

GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 3, 2026

The Holy Eucharist

Prelude

Passapied

Claude Debussy
(1862-1918)

Opening Hymn 51 We the Lord's people

1 We the Lord's people,, heart and voice uniting,
Praise him who called us out of sin and darkness
Into his own light, that he might anoint us
A royal priesthood.

2 This is the Lord's house, home of all his people,
School for the faithful, refuge for the sinner,
Rest for the pilgrim, haven for the weary;
All find a welcome.

3 This is the Lord's day, day of God's own making,
Day of creation, day of resurrection
Day of the Spirit, sign of heaven's banquet,
Day for rejoicing.

4 In the Lord's service bread and wine are offered,
That Christ may take them, bless them, break, and give them
To all his people, his own life imparting,
Food everlasting.

The Opening Acclamation

Priest Alleluia. Christ is risen.

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

The Collect for Purity

All 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

Richard Damon, 2003



Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and peace to his peo - ple on earth. Lord God,
heaven - ly King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we
give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry. Lord Je - sus Christ, the
on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world: have mer - cy, have mer - cy up - on us;—
— you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re -
- ceive our prayer. For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a -
- lone are the Ho - ly One, the Most High, Je - sus Christ, — with the Ho - ly
Spi - rit, in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

The Collect of the Day

Priest The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Priest Let us pray.

Almighty God, whom truly to know is everlasting life: Grant us so perfectly to know your Son Jesus Christ to be the way, the truth, and the life, that we may steadfastly follow his steps in the way that leads to eternal life; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

People **Amen.**

The Readings

All may sit.

The First Lesson: Acts 7:55-60

Filled with the Holy Spirit, Stephen gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. “Look,” he said, “I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!” But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him; and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, “Lord, do not hold this sin against them.” When he had said this, he died.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s people.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16

In te, Domine, speravi

John Joubert (1927–2019)



- 1 In you, O LORD, have I taken refuge; let me never be put to shame; *
de- liver me in your righteousness.
- 2 In- cline your ear to me; *
make haste to de- liver me.
- 3 Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe, for you are my crag and
my stronghold; *
for the sake of your Name, lead me and guide me.
- 4 Take me out of the net that they have secretly set for me, *
for you are my tower of strength.
- † 5 Into your hands I com- mend my spirit, *
for you have redeemed me, O LORD, O God of truth.

15 My ^{times are} ^{in your} hand; *
rescue me from the hand of my ^{enemies}, and from ^{those who} persecute
me.

16 Make your face to ^{shine up-on} ^{your} servant, *
and in your ^{loving-} ^{kindness} save me.

The Epistle: 1 Peter 2:2-10

Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation— if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For it stands in scripture:

“See, I am laying in Zion a stone,
a cornerstone chosen and precious;
and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.”

To you then who believe, he is precious; but for those who do not believe,

“The stone that the builders rejected
has become the very head of the corner”,

and

“A stone that makes them stumble,
and a rock that makes them fall.”

They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

Once you were not a people,
but now you are God's people;
once you had not received mercy,
but now you have received mercy.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People **Thanks be to God.**

All may stand.

Sequence Hymn 196 Look there! the Christ, our Brother, comes

1 Look there! The Christ, our Brother, comes
Resplendent from the gallows tree
And what he brings in his hurt hands
Is life on life for you and me.

Refrain:

Joy! Joy! Joy to the heart and all in this good day's dawning
Joy! Joy! Joy to the heart and all in this good day's dawning

2 Good Jesus Christ inside his pain
Looked down Golgotha's stony slope
And let the blood flow from his flesh
To fill the springs of living hope. [Refrain]

3 God Jesus Christ, our Brother, died
In darkest hurt upon the tree
To offer us the worlds of light
That live inside the Trinity. [Refrain]

4 Look there! The Christ, our Brother, comes
Resplendent from the gallows tree
And what he brings in his hurt hands
Is live on life for you and me. [Refrain]

The Gospel: John 14:1-14

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

Jesus said, "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going." Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him."

