

GRACE episcopal church



The Sixth Sunday of Easter
~ Rogation Sunday

May 25, 2025

Service Program for the 10:30 a.m. Solemn High Mass
Re-valuing the Lost Message of Rogation Days
Bulletin Insert from the Episcopal Church
Grace Notes
This Week at Grace

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WE are a diverse community united by our commitment to Jesus Christ and our desire to live the Christian life. Our prayers and the Sacraments help us find Christ in church and in the world. Seeing Christ in each other and in the faces of strangers, we are inspired to reach out in love and service.

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The Rev. Joseph L. Pace, *Associate Priest*  
Mr. Kyle Swann, *Choirmaster and Organist*

The Vestry  
Claudia Gwardyak, *Senior Warden*; Barbara Galbreath, *Junior Warden*  
Katharine Rovetti, *Parish Clerk*  
Mark Lacedonia, *Treasurer*; Barbara Galbreath, *Assistant Treasurer*  
Adrianne Brown, Josephine Dominguez, Linda Galarza-Rosa,  
Sheryl Rifkin, Gregory Simmons

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WELCOME to all who are joining with us virtually as we celebrate *THE SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER*. We hope you feel at home with us and that you find the love, peace, inspiration, and strength to meet the challenges of your daily life.

We hope that you will take part in our worship by making the Peoples' responses as indicated and joining in the hymn-singing.

If you would like more information about Grace Church, or the Episcopal Church, please communicate with our Rector, The Rev. Rowena Kemp, or make an appointment with her to discuss any questions you have.

GRACE episcopal church

The Sixth Sunday of Easter ~ Rogation Sunday

May 25, 2025

Solemn High Mass, 10:30 A.M.

Propers of Year C

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Mass Setting: *Missa de Sancta Maria Magdalena*

Healey Willan (d. 1968)

*This setting of the Ordinary of the Mass is for congregational singing.*  
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Voluntary: Ever-returning Spring

Larry Alan Smith (b. 1955)

THE ASPERGES

*During the Easter Season, we begin each Sunday High Mass
with the sprinkling of the congregants with Holy Water as a reminder of our Baptism.*

Vidi aquam (choir)

Tomás Luis de Victoria (d. 1611)

VIDI AQUAM egredientem de templo, a latere dextro, alleluia. Et omnes, ad quos
pervenit aqua ista, salvi facti sunt, et dicent, alleluia, alleluia.

[I saw water proceeding out of the temple, from the right side thereof, alleluia. And all,
whithersoever the waters shall come, shall be healed, and shall say, alleluia, alleluia.]

Celebrant: O Lord, show thy mercy upon us. Alleluia.

People: And grant us thy salvation. Alleluia.

Celebrant: O Lord, hear my prayer.

People: And let my cry come unto thee.

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: And with thy spirit.

Celebrant: Let us pray.

GRACIOUSLY hear us, O Lord, holy Father, Almighty, everlasting God: and vouchsafe
to send thy Angel from heaven to guard, cherish, protect, visit, and defend all who are
assembled in this thy holy temple: through Jesus Christ our Saviour. *Amen.*

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Opening Acclamation

Celebrant: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

People: The Lord is risen indeed! Alleluia!

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.*

Introit (choir) *Vocem jocunditatis*

Mode III

(Antiphon) WITH A VOICE OF SINGING declare ye this, and let it be heard, alleluia; utter
it even unto the ends of the earth: The Lord hath delivered his people, alleluia, alleluia.

(Psalm) O be joyful in God, all ye lands; sing praises unto the honour of his Name; make
his praise to be glorious. 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. [Repeat antiphon.]*

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.

Ky-ri-e e-le-i-son. Ky-ri-e e-le-i-son. Ky-ri-e e-le-i-son.

Chri-ste e-le-i-son. Chri-ste e-le-i-son. Chri-ste e-le-i-son.

Ky-ri-e e-le-i-son. Ky-ri-e e-le-i-son. Ky-ri-e e-le-i-son.

Gloria in Excelsis (*sung by all*)

Cantor *All*

[Glo-ry be to God on high,] and on earth peace, good will towards men.

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, O Lord God, heaven-ly King, God the Fa-ther Al-might-ty. O Lord, the on-ly be-got-ten Son, Je-sus Christ; 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.

Thou that take-st a-way the sins of the world, re-ceive our prayer. Thou that sit-test at the right hand of God the Fa-ther, have mer-cy up-on us.

For thou on-ly art ho-ly; thou on-ly art the Lord; 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.

