

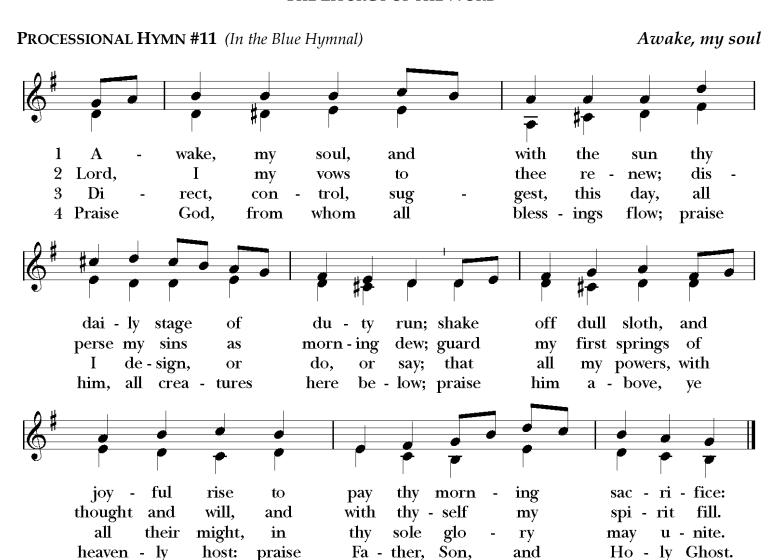
Grace Episcopal Church

The Fifth Sunday of Easter May 7, 2023 Holy Eucharist, Rite II 10:30 a.m.

PRELUDE

Awake, My Soul - based on "Morning Hymn" by F. H. Barthelemon

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD



355 OPENING ACCLAMATION AND COLLECT FOR PURITY

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ is risen!

People The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!

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 #S278 (in the front of the hymnal, sung by all)

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.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant The Lord be with you.People And also with you.

Celebrant 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. *Amen.*

THE FIRST LESSON Acts 7:55-60

Lector A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

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.

- The Word of the Lord. All: Thanks be to God.

PSALM 31:1-5, 15-16 (responsively by whole verse)

- ¹ In you, O LORD, have I taken refuge; let me never be put to shame; deliver me in your righteousness.
- ² Incline your ear to me; make haste to deliver 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 commend 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 upon your servant, and in your loving-kindness save me.

THE EPISTLE 1 Peter 2:2-10

Lector A reading from the first letter of Peter.

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",

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

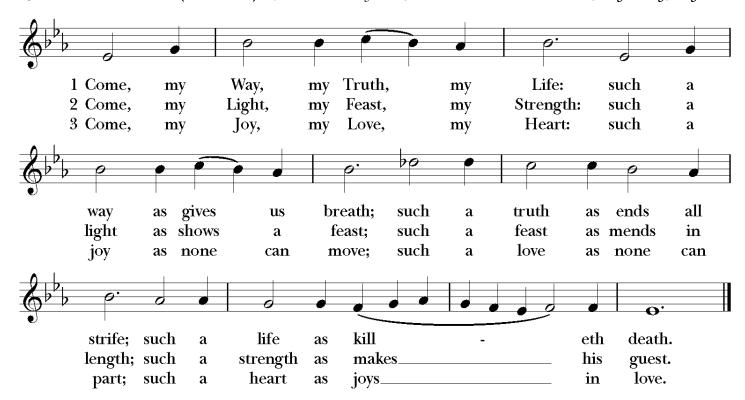
and

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.

- The Word of the Lord. All: Thanks be to God.



THE GOSPEL John 14:1-14

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of our Lord 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."

- The Gospel of the Lord People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

358 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.

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.

392 PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE (FORM VI)

On the third day he rose again

The Leader and People pray responsively In peace, we pray to you, Lord God.

Silence

For all people in their daily life and work;

For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.

For this community, the nation, and the world; we pray for Joe our President, Roy our Governor, Jason our Mayor, and John our Councilman;

For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.

For the just and proper use of your creation;

For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.

For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;

For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.

For the peace and unity of the Church of God;

For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.

