

# Grace Episcopal Church

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



**The Fifth Sunday  
after EPIPHANY**

**Holy Eucharist**

**February 8, 2026 | 9:30 AM**



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 regularly or if this is the first time you have walked through our red doors, thank you for being here.

You are a blessing.

**Processional Hymn 381**

Thy strong word

**THE WORD OF GOD**

Celebrant      Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.  
*People*      *And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.*

*The Celebrant and People pray together.*

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 421 vss 1 & 3      All glory be to God on high**

All glory be to God on high  
And peace on earth from heaven  
And God's good will unfailingly  
    Be to all people given  
We bless, we worship you, we raise  
For your great glory thanks and praise  
    O God, Almighty Father

You only are the Holy One  
Who came for our salvation  
And only you are God's true Son  
    Who was before creation  
You, only, Christ, as Lord we own  
And, with the Spirit, you alone  
    Share in the Father's glory

*The Celebrant continues.*

*People*      The Lord be with you.  
*People*      *And also with you.*  
Celebrant      Let us pray.

**The Collect of the Day**

Set us free, O God, from the bondage of our sins, and give us the liberty of that abundant life  
which you have made known to us in your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns  
with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

## The First Lesson

### Isaiah 58:1-9a

*If you worshiped last week, you may feel like you are reading the same passage of Scripture twice. These verses from Isaiah echo the message of Micah we have already heard: what does God require but to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with him? Here, however, Isaiah adds a promise. If we do these things, we will experience the nearness of God in a way that brings healing and spiritual protection to our entire community.*

Shout out, do not hold back!

    Lift up your voice like a trumpet!

Announce to my people their rebellion,

    to the house of Jacob their sins.

Yet day after day they seek me

    and delight to know my ways,

as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness

    and did not forsake the ordinance of their God;

they ask of me righteous judgments,

    they delight to draw near to God.

“Why do we fast, but you do not see?

    Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?”

Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day,

    and oppress all your workers.

Look, you fast only to quarrel and to fight

    and to strike with a wicked fist.

Such fasting as you do today

    will not make your voice heard on high.

Is such the fast that I choose,

    a day to humble oneself?

Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush,

    and to lie in sackcloth and ashes?

Will you call this a fast,

    a day acceptable to the Lord?

Is not this the fast that I choose:

    to loose the bonds of injustice,

    to undo the thongs of the yoke,

to let the oppressed go free,

    and to break every yoke?

Is it not to share your bread with the hungry,

    and bring the homeless poor into your house;

when you see the naked, to cover them,

    and not to hide yourself from your own kin?

Then your light shall break forth like the dawn,

    and your healing shall spring up quickly;

your vindicator shall go before you,

    the glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard.

Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer;

    you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am.

The Word of the Lord.

*People Thanks be to God.*

**Psalm 112:1-9, 10      *Beatus vir***

*This psalm builds on the promises we just read about in Isaiah. The final verse adds an intriguing judgment: “the desires of the wicked will perish.” In God’s kingdom, even the ability to conceive of or want to do evil will not exist.*

- 1 Hallelujah! Happy are they who fear the Lord \* and have great delight in his commandments!
- 2 Their descendants will be mighty in the land; \* the generation of the upright will be blessed.
- 3 Wealth and riches will be in their house, \* and their righteousness will last for ever.
- 4 Light shines in the darkness for the upright; \* the righteous are merciful and full of compassion.
- 5 It is good for them to be generous in lending \* and to manage their affairs with justice.
- 6 For they will never be shaken; \* the righteous will be kept in everlasting remembrance.
- 7 They will not be afraid of any evil rumors; \* their heart is right; they put their trust in the Lord.
- 8 Their heart is established and will not shrink, \* until they see their desire upon their enemies.
- 9 They have given freely to the poor, \* and their righteousness stands fast for ever; they will hold up their head with honor.
- 10 The wicked will see it and be angry; they will gnash their teeth and pine away; \* the desires of the wicked will perish.

**The Second Lesson****1 Corinthians 2:1-12**

*In today’s selection from Paul’s letter to the church in Corinth, he continues his theme of contrasting foolishness and wisdom. From last week: “the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved, it is the power of God.” Paul lets us in here on a time when he felt the power of the cross in a moment of vulnerability. When he first came to Corinth, he knew that he would not impress the philosophically educated Greeks there. With the Jews, he could not rely exclusively on his rabbinical studies. Paul had to be willing to look foolish (in the eyes of some) in order to allow Jesus and the story of his death and resurrection to shine through him.*

When I came to you, brothers and sisters, I did not come proclaiming the mystery of God to you in lofty words or wisdom. For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and him crucified. And I came to you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling. My speech and my proclamation were not with plausible words of wisdom, but with a demonstration of the Spirit and of power, so that your faith might rest not on human wisdom but on the power of God.

