

GRACE episcopal church



Whoever is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much.

The Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Proper 20C

September 21, 2025



Grace Episcopal Church

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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.

The Rev. Rowena J. Kemp, *Rector*

Cell phone: 203-209-4178 Church office: 860-233-0825

Email: RevRowena@gracehartford.org

The Rev. Marta S. Rivera Monclova, PhD, *Curate* (203-493-1066)

The Rev. Canon Robert G. Carroon, *Associate Priest*

The Rev. Canon Annika Warren, *Associate Priest*

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,

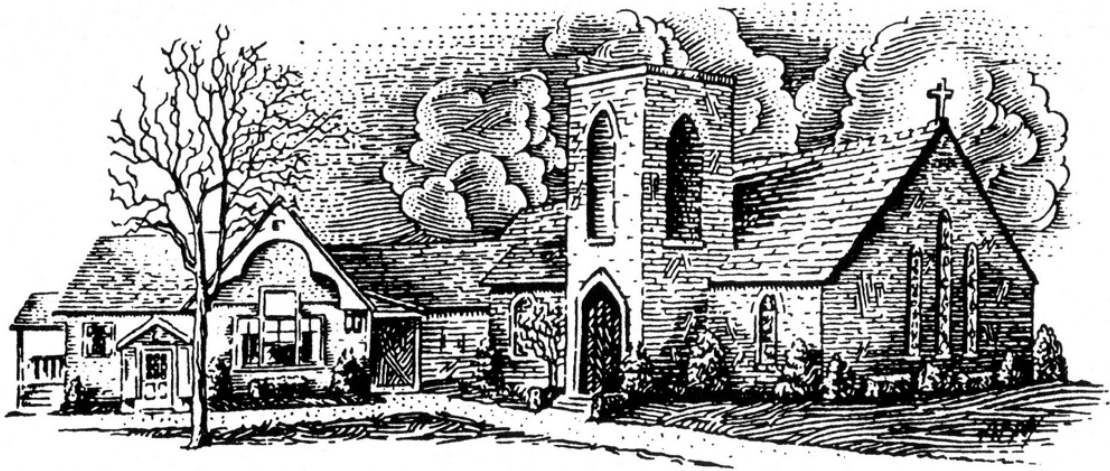
Sheryl Rifkin, Sr. Gregory Simmons



WELCOME to all who are joining with us virtually as we celebrate *THE FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST*. 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 Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 21, 2025

Solemn High Mass, 10:30 A.M.

Proper 20C

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Mass Setting: *Grace Mass*

Edward Ivor Wagner, 1987

*This setting of the Ordinary of the Mass is for congregational singing.*  
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Voluntary: Nave, from *Esquisses Byzantines*

Henri Mulet (d. 1967)

ENTRANCE RITE AND THE LITURGY OF THE WORD


Introit (choir) *Salus populi*


Mode IV

(Antiphon) I AM THE SALVATION OF MY PEOPLE, saith the Lord God: in whatsoever tribulation they shall call on me, I will hear them: and I will be their Lord for ever and ever. [Psalm] Hear my law, O my people; incline your ears to the words of my mouth. 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.]

Opening Acclamation

Hymnal S 76


Celebrant: Bless-ed be God: ✠ Fa-ther, Son, and Ho-ly Spi-rit.


People: And bles-sed be his king-dom, now and for e-ver. A-men.

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.

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.

Kyrie eleison (*sung by all*)

E. Wagner

Cantor *All*

[Ky-ri-e e- lei- son.] Ky-ri-e e- lei- son. Ky-ri-e e- le- i- son.

Cantor *All*

[Chris-te e- lei- son.] Chris-te e- lei- son. Chris-te e- lei- son.

Cantor *All*

[Ky-ri-e e- lei- son.] Ky-ri-e e- lei- son. Ky-ri-e e- le- i- son.



Gloria in excelsis (*sung by all*)

in excelsis deo!

E. Wagner

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- migh-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 tak-est a-
way the sins of the world, have mer-cy up- on us. Thou that tak-est 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.