O GOD, who hast prepared for those who love thee such good things as pass man's understanding: Pour into our hearts such love toward thee, that we, loving thee in all things and above all things, may obtain thy promises, which exceed all that we can desire; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

The First Lesson: The Acts of the Apostles 16: 9-15 [NRSV]

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

DURING the night Paul had a vision: there stood a man of Macedonia pleading with him and saying, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." When he had seen the vision, we immediately tried to cross over to Macedonia, being convinced that God had called us to proclaim the good news to them. We set sail from Troas and took a straight course to Samothrace, the following day to Neapolis, and from there to Philippi, which is a leading city of the district of Macedonia and a Roman colony. We remained in this city for some days. On the sabbath day we went outside the gate by the river, where we supposed there was a place of prayer; and we sat down and spoke to the women who had gathered there. A certain woman named Lydia, a worshiper of God, was listening to us; she was from the city of Thyatira and a dealer in purple cloth. The Lord opened her heart to listen eagerly to what was said by Paul. When she and her household were baptized, she urged us, saying, "If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come and stay at my home." And she prevailed upon us.



The Word of the Lord.

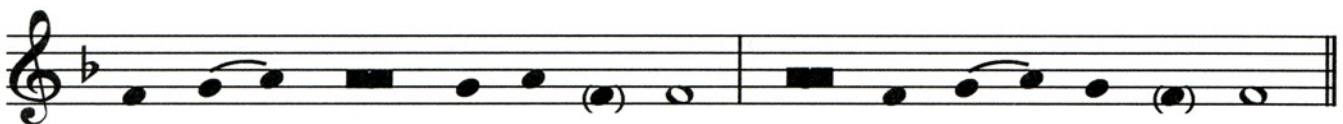
People's Response: Thanks be to God.

Gradual: Psalm 67

Deus misereatur

Tone VI

(Congregation sings the italicized verses.)



- 1 GOD BË merciful unto us | and bless us,
* *and show us the light of his countenance and be mer- / ciful unto ^ us;*
- 2 *That thy way may be known up- / on earth,*
* *thy saving health a- / mong äll nations.*
- 3 Let the peoples praise thee | O God;
* yea let all the | peoplës praise thee.
- 4 *O let the nations rejoice / and be glad;*
* *for thou shalt judge the folk righteously, and govern the / natiöns upon ^ earth.*
- 5 Let the peoples praise thee, | O God;
* yea, let all the | peoplës praise thee.
- 6 *Then shall the earth bring forth / her increase;*
* *and God even our own God shall give / us his blessing.*
- 7 God | shall bless us;
* *and all the ends of the / world shäll fear him.*

A Reading from the Revelation to John.

IN the spirit the angel carried me away to a great, high mountain and showed me the holy city Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God. I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb. And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God is its light, and its lamp is the Lamb. The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it. Its gates will never be shut by day — and there will be no night there. People will bring into it the glory and the honor of the nations. But nothing unclean will enter it, nor anyone who practices abomination or falsehood, but only those who are written in the Lamb's book of life. Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb through the middle of the street of the city. On either side of the river is the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, producing its fruit each month; and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. Nothing accursed will be found there any more. But the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him; they will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. And there will be no more night; they need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.



*Altar of the Mystical Lamb -
Angels Singing and Making Music
Eyck, Hubert van, 1366-1426;
Eyck, Jan van, 1390-1440*

The Word of the Lord.

People's Response: Thanks be to God.



The Alleluia *Surrexit Christus*

Tone VI

Cantor: Al- le- lu- ia.

People: Al- le- lu- ia.

Choir: CHRIST IS RISEN, and hath shewed light unto us: whom he hath redeemed with his most precious Blood.

People: Al- le- lu- ia.

Choir: I came forth from the Father, and am come into the world: again, I leave the world and go to the Father.

People: Al- le- lu- ia.



*"Christ taking leave of the Apostles"
Duccio (1308-1311)*

The Holy Gospel: St. John 14: 23-29 [RSV]

Deacon: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ ac-cor-ding to John.

People: ✠ Glory be to thee, O Lord.

JESUS answered him, "If a man loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him. He who does not love me does not keep my words; and the word which you hear is not mine but the Father's who sent me. These things I have spoken to you, while I am still with you. But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you. "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid. You heard me say to you, 'I go away, and I will come to you.' If you loved me, you would have rejoiced, because I go to the Father; for the Father is greater than I. And now I have told you before it takes place, so that when it does take place, you may believe."

The Gospel of the LORD.

People's Response: Praise be to thee, O Christ.

The Sermon

The Rev. Marta S. Rivera Monclova, PhD, *Curate*

The Nicene Creed (*said by all*)

Prayer Book p. 327

I BELIEVE IN ONE GOD, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible; and in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of his Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father; by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Ghost of the Virgin Mary, and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate; he suffered and was buried and the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures, and ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of the Father; and he shall come again, with glory, to judge both the quick and the dead; whose kingdom shall have no end. And I believe in the Holy Ghost the Lord, and Giver of Life, who proceedeth from the Father and the Son; who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified; who spake by the Prophets. And I believe one holy Catholic and Apostolic Church; I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins; ✠ and I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

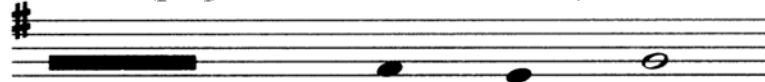


The Prayers of the People

Form IV



Leader: Let us pray for the Church and | for the world.



