

# Grace Episcopal Church

3601 Russell Rd. Alexandria, Virginia 22305

[www.gracealex.org](http://www.gracealex.org) 703.549.1980

The Feast of the Ascension of Our Lord Jesus Christ

May 18, 2023 – 7:30 pm

Festival Eucharist, Rite I



*Picture provided from the Grace Church Children's Ministry.*

## WELCOME TO GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

We are pleased to welcome you to Grace Church. If you are joining us for the first time, please send us a message at [welcome@gracealex.org](mailto:welcome@gracealex.org), so we can get to know you. We can also add you to our mailing list by request. We're glad to have you join with us in worshipping God in the beauty of holiness, something which is central to our identity at Grace. We hope you will join with us in sharing the love of God with this world that needs healing.

Assisted listening devices are available for use during worship. Please see an usher if you'd like to use one.



Please silence your cell phones during worship.

### Our Mission Statement

To Love, Proclaim, and Serve God

*Through + life-giving liturgical worship + joyful community + empowering others*

### Contacting Grace

Please feel free to contact our staff.

Our office hours are Monday to Thursday, 9 am – 3 pm and Fridays 9 am – Noon.

*(Mothers Anne & Nina are out of the office on Mondays. Father Santi & Sam Scheff are out on Fridays.)*

### Staff

**The Rev. Nina Bacas**

*Associate Rector*

[nina.bacas@gracealex.org](mailto:nina.bacas@gracealex.org)

**Betsy Bamford**

*Nursery Worker (part-time)*

**The Rev. Amanda Bourne**

*Priest Associate*

**Patti Culbreth**

*Head of Grace Episcopal School*

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**Mary Cyrus**

*Financial Administrator (part-time)*

[financial.admin@gracealex.org](mailto:financial.admin@gracealex.org)

**Kevin Hamilton**

*Director of Operations and Communication*

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**Pedro Hernández**

*Sexton*

**Isabel Moirenda**

*Nursery Worker (part-time)*

**Amorita Quintanilla**

*Sexton (part-time)*

**The Rev. Santiago “Santi” Rodriguez**

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**Samantha Scheff**

*Director of Music*

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**The Rev. Dr. Anne Michele Turner**

*Rector*

[rector@gracealex.org](mailto:rector@gracealex.org)

### IN NEED OF PASTORAL CARE?

Clergy and staff are available for pastoral care. Please call the church office at (703) 549-1980 or send an email to Mtr. Anne Turner, [rector@gracealex.org](mailto:rector@gracealex.org), if you're ill or need pastoral care. For emergencies after hours, please call the **After-hours Emergency Number: (571) 308-3219**, and the priest on call will assist you.

### HOME COMMUNION

Home Communion is available upon request for parishioners who desire this service by Eucharistic Visitors every Sunday. Home Communion will be in one form, Bread only. To request Home Communion, parishioners are asked to contact the Parish Office by telephone at 703-549-1980 no later than 12 pm on the Wednesday prior to the Sunday on which they would like to receive Home Communion

THE FEAST OF THE ASCENSION OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST  
FESTIVAL EUCHARIST, RITE I

The Ascension marks the conclusion of Jesus's post-resurrection appearances. The Ascension is affirmed by both the Apostles and Nicene Creeds. It is celebrated on the 40<sup>th</sup> day after Easter.

VOLUNTARY

*Vater unser in Himmelreich*

J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

*The people stand.*

INTROIT ANTIPHON (choir)

*Viri Galilaei*

Plainsong, Tone VII

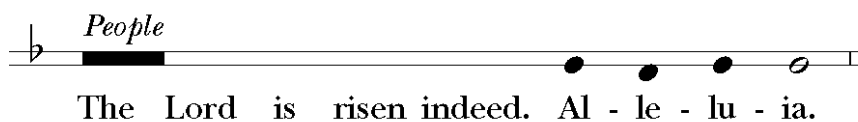
*Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven, alleluia; in like manner as ye have seen him going up into heaven, so shall he come again, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. O clap your hands together, all ye people: O sing unto God with the voice of melody. (Acts 1:11; Psalm 47:1)*

HYMN 307

Lord Enthroned in Heavenly Splendor

St. Helen

THE OPENING ACCLAMATION



THE COLLECT FOR PURITY

Almighty God, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love thee, and worthily magnify thy holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE SUMMARY OF THE LAW

Hear what our Lord Jesus Christ saith: Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it: Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.