Philip said to him, "Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied." Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. Believe me that I am in the Father

and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.”

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

All may sit.

The Sermon

A message usually based on the readings and their relevancy to life today.

The Nicene Creed

Creed comes from the Latin ‘Credo’, ‘I believe.’, The Nicene Creed was created in the formative years of the Church, to be a symbol of common faith. It pertains to the Holy Trinity – a core belief which distinguishes Christianity from other faith traditions.

**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,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and became truly human.**

**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,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who 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

Form I (BCP, p.383)

The community of the Church is called to pray in Christ's name for the needs of the world. Standing for the Prayers is a sign of our calling to be a corporate priestly community (the priesthood of all believers), praying for those needs.

*During the prayers, at the phrase "Empower us with your gifts, O God," you are invited to respond
"Risen Christ, bring us into your joy."*

The Peace

The Peace is meant as an encounter with Christ in others, and a reconciliation with one another and with ourselves in anticipation of the kingdom of God.

Priest The peace of Christ be always with you.
People **And also with you.**

Then the Ministers and People greet one another in the name of the Lord.

All may sit.

Greeting

The Holy Communion

Offertory Anthem

Now the powers of heaven

Stephen Dydo
(b. 1948)

Now the powers of heaven unseen worship with us.
God is come with great glory.
See now the sacrifice full and perfect raised on high for us.
We draw near with our faith and adoration,
to partake with Thee in the life everlasting. Alleluia!

Offertory Hymn

525 The Church's one foundation

1 The Church's one foundation
is Jesus Christ her Lord;
she is his new creation
by water and the word:
from heaven he came and sought her
to be his holy bride;
with his own blood he bought her,
and for her life he died.

2 Elect from every nation,
yet one o'er all the earth,
her charter of salvation,
one Lord, one faith, one birth;
one holy Name she blesses,
partakes one holy food,
and to one hope she presses,
with every grace endued.

3 Though with a scornful wonder
men see her sore oppressed,
by schisms rent asunder,
by heresies distressed;
yet saints their watch are keeping,
their cry goes up, "How long?"
and soon the night of weeping
shall be the morn of song.

4 Mid toil and tribulation,
and tumult of her war
she waits the consummation
of peace for evermore;
till with the vision glorious
her longing eyes are blessed,
and the great Church victorious
shall be the Church at rest.

5 Yet she on earth hath union
with God, the Three in One,
and mystic sweet communion
with those whose rest is won.
O happy ones and holy!
Lord, give us grace that we
like them, the meek and lowly,
on high may dwell with thee.

The Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer D (*BCP*, p.372)

This is the prayer of blessing over the bread and wine, based on Jewish table prayers. It begins with the priest inviting the people to join giving thanks, since the whole congregation are together "celebrants."

The People remain standing.

**All We praise you, we bless you,
we give thanks to you,
and we pray to you, Lord our God.**

The Celebrant continues

Lord, we pray that in your goodness and mercy ... Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, all honor and glory are yours, Almighty God and Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, for ever and ever.

People: **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

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

Cambodian Lord's Prayer

Our Fa - ther, who art in hea - ven, hal - lowed be thy Name,
thy king - dom come, thy will be done, here on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our dai - ly bread. And for - give our tres - pass - es,
Lord, for - give as we for - give those who tres - pass a - gainst us,
for - give us, Lord, for - give us, Lord. And lead us not
in - to temp - ta - tion, lead us not, but de - liv - er us from e - vil,
Lord, we pray your mer - cy. For yours is the king - dom,

and the pow - er, and the glo - ry, for ev - er and ev - er.

A - - - men, a - - - men, a - men, a - men, a - men.

The Breaking of the Bread

This is a sign that the bread is to be shared by all.

Priest: We break this bread to share in the Body of Christ.

People: **We who are many are one body, for we all share in the one bread.**

Agnus Dei

Richard Damon, 2005

O Lamb of God, that ta - kest a - way the sins of the world, have mer - cy on us. O Lamb of God, that ta - kest a - way the sins of the world, have mer - cy on us. O Lamb of God, that ta - kest a - way the sins of the world, grant us thy peace.

