

**Morning Prayer**  
**The Second Sunday of Easter**  
**Grace Episcopal Church**  
**April 19<sup>th</sup>, 2020**

## **Prayer for an Online Gathering**

*Officiant*

Almighty God of the cross and loving God of community, we are not in a church building today but Church is never cancelled. We are not wise, and not very often kind, but we are the Body of Christ in your suffering world. We know that our vocation is to be the light of Christ whose Body we are. Give us courage to be the Church and to keep our minds on loving the world which you have called good. Buildings crumble; the seasons pass; but your Church endures from generation to generation. Make this for us a feast day of your protection, your plenty, your purpose, and your peace. All this we ask, as we pray in silence, with all the saints and with one other. **Amen.**

## **Prelude**

*Trio Sonata 5 Allegro*

J.S. Bach

## **Opening Sentences**

*The Officiant begins the service with one or more of these sentences of Scripture,*

*Officiant* Alleluia, Christ is risen.

*People* **The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

On this day the Lord has acted; we will rejoice and be glad in it. *Psalm 118:24*

## **The Peace**

*Officiant* The peace of the Lord be always with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

## **The Invitatory and Psalter**

**BCP 80**

*All stand*

*Officiant* Lord, open our lips.

*People* **And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.**

*Officiant and People*

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

*Officiant* Alleluia. The Lord is risen indeed:

*People* **Come let us adore him. Alleluia.**

*1 Corinthians 5:7-8; Romans 6:9-11; 1 Corinthians 15:20-22*

*Officiant and People*

**Alleluia.**

**Christ our Passover has been sacrificed for us; \***

**therefore let us keep the feast,**

**Not with the old leaven, the leaven of malice and evil, \***

**but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth. Alleluia.**

**Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; \***

**death no longer has dominion over him.**

**The death that he died, he died to sin, once for all; \***

**but the life he lives, he lives to God.**

**So also consider yourselves dead to sin, \***

**and alive to God in Jesus Christ our Lord. Alleluia.**

**Christ has been raised from the dead, \***

**the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep.**

**For since by a man came death, \***

**by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead.**

**For as in Adam all die, \***

**so also in Christ shall all be made alive. Alleluia.**

*Officiant* Alleluia. The Lord is risen indeed:

*People* **Come let us adore him. Alleluia.**

**Psalm 16**

*(Spoken in Unison)*

**1 Protect me, O God, for I take refuge in you;**

**I have said to the Lord, “You are my Lord, my good above all other.”**

**2 All my delight is upon the godly that are in the land,**

**upon those who are noble among the people.**

**3 But those who run after other gods**

**shall have their troubles multiplied.**

**4 Their libations of blood I will not offer,**

**nor take the names of their gods upon my lips.**

**5 O Lord, you are my portion and my cup;**

**it is you who uphold my lot.**

**6 My boundaries enclose a pleasant land;**

**indeed, I have a goodly heritage.**

**7 I will bless the Lord who give me counsel;**

**my heart teaches me, night after night.**

**8 I have set the Lord always before me;  
because he is at my right hand I shall not fall.**

**9 My heart, therefore, is glad, and my spirit rejoices;  
my body also shall rest in hope.**

**10 For you will not abandon me to the grave,  
nor let your holy one see the Pit.**

**11 You will show me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy,  
and in your right hand are pleasures for evermore.**

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: \***  
**as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.**

## The Lessons

### The First Lesson

Acts 2:14a, 22-32

*Lector* A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd, “You that are Israelites, listen to what I have to say: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with deeds of power, wonders, and signs that God did through him among you, as you yourselves know—this man, handed over to you according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of those outside the law. But God raised him up, having freed him from death, because it was impossible for him to be held in its power. For David says concerning him, ‘I saw the Lord always before me, for he is at my right hand so that I will not be shaken; therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced; moreover my flesh will live in hope. For you will not abandon my soul to Hades, or let your Holy One experience corruption. You have made known to me the ways of life; you will make me full of gladness with your presence.’

“Fellow Israelites, I may say to you confidently of our ancestor David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. Since he was a prophet, he knew that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would put one of his descendants on his throne. Foreseeing this, David spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, saying, ‘He was not abandoned to Hades, nor did his flesh experience corruption.’ This Jesus God raised up, and of that all of us are witnesses.”

*Lector* The Word of the Lord.

**People** Thanks be to God.

### Canticle 18

A Song to the Lamb

BCP 93

*Officiant and People*

**Splendor and honor and kingly power \***  
**are yours by right, O Lord our God,**  
**For you created everything that is, \***  
**and by your will they were created and have their being;**

And yours by right, O Lamb that was slain, \*  
for with your blood you have redeemed for God,  
From every family, language, people, and nation, \*  
a kingdom of priests to serve our God.

And so, to him who sits upon the throne, \*  
and to Christ the Lamb,  
Be worship and praise, dominion and splendor, \*  
for ever and for evermore.

## The Second Lesson

1 Peter 1:3-9

*Lector* A reading from the First Letter of Peter.