Grant almighty God, that all who confess thy Name may be united in thy truth, live together in thy love, and reveal thy glory / in the world. (*Silence*)



Lord, in thy mer - cy *People* hear our prayer. (*Sung after every intercession*)

Leader: Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the ways of justice and peace; that we may honor one another and serve the / common good. (*Silence*)

Lord, in thy mercy *People:* hear our prayer.

Leader: Give us all a reverence for the earth as thine own creation, that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others and to thy hon-/or and glory. (*Silence*)

Lord, in thy mercy *People:* hear our prayer.

Leader: We pray for an increase in the membership of this parish; that we may have the hands and hearts to carry / out thy will. (*Silence*)

Lord, in thy mercy *People:* hear our prayer.

Leader: We commend to thy gracious care and keeping all the men and women of our armed forces at home and abroad [*especially N.*]. Defend them day by day with thy heavenly grace; strengthen them in their trials and temptations; give them courage to face the perils which beset them; and grant them a sense of thine abiding presence wherever / they may be. (*Silence*)

Lord, in thy mercy *People:* hear our prayer.

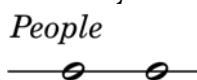
Leader: Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit (*pause*); give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of / thy salvation. (*Silence*)

Lord, in thy mercy *People:* hear our prayer.

Leader: We commend to thy mercy all who have died, that thy will for them may be fulfilled (*pause*); and we pray that we may share with all thy saints in thine e-/ternal kingdom. (*Silence*)

Lord, in thy mercy *People:* hear our prayer.

Celebrant: Lord, hear the prayers of thy people; and what we have asked faithfully, grant that we may obtain effectually, to the glory of thy Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord.



A - men.



The Peace

Celebrant: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: And with thy spirit.

The Ministers and People greet one another in the Name of the Lord.



The Holy Communion

Offertory Sentence

Celebrant: Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving, and make good thy vows unto the Most High. *Psalm 50: 14*

Offertory (choir) *Benedicite gentes*

Mode II

OBLESS THE LORD OUR GOD, ALL YE HIS PEOPLES, and make the voice of his praise to be heard. It is the Lord who holdeth our souls in life, and who suffereth not our feet to slip. Blessed be the Lord our God, who hath not rejected the voice of my prayer, and who hath not withheld his mercy from me, alleluia.

Anthem (choir)

Martin Shaw, 1923

WITH A VOICE OF SINGING declare ye this and let it be heard, alleluia; utter it even unto the ends of the earth: The Lord hath delivered his people, alleluia. O be joyful in God, all ye lands, O sing praises to the honour of his name, make his praise to be glorious.

Presentation of the alms and oblations

Celebrant: All things come of thee, O Lord,

People: And of thine own have we given thee.

Orate

Celebrant: Pray that this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving may be acceptable to God the Father Almighty.

People: May the Lord receive this sacrifice at thy hands, to the praise and glory of his holy Name, both to our benefit and that of all his holy Church.

Sursum corda

Celebrant: The Lord be with you. *People:* And with thy spi - rit.

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts. *People:* We lift them up un - to the Lord.

Celebrant: Let us give thanks un - to our Lord God.

People: It is meet and right so to do.

Then, facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant says,

It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto thee, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God.

BUT chiefly are we bound to praise thee for the glorious resurrection of thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord; for he is the very Paschal Lamb, who was sacrificed for us, and hath taken away the sin of the world; who by his death hath destroyed death and by his rising to life again hath won for us everlasting life:

Therefore with Angels and Archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious Name; evermore praising thee, and saying,

SANCTUS · SANCTUS · SANCTUS

Sanctus and Benedictus (*sung by all*)

H. Willan

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, Lord God of Hosts:

Hea - ven 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.

ALL glory be to thee, Almighty God, our heavenly Father, for that thou, of thy tender
A mercy, didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to suffer death upon the cross for our
redemption; who made there, by his one oblation of himself once offered, a full, perfect,
and sufficient sacrifice, oblation, and satisfaction, for the sins of 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,
he brake 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 ye all of this; for this is my Blood of the New Testament, 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, according to the institution of thy dearly
beloved Son our Savior Jesus Christ, we, thy humble servants, do celebrate and make
here before thy divine Majesty, 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; rendering
unto thee most hearty thanks for the innumerable benefits procured unto us by the
same.