Yet among the mature we do speak wisdom, though it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are doomed to perish. But we speak God’s wisdom, secret and hidden, which God decreed before the ages for our glory. None of the rulers of this age understood this; for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. But, as it is written,

“What no eye has seen, nor ear heard,  
nor the human heart conceived,  
what God has prepared for those who love him”—

these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. For what human being knows what is truly human except the human spirit that is within? So also no one comprehends what is truly God’s except the Spirit of God. Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit that is from God, so that we may understand the gifts bestowed on us by God.

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 Matthew.**

*People    Glory to you, Lord Christ.*

**Matthew 5:13-20**

*Last week, Jesus began his Sermon on the Mount with the Beatitudes (Matthew 5:1-12), telling the crowd gathered before him that the Kingdom of God is found not in palaces or fortresses or in faraway places, but among those who mourn, those who are persecuted, those who are poor in spirit, pure in heart, and work for peace. Now, he turns to the mixed-up group in front of him – Jews, and probably some Gentiles; men, women, and children; mostly peasants, farmers, and craftsmen, but surely some educated folks, too, and community leaders. And, he commissions them. He places into their hands the call to be the ones through whom God's Kingdom will season the world and illuminate it, with God's help.*

Jesus said, “You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under foot.

“You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

“Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same, will be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.”

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.

## Prayers of the People Form IV

*Deacon or other Leader*

Let us pray for the Church and for the world.

Grant, Almighty God, that all who confess your Name may be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world. We pray for Sean, our Presiding Bishop; Glenda, our Bishop; Richard, our Bishop Elect; Danielle, our Priest; and for all bishops, priests, and deacons.

*Silence*

Lord, in your mercy

*Hear our prayer.*

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. We pray for Donald, our President; Kay, our Governor; and for the mayors, city councils, and county commissions of the Shoals

*Silence*

Lord, in your mercy

*Hear our prayer.*

Give us all a reverence for the earth as your own creation, that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others and to your honor and glory.

*Silence*

Lord, in your mercy

*Hear our prayer.*

We pray for all whose work puts them in harm's way and for those on active duty in the military, saying together: *Joshua, Drake, Carter, Ethan, Jacobi, Kahleel, Henry, Jacob, Kadin, Dustin, Rebekah, Bryan, & William.*

We pray for those celebrating birthdays or anniversaries:  
Ben Ware, Tom Heflin, Rob Martin, Jacque Stutts, & Mary Morgan Scott

Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, and grant that we may serve Christ in them, and love one another as he loves us.

*Silence*

Lord, in your mercy  
*Hear our prayer*

We pray for those on our intercessory prayer list, saying together: *Elijah, Reagan, Penney, The Booth Family, Suzy, Bennie, Robin, David, Wendell, Cindy, Bruce, Frances, Harold, Sean, Tim, Carolyn, Karen, Jim, Wayne, Ron, Tommy B, LaVera, Peter, Doug, Mark, & Courtney.*

Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of your salvation.

*Silence*

Lord, in your mercy  
*Hear our prayer.*

We commend to your mercy all who have died, that your will for them may be fulfilled; and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom.

*Silence*

Lord, in your mercy  
*Hear our prayer.*

*The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.*

### **Confession of Sin**

*The Deacon or Celebrant says*

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 Priest stands and says*

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**

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

## THE HOLY COMMUNION

### The Offertory

#### Offertory Anthem

*This Little Light of Mine*

**Lane Ennis, mezzo soprano**

This little light of mine I'm going to let it shine  
Let it shine, let it shine  
  
Everywhere I go I'm going to let it shine  
Let it shine, let it shine  
  
All through the night I'm going to let it shine  
Let it shine, let it shine

#### Doxology Hymn 380 vs 3

*Old 100th*

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.*

### The Great Thanksgiving

*Eucharistic Prayer B*

Celebrant	The Lord be with you.
<i>People</i>	<i>And also with you.</i>
Celebrant	Lift up your hearts.
<i>People</i>	<i>We lift them to the Lord.</i>
Celebrant	Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
<i>People</i>	<i>It is right to give him thanks and praise.</i>

*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.

Because in the mystery of the Word made flesh, you have caused a new light to shine in our hearts, to give the knowledge of your glory in the face of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

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 S 125

*Celebrant and People*

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might  
Heaven and earth are full of your glory  
Hosanna in the highest. 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.*

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, 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, according to his command, O Father,

*Celebrant and People*

We remember his death,  
We proclaim his resurrection,  
We await his coming in glory;

*The Celebrant continues.*

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

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 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 324

Let all mortal flesh

Let all mortal flesh keep silence, and with fear and trembling stand  
Ponder nothing earthly minded, for with blessing in his hand  
Christ our God to earth descendeth, our full homage to demand

King of kings, yet born of Mary, as of old on earth he stood  
Lord of lords in human vesture, in the Body and the Blood  
He will give to all the faithful his own self for heavenly food

Rank on rank the host of heaven spreads its vanguard on the way  
As the Light of Light descendeth from the realms of endless day  
That the powers of hell may vanish as the darkness clears away

At his feet the six-winged seraph; cherubim with sleepless eye  
Veil their faces to the Presence, as with ceaseless voice they cry  
"Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, Lord Most High!"