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. In this you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials, so that the genuineness of your faith-- being more precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire-- may be found to result in praise and glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. Although you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

*Lector* The Word of the Lord.

*People* Thanks be to God.

## Canticle 19

The Song of the Redeemed

BCP 94

*Officiant and People*

O ruler of the universe, Lord God,  
great deeds are they that you have done, \*  
surpassing human understanding.  
Your ways are ways of righteousness and truth, \*  
O King of all the ages.

Who can fail to do you homage, Lord,  
and sing the praises of your Name? \*  
for you only are the Holy One.  
All nations will draw near and fall down before you, \*  
because your just and holy works have been revealed.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: \*  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

## The Gospel Lesson: John 20:19-31

*Lector* A reading from the Gospel of John.

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you."

After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

*Lector* The Word of the Lord.

*People* Thanks be to God.

## Sermon

Andy Belcher

## The Apostles' Creed

BCP 96

*Officiant and People together, all standing*

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth;**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.**

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit  
and born of the Virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

**He descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again.**

**He ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Hymn 192

This Joyful Eastertide

## The Prayers

BCP 97

*The People stand or kneel*

*Officiant* The Lord be with you.

**People And also with you.**

*Officiant* Let us pray.

*Officiant and People*

**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.**

*Then follows one of these sets of Suffrages*

BCP 98

*Officiant* Save your people, Lord, and bless your inheritance;

**People Govern and uphold them, now and always.**

*Officiant* Day by day we bless you;

**People We praise your Name for ever.**

*Officiant* Lord, keep us from all sin today;

**People Have mercy on us, Lord, have mercy.**

*Officiant* Lord, show us your love and mercy;

**People For we put our trust in you.**

*Officiant* In you, Lord, is our hope;

**People And we shall never hope in vain.**

## The Collect of the Day

BCP 219

*Officiant*

Almighty and everlasting God, who in the Paschal mystery established the new covenant of reconciliation: Grant that all who have been reborn into the fellowship of Christ's Body may show forth in their lives what they profess by their faith; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

## A Collect for Sundays

BCP 98

*Officiant*

O God, you make us glad with the weekly remembrance of the glorious resurrection of your Son our Lord: Give us this day such blessing through our worship of you, that the week to come may be spent in your favor; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*Officiant*

O God, the author of peace and lover of concord, to know you is eternal life and to serve you is perfect freedom: Defend us, your humble servants, in all assaults of our enemies; that we, surely trusting in your defense, may not fear the power of any adversaries; through the might of Jesus Christ our Lord. ***Amen.***

*Authorized intercessions and thanksgivings may follow.*

**Amen.**

*Silence may be kept.*

## The Prayers of the People

*Intercessor* In the power of the resurrection let us pray to the Living God saying: Raise us to new life in Christ.

For the whole bright earth, lovingly created and compassionately redeemed, that it may speak again of your glory and majesty, we pray:

O Living God,

*People* **Raise us to new life in Christ.**

*Intercessor* For all peoples and all nations of the earth, that we may be transformed by mercy and live together in hope.

O Living God,

*People* **Raise us to new life in Christ.**

*Intercessor* For the holy church, that in this bright season which brings joy to believers, we may commit ourselves to work toward the unity of the church, that Christ's body may be one, we pray:

O Living God,

*People* **Raise us to new life in Christ.**

*Intercessor* For all in authority, that they may govern with equity and justice, and work to bring life to those in the shadow of death, we pray:

O Living God,

*People* **Raise us to new life in Christ.**

*Intercessor* For all who seek to honor the gift of Christ's resurrected body, that we may rise up to serve a broken and hurting world.

O Living God,

*People* **Raise us to new life in Christ.**

*Intercessor* For all who live in poverty, sickness, loneliness and grief, that you will wipe the tears from their faces, we pray especially for:

James and Barbara, Kathleen and Caroline, Bo and Mary Minor, Helen, Nancy, David, Charlotte, Tyler, Jeff, Rebecca, J.R., Marcia, Major, Peggy, Jean, William, Timothy, Donald, Robert, Chris, Cooper, Sally, Charles, Jonathan, Steven, John, Libby, Rebecca, Elaine, Jean, Barbara, Elizabeth, John, Joyce, Jim, Mary Ruth, and Ann;

We pray for Wil, Jake, Jordan, Kevin, Tripp, Mike, Alexander, Russel, Logan, Jim, Sean, Evan, and all

of our Armed Forces, here and abroad;

We pray for Erin, Kerry and Lizzy, who are with child.

We pray for those whose who lost homes, businesses and loved ones in the storms last weekend.