GRANT us, O Lord, not to mind earthly things, but to love things heavenly; and even now, while we are placed among things that are passing away, to cleave to those that shall abide; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

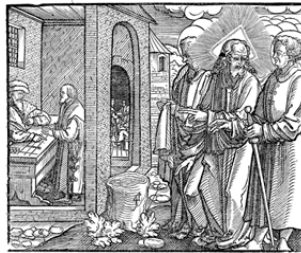
Old Testament Lesson: Amos 8: 4-7 [NRSV]

A Reading from the Book of Amos.

HEAR this, you that trample on the needy, and bring to ruin the poor of the land, saying, "When will the new moon be over so that we may sell grain; and the sabbath, so that we may offer wheat for sale? We will make the ephah small and the shekel great, and practice deceit with false balances, buying the poor for silver and the needy for a pair of sandals, and selling the sweepings of the wheat." The Lord has sworn by the pride of Jacob: Surely I will never forget any of their deeds.

The Word of the LORD.

People's Response: Thanks be to God.

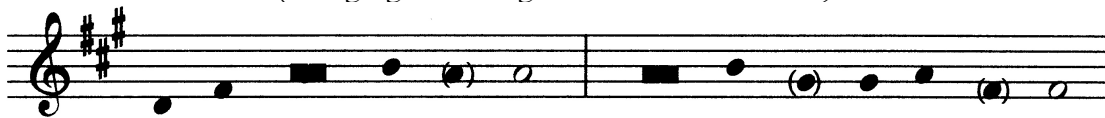


Gradual: Psalm 113

Laudate, pueri

Tone V.I

(Congregation sings the italicized verses.)



- 1 PRAISE THE LORD, ye | servants;
* *O praise the / Name of the LORD.*
- 2 *Blessèd be the Name of the / LORD*
* *from this time / forth for ever^more.*
- 3 The LORD's Name is | praised
* from the rising up of the sun unto the going | down of the same.
- 4 *The LORD is high above all / nations,*
* *and his glory a- / bove the heavens.*
- 5 Who is like unto the LORD our God, that hath his dwelling so | high,
* and yet humbleth himself to behold the things that are in | heaven and earth!
- 6 *He taketh the simple out of the / dust,*
* *and lifteth the poor / out of the mire;*
- 7 That he may set him with the | princes,
* even with the princes | of his people.
- 8 *He maketh the barren woman to keep / house,*
* *and to be a joyful / mother ^ of children.*

The Epistle: I Timothy 2: 1-7 [NRSV]

A Reading from the First Letter of Paul to Timothy.

FIRST of all, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone, for kings and all who are in high positions, so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and dignity. This is right and is acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desires everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. For there is one God; there is also one mediator between God and humankind, Christ Jesus, himself human, who gave himself a ransom for all — this was attested at the right time. For this I was appointed a herald and an apostle (I am telling the truth, I am not lying), a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth.

The Word of the LORD.

People's Response: Thanks be to God.

Alleluia *Confitemini Domino*

Tone VI

The musical notation for the Alleluia 'Confitemini Domino' is presented in three parts. The first part is for the Cantor, followed by the People, and then the Choir. Each part consists of a single line of music on a five-line staff, with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The lyrics 'Al-le-lu-ia.' are written below the notes. The Cantor's part ends with a double bar line. The People's part also ends with a double bar line. The Choir's part is a vocal line with lyrics 'O GIVE THANKS UNTO THE LORD, and call upon his Name: tell the people what things he hath done.' and ends with a double bar line.

The Holy Gospel: St. Luke 16: 1-13 [RSV]

Deacon: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

People: ✠ Glory be to thee, O Lord.

