

The Liturgy of the Word
The Fifth Sunday after Pentecost
July 5, 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.

Gloria in Excelsis

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth. Lord God, heavenly king, Almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory. Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

O God, you have taught us to keep all your commandments by loving you and our neighbor: Grant us the grace of your Holy Spirit, that we may be devoted to you with our whole heart, and united to one another with pure affection; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The First Lesson

Zechariah 9:9-12

Reader A reading from the prophet Zechariah.

Rejoice greatly, O daughter Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter Jerusalem! Lo, your king comes to you; triumphant and victorious is he, humble and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey. He will cut off the chariot from Ephraim and the war horse from Jerusalem; and the battle bow shall be cut off, and he shall command peace to the nations; his dominion shall be from sea to sea, and from the River to the ends of the earth. As for you also, because of the blood of my covenant with you, I will set your prisoners free from the waterless pit. Return to your stronghold, O prisoners of hope; today I declare that I will restore to you double.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 145:8-15

Exaltabo te, Deus

8 The Lord is gracious and full of compassion,
slow to anger and of great kindness.

9 The Lord is loving to everyone
and his compassion is over all his works.

10 All your works praise you, O Lord,
and your faithful servants bless you.

11 They make known the glory of your kingdom
and speak of your power;

12 That the peoples may know of your power
and the glorious splendor of your kingdom.

13 Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom;
your dominion endures throughout all ages.

14 The Lord is faithful in all his words
and merciful in all his deeds.

15 The Lord upholds all those who fall;
he lifts up those who are bowed down.

The Second Lesson

Romans 7:15-25a

Reader A reading from Paul's letter to the Romans.

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 The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Hymn

God of grace and God of glory

Hymnal 594

The Gospel

Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

Reader A reading from the Gospel according to Matthew.

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.”

Reader The word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

The Rev. April Berends

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.

The Prayers of the People

Intercessor Let us offer our prayers for the church and the world, saying,
Living God, pour your Spirit upon us.

People We pray for Michael, our Presiding Bishop; Brian, our Bishop; April and David, our priests, Keith, our seminarian; and for all who confess your name throughout the world. Inspire our witness to your Holy Gospel, that we may make your love known. Living God,
Pour your Spirit upon us.

Intercessor We pray for this fragile earth, our island home. Open our eyes to the wonders of your creation and help us to care for the world you have entrusted to us. Living God,
People **Pour your Spirit upon us.**

Intercessor We pray for this community: For our local leaders; for our schools and marketplaces; for our neighborhoods and workplaces, for protesters and for police. Help us to honor your image in one another. Give us courage to strive for justice and peace among all people, beginning here at home. Living God,
People **Pour your Spirit upon us.**

Intercessor We pray for courage, strength, and grace in our daily lives. May the work of our hands, the words of our mouths, and the prayers of our hearts bring glory to you and hope to your people. Living God,
People **Pour your Spirit upon us.**

Intercessor We pray for peace among the peoples of the earth. Guide the leaders of the nations, and bring those divided by prejudice and hatred to the peace that the world does not yet know. Living God
People **Pour your Spirit upon us.**

Intercessor We pray for those who suffer, for those who are sick, lonely or imprisoned. Surround them with your healing presence, and help us to minister to them with wisdom and compassion. We pray especially for:

Emily, Ted, Deb, Michael, Andy, Chuck and Jason and their children, Tom, Jeanette, Jane, Kathleen and Caroline, Bo and Mary Minor, Helen, Nancy, David, Charlotte, Tyler, Jeff, Rebecca, J.R., Marcia, Major, Peggy, Jean, 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 Kerry, who is with child.

We pray for all who are treating the sick, staffing health care facilities, stocking shelves, transporting supplies, providing transit, suffering from illness, grieving those who have died, and adjusting to new ways of living in the midst of the current pandemic. Living God,

People Pour your Spirit upon us.

Intercessor We commend to your mercy those who are dying and those who have died, that your will for them may be fulfilled, and we pray that we may share with all your saints in the full revelation of your eternal glory. Living God,

People Pour your Spirit upon us.

Officiant We rejoice, O Christ, for in your tender compassion you shoulder our burdens and ease our heavy hearts. Give us the strength to carry each other as you have carried us. **Amen.**

Confession and Absolution

BCP 360

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	Andy Belcher, The Rev. April Berends
Preacher	The Rev. April Berends
Lectors	Lyn Martin, Allison Davis
Intercessor	David Burman
Organist	Patrick Rice
Singers	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.

Antiracism Resources

We are working to put together some formation opportunities about racial history in the U.S., racism, and the intersection of faith and anti-racism. In the meantime, you are encouraged to check out the following resources.

You'll find a growing list of anti-racism resources at bit.ly//ANTIRACISMRESOURCES.

The Rev. Claire Brown, associate rector at St. Paul's, Chattanooga recently offered a webinar on dismantling racism. You can view the video [here](#).

Christian Formation Opportunities

Study on Antiracism begins this week, Sundays at 10am

This morning, July 5th, we begin a community-wide conversation on antiracism. The primary text for this discussion group will be *I'm Still Here: Black Dignity in a World Made for Whiteness* by Austin Channing Brown. Brown's memoir of growing up Black, Christian and female in majority-White schools and churches describes her experience of finding her way amidst the racial divide in this country. Brown offers insightful and personal analysis of White Christianity and the church's attempts at seeking racial justice.

Click [here](#) to join the Zoom meeting for this class at 10am on Sundays.

A limited number of copies of *I'm Still Here* are available through the Grace Bookstore. Contact Dabney Carden at dcarden@saygrace.net to reserve a copy. This class will meet via Zoom, and we'll send out the link to access sessions in next week's GraceNotes and on our Facebook page. For more information, contact David Burman (dburman@saygrace.net) or April Berends (aberends@saygrace.net).

Queer Theology

The community of Grace has long maintained a commitment of embracing and affirming the gifts and the belovedness of all persons, including LGBTQ+ persons. The Rev. April Berends and Sean McEwen are currently leading a Queer Theology class so that we might explore these commitments more deeply. Most of the readings for this class come from *Queer Virtue* by Elizabeth Edman. The class meets via Zoom at 7 p.m. on Wednesday evenings. If you are interested in taking part, please email April at aberends@saygrace.net if you would like to join this conversation. This week, we will cover the eighth and ninth chapters of *Queer Virtue*.

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.