



The Celebration of the Holy Eucharist
The Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 26, 2021 ~ 10:45 a.m.



The Rev. April Berends, Rector ~ The Rev. David Burman, Associate Rector
Sarah Hess, Seminarian ~ Caroline Day, Seminarian

+ Season of Creation +

GATHERING

* = **Rise** as you are able, in body or in spirit | ✠ = a customary time to “cross” oneself

PRELUDE

Siciliano

J. S. Bach

* THE ACCLAMATION

Celebrant Blessed be God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
People **And blessed be God’s kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

* THE COLLECT FOR PURITY

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.**

COLLECT OF THE DAY

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

God our Creator, you weave the planet and all its creatures together in kinship; your unifying love is revealed in the interdependence of relationships in the complex world that you have made. Save us from the illusion that humankind is separate and alone, and join us in communion with all inhabitants of your creation; through Jesus Christ, our Redeemer, who topples the dividing walls by the power of your Holy Spirit, and who lives and reigns with you, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

1. Sing! A new cre - a - tion calls us: God's Son, first-born from the dead,
 2. Sing a - new! Cre - a - tion flow - ers as the Spir - it draws us near,
 3. Sing a new cre - a - tion grow - ing life - trees by God's flow - ing stream.

makes the drown - ing which be - falls us in - to cleans - ing birth in - stead.
 safe from storm - ing, earth bound pow - ers on this ark, though tossed by fear.
 Go and teach, send jus - tice flow - ing, quench dry souls, com - pose a dream.

Sing - ing wa - ter, wild with won - der, wash - ing, more than what it seems,
 Sing as fam - ily, filled, for - giv - en, fed by joy - ous ta - ble grace.
 Sing a - mens, a - live and a - gile, an - swer - ing God's cre - a - ting song.

bap - tiz - es and drags us un - der, lifts us as our Christ re - deems.
 Bap - tized, we re - ceive God's leav - en, ris - ing in our time and place.
 Bap - tize peo - ples, parched and fra - gile, in the Name that makes us strong.

THE FIRST LESSON

Genesis 9:8–16

Reader A reading from the Book of Genesis.

Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him, ‘As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.’ God said, ‘This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.’

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

PSALM 36:5–10 (*Read responsively*)

5 Your love, O Lord, reaches to the heavens,
and your faithfulness to the clouds.

**6 Your righteousness is like the strong mountains, your justice like the great deep;
you save both man and beast, O Lord.**

7 How priceless is your love, O God!
your people take refuge under the shadow of your wings.

**8 They feast upon the abundance of your house;
you give them drink from the river of your delights.**

9 For with you is the well of life,
and in your light we see light.

**10 Continue your loving-kindness to those who know you,
and your favor to those who are true of heart.**

THE SECOND LESSON

Colossians 1:15–20

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

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him. He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.

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

* THE GOSPEL John 1:1–5

Reader The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ, according to John.
People **Glory to you, Lord Christ. ✠ ✠ ✠**

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

Reader The Gospel of the Lord.
People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

SERMON

Caroline Day, Seminarian

* THE NICENE CREED

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.

* PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Intercessor Holy God, Creator of both heaven and earth, you have spread your abundance throughout the ends of the earth.
We lift our prayers to you, O God.

People You are the hope of all creation.

Intercessor We pray for Joseph our President, the leaders of the nations, and all who make decisions as the peoples of the earth clamor for resources. Inspire us to do justice, preparing the way for your glorious reign.
We lift our prayers to you, O God;

People You are the hope of all creation.

Intercessor Send your Spirit to disturb and challenge us, that we may share the abundance of the fruits of the earth. Open our ears to the needs of those who are poor, hungry and neglected throughout the world, that we may hear their cries for daily bread and freely share what you have given.

We lift our prayers to you, O God;

People You are the hope of all creation.

Intercessor Teach us to grieve with you, O Christ, the loss of all the beauty that is being killed, and give us the will to protect species in danger of extinction. May we embrace your charge to watch over and care for all the creatures of the earth.
We lift our prayers to you, O God.

People You are the hope of all creation.