[JESUS] also said to the disciples, "There was a rich man who had a steward, and charges were brought to him that this man was wasting his goods. And he called him and said to him, 'What is this that I hear about you? Turn in the account of your stewardship, for you can no longer be steward.' And the steward said to himself, 'What shall I do, since my master is taking the stewardship away from me? I am not strong enough to dig, and I am ashamed to beg. I have decided what to do, so that people may receive me into their houses when I am put out of the stewardship.' So, summoning his master's debtors one by one, he said to the first, 'How much do you owe my master?' He said, 'A hundred measures of oil.' And he said to him, 'Take your bill, and sit down quickly and write fifty.' Then he said to another, 'And how much do you owe?' He said, 'A hundred measures of wheat.' He said to him, 'Take your bill, and write eighty.' The master commended the dishonest steward for his prudence; for the sons of this world are wiser in their own generation than the sons of light. And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of unrighteous mammon, so that when it fails they may receive you into the eternal habitations. He who is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much; and he who is dishonest in a very little is dishonest also in much. If then you have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon, who will entrust to you the true riches? And if you have not been faithful in that which is another's, who will give you that which is your own? No servant can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon."

The Gospel of the LORD.

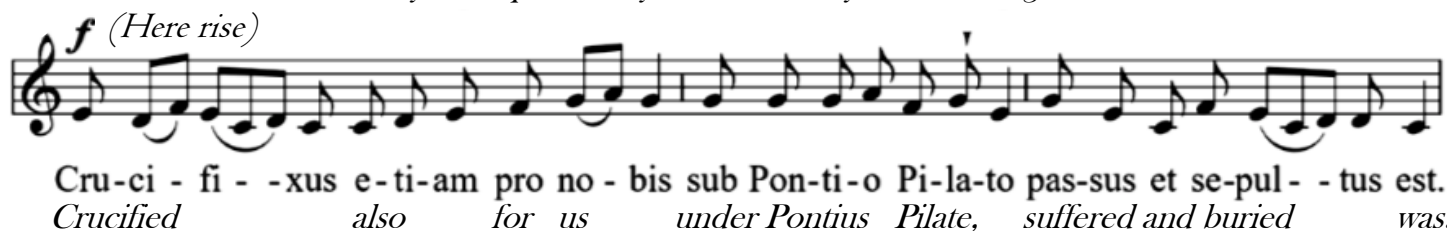
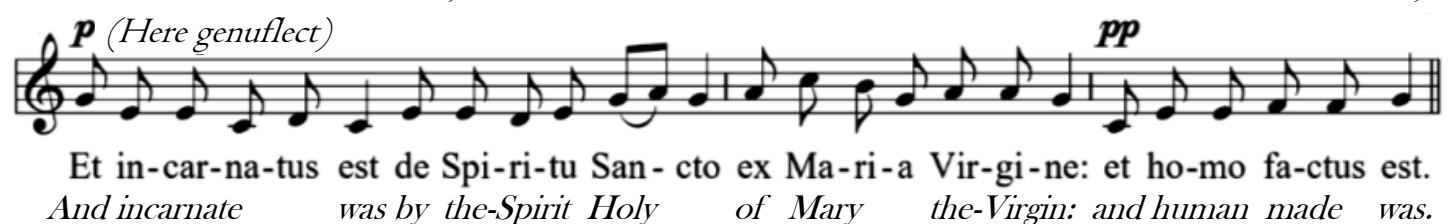
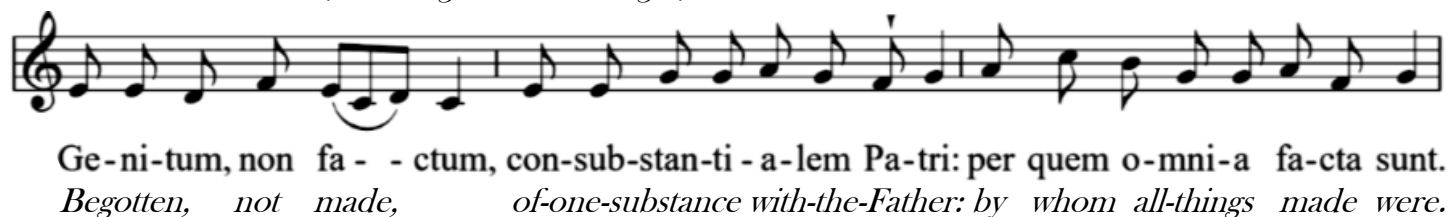
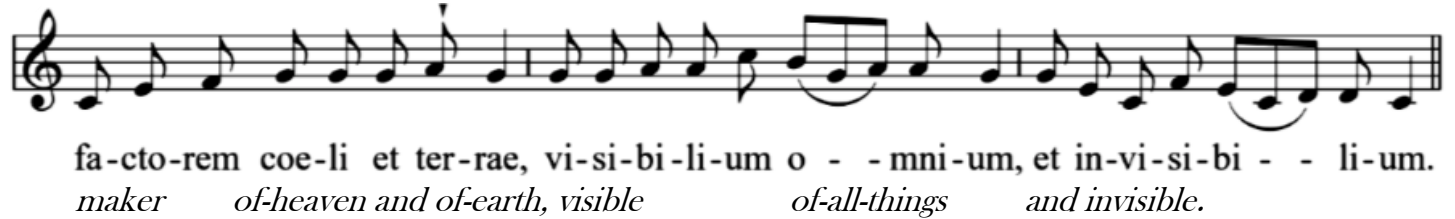
People's Response: Praise be to thee, O Christ.