And we most humbly beseech thee, O merciful Father, to hear us; and, of thy almighty
goodness, vouchsafe to bless and sanctify, with thy Word and Holy Spirit, these thy
gifts and creatures of bread and wine; that we, receiving them according to thy Son our
Savior Jesus Christ's holy institution, in remembrance of his death and passion, may be
partakers of his most blessed Body and Blood.

And we earnestly desire thy fatherly goodness mercifully to accept this our sacrifice of
praise and thanksgiving; most humbly beseeching thee to grant that, by the merits and
death of thy Son Jesus Christ, and through faith in his blood, we and all thy whole
Church, may obtain remission of our sins and all other benefits of his passion.

And here we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, our selves, our souls and bodies, to be
a reasonable, holy, and living sacrifice unto thee; humbly beseeching thee that we, and all
others who shall be partakers of this Holy Communion, may worthily receive the most
precious Body and Blood of thy Son Jesus Christ, ✠ be filled with thy grace and heavenly
benediction, and made one body with him that he may dwell in us, and we in him.

And although we are unworthy, through our manifold sins, to offer unto thee any
sacrifice, yet we beseech thee to accept this our bounden duty and service, not weighing
our merits but pardoning our offenses, through Jesus Christ our Lord;

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

People

—●—○—○—+—
A- men.



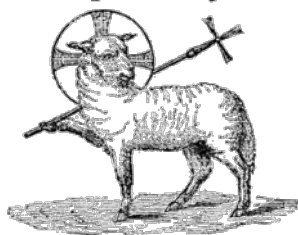
The Lord's Prayer (*sung by all*)

Celebrant: And now, as our Savior Christ hath taught us, we are bold to say,

Our Fa-ther, who art in hea-ven, hal-low-ed be thy Name,
thy king-dom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in hea-ven.
Give us this day our dai-ly bread. And for-give us our tres-pas-ses,
as we for-give those who tres-pass a- gainst us. And lead us not in- to
temp-ta- tion, but de-liv-er us from e- vil. For thine is the king-dom,
and the power, and the glo- ry, for ev- er and ev- er. A- men.

The Fraction

Celebrant
Al-le- lu-ia. Christ our Pass-o-ver is sac-ri- ficed for us.
People
There- fore let us keep the feast. Al- le- lu- ia.



Agnus Dei (*sung by all*)

H. Willan

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

Prayer of Humble Access (*said by all*)

Celebrant: Let us pray.

WE do not presume to come to this thy Table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in thy manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under thy Table. But thou art the same Lord whose property is always to have mercy. Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of thy dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.

The Invitation to Communion

Celebrant: 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.

People: Lord, I am not worthy that thou shouldst come under my roof; but speak the word only, and my soul shall be healed.

Communion (*choir*) *Spiritus Sanctus*

Mode VIII

THE HOLY SPIRIT will teach you, alleluia, whatsoever I have said unto you, alleluia, alleluia.

Prayer of Spiritual Communion (*said by those worshipping virtually*)

IN UNION, O Dear Lord, with the faithful at every Altar of Thy Church, where Thy blessed Body and Blood are being offered to the Father, I desire to offer Thee praise and thanksgiving. I present to Thee my soul and body, with the earnest wish that I may ever be united to Thee. And since I cannot now receive Thee sacramentally, I beseech Thee to come spiritually into my heart. I unite myself to Thee, and embrace Thee with all the affections of my soul. O let nothing ever separate me from Thee. Let me live and die in Thy love. Amen.

Hymn 603 (*sung by all*)

“When Christ was lifted from the earth”

St. Botolph

1 When Christ was lift - ed from the earth, his
2 Still east and west his love ex - tends and
3 Where gen - er - a - tion, class, or race di -
4 Thus free - ly loved, though ful - ly known, may
arms stretched out a - bove through ev - ery cul - ture,
al - ways, near or far, he calls and claims us
vide us to our shame, he sees not la - bels
I in Christ be free to wel - come and ac -
ev - every birth, to draw an an - swering love.
as his friends and loves us as we are.
but a face, a per - son, and a name.
cept his own as Christ ac - cept - ed me.

Prayer of Thanksgiving after Communion

Celebrant: Let us pray.

People: 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 Easter Blessing

MAY Almighty God, who hath redeemed us and made us his children through the resurrection of his Son our Lord, bestow upon you the riches of his blessing. *Amen.*

May God, who through the water of baptism hath raised us from sin into newness of life, make you holy and worthy to be united with Christ for ever. *Amen.*

May God, who hath brought us out of bondage to sin into true and lasting freedom in the Redeemer, bring you to your eternal inheritance. *Amen.*

AND the blessing of God Almighty, ✠ the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. *Amen.*

The Dismissal (*all stand*)

Deacon: Let us go forth in the name of Christ. Al-le-lu-ia! | Al-le - lu - ia!