The Communion of the People

All who seek God, and are drawn to Christ, are welcome at his table. If you do not wish to receive Communion, but desire a blessing from the priest, simply cross your arms across your chest to indicate this, and the priest will say a prayer of blessing over you. If you require a gluten-free communion wafer, please go to one of the Communion stations at the front of the church. Wine may be consumed from the chalice. Intinction, the dipping of the bread into the wine, is NOT allowed.

Communion Hymn 484 Praise the Lord through every nation

1 Praise the Lord through every nation;
his holy arm hath wrought salvation;
exalt him on his Father's throne.
Praise your King, ye Christian legions,
who now prepares in heavenly regions

unfailing mansions for his own:
with voice and minstrelsy
extol his majesty:
Alleluia!
His praise shall sound all nature round,
and hymns on every tongue abound.

2 Jesus, Lord, our Captain glorious,
o'er sin, and death, and hell victorious,
wisdom and might to thee belong:
we confess, proclaim, adore thee;
we bow the knee, we fall before thee;
thy love henceforth shall be our song.
The cross meanwhile we bear,
the crown ere-long to wear:
Alleluia!
Thy reign extend world without end;
let praise from all to thee ascend.

Postcommunion Prayer

This prayer gives thanks for the gift of Communion, that it may bear fruit in daily life.

All Eternal God, heavenly Father,
you have graciously accepted us as living members
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ,
and you have fed us with spiritual food
in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.
Send us now into the world in peace,
and grant us strength and courage
to love and serve you
with gladness and singleness of heart;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Blessing

The traditional ending of the service. We are reminded that God is with us and empowering us.

Recessional Hymn *Voices Found* 119 Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!

1 Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!
O what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,
born of his spirit, washed in his blood.
This is my story, this is my song,
praising my savior all the day long;
this is my story, this is my song,
praising my savior all the day long.

2 Perfect submission, perfect delight,
visions of rapture now burst on my sight;
angels descending, bring from above
echoes of mercy, whispers of love.
This is my story, this is my song,
praising my savior all the day long;
this is my story, this is my song,
praising my savior all the day long.

3 Perfect submission, all is at rest,
I in my savior am happy and blest;
watching and waiting, looking above,
filled with this goodness, lost in his love.
This is my story, this is my song,
praising my savior all the day long;
this is my story, this is my song,
praising my savior all the day long.

Dismissal

At the point of leaving, the Church sends us forth. In Christ's name we are sent out for mission and service in daily life.

Deacon Let us go forth in the name of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia.

People **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.**

Postlude

Concerto in A major

Johann Walther
(1684-1748)

Serving at the Altar Today

8:00 am	Celebrant	The Rev. Thomas N J Synan
	Preacher	The Rev. John Horn
	Deacon	The Rev. Rebecca Grant
	Lectors	Patrick Kelly, Kitty Dougherty
	Eucharistic Ministers	Gail Gnatek, Carlton Ho
	Ushers	Lou & Cecil Currin
10:30 am	Celebrant	The Rev. Thomas N J Synan
	Preacher	The Rev. John Horn
	Deacon	The Rev. Rebecca Grant
	Lectors	Marsha Hertel, Trent Maxey
	Eucharistic Ministers	Kell Julliard, Mark Marshall
	Bell	Nancy Lowry
	Ushers	Sarah Chadwick, Mark Leonas