The Sermon

Mr. Sean Glenn, *Haven Religious*

The Nicene Creed from *Missa de Angelis* (sung by all)
Cantor

See standard translation on Prayer Book p. 326
All





Et re-sur-re-xit ter-ti-a di-e, se-cun-dum Scri-ptu-ras. Et a-scen-dit in coe-lum:
And rose-again the-third day, according-to the-Scriptures. And ascended into heaven:



se-det ad dex-te-ram Pa-tris. Et i-te-rum ven-tu-rus est cum glo-ri-a
he-sits at the-right-hand of-the-Father. And again to-come is with glory



ju-di-ca-re vi-vos et mor-tu-os: cu-jus re-gni non e-rit fi-nis.
to judge the-living and the-dead: of-whose kingdom not shall-be an-end.



Et in Spi-ri-tum San-ctum, Do-mi-num, et vi-vi-fi-can-tem:
And in the-Spirit Holy, the-Lord, and giver-of-life:



qui ex Pa-tre. Fi-li-o-que pro-ce-dit. Qui cum Pa-tre et Fi-li-o
who from the-Father and-the-Son proceeds. Who with the-Father and the-Son



si-mul a-do-ra-tur, et con-glo-ri-fi-ca-tur: qui lo-cu-tus est per Pro-phe-tas.
alike is-worshiped, and together-is-glorified: who spoken has by the-Prophets.



Et u-nam, san-ctam, ca-tho-li-cam, et a-po-sto-li-cam Ec-cle-si-am.
And in-one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church.



Con-fi-te-or u-num ba-ptis-ma in re-mis-si-o-nem pec-ca-to-rum.
I acknowledge one baptism for the-remission of-sins.



✠ Et ex-pe-cto re-sur-re-cti-o-nem mor-tu-o-rum. Et vi-tam ven-tu-ri sae-cu-li.
And I-look-for the-resurrection of-the-dead. And the-life to-come of-the-world.



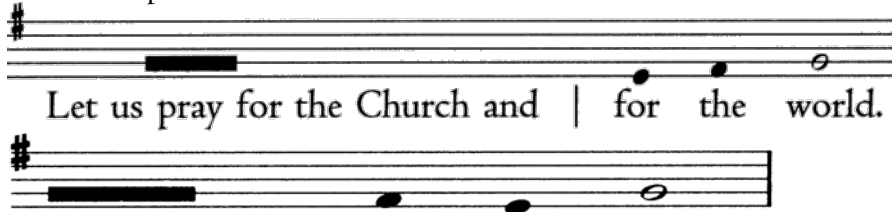
A - - - - - men.



The Prayers of the People

Form IV

Leader:



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.

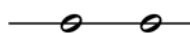
Leader: Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit (*pause*); give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of / thy salvation. (*Silence*)

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. *People*



A - men.