People: Thanks be to God. Al-le-lu - ia! | Al-le - lu - ia!

The Last Gospel

St. John I:I-I4

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: And with thy spirit.

Celebrant: ✠ The Beginning of the holy Gospel according to John.

People: Glory be to thee, O Lord.

IN THE BEGINNING was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by Him: and without Him was not anything made that was made. In Him was life, and the life was the light of men: and the light shineth in the darkness, and the darkness comprehended it not. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the light, that all men through him might believe. He was not that light, but was sent to bear witness of that light.

That was the true light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not. He came unto his own, and his own received him not. But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

(*Here genuflect*) And the Word was made flesh, (*Here rise*) and dwelt among us: and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the Only-begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

People: Thanks be to God.

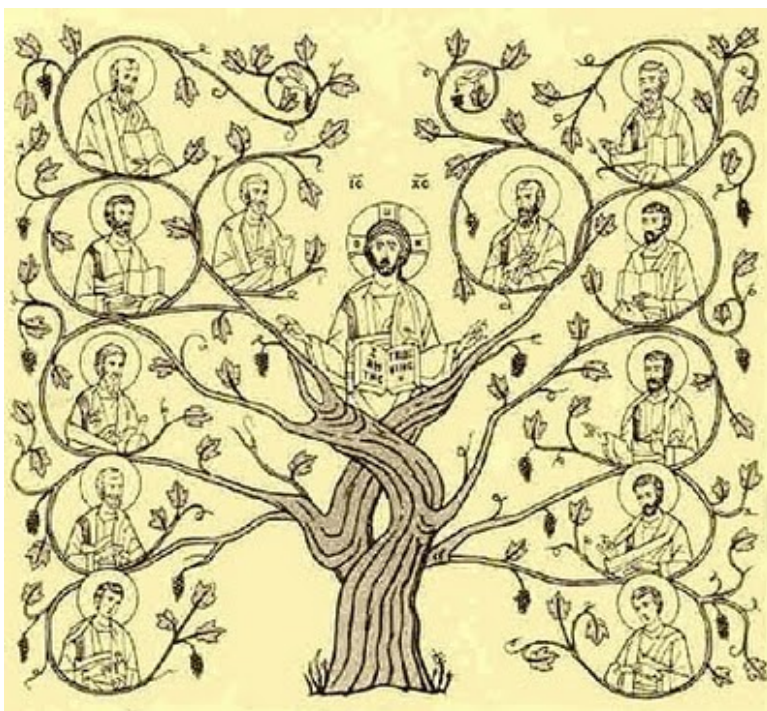
1 O Je - sus, crowned with all re - nown, since thou the earth hast
 2 Lord, in their change, let frost and heat, and winds and dews be
 3 that we may feed the poor a - right, and, gath - ering round thy

trod, thou reign - est and by thee come down hence -
 given; all fos - tering power, all in - fluence sweet, breathe
 throne, here, in the ho - ly an - gels' sight, re -

forth the gifts of God. Thine is the health and
 from the bount - eous heaven. At - tem - per fair with
 pay thee of thine own: That we may praise thee

thine the wealth that in our halls a - bound, and
 gen - tle air the sun - shine and the rain, that
 all our days, and with the Fa - ther's Name, and

thine the beau - ty and the joy with which the years are crowned.
 kind - ly earth with time - ly birth may yield her fruits a - gain:
 with the Ho - ly Spi - rit's gifts, the Sa - vior's love pro - claim.



THE ROGATIONTIDE LITURGY



The Lesson: Matthew 6: 25-34 [NRSV]

“THEREFORE I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you — you of little faith? Therefore do not worry, saying, ‘What will we eat?’ or ‘What will we drink?’ or ‘What will we wear?’ For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. So do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today’s trouble is enough for today.”

The Collects

O gracious Father, who openest thine hand and fillest all things living with plenteousness: Bless the lands and waters, and multiply the harvests of the world; let thy Spirit go forth, that it may renew the face of the earth; show thy loving-kindness, that our land may give her increase; and save us from selfish use of what thou givest, that men and women everywhere may give thee thanks; through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Almighty God, who hast made all thy children to be one family in thee, so that what concerns any must concern all, we ask thy help for all who are in hunger and in need. Grant to them comfort and courage in their suffering; grant to us compassion and the willingness to sacrifice for their relief; that together we may build a new and better order on this earth, for the blessing of thy people and the glory of thy Name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

The Blessing of the Garden

ALMIGHTY and everlasting God, Creator of all things and giver of all life: Let thy blessing be upon this garden, and grant that it may serve to thy glory and the welfare of thy people; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Litany for Rogationtide (*people's part in italics*)

THAT it may please thee to grant favorable weather, temperate rain, and fruitful seasons, that there may be food and drink for all thy creatures, *we beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.*