## 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.

## Epiphany Blessing

May Christ, the Son of God, be manifest in you, that your lives may be a light to the world; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. *Amen.*

### Recessional Hymn 490

I want to walk as a child of the light

## Dismissal

Minister      Let us go forth in the name of Christ.  
People        *Thanks be to God.*

# SERVANTS TODAY - FEBRUARY 8

## VOD

Troy Youngblood Goodloe Pride

## SAFETY

Goodloe Pride

## GREETER

Rob, Barney, & Colby Martin

## USHER

Natalie Richardson Ron Kirkland

## READER

Colby Martin

## ACOLYTES

Bob Allan  
& George Youngblood

## CHALICE

Mary Ann Allan  
& Fred Joly

## SERVER

Bob Allan

## CRUCIFER

Fred Joly

## ALTAR GUILD

Barbara Sherrill, Tana Andrews, & Laurie Gray

## FELLOWSHIP

Kris & John Walls

The altar flowers are offered to the glory of God.

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

931-636-4898

THOMDL80@gmail.com

## GRACE CHURCH VESTRY 2026

Lisa Gardner  
Annie Laurie Gray  
Jerry Shea - Senior Warden

Dennis Cole  
David McKinley - Junior Warden  
Janet Port - Treasurer

Chris Earl  
Kris Walls  
Troy Youngblood  
Darrell Todd - Clerk

## Grace Episcopal Church

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Rector: The Reverend Danielle Thompson  
Parish Musician: Christa Belue Byrd  
Organist: Nancy Bolte  
Bookkeeper: Gayle Ozbirn  
Parish Administrator: Lane Ennis

# Announcements

## WELCOME!

You didn't have to be here today. Thank you for your presence and prayers this Epiphany Season. No matter who you are, where you are from, or whether you've walked through Grace's red doors before, we are blessed because you have come.

**THANK YOU** – Your First Sunday gifts allowed us to purchase 4 cap and gown sets for graduating seniors of Sheffield High School! Because those were the only needs SHS had at this time, Danielle used leftover funds to help Shoals Shelter offset additional expenses that have arisen during recent frigid weeks, such as overnight shift workers and law enforcement coverage at intake.

**TODAY: INTEREST MEETING** – One way to join an Episcopal congregation, like ours, is to be Confirmed or Received by a Bishop. Because the Bishop is the Chief Pastor of our Diocese (a regional gathering of congregations), he or she is the one who officially welcomes you to Grace! If you would like to learn more about what Confirmation entails and means, please consider joining Danielle at 11:15 AM today for an interest meeting. **You can come to this meeting even if you are not sure you want to be confirmed and even if you are already confirmed!**

## REGULAR OFFICE HOURS

**Monday & Tuesday** – 10 AM - 3 PM

**Wednesday** – 10 AM - 5 PM

**Most Thursdays** - 10 AM - 1 PM

**Keyholders:** feel free to come/go as necessary!

**Call Danielle at ANY time as pastoral needs arise: (931)636-4898**

**Contact Lane with administrative needs: [gracesheffieldoffice@gmail.com](mailto:gracesheffieldoffice@gmail.com)**

## UPCOMING DATES

**Sun, Feb 8** - Meeting with Danielle during Fellowship for all who are interested in Confirmation, Reception, & Reaffirmation of Baptismal Vows

**Feb 8 - Mar 8** - Preparation for Confirmation/Reception/Reaffirmation will be scheduled during this month and is open to all, regardless of whether you will participate in one of these rites

**Weds, Feb 18** - Ash Wednesday at St. John's (7 AM) and Grace (6 PM)

**Sun, Feb 22 - Pot-luck snack Fellowship! Bring a simple snack to share**

**Mon, Feb 23 - Sat, Feb 28** - Grace is ON-CALL for Shoals Shelter (final hosting opportunity of the season)

**The Open Parish Budget/Finance Meeting is being rescheduled for this month.**

## WEEKLY & OPEN TO ALL - Join anytime!

**Mondays at 8 AM** - Men's Bible Study

**Tuesdays at 10 AM** - Learn to Play Bridge Circle

**Wednesdays at 4:30 PM** - Gospel of Mark Bible Study in person

**Wednesdays at 6 PM** - Parish Choir Rehearsal (contact Christa Belue Byrd)

**Thursdays at 12 PM** - Gospel of Mark Bible Study on Zoom