Confession of Sin and Absolution

Deacon: Ye who do truly and earnestly repent you of your sins, and are in love and charity with your neighbors, and intend to lead a new life, following the commandments of God, and walking from henceforth in his holy ways: draw near with faith, and make your humble confession to Almighty God, devoutly kneeling.

People: Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Maker of all things, Judge of all men: We acknowledge and bewail our manifold sins and wickedness, which we from time to time most grievously have committed, by thought, word, and deed, against thy divine Majesty, provoking most justly thy wrath and indignation against us. We do earnestly repent, and are heartily sorry for these our misdoings; the remembrance of them is grievous unto us, the burden of them is intolerable. Have mercy upon us, have mercy upon us, most merciful Father; for thy Son our Lord Jesus Christ's sake, forgive us all that is past; and grant that we may ever hereafter serve and please thee in newness of life, to the honor and glory of thy Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Celebrant: Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who of his great mercy hath promised forgiveness of sins to all those who with hearty repentance and true faith turn unto him, have mercy upon you, ✠ pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and bring you to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Comfortable Words

Celebrant: Hear the Word of God to all who truly turn to him.

COME unto me, all ye that travail and are heavy laden, and I will refresh you. *Matthew 11: 28*

GOD so loved the world, that he gave his only-begotten Son, to the end that all that believe in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. *John 3: 16*

The Peace

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

People: And with thy spi - rit.

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*) *Si ambulavero*

Mode VIII

EVEN THOUGH I WALK in the midst of tribulation, yet shalt thou refresh me, O Lord: thou shalt stretch forth thy right hand against the fury of all my enemies, and thy right hand shall save me.

Hymn 488 (*sung by all*)

"Be thou my vision"

Slane



1 Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;
2 Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true word;
3 High King of hea - ven, when vic - tory is won,



all else be nought to me, save that thou art—
I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord;
may I reach hea - ven's joys, bright hea - ven's Sun!



thou my best thought, — by day or by night,
thou my great Fa - ther; thine own may I be;
Heart of my heart, — what - ev - er be - fall,



wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.
thou in me dwell - ing, and I one with thee.
still be my vis - ion, O Ru - ler of all.

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.

CREATOR of the light and source of life, who hast made us in thine image, and called us to new life in Jesus Christ our Lord.

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 and Benedictus (*sung by all*)

E. Wagner

All

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.

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
B unto thee, O Father Almighty, world without end.

People

— • — • —
A- men.