That it may please thee to bless the lands and waters, and all who work upon them to bring forth food and all things needful for thy people, *we beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.*

That it may please thee to look with favor upon all who care for the earth, the water, and the air, that the riches of thy creation may abound from age to age, *we beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.*

Let us pray. O merciful Creator, whose hand is open wide to satisfy the needs of every living creature: Make us, we beseech thee, ever thankful for thy loving providence; and grant that we, remembering the account that we must one day give, may be faithful stewards of thy bounty; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with thee and the Holy Spirit liveth and reigneth, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Re-valuing the Lost Message of Rogation Days

(from Trinity Episcopal Church, Rutland, Vermont)



“Beating the bounds:” Rogationtide procession

From the very beginning of faith and worship, people have offered thanks, praise and prayers of request and intercession for the fruits of the earth. Celebrations and rituals were established to recall us to our dependence upon the bounties of the earth. These celebrations remind us of our duties as stewards and caretakers of God’s creation and caution against willful negligence and careless destruction of our only source of sustenance. Our celebration of Rogation Days is one such rite and begins this Sunday, the sixth after Easter. The word “Rogation” is from the same Latin root as “interrogate” and means “to ask.” Rogation Days — the four days before Ascension Day — are days to ask God to bless the fruits of the earth by which we subsist. [In the autumn, Rogation Days of planting and sowing are mirrored by the Ember Days of harvesting and reaping.]

While Rogation Days rituals are among the oldest in our tradition, hearkening back to the Sarum Rite of the 5th century, they are merely given a passing nod in today’s worship. As society moved from an agrarian one to becoming more and more industrialized, the rituals pertaining to localized farming and plantations grew less and less pertinent. By the 1979 Book of Common Prayer, Rogation Days rites and lectionary had been relegated to “occasional services” to be used at the discretion of the parish priest. To be fair, the developers of our current prayer book have included many more prayers and thanksgivings for the natural order that speak to our more global understanding of God’s creation and our roles as stewards.

In fact, the ancient lectionary for Rogation Sunday had evolved out of the instruction for the newly baptized. The Epistle of James focuses on the correct disposition one needs to hear the Word and the expectation of doing the works of God. It was the collect which connected the care and preservation of the fruits of the earth to the expected behaviors of the newly baptized: “O Lord, from whom all good things do come; grant to us, your humble servants that by your Holy inspiration we may think those things that are good, and by your merciful guiding may perform the same; through our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.” The Gospel from John is one that Jesus forewarns of his departure and that the Holy Spirit will come upon them. So ultimately the message of the lectionary is that now that we have received the learning, we are to listen, think and do. Through us, God is working His purpose out.

We no longer use the ancient lectionary for Rogation Sunday. Neither do we use the Rogation Days lectionary during the daily offices. But vestiges of the ancient rite remain in some of the hymns we use that are designated for those four days. Hymn 534 in The Hymnal 1982 is called “Purpose” and is the setting for the text by Arthur Ainger. The text was written for the boys of Eton College, where Ainger was a popular schoolmaster, and subtly connects the ancient Rogation lectionary of becoming messengers of God to the even more ancient rites of asking for God’s blessings of earthly produce. This is especially evident in the last stanza:

All we can do is nothing worth,
Unless God blesses the deed;
Vainly we hope for the harvest-tide,
Till God gives life to the seed;
Yet nearer and nearer draws the time,
The time that shall surely be,
When the earth shall be filled with the glory of God
As the waters cover the sea.

A hymn text by Edward White Benson set to the Vaughan Williams adaptation of the folk tune “Kingsfold” is another hymn specifically denoted for Rogation Days. The first stanza of hymn paraphrases the preamble of the collect: “thou reignest and by thee come down henceforth the gifts of God.” Yet this hymn addresses more specifically the spirit of “Rogation” in petitioning God for a bountiful crop — the better to do God’s work!

As you progress through the days to Ascension Day next Thursday, take a moment or two to remember the past traditions of Rogation Days and consider the future and our roles in the husbandry of God’s bountiful creation with the following collects:

MONDAY — Almighty God, Lord of heaven and earth: We humbly pray that your gracious providence may give and preserve to our use the harvests of the land and of the seas, and may prosper all who labor to gather them, that we, who are constantly receiving good things from your hand, may always give you thanks; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

TUESDAY — Almighty God, whose Son Jesus Christ in his earthly life shared our toil and hallowed our labor: Be present with your people where they work; make those who carry on the industries and commerce of this land responsive to your will; and give us all a pride in what we do, and a just return for our labor; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

WEDNESDAY — O Merciful Creator, whose hand is open wide to satisfy the needs of every living creature: Make us always thankful for your loving providence; and grant that we, remembering the account that we must one day give, may be faithful stewards of your bounty; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever.