Give us eyes to see your image in our neighbors, and help us to respond to their needs with grace and compassion. We pray for all who live in poverty, sickness, loneliness and grief, that you will wipe the tears from their faces.
We remember especially

Bill, Patricia, Tony, Susan, Russell, Amanda, Jamie, Martha, Sue, William, Neil, Ash, Bill, Sally, Mary Lou, Andrea, Jennifer, June, Amy, Deborah, Ann, the Hale family, Niysah, Terrie, Alex, Andrea, Steve, Angela, Dwight, Doris, Rebecca, J.R., Charlotte, Libby, Jean, Barbara, Elizabeth, and Ann;

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

We pray for Emily, Mary, Katie and Merry Madeline, who are with child.

We pray for Wil, Jake, Kevin, Tripp, Mike, Alexander, Russel, Logan, Jim, Sean, Evan, and all who serve in the Armed Forces, here and abroad.

 We lift our prayers to you, O God;
People **You are the hope of all creation.**

Intercessor We remember before you those who are dying and those who have died.
 Give us strength in your victory over death to grow into your way of love,
 which does not know despair but sows seeds of hope.

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

 We lift our prayers to you, O God;
People **You are the hope of all creation.**

Celebrant God of unchangeable power, when you fashioned the world the morning
 stars sang together and the host of heaven shouted for joy; open our eyes to
 the wonders of creation and teach us to see all things for good, to the honor
 of your glorious name; through Jesus the Christ. **Amen.**

*** THE CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION**

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

All **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.**

Priest Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord 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.**

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OFFERTORY HYMN

God, the sculptor of the mountains

1. God the sculp-tor of the moun-tains, God the mil-ler of the sand,
 2. God the nui-sance to the Pha-raoh, God the cleav-er of the sea,
 3. God the un-ex-pect-ed in-fant, God the calm, de-ter-mined youth,
 4. God the dress-er of the vine-yard, God the plant-er of the wheat,

God the jewel-er of the heav-ens, God the pot-ter of the land:
 God the pil-lar of the dark-ness, God the bea-con of the free:
 God the ta-ble turn-ing pro-phet, God the res-ur-rect-ed Truth:
 God the reap-er of the har-vest, God the source of all we eat:

you are womb of all cre - a - tion, we are form - less; shape us now.
 you are gate of all de - liv' - rance, we are sight - less; lead us now.
 you are pres - ent ev - ery mo - ment, we are search - ing; meet us now.
 you are host at ev - ery ta - ble, we are hun - gry; feed us now.

TABLE

* THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER 2

(from Enriching Our Worship)

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

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

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

Celebrant We praise you and we bless you, holy and gracious God, source of life abundant. From before time you made ready the creation. Your Spirit moved over the deep and brought all things into being: sun, moon, and stars; earth, winds, and waters; and every living thing.

You made us in your image, and taught us to walk in your ways. But we rebelled against you, and wandered far away; and yet, as a mother cares for her children, you would not forget us. Time and again you called us to live in the fullness of your love. And so this day we join with Saints and Angels in the chorus of praise that rings through eternity, lifting our voices to magnify you as we say:

SANCTUS

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

(The Celebrant continues)

Glory and honor and praise to you, holy and living God. To deliver us from the power of sin and death and to reveal the riches of your grace, you looked with favor upon Mary, your willing servant, that she might conceive and bear a son, Jesus the holy child of God. Living among us, Jesus loved us. He broke bread with outcasts and sinners, healed the sick, and proclaimed good news to the poor. He yearned to draw all the world to himself yet we were heedless of his call to walk in love. Then, the time came for him to complete upon the cross the sacrifice of his life, and to be glorified by you.

On the night before he died for us, Jesus was at table with his friends. He took bread, gave thanks to you, broke it, and gave it to them, and said: "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine. Again, he gave thanks to you, gave it to them, and said: "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Now gathered at your table, O God of all creation, and remembering Christ, crucified and risen, who was and is and is to come, we offer to you our gifts of bread and wine, and ourselves, a living sacrifice.

Pour out your Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Body and Blood of Christ.

All: **Breathe your Spirit over the whole earth and make us your new creation,
the Body of Christ given for the world you have made.**

In the fullness of time bring us, with all your saints, from every tribe and language and people and nation, to feast at the banquet prepared from the foundation of the world. Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever and ever. **AMEN.**

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

THE FRACTION ANTHEM

Celebrant Alleluia, alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.
People **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia, alleluia!**

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

This morning, we will receive communion in one kind only (bread). To receive communion, move forward toward the priest. Stretch out your hands, and the priest will drop the wafer into your hands. Please wait to remove your mask and consume your wafer until you have returned to your seat.