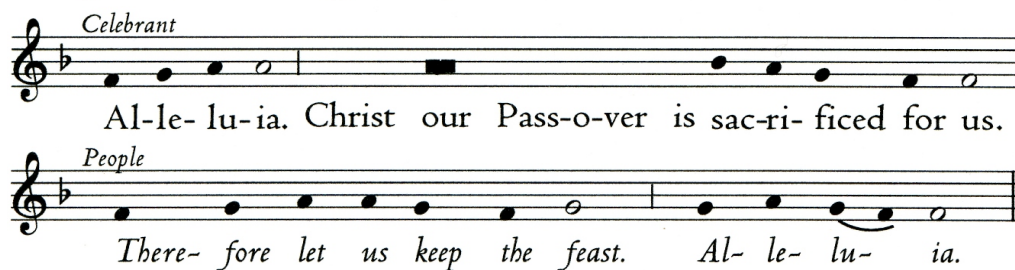
The Lord's Prayer

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

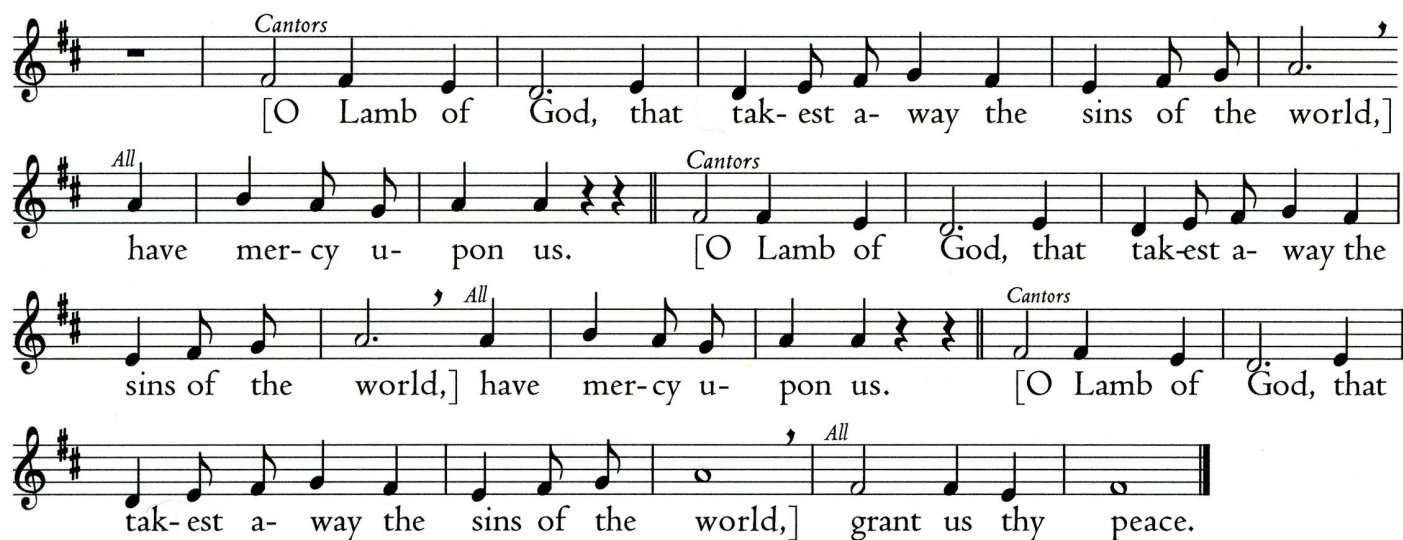


Celebrant
 Al-le- lu-ia. Christ our Pass-o-ver is sac-ri- ficed for us.
People
 There- fore let us keep the feast. Al- le- lu- ia.



Agnus Dei (*sung by all*)

E. Wagner



Cantors
 [O Lamb of God, that tak- est a- way the sins of the world,]
All have mer- cy u- pon us. *Cantors* [O Lamb of God, that tak- est a- way the
 sins of the world,] *All* have mer- cy u- pon us. *Cantors* [O Lamb of God, that
 tak- est a- way the sins of the world,] *All* 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*) *Tu mandasti*

Mode V

THOU HAST LAID DOWN all thy commandments that we should fully keep them. O that my ways were made so direct, that I might take heed unto all thy commandments.



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 701 (*sung by all*)

"Jesus, all my gladness"

Jesu, meine Freude

1 Je - sus, all my glad - ness, my re - pose in sad - ness,
 2 Hence with earth - ly trea - sure: thou art all my plea - sure,
 3 Flee, dark clouds that low - er, for my joy be - stow - er,

Je - sus, heaven to me, ah, my heart long plain - eth, ah, my spi - rit
 Je - sus, my de - sire! Hence, for pomps I care not, e'en as though they
 Je - sus, en - ters in! Joy from tri - bu - la - tion, hope from des - o -

strain - eth, long - eth af - ter thee! Thine I am, O ho - ly Lamb;
 were not rank and for - tune's hire. Want and gloom, cross, death and tomb;
 la - tion, they who love God win. Be it blame or scorn or shame,

on - ly where thou art is plea - sure, thee a - lone I trea - sure.
 nought that I may suf - fer ev - er shall from Je - sus sev - er.
 thou art with me in earth's sad - ness, Je - sus, all my glad - ness!

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 Blessing and Dismissal

THE peace of God, which passeth all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our LORD; and the blessing of God Almighty, ✠ the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, be amongst you, and remain with you always. *Amen.*

Deacon: Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People: Thanks be to God.

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.