This Thursday, May 29th, 6 p.m.
SOLEMN HIGH MASS for the FEAST OF THE ASCENSION

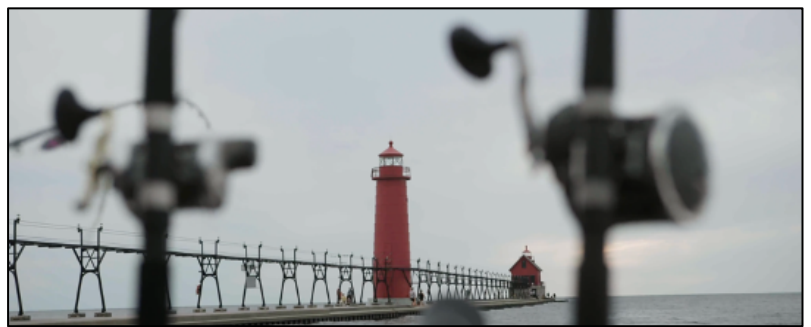


May 25, 2025 – Easter 6 (C)
Traveling the Way of Love: Go

“Traveling the Way of Love” Season 2 offers video stories of the ways people across The Episcopal Church participate in the seven Way of Love practices. Produced by the Office of Communication in partnership with Evangelism colleagues, it includes study guides to help congregations or small groups engage the stories and strengthen one another’s discipleship. Each week, we’ll share information about an episode, along with study questions suitable for congregational, small group, or personal reflection. You can find each episode and its discussion guide at iam.ec/TWOL2.

Episode 2: Go

“Then Jesus called the twelve together and gave them power and authority over all demons and to cure diseases, and he sent them out to proclaim the kingdom of God and to heal the sick. He said to them, ‘Take nothing for your journey: no staff, nor bag, nor bread, nor money—not even an extra tunic. Whatever



house you enter, stay there, and leave from there. Wherever they do not welcome you, as you are leaving that town shake the dust off your feet as a testimony against them.’ So they departed and went through the villages, bringing the good news and curing diseases everywhere.” - Luke 9:1-6

As Jesus went to the highways and byways, he sends us beyond our circles and comfort, to witness to the love, justice, and truth of God with our lips and with our lives. We go to listen with humility and to join God in healing a hurting world. We go to become Beloved Community, a people reconciled in love with God and one another.

