

Grace Episcopal Church

Grace is a Christ-centered Community devoted to Servant Ministry and Spiritual Growth.



*The Fifteenth
Sunday after
Pentecost*

September 21, 2025

9:30 AM

Holy Eucharist



GRACE
EPISCOPAL CHURCH + SHEFFIELD, ALABAMA

Welcome to Grace

Grace is a Christ-centered Community devoted to Servant Ministry and Spiritual Growth. We come from different backgrounds, live in different parts of the Shoals, and have different opinions about a lot of things. We hold in common our love for Jesus, our commitment to care for one another and our neighbors, and our desire to learn about God and grow more deeply in faith. Whether you worship here every Sunday or if this is the first time you have walked through our red doors, thank you for being here today. Your presence blesses us.

THE WORD OF GOD

The People standing, the Celebrant says

Celebrant Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People *And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.*

The Celebrant and People say

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.

Song of Praise All. III #161

The First Song of Isaiah

*Refrain: Surely it is God who saves me;
I will trust in Him and not be afraid.
For the Lord is my stronghold and my sure defense,
and He will be my Savior.*

Therefore you shall draw water with rejoicing
from the springs of salvation.
And on that day you shall say: "Give thanks to the Lord,"
and call upon His name.

Make His deeds known among the peoples;
see that they remember that His name is exalted.
Sing the praises of the Lord for He has done great things,
and this is known in all the world.

Cry aloud inhabitants of Zion,
ring out your joy,
for the Great One in the midst of you
is the Holy One of Israel.

Refrain

Collect of the Day

Grant us, Lord, not to be anxious about earthly things, but to love things heavenly; and even
now, while we are placed among things that are passing away, to hold fast to those that shall
endure; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one
God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

The First Lesson

Jeremiah 8:18-9:1

Jeremiah is called "The Weeping Prophet" because of this passage. His empathy and suffering reflect God's suffering on our behalf. He also reflects genuine human bewilderment when suffering seems to us to be prolonged, excessive, or unuseful.

My joy is gone, grief is upon me,
 my heart is sick.
Hark, the cry of my poor people
 from far and wide in the land:
"Is the Lord not in Zion?
 Is her King not in her?"
("Why have they provoked me to anger with their images,
 with their foreign idols?")
"The harvest is past, the summer is ended,
 and we are not saved."
For the hurt of my poor people I am hurt,
 I mourn, and dismay has taken hold of me.
Is there no balm in Gilead?
 Is there no physician there?
Why then has the health of my poor people
 not been restored?
O that my head were a spring of water,
 and my eyes a fountain of tears,
so that I might weep day and night
 for the slain of my poor people!

The Word of the Lord.
People Thanks be to God.

Psalm 79:1-9 *Deus, venerunt*

This psalm is a response to Babylon's destruction of Jerusalem, which Jeremiah and other prophets warned against and foretold.

- 1 O God, the heathen have come into your inheritance; they have profaned your holy temple; *
they have made Jerusalem a heap of rubble.
- 2 They have given the bodies of your servants as food for the birds of the air, *
and the flesh of your faithful ones to the beasts of the field.
- 3 They have shed their blood like water on every side of Jerusalem, *
and there was no one to bury them.
- 4 We have become a reproach to our neighbors, *
an object of scorn and derision to those around us.
- 5 How long will you be angry, O Lord? *
will your fury blaze like fire for ever?
- 6 Pour out your wrath upon the heathen who have not known you *
and upon the kingdoms that have not called upon your Name.
- 7 For they have devoured Jacob *
and made his dwelling a ruin.
- 8 Remember not our past sins; let your compassion be swift to meet us; *
for we have been brought very low.
- 9 Help us, O God our Savior, for the glory of your Name; *
deliver us and forgive us our sins, for your Name's sake.

The Second Lesson

1 Timothy 2:1-7

The political world of the Bible was a lot different from ours. Everyday people had no hope of influencing their leaders, no representation, and no way of holding their leaders accountable. Rather than seek to overthrow rulers who may have been hostile to Christians, Paul urges Timothy's community to pray for their leaders. Notice the subversive twist in this advice, however: pray FOR your leaders, not TO them. Leaders deserve our prayers, according to Paul, but they are not equal to God.

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 Thanks be to God.

Gospel Hymn 488

Be thou my vision
Please sing vss 1 & 2 before the Gospel.