Please remember in your prayers

For strength and healing: Patty Vogt, Sandy, Jenifer Price, David Ulen, John Julian Walter, Jim Garrett, Danny Shanahan, Jane Kirkman-Smith, Laura Smith-Martin, Nancy Boyd, Chris O'Carroll, Michael Erard, Lisa, Emrys Bond, Mia, Trish Callard, Joan Dunn, Cherie Feeley, Gretchen Gerzina, Laura Klock, Meg Kelsey Wright, Robin, Scottie Faerber, Carl Miller, Lauren & Stephen, Greta, Sara Stelzner, Jon Zobel, Jona Hammer, Nancy Rose, Norah, Ramona & Warren Hebert, Paul Pesenti, Loy Harris, Mary Sidney Treyz, Wally Rodriguez, Roberta & Dennis Kirby, Peter, Alan Musgrave, Penny Lane, Stephen Dogero, Doug Adler, Chris & Deanne Riddle, Patricia Tillona, Pam Wilkinson, Carmen Lee, Maida, Amy, Steve, Kenneth Page, Tim Callard, Castor Moss, Marion, Cyndee & Dennis Grader, Reynolds Winslow, Annmargret Wobst Wille, Joey Baker, Jane Pemberton, Michael Baker

For all those having birthdays this week including Julie Nelson, Beth Damon, Alison Ash, Natalie Moss, Brendan Coughlin, James Allison, Chris Riddle, Joan O'Brien, Liberty Lynn

For Natalia Wobst for the work she is doing through St Jude's Hospital in Eastern Europe

For peace with justice in Ukraine, Palestine and Israel.

For our partners in Haiti: St. Matthieu, Bayonnais—its priest, teachers, students and their families

For our partners at the Episcopal Technical & Vocational Training Center in Ramallah, Palestine

According to the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer: St. Mark's, Leominster; Loving the Questions Discernment Experience

According to the Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Church of North India (United)

Please note that names are removed from the prayer list after one month unless you specify otherwise.

Parish Announcements May 3, 2026

Palestinian olive oil will be available for sale in the connector following the services today, Sunday, May 3. It is organic, extra virgin, first cold press and fair trade. The proceeds from the sale will enable Grace Church to provide a scholarship for a student at the Episcopal Technological and Vocational Training Center (ETVTC) in Ramallah, either in culinary arts or in IT.

Jessica Klurfeld Senior Recital, Sweeney Concert Hall Smith College, May 5 at 4:30 pm

Grace Church Choir member Jessica Klurfeld will be performing her Senior Recital at Smith College on May 5th. The program will feature works by Stravinsky, Brahms, Chen, and Mendelssohn.

The Grace Garden Ministry is accepting items for the Garden Sale on May 9th.

During April, you may donate small tools and garden decor in the Undercroft. There are tables in the back marked for the Garden Sale. Please have items cleaned and ready to be priced. Plant donations will be accepted May 7th and 8th. If people need pots to use for their plant donations, there are boxes in the undercroft (St. Nicks' Bazaar area) marked for your use. Plants need to be in that area by May 7th or the morning of the 8th so we can get them ready for the great sale on May 9th. Thank you for supporting the Grace Garden Ministry, Sara Liberty-Laylin: Chair. Questions?: contact Sara at p.laylin@comcast.net.

Singing Creation, Speaking Truth: Women's Voices, Earth's Gospel

Join us at 4 pm on Saturday, May 9, 2026, for a contemplative and inspiring gathering that weaves together sacred readings, reflection, and song. Drawing on the wisdom of voices such as Hildegard of Bingen, Rachel Carson, Teresa of Ávila, Dorothy Day, and others, this event invites us to rediscover the holy presence of God in creation, to listen honestly to the earth's cries, and to renew our courage and hope. Through moments of wonder, lament, prayer, and blessing, we will explore how attention, compassion, and faithful action can become our shared response to God's greening power at work in the world. Come be nourished, challenged, and encouraged as we reflect on what it means to love God by loving the earth entrusted to our care.

Are you interested in being baptized, or know someone who is?

Along with Holy Communion, Holy Baptism is one of the two great sacraments given by Christ to the Church. We acknowledge one Baptism, which means Baptism in the name of the Trinity is performed once in a person's life and is recognized regardless of where or how it took place. If you have not been baptized or you are not sure whether you were baptized, and would like to know more, please contact the church office or speak with the Rector. We would be happy to talk with you about this holy sacrament.