1. In this episode, we have the privilege of hearing from the Rev. Christian Barron, co-founder of the Order of Naucratus. Fr. Christian holds a unique perspective, considering hunting and fishing as sacred activities. He aims to connect local hunters and anglers who have harvested in abundance with those who are hungry. During his conversation with host Chris Sikkema, Fr. Christian draws a fascinating parallel between the work of processing fish protein, often involving a lot of blood, and the work of Sunday mornings during the Eucharist. What are your thoughts on Fr. Christian’s insightful observation?
2. Fr. Christian and members of the Order of Naucratus often engage with people who are not church members or who may not “fit in at most churches but have become part of the Naucratis’ flock.” Through these relationships, they proclaim the kingdom of God in both traditional and unique ways. They bless fishing rods and pray, demonstrating that the kingdom of God is not limited to church walls. Take a moment and reflect—what communities are overlooked in your area? Who in those communities might have abundant gifts to share with those in need but have never been asked or considered?
3. The mission of the Order of Naucratus is “Take, Bless, Break & Give.” These are the actions of Jesus. Repeatedly, throughout the Gospel accounts, Jesus takes food, blesses it, breaks it up, and gives it to the people—often people who have been forgotten, ignored, or looked down upon by polite society. As followers of Jesus and his way of love, this is also our work. How are you challenged to take, bless, break, and give? What boundary may you need to cross to do this?

~~~~~✠✠~~~~~ **GRACE NOTES**~~~~~✠✠~~~~~

May 25 The Sixth Sunday of Easter

FOR PASTORAL ASSISTANCE

Our Rector, THE REV. ROWENA KEMP welcomes hearing from you. Please don't hesitate to contact her if there's something you'd like to discuss, and please contact her immediately should there be an illness, hospitalization, or any other pastoral emergency that she should know about. [For such emergencies, please note Rev. Rowena's cell phone number: 203-209-4178.]

PEOPLE AND PLACES TO KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS

A reminder: Tori Burns manages this list for us, and prayer requests need to be renewed after 2 weeks. Please communicate all prayer requests & updates with her (860-539-8790); (tburns@gracehartford.org).

- *Bishops and Clergy:* Justin, Archbishop of Canterbury; Sean, Presiding Bishop; Jeffrey and Laura, Bishops of ECCT; Rowena, Jerry, Annika, and Joseph, our priests, and Marta, our curate.
- *Diocesan Cycle of Prayer:* **We pray for an increase in the membership of this parish, that we may have the hands and hearts to carry out thy will;** for the Episcopal Church in CT & the Anglican Communion; St. John's, New Milford; Grace Church, Newington; Trinity, Newtown; and environmental ministry networks, eco-justice work, and community gardens. *The Anglican Church of Kenya.*
- *World & Community Concerns:* For peace throughout the world, especially between Iran, Israel, and Gaza, and in the Middle East; in Sudan; and between Russia and Ukraine; for Christians being persecuted around the world, particularly in China and Palestine; for those who are suffering because of extreme climate; for the hungry and poor in our midst; and the volunteers who serve *A Place of Grace* food pantry.
- *Serving Our Country in the Military (especially those associated with Grace Church):* Brian, Spencer, Bradley, Curtis, Jordan, John, Carrington, William, Noel, James, Ryan, Michael, Karl, Alec, Jeff, David, Tom, Michael, and Charles.
- *Thanksgiving and Celebrations:* We give thanks and ask for thy blessings upon Kathryn Pryor (Sat.), whose birthday we celebrate this week.
- *Sick or in need:* Felix & Carmen Adrienne & Kenneth; Willie; Wilma and the Beaulieu Family; Pamela; Camden; Luiz & the Vela Cruz Family; Heather; David; Neil; Mark; Jerry; Abby, Bonnie & the Burns Family; Lea; Megin; Walter & Claudia; Tom & Elaine; Ellen; Sally; Errol, Norma & the Kemp Family; Barbara; Nigel, Kraig & Deidre; Mary; Josephine, Melissa, Jaden, Tay, Soraya & Rapael; Julia, Mike, André & Maria; Linda, Tiffany & the Galarza Family; Kathy; Patti; Delores; Nancy; Marcolina; Peter; Sr. Linda; Leonard; Joy; Cori and the Mackey Family; Judy; Jane; Bill, Carolyn & Susan; McJohn; Doreen; Ted; Kanata; Betty & John; Mary & Lou; Nelda Sue; Diane; Mark & Diane; Jean; and all victims of natural and man-made disasters.
- *The Deceased:* We pray for the repose of Antoinette Bouchard, all soldiers and civilians killed in war or civil strife, and in memory of Denise Smith, Sally-Jane McCrary, and Weddall Steele.

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**GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH**~~~~~✠✠~~~~~

THE REV. ROWENA J. KEMP, RECTOR

55 New Park Avenue, Hartford, CT 06106-2123

Church telephone: 860-233-0825 Church fax: 860-233-5082 Rectory telephone: 860-994-5022

Rector's cell phone: 203-209-4178 Rector's email: RevRowena@gracehartford.org

Church e-mail: church@gracehartford.org Website: www.gracehartford.org

Visit "Grace Episcopal Church, Hartford, CT" on [FACEBOOK](https://www.facebook.com/GECHartford). & [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/@GraceEpiscopalHartford)  
<https://www.facebook.com/GECHartford> ; <https://www.youtube.com/@GraceEpiscopalHartford>

## THIS WEEK AT GRACE

**Sunday, May 25** *The Sixth Sunday of Easter ~ Rogation Sunday*

8:00 a.m.: Low Mass

10:30 a.m.: Solemn High Mass (*also on Facebook Live*)

**Tuesday, May 27** *Feria*

10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.: Office Hours

6:00 p.m.: SOLEMN EVENSONG *presented by* HAVEN RELIGIOUS

**Wednesday, May 28** *Feria*

10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.: Office Hours

4:30 p.m.: **Grace Kids**

7:00 p.m.: **Choir Rehearsal**

**Thursday, May 29** *ASCENSION DAY*

10:00 a.m.: *"A Place of Grace"* food pantry distribution

6:00 p.m.: SOLEMN HIGH MASS for the FEAST OF THE ASCENSION (*also on Facebook Live*)

**Friday, May 30** *Feria*

1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.: Office Hours

**Saturday, May 31** *Feria*

6:00 p.m.: HIGH MASS for the VISITATION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY (*also on Facebook Live*)

**Sunday, June 1** *The Seventh Sunday of Easter ~ The Sunday after Ascension Day*

8:00 a.m.: Low Mass

10:30 a.m.: Solemn High Mass (*also on Facebook Live*)



Visit "Grace Episcopal Church, Hartford CT" on [FACEBOOK](#) & [YOUTUBE](#)

Please join, and help us spread the good news online!



## Tra La, it's May! The Evensong of May!

Will happen on May 27  
(the day after Memorial Day)  
6PM

presented by  
Haven Religious

hosted by  
GRACE episcopal church

55 New Park Ave.  
Hartford, CT 06106

Come at 5:00 to sing with the Schola  
6:00 to just be there vibin'



## Come and Celebrate The Feast of the Ascension

Thursday, May 29<sup>th</sup>, 2025

Solemn High Mass  
at 6:00 p.m.