*Gloria in excelsis*

Hymnal S-201

1. Glo - ry be to God on high, and on earth peace,  
good will to - wards men. 2. We praise thee, we bless thee,  
we wor - ship thee, we glo - ri - fy thee, we give thanks  
to thee for thy great glo - ry, 3. O Lord God, heaven - ly

King, God the Fa - ther Al - might - y. 4. O Lord, the on -  
 ly - be - got - ten Son, Je - sus Christ; 5. O Lord God, Lamb  
 of God, Son of the Fa - ther, that ta - kest a - way  
 the sins of the world, have mer - cy up - on us.  
 6. Thou that ta - kest a - way the sins of the world,  
 re - ceive our prayer. 7. Thou that sit - test at the right hand  
 of God the Fa - ther, have mer - cy up - on us.  
 8. For thou on - ly art ho - ly; thou on - ly art the Lord;  
 9. thou on - ly, O Christ, with the Ho - ly Ghost, art most  
 high in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

*People* And with thy spirit.

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

Grant, we beseech thee, Almighty God, that like as we do believe thy only-begotten Son our Lord Jesus Christ to have ascended into the heavens, so we may also in heart and mind thither ascend, and with him continually dwell; who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, one God, world without end.

Amen.

*The people are seated.*

# THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

THE FIRST LESSON

Acts 1:1-11

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

In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of the Father. "This," he said, "is what you have heard from me; for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."

*Lector* The Word of the Lord.

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

*The choir sings the psalm.*

PSALM 47

*Omnes gentes, plaudite*

Richard Farrant

- <sup>1</sup> Clap your hands, all you peoples; \*  
shout to God with a cry of joy.
- <sup>2</sup> For the LORD Most High is to be feared; \*  
he is the great King over all the earth.
- <sup>3</sup> He subdues the peoples under us, \*  
and the nations under our feet.
- <sup>4</sup> He chooses our inheritance for us, \*  
the pride of Jacob whom he loves.
- <sup>5</sup> God has gone up with a shout, \*  
the LORD with the sound of the ram's-horn.
- <sup>6</sup> Sing praises to God, sing praises; \*  
sing praises to our King, sing praises.
- <sup>7</sup> For God is King of all the earth; \*  
sing praises with all your skill.
- <sup>8</sup> God reigns over the nations; \*  
God sits upon his holy throne.
- <sup>9</sup> The nobles of the peoples have gathered together \*  
with the people of the God of Abraham.
- <sup>10</sup> The rulers of the earth belong to God, \*  
and he is highly exalted.

*Lector* A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Ephesians.

I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

*Lector* The Word of the Lord.

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

*The people stand.*

ALLELUIA AND VERSE (choir)

*Ascendit Deus*

Plainsong, Tone VI

Alleluia. Alleluia. God is gone up with merry noise: and the Lord with the sound of the trumpet. Alleluia. The Lord is among them as in the holy places of Sinai, he is gone up on high: he hath led captivity captive. Alleluia

THE HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 24:44-53

*Deacon* The Holy Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

*People* **Glory be to thee, O Lord.**

Jesus said to his disciples, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled." Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high."

Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. And they worshiped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy; and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

*Deacon* The Gospel of the Lord.

*People* **Praise be to thee, O Christ.**

*The people are seated.*

SERMON

Father Santi Rodriguez

*Silence is kept.*

*The people stand.*

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

Form III; BCP, p. 387

Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church;  
**That we all may be one.**

Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;  
**That your Name may be glorified by all people.**

We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons;  
**That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.**

We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;  
**That there may be justice and peace on the earth.**

Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;  
**That our works may find favor in your sight.**

Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;  
**That they may be delivered from their distress.**

Praying especially for Jorge and Jose Escobar, brothers of parishioner Francisco Escobar; and former parishioner Stu Perry; give to all of the departed eternal rest.  
**Let light perpetual shine upon them.**

We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;  
**May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.**

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.