Gifts to Grace

When making a Donor-Advised Fund (DAF) gift to Grace Church, please ensure your fund provider includes your name and the intended purpose of the donation (e.g., Pledge, Haiti, Outreach) with the distribution. This helps us ensure your gift is properly acknowledged and applied. Thanks, Jaana

The Grace Church Stewardship campaign for 2026

To date 144 pledges have come in totaling \$539,582 – most encouraging, we have 5 new pledges. We are off to a good start. To those who have pledged God bless, to those who have yet to pledge please pray and pledge so our Vestry can budget for 2026. If you need a pledge card, they are available as you enter the church or you can contact the office (413) 256-6754.

Publicity for your Event?

Please let the Communications Committee know if you need help with your event. Please fill out this form: <https://www.gracechurchamherst.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/Request-for-Event-Publicity-Form-2023.pdf>, also located on the "Outreach" page of the church website. The committee requests at least 6 weeks notice. Please forward questions to Patrick Kelly or Sarah Chadwick.

Coffee Hour

The hospitality committee keeps a small supply of treats on hand but this often is not enough. Won't you please be so kind as to donate a baked good for all to enjoy? Coffee cakes, quick breads, muffins, or bagels are always appreciated as well as other baked goods. Thank you so much for your thoughtfulness. Please see Sarah Chadwick if you have questions or want to help out further.

You are welcome!

We want you to know that you are welcome here. If you are new to Grace Church please reach out, because we are here to invite, embrace, and welcome you into our community. Whether you are:

- New to the area
- New to our church (and perhaps new to the Episcopal faith)
- A longtime resident in search of connection and community
- Part of the LGBTQ community and are looking for a spiritual home where you are welcomed and affirmed

- A New Student, looking for a place of safety and comfort during your time studying here
- A Mom or Dad of a student and want a place that will support your child while they live and study here

We are here for you. Please fill out a blue Card, and reach out to someone wearing a WELCOME badge and come back **AGAIN!**

Save the Date

Joy of Living Group, 7:00-8:30 p.m., 2nd and 4th Mondays

This group combines meditation, practices integrated in the flow of life, and discussion. Next meeting, in the Connector: **May 11, 2026.**

Visit Maryland with the Haiti Ministry

Would you like to visit the DC area this spring? A few members of the Grace in Haiti committee are going to Indian Head, MD for 3 days with our partners at St James' Episcopal Church. **We'll go down Friday, May 15 and return Sunday or Monday, May 17 or 18,** for a weekend of fellowship as we work together to support St. Matthew's School in Bayonnais, Haiti. Our partners there will house and feed us, and a good time is always had by all. If you'd like to know more and/or get involved, please contact Laura Klock at 413 374-9397 or laklock@music.umass.edu

Celebrations with The Reverend Tom Synan

May 16th from 4-6:00 PM in the Parish Hall and again during the Pentecost Picnic on Sunday May 24th.

We are hoping parishioners can make one or both celebrations to wish Tom Synan well.

Saturday May 16 from 4-6 PM in the Parish Hall we are inviting parishioners to come to this catered cocktail party that will consist of; skits, music, poems, reading any memorable story of Tom you'd like to regale while enjoying refreshments and hors d'oeuvres (no need to bring food). Hugs and laughter throughout. Please contact Mary Hocken or Tom Dougherty if there is something that you'd like to share so that we can get you in the cue. We are putting together a presentation. If you have any pictures you'd like to share please forward them to Heidi Erickson by Sunday May 10th h.erickson6@icloud.com

For the May 16th celebration, PLEASE RSVP to Terrie Korpita (413) 835-0648

tkorpita@gracechurchamherst.org this will help us order appropriately.

Our second celebration will be at the Pentecost Picnic which follows directly after the one service at 9:30 AM. BLG, Brother Lawrence Guild will be cooking up hotdogs and hamburgers, parishioners are asked to bring a picnic side to share.

Mary Hocken (413) 537-0251 melizhocken@gmail.com

Tom Dougherty (413) 563-7321 thomasdougherty56@gail.com