SALVE REGINA, mater misericordia: Vita, dulcendo, et spes nostra salve. Ad te Sclamamus, exsules filii Hevae. Ad te suspiramus, gementes et flentes in hac lacrimarum valle. Eia ergo, advocata nostra, illos tuos misericordes oculos ad nos converte. Et Jesum, benedictum fructum ventris tui, nobis post hoc exilium ostende. O clemens, O pia, O dulcis Virgo Maria.

[Hail, Holy Queen, Mother of mercy, our life, our sweetness, and our hope. To thee do we cry, poor banished children of Eve. To thee do we send up our sighs, mourning and weeping in this vale of tears. Turn then, most gracious Advocate, thine eyes of mercy towards us; and after this our exile show us the blessed fruit of thy womb, Jesus. O clement, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary.]



The Angelus

Celebrant: The Angel of the LORD announced unto Mary.

People: And she conceived by the Holy Ghost.

Celebrant: Hail Mary, full of grace, the LORD is with thee. Blessed art thou among women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.

People: Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

Celebrant: Behold the handmaid of the LORD.

People: Be it unto me according to thy word.

Celebrant: Hail Mary, full of grace, the LORD is with thee. Blessed art thou among women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.

People: Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

(*Here genuflect*) *Celebrant:* And the Word was made flesh.

(*Here rise*) *People:* And dwelt among us.

Celebrant: Hail Mary, full of grace, the LORD is with thee. Blessed art thou among women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.

People: Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

Celebrant: Pray for us, O Holy Mother of God.

People: That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Celebrant: Let us pray.

WE beseech thee, O LORD, pour thy grace into our hearts, that, as we have known the Incarnation of thy Son Jesus Christ by the message of an angel, so by his ✠ Passion we may be brought unto the glory of his resurrection, through the same Christ our LORD. *Amen.*

1 O day of ra - dant glad - ness, O day of joy and
 2 This day at the cre - a - tion, the light first had its
 3 This day, God's peo - ple meet - ing, his Ho - ly Scrip - ture
 4 That light our hope sus - tain - ing, we walk the pil - grim

light, O balm of care and sad - ness, most
 birth; this day for our sal - va - tion Christ
 hear; his liv - ing pres - ence greet - ing, through
 way, at length our rest at - tain - ing, our

beau - ti - ful, most bright; this day the high and
 rose from depths of earth; this day our Lord vic -
 Bread and Wine made near. We jour - ney on, be -
 end - less Sab - bath day. We sing to thee our

low - ly, through a - ges joined in tune, sing,
 to - rious the Spi - rit sent from heaven, and
 liev - ing, re - newed with heaven - ly might, from
 prais - es, O Fa - ther, Spi - rit, Son; the

"Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly," to the great God Tri - une.
 thus this day most glo - rious a tri - ple light was given.
 grace more grace re - ceiv - ing on this blest day of light.
 Church her voice up - rais - es to thee, blest Three in One.



BULLETIN INSERTS

September 21, 2025 – Pentecost 15 (C)
The Nicene Creed: Week 2

To commemorate the 1700th anniversary of the Council of Nicaea, the Rt. Rev. Matthew Gunter, bishop of Wisconsin, has written a series of reflections on the Nicene Creed and its relevance for contemporary Episcopalians. Over the coming weeks, we'll share his teachings, written mostly in a question-and-answer format.

Wasn't the Nicene Creed the product of the political machinations of Emperor Constantine?

It is true that Constantine called for a council of bishops to be held in Nicaea. His reasons for convening it were probably complex. He wanted order in the empire and probably saw the divisions within the church as a threat to that. And conflicting church parties had caused social disturbances in some places around the empire. As with most times and places before the modern era, this was an age in which politics and faith were seen as inseparable. The idea that whether the church was on the right track in its doctrine and worship could affect God's blessing on the church and the empire might also have played a role. The pagan Roman emperors had assumed the role of "Pontifex Maximus" – the guardian of the Empire's worship and piety. Constantine, who had sided with Christianity and was eventually baptized, might have understood himself as inheriting that role. This would mean he understood himself as at least the guardian of the faith with some responsibility for the church's teaching. He is also recorded to have expressed concern that the disunity represented in different factions teaching different things about the nature of Jesus and of God was a potential scandal compromising the church's witness and contradicting Jesus' prayer that the church should be one.