Gluten free wafers are available; let the priest know if you need one. If you are unable to come forward, please raise your hand, and we will bring communion to you.

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

God was there

John Bell

SENDING

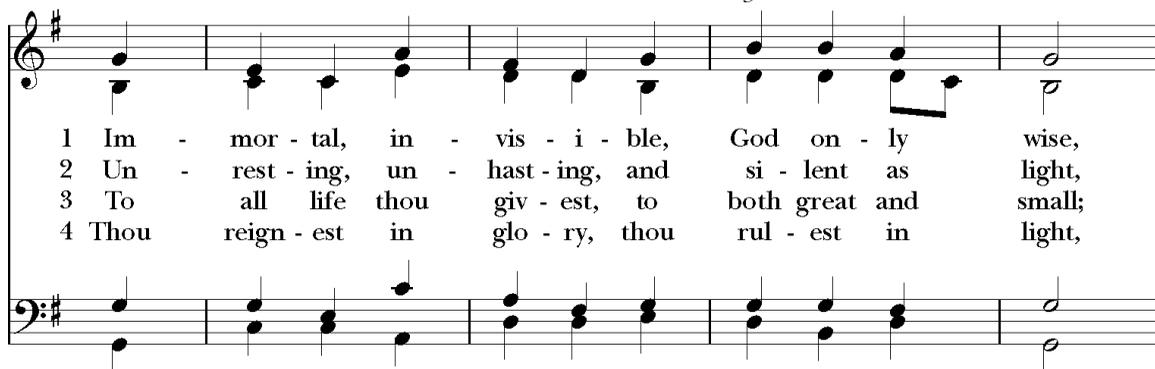
* POSTCOMMUNION PRAYER

God of abundance, you have fed us with the bread of life and cup of salvation; you have united us with Christ and one another; and you have made us one with all your people in heaven and on earth. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue for ever in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.

* THE BLESSING

* HYMN

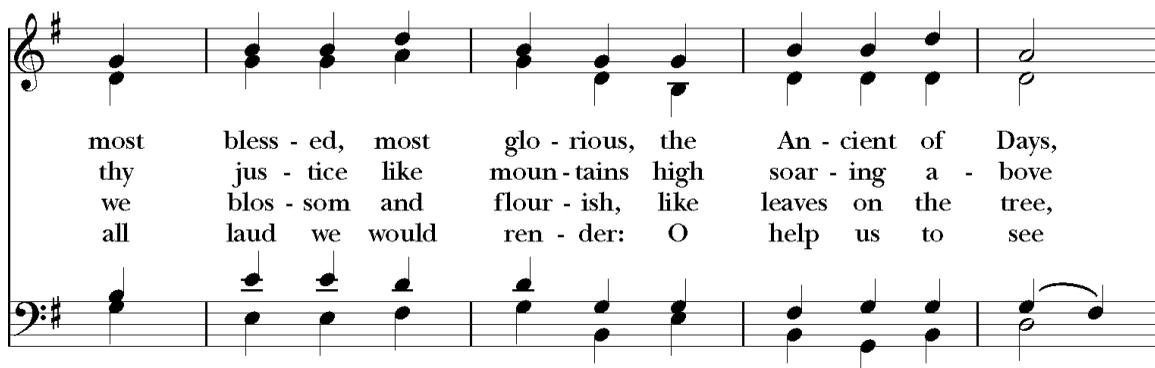
Immortal, invisible, God only wise



1 Im - mor - tal, in - vis - i - ble, God on - ly wise,
2 Un - rest - ing, un - hast - ing, and si - lent as light,
3 To all life thou giv - est, to both great and small;
4 Thou reign - est in glo - ry, thou rul - est in light,



in light in - ac - ces - si - ble hid from our eyes,
nor want - ing, nor wast - ing, thou rul - est in might;
in all life thou liv - est, the true life of all;
thine an - gels a - dore thee, all veil - ing their sight;



most bless - ed, most glo - rious, the An - cient of Days,
thy jus - tice like moun - tains high soar - ing a - bove
we blos - som and flour - ish, like leaves on the tree,
all laud we would ren - der: O help us to see

al - might - y, vic - tor - ious, thy great Name we praise.
 thy clouds, which are foun - tains of good - ness and love.
 then with - er and per - ish; but nought chan - geth thee.
 'tis on - ly the splen - dor of light hid - eth thee.