*Silence is kept during which time the congregation may offer their prayers silently or aloud.*

*Celebrant*

Lord Jesus Christ, you said to your apostles, "Peace I give to you; my own peace I leave with you." Regard not our sins, but the faith of your Church, and give to us the peace and unity of that heavenly City, where with the Father and the Holy Spirit, you live and reign, now and for ever. **AAmen.**





Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, Lord God of Hosts:  
 Heaven and earth are full of thy glo - ry. Glo - ry be  
 to thee, O Lord Most High. Bless - ed is he that com - eth  
 in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

*The people stand or kneel.*

*Then the Celebrant continues*

All glory be to thee, O Lord our God, for that thou didst create heaven and earth, and didst make us in thine own image; and, of thy tender mercy, didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to take our nature upon him, and to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption. He made there a full and perfect sacrifice for the whole world; and did institute, and in his holy Gospel command us to continue, a perpetual memory of that his precious death and sacrifice, until his coming again.

For in the night in which he was betrayed, he took bread; and when he had given thanks to thee, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take, eat, this is my Body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Likewise, after supper, he took the cup; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink this, all of you; for this is my Blood of the New Covenant, which is shed for you, and for many, for the remission of sins. Do this, as oft as ye shall drink it, in remembrance of me."

Wherefore, O Lord and heavenly Father, we thy people do celebrate and make, with these thy holy gifts which we now offer unto thee, the memorial thy Son hath commanded us to make; having in remembrance his blessed passion and precious death, his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension; and looking for his coming again with power and great glory.

And we most humbly beseech thee, O merciful Father, to hear us, and, with thy Word and Holy Spirit, to bless and sanctify these gifts of bread and wine, that they may be unto us the Body and Blood of thy dearly-beloved Son Jesus Christ.

And we earnestly desire thy fatherly goodness to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, whereby we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, our selves, our souls and bodies. Grant, we beseech thee, that all who partake of this Holy Communion may worthily receive the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son Jesus Christ, and be filled with thy grace and heavenly benediction; and also that we and all thy whole Church may be made one body with him, that he may dwell in us, and we in him; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord;

By whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Ghost all honor and glory be unto thee, O Father Almighty, world without end. Amen.

And now, as our Savior Christ hath 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

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

THE FRACTION ANTHEM

Hymnal S-151

*Cantor*  
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

*All*  
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

*Cantor*  
Christ our Pass - o - ver is sac - ri - ficed for us; there - fore let us

*All*  
keep the feast. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

THE INVITATION TO COMMUNION

*Celebrant* The Gifts of God for the People of God.

*All baptized Christians are welcome to receive the Eucharist. If you prefer a blessing, please cross your arms over your chest.*

*At communion, gluten-free wafers are available by request.*

*To request the bread only, please put out both hands, palm up, with one hand crossed over one another.*

*To request a wafer that has been dipped in wine, please put out one hand only.*

*If you prefer to drink from the chalice, there is a common cup available at the crossing.*

HYMN 328

Draw nigh and take the body of the Lord

Song 46

*The people stand or kneel.*

THE POSTCOMMUNION PRAYER

Almighty and everliving God, we most heartily thank thee for that thou dost feed us, in these holy mysteries, with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and dost assure us thereby of thy favor and goodness towards us; and that we are very members incorporate in the mystical body of thy Son, the blessed company of all faithful people; and are also heirs, through hope, of thy everlasting kingdom. And we humbly beseech thee, O heavenly Father, so to assist us with thy grace, that we may continue in that holy fellowship, and do all such good works as thou hast prepared for us to walk in; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honor and glory, world without end. Amen.

THE BLESSING

May Christ ascended into heaven make you faithful and strong to do his will that you may reign with him in glory, and the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be with you and remain with you forever. **Amen.**

HYMN 494

Crown him with many crowns

*Diademata*

THE DISMISSAL

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

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

VOLUNTARY

*St. Magnus*

Healey Willan (1880-1968)

**SERVING @ GRACE TODAY**

*Celebrant*

The Rev. Dr. Anne Michele Turner

*Deacon & Preacher*

Father Santi Rodriguez

*Subdeacon*

Jay Legere

*Lector*

Deborah Leslie

*Intercessor*

Rushad Thomas

*Music Director*

Samantha Scheff

*Ushers*

John Boris and Bill Eckel

*Livestream Crew*

Eleanor Reed

*Altar Guild Crew Leader*

Lucy-Lee Reed