For *Michael* our Presiding Bishop, *Samuel and Jennifer* our Bishops; and *Ed* our Priest; and all other bishops and ministers;

For all who serve God in his Church.

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation. Silence

We pray for all who are traveling, especially **Cameron** Klass, **Julia** Klass, and **Josey** Parker, and those with special needs:

Kevin Hathcock, Fred Adkins, Mark Adkins, Amanda Amon, Ella Asebes, David Bankston, Rhonda Bralkowski, Alice Brandon & family, Baylee Brown, Gayle Burke, Art Burkhart, Emily Duquette Byers, Lynne Cleckley, Linda Clodfelter, Morgan Curia, Tracy Davis, Barbara Dixon, Susan Dixon, Anita Ewbank, Renee Ewbank, Cathy Farley, Charlotte Froehlich, Marc Frye, Jenny Gallen and family, Shana Garland, Jane Grimes, George Hanna, Rob Hare, Kristen Harris, Nancy Hinkle, Chris Hodges, Jon Huff, Jahiya Huntley, Greg Hutchins, Lindsay Layfield, Cara Lee, Warren MacKinstry, Carol May, Kate McKenzie, Brian McKerlie, Nicholas Melomo, Roan Mitchell, Dan & Fran Moore, O'Lema Morgan, Chocolate Myers, Howard Palmer, Bill Phillipps, Gabby Plott, Pat Plummer, Libby Robert, Carl Robertson, Jacklyn Rojas, Lucas Sanabria, Tommy Shaw, Suzy Sheets, Talmadge Silversides, Amy Burkhart Smith, Dan Griff Smith, Martha Ellen Smith, Louise Snyder, Peggy Snyder, Reid Taylor, Jackie Touchton, Laura Turlington, Brenda Tyndall, Darla Tysinger, Perry Grimes Van Dyke, Kathy Watson, Flynn Williams, Mary and Jay Williams, Vickie Wolfe, Charlotte Young, and John (withheld).

"Are there others?"

Hear us, Lord; For your mercy is great.

We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life. Silence
The People may add their own thanksgivings

We will exalt you, O God our King; And praise your Name for ever and ever.

We pray for all who have died, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom. *Silence The People may add their own petitions*

Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon them; Who put their trust in you.

The celebrant adds a concluding Collect.

Heavenly Father, you have promised to hear what we ask in the Name of your Son: Accept and fulfill our petitions, we pray, not as we ask in our ignorance, nor as we deserve in our sinfulness, but as you know and love us in your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

We pray to you also for the forgiveness of our sins. Silence

Celebrant and People kneel and say

Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father;

In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and left undone; and so uphold us by your Spirit that we may live and serve you in newness of life, to the honor and glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Celebrant 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.

Please stand if you are able

360 THE PEACE

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People And also with you.

THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

THE OFFERTORY SENTENCE

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

(choir only)

Sing a New Song - M. Praetorius/M. Schweizer

Sing a new song, Sing to God with a voice of triumph, Make his praises known to all the nations, Sing the honor of his name.

PRESENTATION OF GIFTS #205 (v.5) (*The offering is brought forth while the hymn is being sung*)

To God the Father, God the Son, to God the Spirit, always One, we sing for life in us begun: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

361 THE GREAT THANKSGIVING (Eucharistic Prayer A)

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 him thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

But chiefly are we bound to praise you for the glorious resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; for he is the true Paschal Lamb, who was sacrificed for us, and has taken away the sin of the world. By his death he has destroyed death, and by his rising to life again he has won for us everlasting life.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

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

The people may stand or kneel

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Celebrant and People Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **AMEN**.

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

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.

364 THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Celebrant Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

People Therefore, let us keep the feast. Alleluia!

INVITATION TO HOLY COMMUNION

Facing the people, the Celebrant may say the following Invitation

The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

All baptized Christians are invited to come forward for Holy Communion at the Lord's Table.

You may receive both the bread and wine, or only the bread or only the wine.

Receiving Communion in one or both forms is sufficient sacramentally.

If you prefer neither bread nor wine, you also are invited to come forward and to simply cross your arms over your chest as a sign for the minister to provide you with a holy blessing of the Lord.