Words: Walter Chalmers Smith (1824-1908), alt.

Music: *St. Denio*, Welsh hymn, fom *Caniadau y Cyssegr*, 1839; adapt. John Roberts (1822-1877); harm. *The English Hymal*, 1906, alt.

* THE DISMISSAL

Priest Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.
 Alleluia!

People **Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

Celebrant	The Rev. April Berends
Gospeller	The Rev. David Burman
Preacher	Caroline Day, Seminarian
Musician	The Rev. Drew Bunting

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Scripture Discussion Group @ 9:30am each Sunday in the courtyard –This group is resuming after a long hiatus! We meet in the courtyard at 9:30am on Sundays as we look through the readings assigned for that Sunday. Scripture is a wacky and beautiful tapestry -- join us as we discuss diverse parts of it! All are welcome! And if you've got kids, feel free to drop them off at the Pavilion, where Betsy Hawthorne Bedwell will have activities for them.

The Past Is Present – This group meets at 9:30am on Sundays, and we're talking about different important moments in church history, and how those moments affect our own spiritual lives and our church today. This is aimed especially at newcomers to Grace, but anybody is welcome, whether you've been already or not!

We meet in the backyard belonging to Grace member Pat Milburn (thanks Pat!), who lives very close to the church. Please park in the Grace Church upper lot near the intersection of Belvoir Avenue and Sunbeam Avenue -- from there it's just a 1-2 minute walk to Pat's house, and you'll see us when you get to the end of the driveway. If walking is a hardship, or if you're unsure how to get to Pat's house, contact David Burman at dburman@saygrace.net -- we can probably get a car or two in Pat's driveway.

If you've got kids who are not going to be keen on attending an adult class, you can drop them off in the pavilion, where Betsy Hawthorne Bedwell, our new children's minister, will have some activities!

Since the weather went into its Noah act last weekend, the scheduled Chatt-EY event at Grace was postponed until this evening. So let all the teenagers you know that they are welcome to join us at Grace Church from 6 to 8pm for an outdoor session that includes lawn games (croquet, Kub, frisbee), dinner and an evening worship service. Indoor bathrooms will be available!

Feast of St. Francis & Blessing of the Animals, October 3rd

In observance of the feast of St. Francis, lover of God's creation, Grace will offer a blessing of the animals at the 10:45am service on Sunday, October 3rd, outdoors in the courtyard. Bring your animal companions, great and small, but for the peace and safety of all in attendance, please make sure that they are on a leash or in a carrier. Feel free to also bring donations of cat and dog food, pet bedding/old blankets and towels, newspaper, kennels, bottles and kitten formula or pet toys. Pet food donations will be split between the Grace Food Pantry (for the pets of our human guests) and the Human Education Society.

Pride Mass, October 9th

Due to the high rates of COVID-19 in our area, Chattanooga Pride events for next week have been cancelled. We at Grace have heard, in our own community and beyond, a need to remind ourselves and our LGBTQIA+ siblings of our belovedness. Join us on October 9th at 6pm for an outdoor celebration that honors all LGBTQIA+ people as the children of God. This worship service will include holy communion and scripture readings and prayers that speak of God's love for LGBTQIA+ people. Interested in helping out? Contact Phaen Stone (phaen@epbfi.com) or April Berends (aberends@saygrace.net).

The Grace Online Directory has migrated to a service called Breeze but can still be accessed via the webpage. Find the menu item "BREEZE" at the right end of the menu options that sprawl across the screen near the top, click and log in; user name is 'saygrace' and the password is 'Chattanooga'. Get in touch with Jim Milburn with any questions and suggestions.

If you'd like to give Altar Flowers during the rest of this year, please contact the office (423) [243-3257](tel:423-243-3257)/dcarden@saygrace.net to sign up for a Sunday. Cost is \$77, and all donors need do is provide a dedication and the previously mentioned sum. Because it's been so long since we've had flower donors and so many circumstances have changed, we are deleting all standing orders (unless you've been in touch with the office about them already) and beginning from scratch. If you want to establish a standing order, please contact the office.

Mission of Grace Episcopal Church

To provide a reverent place for Christian worship, learning, and service in the Anglican tradition, with special emphasis on the healing, nurturing, and challenging character of the Holy Spirit, open to and respecting all who would come.

Grace Episcopal Church ✠ 20 Belvoir Avenue
423-698-2433 ✠ www.saygrace.net