We pray for all who are treating the sick, stocking shelves, transporting supplies, suffering from illness, and coping with new life-patterns in the midst of the current pandemic. Lord, in your mercy,

*Intercessor*      O Living God,  
*People*              **Raise us to new life in Christ.**

*Intercessor*      For all who have died, especially Gloria Barr, that they may share in Christ's Resurrection, redeemed and restored to everlasting life, we pray:

*People*              O Living God,  
                            **Raise us to new life in Christ.**

*Celebrant*          Blessed are you, O God of our Lord Jesus Christ, in whom we receive a legacy of a living hope, born again not only from his death but also from his resurrection. May we who have received forgiveness of sins through the Holy Spirit live to set others free, until, at length, we enter the inheritance that is imperishable and unfading, where Christ lives and reigns with you and the same Spirit. **Amen.**

### A Prayer of St. Chrysostom

BCP 102

*Officiant, or Officiant and People*

Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplication to you; and you have promised through your well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his Name you will be in the midst of them: Fulfill now, O Lord, our desires and petitions as may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of your truth, and in the age to come life everlasting. **Amen.**

*Then may be said*

*Officiant*      Let us bless the Lord.

*People*              **Thanks be to God.**

*Officiant*

May the God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing through the power of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**  
*Romans 15:13*

### Postlude

*Capriccio in D*

Georg Böhm

### Worship Leaders

Officiants	The Rev. David Burman, The Rev. April Berends
Music	Patrick Rice
Readers	Steven Hinkle, Todd Morgan
Intercessor	Jim Milburn
Video Editing	Richard Lanham

## Announcements

### Join Us for Online Worship at 9am Sundays

For as long as stay-at-home orders are in effect, Grace will be posting videos for Morning Prayer worship on our [Facebook](#) page and [website](#) at 9am. Bulletins for each week's service will be sent along with the Grace Notes issue, and will be posted on the website alongside the video for the service. If you miss the 9am video stream, you can always go back and watch later.

### Community Care in Anxious Times

Our pastoral care Grace check-in teams are continuing to check in on households. Team leaders for each check-in group will be contacting you 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.

### Stewardship News

The last time we met at Grace for an in-person worship service was on March 8th. We continue to adapt in these uncertain times and I hope you are finding the time to attend one of the virtual church services on the church Facebook page or website.

In addition to social distancing and the disruptions of our daily life, many of us face uncertain economic times as well. Grace church is no different - we still have to pay the bills. Even though some of our expenses are lower since we have closed the building, our income from donations and pledges have also decreased. If you have not yet made your April pledge, you can do so online at <https://www.saygrace.net/give-552103.html> or you can mail your check to Grace Episcopal Church, 20 Belvoir Avenue, Chattanooga TN 37411. If you are unable to maintain your pledge at this time, or need to adjust your pledge, please call Paula Gardner (423-243-3250, ext 2) or send a quick email to [pgarner@saygrac.net](mailto:pgarner@saygrac.net) so that we may adjust our budget as needed.

Also, you are probably aware that congress recently passed the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act, or CARES Act. Following are three items from that Act that may affect charitable giving this year:

**New charitable deduction for taxpayers who do not itemize.** Beginning in 2020, individuals can deduct \$300 in charitable contributions from their gross income even if they do not itemize deductions. Donations must be made in cash to a charity. Gifts of appreciated securities, and gifts to a donor advised fund or supporting organization, do not qualify.

**No cap on charitable deductions for taxpayers who do itemize.** Donors who itemize their deductions can usually deduct cash contributions up to 60% of their adjusted gross income. For 2020, that cap is lifted, and donors contributing cash to charity may deduct up to 100% of their income, a significant tax savings for anyone able to contribute larger amounts. Again, this is only for gifts of cash, and only for gifts made directly to a charity (not to donor-advised funds or supporting organizations).

***No required minimum distributions, but qualified charitable distributions still possible.*** The CARES Act eliminates required minimum distributions (RMDs) from many retirement plans in 2020. Some donors have been using their RMDs for tax-advantaged charitable gifts by making a qualified charitable distribution (QCD) directly to a charity. Under the CARES Act it is still possible for donors who are 70 1/2 or over to contribute up to \$100,000 directly to a charity without paying tax on the distribution.

The CARES Act is a complex new law. Donors should always consult with their own professional advisors before making a gift.

Thank you for your generous support of this community of Grace, which continues to sustain us and keep us connected, even in difficult times.

Peace,

Richard Hyatt, Stewardship Chair

## **Tornado Relief**

The later hours of Easter Sunday and early the following morning brought high winds and tornadoes in the Chattanooga area, especially in East Ridge, East Brainerd, Ooltewah and Cleveland. Since then, our priests and teams of lay leaders have been reaching out to members of our community to make sure that they are safe. Our rector, April, also met online with leaders from local Episcopal parishes whose communities were affected by the storms. This group decided to direct funds to Grace (for local needs in the Chattanooga area) and St. Luke's, Cleveland (for needs in the Cleveland area). Funds collected at Grace will be used to meet needs that arise from the tornado in Hamilton County, attending to the needs in our parish communities and those we serve through our outreach ministries. If you would like to make a contribution for this purpose, you may contribute [online](#) (be sure to select "Rector's Discretionary Fund" from the drop-down options on the right-hand side) or send a check to:

Grace Episcopal Church  
Rector's Discretionary Fund--Tornado Relief  
20 Belvoir Avenue  
Chattanooga, TN 37411