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart; all else be nought to me, save that thou art
thou my best thought, by day or by night, waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true word; I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord;
thou my great Father; thine own may I be; thou in me dwelling, and I one with thee.

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

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Luke 16:1-13

A steward is the modern-day equivalent of a superintendent, caretaker, or manager. Often, both stewards and landowners charged fees and interest on top of the real value of the debt they were owed. By strategically lightening the debtors' load (imagine all those mystery charges suddenly disappearing from your phone bill), the steward makes friends for himself, improves the landowners' standing in the community, and ends up saving his life.

Jesus said to the disciples, "There was a rich man who had a manager, and charges were brought to him that this man was squandering his property. So he summoned him and said to him, 'What is this that I hear about you? Give me an accounting of your management, because you cannot be my manager any longer.' Then the manager said to himself, 'What will I do, now that my master is taking the position away from me? I am not strong enough to dig, and I am ashamed to beg. I have decided what to do so that, when I am dismissed as manager, people may welcome me into their homes.' So, summoning his master's debtors one by one, he asked the first, 'How much do you owe my master?' He answered, 'A hundred jugs of olive oil.' He said to him, 'Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it fifty.' Then he asked another, 'And how much do you owe?' He replied, 'A hundred containers of wheat.' He said to him, 'Take your bill and make it eighty.' And his master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly; for the children of this age are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than are the children of light. And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of dishonest wealth so that when it is gone, they may welcome you into the eternal homes.

"Whoever is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much; and whoever is dishonest in a very little is dishonest also in much. If then you have not been faithful with the dishonest wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? And if you have not been faithful with what belongs to another, who will give you what is your own? No slave can serve two masters; for a slave will either hate the one and love the other, or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth."

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

Gospel Hymn 488

Be thou my vision
Please sing vs 3 after the Gospel.

High King of heaven, when victory is won, may I reach heaven's joys, bright heaven's Sun!
Heart of my heart, whatever befall, still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

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. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

The Prayers of the People

The Leader and People pray responsively.

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

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

We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons, especially: Sean, our Presiding Bishop; Glenda and Brian, our Bishops; Danielle, our Priest; and for all bishops, priests, and deacons.
That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.

We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world, especially: Donald, our president; Kay, our governor; and for the mayors, city councils, and county commissions of the Shoals.
That there may be justice and peace on the earth.

For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;
For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.

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

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

Give to the departed eternal rest;
Let light perpetual shine upon them.

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

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

We pray for those on our intercessory prayer list, saying together
Elijah, Reagan, Penney, The Booth Family, Suzy, Robin, David, Andy, Wendell, Cindy, Bruce, Frances, Harold, Logan, August, Sean, & Tim.

We pray for all whose work puts them in harm's way and for those on active duty in the military, saying together
Conner, Timothy, John Gage, Drake, Carter, Ethan, Jacobi, Kahleel, Henry, Jacob, Kadin, Dustin, & Rebekah.

We pray for those celebrating birthdays or anniversaries:
John Walls, Wren Rose Wyker, Whitney Gamble, Ashley Heaton, Phillip McCaig, & Dave Klas.

Almighty God, giver of every good gift: Look graciously on your Church, and so guide the minds of those who shall choose a Bishop for the Diocese of Alabama, that we may receive a faithful pastor who will preach the Gospel, care for your people, equip us for ministry, and lead us forth in fulfillment of the Great Commission; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Concluding Prayer

Almighty and everlasting God, whose will it is to restore all things in your well-beloved Son, the King of kings and Lord of lords: Mercifully grant that the peoples of the earth, divided and enslaved by sin, may be freed and brought together under his most gracious rule; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

Confession of Sin

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Minister and People

Most merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.

We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.

We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.

For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.

The Celebrant concludes with an absolution or a suitable Collect.

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.*

The Peace

The Celebrant says to the People

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People *And also with you.*

THE HOLY COMMUNION

The Offertory

Offertory Anthem

Elizabeth Counts, piano

Doxology

Duke Street

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise him, all creatures here below;
praise him above ye heavenly host:
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Instructions for receiving Communion are found at the end of this prayer.

Blessed are you, God of creation;
through your goodness we have these gifts to share.
Accept and use our offerings for your glory,
and for the service of your kingdom.
Blessed be God forever. *Amen.*

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.*

Then, facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds

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

Through Jesus Christ our Lord; who on the first day of the week overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of 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:

Sanctus

Land of Rest

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. Hosanna in the highest.