The emperor opened and, to an extent, participated in the Council. However, it is unclear whether Constantine was directly involved beyond pressing for a "workable" compromise among various theological factions. It is the case that once the council "settled" on the Creed, Constantine did put the weight of the empire behind what was now considered the orthodox position. But he also eventually pardoned Arius. And his son, Constantius, promoted the teaching of Arius that the Nicene Council had condemned. Arianism might have actually been the more politically astute option. It was a popular position at the time. It was more philosophically respectable. And it would have ingrained into the cosmos an unquestionable hierarchy of all being—God, Jesus, emperor, people, that would have been helpful for shoring up power in an empire that had been fractured among multiple co-emperors. The idea of two, or three, co-equal persons in God didn't have the same implications! For several decades, different emperors supported different church factions until 380, when the emperor Theodosius I declared Nicene Christianity the empire's official faith. The following year, he also convened the Council of Constantinople, which slightly revised the Creed into the form we affirm now.

The legacy of Christianity's enmeshment with empire is, in many ways, problematic. But that does not necessarily compromise the legitimacy of the Council of Nicaea or the Creed it affirmed. One might even say that the clarity and unifying power of the Nicene Creed appears to be a work of the Holy Spirit.

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

September 21 *The Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost ~ Proper 20*

FOR PASTORAL ASSISTANCE

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, Stamford; Calvary, Stonington; St. Mark's, Storrs; children & children's ministries; and ministries for children with special needs. *Province of the Episcopal Church of South Sudan.*
- *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 The Rev. Rowena J. Kemp whose birthday and anniversaries to her service to God and our community here at Grace Church we celebrate this week!
- *Sick or in need:* Veronica & the Rovetti Family; Kathy; Nancy; Lucy; Jane; Kristen & Quintin; Lee; Adrienne & Kenneth; Paulo Junior; Felix & Carmen; Mark; Jerry; Bonnie & the Burns Family; Tom & Elaine; Ellen; Sally; Errol, Norma & the Kemp Family; Barbara; Nigel, Kraig & Deidre; Mary; Josephine, Melissa, Jaden, Tay, Soraya & Rapael; Linda, Tiffany & the Galarza Family; Julia, Mike, André & Maria; Soncia; Tom; Gail; Camden; Joan; David; Neil; Lea; Megin; 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; Michael; Mark & Diane; Jean; and all victims of natural and man-made disasters.
- *The Deceased:* We pray for the repose of The Rev. Paul Cooley, all soldiers and civilians killed in war or civil strife, and in memory of Marguerite Sederquist, Paul Laffin, Nancy Rask, Charles Morhardt, Sr., Felicity Miel, Barbara Vaslett, and Sona Der Sarkissian, in whose memory the flowers are given (*by Adrienne and Ken T. Brown*).

s (~~~~~✠~~~~~ **GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH** ~~~~~✠~~~~~)

THE REV. ROWENA J. KEMP, RECTOR

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THIS WEEK AT GRACE

Sunday, September 21 *The Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost ~ Proper 20*

8:00 am: Low Mass

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

Tuesday, September 23 *Feria*

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

Wednesday, September 24

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

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

Thursday, September 25 *Sergius, Abbot of Holy Trinity, Moscow, 1392*

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

Friday, September 26 *Lancelot Andrewes, Bishop of Winchester, 1626*

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

Sunday, September 28 *The Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost ~ Proper 21*

8:00 am: Low Mass

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



Visit "Grace Episcopal Church, Hartford CT" on FACEBOOK & "@GraceEpiscopalHartford" on YOUTUBE

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

Join your voice with ours!

We welcome you to join
HAVEN RELIGIOUS & GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH
as we pray EVENSONG on the Feast of St. Jerome

All are welcome.

Tuesday, Sep. 30

6:00pm

Grace Episcopal Church
55 New Park Avenue, Hartford