366 POST-COMMUNION PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

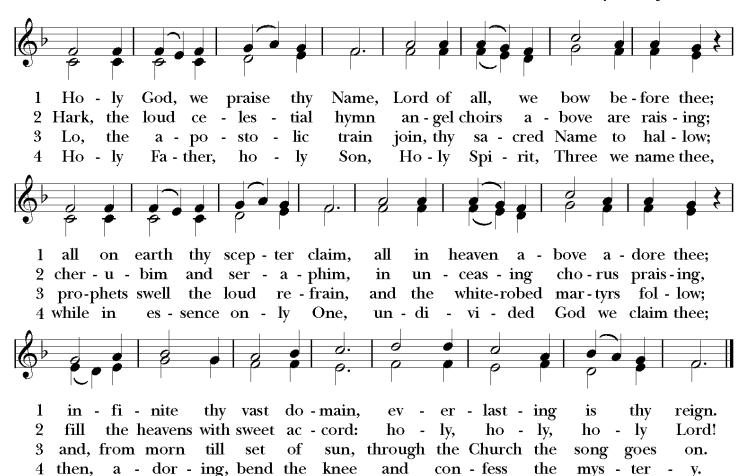
Celebrant and People

Almighty and everliving God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

THE BLESSING

The Celebrant blesses the people

Mighty God, in whom we know the power of redemption, you stand among us in the shadows of our time. As we move through every sorrow and trial of this life, uphold us with knowledge of the final morning when, in the glorious presence of your risen Son, we will share in his resurrection, redeemed and restored to the fullness of life and forever freed to be your people. **Amen.**



THE DISMISSAL

Celebrant Let us go forth in the name of the Risen Christ. Alleluia, Alleluia! People Thanks be to God! Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

POSTLUDE

Musique Royale - R. DeLalande

The flowers behind the altar today are given to the glory of God by Robin & Glenn Sink in honor of our Grace Church choir and our acolytes.

WORSHIP LEADERS TODAY

Lector: Mary Matthews

Intercessor: Judie Reed

Lay Eucharistic Minister: Karl Bolstad, Kathie Goodman

Ushers: Bill Gilleland, Richard WolfeGreeter: Melissa and David ThayerAcolytes: Lyndon Briggs, Tanner Sheets

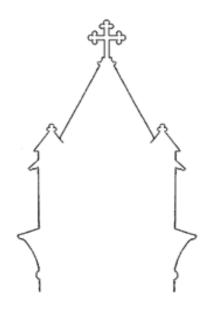
WELCOME GUESTS AND NEWCOMERS!

We are delighted to have you worship with us today, and we would welcome the opportunity to get acquainted. Please sign the Guest Book in the narthex.

Infants and young children are always welcome to worship with their families in the sanctuary.

The restrooms are located in the rear hallway, and diaper-changing stations are provided in both rooms.

During Holy Communion, if you are unable to receive communion at the altar rail, please notify an usher so that communion can be brought to you.





GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

419 S. Main Street Lexington, North Carolina 27292-3234 phone: 336-249-7211

email: gracechurch@gracelexingtonnc.org www.gracelexingtonnc.org



The Most Reverend Michael Curry, Presiding Bishop The Right Reverend Samuel Rodman, Diocesan Bishop The Right Reverend Jennifer Brooke-Davidson, Assistant Bishop

> The Reverend Edward T. Kelaher, Rector Joan Clodfelter, Minister of Music Kathy Johnson, Christian Education Director Maureen Tincher, Parish Administrator John Taylor, Facilities Manager

THE VESTRY

2024	2025	2026
Lynn Meeks Treasurer	Wes Allred Sr. Warden	Karl Bolstad
Sandy Reynolds Asst. Clerk	Thompson Miller Asst. Treasurer	Bright Carter
Logan Sheets	Marjorie Parker Jr. Warden	Sally Dodd Clerk
Susan Terrell	Marilyn Taylor	Henry Duquette Asst. Jr. Ward

Vestry Person of the Month for May is Thompson Miller.

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