemande at Magnalia Dei Kerk

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 Hosea (Hosea 6:1-3)* *EOW 32*

Come, let us return to our God, *
who has torn us and will heal us.
God has struck us and will bind up our wounds, *
after two days revive us,
On the third day restore us, *
that in God's presence we may live.
Let us humble ourselves, let us strive to know the Lord, *
whose justice dawns like morning light,
its dawning as sure as the sunrise.
God's justice will come to us like a shower, *
like spring rains that water the earth.

Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Celebrant Let us pray.

O God, whose blessed Son came into the world that he might destroy the works of the devil and make us children of God and heirs of eternal life: Grant that, having this hope, we may purify ourselves as he is pure; that, when he comes again with power and great glory, we may be made like him in his eternal and glorious kingdom; where he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The First Lesson

Amos 5:18-24

Thus says the Lord, the God of hosts, the Lord: Alas for you who desire the day of the Lord! Why do you want the day of the Lord? It is darkness, not light; as if someone fled from a lion, and was met by a bear; or went into the house and rested a hand against the wall, and was bitten by a snake. Is not the day of the Lord darkness, not light, and gloom with no brightness in it? I hate, I despise your festivals, and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies. Even though you offer me your burnt offerings and grain offerings, I will not accept them; and the offerings of well-being of your fatted animals I will not look upon. Take away from me the noise of your songs; I will not listen to the melody of your harps. But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an overflowing stream.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 70

Let us read together Psalm 70.

1 Be pleased, O God, to deliver me;
O Lord, make haste to help me.

2 Let those who seek my life be ashamed and altogether dismayed;
let those who take pleasure in my misfortune draw back and be disgraced.

3 Let those who say to me "Aha!" and gloat over me turn back,
because they are ashamed.

4 Let all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you;
let those who love your salvation say for ever, "Great is the Lord!"

5 But as for me, I am poor and needy;
come to me speedily, O God.

6 You are my helper and my deliverer;
O Lord, do not tarry.

The Second Lesson

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air; and so we will be with the Lord forever. Therefore encourage one another with these words.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Hymn

"Sleepers, wake!" a voice astounds us

Hymnal 61

The Gospel

Matthew 25:1-13

Jesus said, “Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. But at midnight there was a shout, ‘Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.’ Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.’ But the wise replied, ‘No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.’ And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, ‘Lord, lord, open to us.’ But he replied, ‘Truly I tell you, I do not know you.’ Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.”

Reader The Word of the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon The Rev. David Burman

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

Keep Your Lamps

arr. Thomas

Refrain: Keep your lamps trimmed and burning, the time is drawing nigh.

Children, don't get weary till your work is done. (Refrain)

Christian journey soon be over, the time is drawing nigh. (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, Breezie, 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, 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 Ever-living God, you inscribe our names in your book of life so that we may share in the first fruits of salvation. Grant that we may acknowledge Christ as redeemer and, trusting in him, be confident that none of your own will be lost or forgotten. We ask this in the name of Jesus the Lord. **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 *Sonata 4, Allegro con brio* Felix Mendelssohn
at Jacobikerk in Uithuizen

Worship Leaders

Officiants	The Rev. April Berends, The Rev. David Burman
Preacher	The Rev. David Burman
Lectors	Maria Hurt, Trevor Wagoner
Intercessor	Janet McCollough
Guest Organist	Karla Fowkes (Director of Music, Christ Church, Chattanooga)
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.

A Note from the Organist

Grace's Organist, Patrick Rice, is continuing his music studies in the Netherlands. He has sent some notes about the organs featured in this Sunday's service.

The organ in the Magnalia Dei church (Reformed Church in Groningen) was built in 1965 by fa. Ahrend und Brunzema (now Jürgen Ahrend Orgelbau) from Leer-Loga in Germany. The construction took place under the advisory position of Cor Edskes, who determined the disposition and manuring in consultation with Jürgen Ahrend. The organ in the Magnalia Dei church is regarded by many experts as a monument of neo-Baroque organ building of the 1960s. Despite this architectural style, the organ has a balanced sound structure, whereby clarity and transparency go hand in hand with carrying capacity and monumentality. As a result, the ideals of historicizing organ building practice were approached very closely at a time when this was not (yet) self-evident. The organ is compactly built and has an extraordinarily direct touch. Logically, it is extremely suitable for music from the Baroque period. In 1992 the organ was transferred to the current church building on the Landsteinerlaan. In 2005, Jürgen Ahrend changed the Scherp (III st.) Of the rugwerk into a Sesquialter (II st.), Increasing the usability for accompanying congregational singing. (copied from online <https://www.gergemgroningen.nl/index.php/kerk2/orgel>)

The organ of the Jacobikerk in Uithuizen, Netherlands is the most well-preserved instruments built by the famous German-organ builder Arp Schnitger. Originally this organ was supposed to be in the Martinikerk in Groningen, but that church decided to have a bigger world-famous organ which is now affectionally called the "Green Monster". The family of Menkema was instrumental in the initiation of building the organ for the church in Uithuizen. Built in 1701, this was the largest village organ in the Netherlands at that time with 28 stops divided between pedal, manual, and rückpositiv. The organ case and balcony were built by furniture maker Allert Meijer. For many of the German-built organs in the Netherlands it was not uncommon to employ the services of a Dutch craftsman to build the case and decorate it with carvings. This combination results in finding some of the most beautiful organs in the world in the Netherlands. (If you want more information here is the website. https://www.arpsschnitgerorgeluithuizen.nl/?page_id=12)

In-person Worship on November 8th 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

Anticipating that this may be an anxious week for many, the clergy of Grace will be holding office hours for prayer and conversation following the election. The Rev. David will be in the courtyard from 1pm-4pm on Friday, November 13th, and The Rev. April Berends will be in the courtyard on Monday from 11:30am-2:15pm. 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.