Then the Celebrant continues

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.

The Celebrant continues.

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,

People and Celebrant

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

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

Facing the People, the Celebrant says the following Invitation:
The Gifts of God for the People of God.

The Communion

Please come to the altar rail or standing station to receive Communion. You may kneel or stand. Receive a wafer from the Priest by holding out your hands. To receive the wine, please dip the wafer in the chalice or drink from the chalice. If you do not wish to receive Communion, cross your arms over your chest and the Priest will offer you a Blessing.

Communion Hymn #93, All. III In Christ Alone

Postcommunion Prayer

The Celebrant and People continue

Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.

Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Blessing

Recessional Hymn 671 Amazing grace, how sweet the sound

Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Servants Today – September 21

VOD
David Kelly

Safety
Mike Williams

Greeter
Janet Klas

Usher
Amy Daniel

Reader
April Conrad

Acolytes
George Youngblood
& Jem Davis

Chalice
Kelley Williams
& John Walls

Server
Mark Orman

Cross
Joshua Davis

Altar Guild

May Woodie Christopher, Susan Kirkland, Karen Wesson, Ro Larsen, Julie Clement, Susan Balch, & Jacque Stutts

Fellowship

The Youngbloods

**Rev. Danielle would love to hear from you!
Please do not hesitate to contact her!**

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THOMDL80@gmail.com

Grace Church Vestry 2025

Mary Holland Black
David Kelly – Senior Warden
Heidi Vacik – Junior Warden

Dennis Cole
David McKinley
Janet Port – Treasurer
Darrell Todd- Clerk

Lisa Gardner
Annie Laurie Gray
Jerry Shea

Grace Episcopal Church

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Rector: The Reverend Danielle Thompson

Parish Musician: Christa Belue Byrd

Organist: Nancy Hughes Bolte

Bookkeeper: Gayle Ozbirn

Parish Administrator: Lane Hardison Ennis

ANNOUNCEMENTS

**To receive email updates, please fill out a visitor's card
or send an email to gracesheffieldoffice@gmail.com**

I HAVE A QUESTION! – Do you have a question about God, church, worship, Episcopalians, Grace, the Bible, etc, that you are itching to ask? Between now and October 5, Danielle will collect your questions. We'll answer them together after worship on Sunday, October 12. Look for a question form in your pew, the narthex, or the Parish Hall.

GREAT EPISCOPAL PICNIC – One Sunday every year, St Bart's, Trinity, and Grace come together for outdoor worship and a meal! This year, we will gather at Trinity in Florence on Sunday, October 5 at 10:30 AM. Grace people will bring side dishes!

PET BLESSING – No Fall is complete without a pet blessing in honor of St. Francis. Invite your friends, both furry and human, to Grace's pavilion on Sunday, October 19, at 4 PM so we can give thanks for the joy God shares with us through our animal friends.

LOOKING AHEAD – These are *not* the only things going on this Fall! But, go ahead and file these dates away as you plan for the weeks to come.

Sept 27: Shoals Community Soup Kitchen – Team 1

Oct 5: The Great Episcopal Picnic at Trinity (Florence) – Grace brings sides!

Oct 12: "I Have a Question" after worship

Oct 15: Weds PM and Thurs online Bible Studies begin the Gospel of Mark

Oct 19: Pet Blessing (late afternoon at Grace Pavilion)

Nov 2: All Saints' Sunday Eucharist at Grace &

3 PM Evening Prayer at Historic St. John's

Nov 14-16: Shoals Parish Retreat at Camp McDowell

Nov 22: Shoals Community Soup Kitchen – Team 2

Nov 30: Annual Parish Meeting & Vestry Sunday

Dec 7: Advent Lessons and Carols

Dec 24: Christmas Eve – 10 AM Morning Prayer at Historic St. John's &

5 PM Candlelight Mass at Grace

This week at Grace

MON, SEPT 22

8a: Men's Bible Study

10a-3p: Regular Office Hours

THU, SEPT 25

10a-1p: Regular Office Hours

12p: Online Bible Study

TUES, SEPT 23

10a-3p: Regular Office Hours

10a - 1p: Learn-to-Play-Bridge Circle



WEDS, SEPT 24

10a-6p: Regular Office Hours

4:30p: Bible Study

6p: Choir Practice

SUN, SEPT 28

9:30a: Worship

10:45a: Fellowship

11:15a: Vestry Meeting