

Grace Episcopal Church

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

The Third Sunday after Pentecost

June 14, 2026 9:30 AM

Holy Eucharist



Interpreting This Week's Prayer

Collect of the Day: *Keep, O Lord, your household the Church in your steadfast faith and love, that through your grace we may proclaim your truth with boldness, and minister your justice with compassion; for the sake of our Savior Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.*

Dear God: In order to show the world what it means to be your family, the Body of Christ on earth, our church needs your faith to help us endure; your love to motivate us; your grace to give us the clarity and courage we lack without you; and your grace, also, to treat others with fairness and compassion, regarding our neighbors with the same unmerited mercy that Jesus has for us. In His Name I offer this prayer, Amen.



GRACE
EPISCOPAL CHURCH + SHEFFIELD, ALABAMA

Prelude

Processional Hymn 401 The God of Abraham Praise

THE WORD OF GOD

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

People *And blessed be his kingdom, now and forever. 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 S 280

Gloria in excelsis

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth
Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father
We worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father
Lord God, Lamb of God
You take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us
You are seated at the right hand of the Father
Receive our prayer
For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord
You alone are the Most High
Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit
In the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Collect of the Day

Keep, O Lord, your household the Church in your steadfast faith and love, that through your grace we may proclaim your truth with boldness, and minister your justice with compassion; for the sake of our Savior Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

The First Lesson

Genesis 18:1-15

Last week, we were introduced to Abraham, whom God called to journey all the way from his home in Ur (ancient Sumeria) to what is now his primary residence, which is in modern-day Hebron, southeast of Jerusalem. Abraham has a large household of extended family and servants, as well as several herds. God has promised Abraham numerous descendants – and Abraham believes the promise.

Yet, he and his wife, Sarah, have not been able to conceive a child. Basic hospitality is a matter of survival in this harsh nomadic environment, but Abraham goes above and beyond to welcome his guests.

The Lord appeared to Abraham by the oaks of Mamre, as he sat at the entrance of his tent in the heat of the day. He looked up and saw three men standing near him. When he saw them, he ran from the tent entrance to meet them, and bowed down to the ground. He said, “My lord, if I find favor with you, do not pass by your servant. Let a little water be brought, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree. Let me bring a little bread, that you may refresh yourselves, and after that you may pass on—since you have come to your servant.” So they said, “Do as you have said.” And Abraham hastened into the tent to Sarah, and said, “Make ready quickly three measures of choice flour, knead it, and make cakes.” Abraham ran to the herd, and took a calf, tender and good, and gave it to the servant, who hastened to prepare it. Then he took curds and milk and the calf that he had prepared, and set it before them; and he stood by them under the tree while they ate.

They said to him, “Where is your wife Sarah?” And he said, “There, in the tent.” Then one said, “I will surely return to you in due season, and your wife Sarah shall have a son.” And Sarah was listening at the tent entrance behind him. Now Abraham and Sarah were old, advanced in age; it had ceased to be with Sarah after the manner of women. So Sarah laughed to herself, saying, “After I have grown old, and my husband is old, shall I have pleasure?” The Lord said to Abraham, “Why did Sarah laugh, and say, ‘Shall I indeed bear a child, now that I am old?’ Is anything too wonderful for the Lord? At the set time I will return to you, in due season, and Sarah shall have a son.” But Sarah denied, saying, “I did not laugh”; for she was afraid. He said, “Oh yes, you did laugh.”

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

Psalm 116:1, 10-17 *Dilexi, quoniam*

This beautiful psalm unfolds in four parts: 1) the author thanks God for saving them from a life-threatening situation 2) they reckon with the fact that repaying God for this gift (or any gift) is impossible 3) they affirm the value of human life in God's sight and 4) they express loyalty to God.

1 I love the Lord, because he has heard the voice of my supplication, *
because he has inclined his ear to me whenever I called upon him.

10 How shall I repay the Lord *
for all the good things he has done for me?

11 I will lift up the cup of salvation *
and call upon the Name of the Lord.

12 I will fulfill my vows to the Lord *
in the presence of all his people.

13 Precious in the sight of the Lord *
is the death of his servants.

14 O Lord, I am your servant; *
I am your servant and the child of your handmaid;
you have freed me from my bonds.

15 I will offer you the sacrifice of thanksgiving *
and call upon the Name of the Lord.

16 I will fulfill my vows to the Lord *
in the presence of all his people,

17 In the courts of the Lord's house, *
in the midst of you, O Jerusalem.
Hallelujah!

The Second Lesson**Romans 5:1-8**

This incredible passage from Romans is jam-packed with words and ideas that we could spend weeks on, such as justification, grace, suffering, endurance, character, and hope. Each of the three latter terms in their original language includes an element that does not shine through in English. To endure, in Greek, literally means to remain under something, like a lifter holding freeweights above their head or a diver in the depths of the sea. Character is the indestructible stuff that remains after something or someone has passed through an ordeal. Finally, hope is not synonymous with a wish or with optimism. To hope is to live from a place of confidence and peace based on what one believes and trusts to be true.

Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us. For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person-- though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us.

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

Gospel Hymn

Seek ye first

Please sing vss 1 & 2 before the Gospel.

Seek ye first the kingdom of God
And His righteousness
And all these things shall be added unto you
Allelu, Alleluia
*Refrain: Alleluia, alleluia
Alleluia, allelu, alleluia*

Ask and it shall be given unto you
Seek and ye shall find
Knock and it shall be opened unto you
Allelu, Alleluia
Refrain

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

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Matthew 9:35-10:8(16-20)

Disciple is a word that means student. Jesus had lots of disciples, but a small group of those people played a special role in his life and in the ministry of the early church: the twelve men named here who would later be called Apostles (“those who are sent”). Having called Matthew to be part of this group last week, the twelve are now ready to help Jesus minister among the overwhelming number of people who need his help.

Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and curing every disease and every sickness. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.”

Then Jesus summoned his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to cure every disease and every sickness. These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon, also known as Peter, and his brother Andrew; James son of Zebedee, and his brother John; Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; Simon the Cananaean, and Judas Iscariot, the one who betrayed him.

These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions: “Go nowhere among the Gentiles, and enter no town of the Samaritans, but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. As you go, proclaim the good news, ‘The kingdom of heaven has come near.’ Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons. You received without payment; give without payment.

“See, I am sending you out like sheep into the midst of wolves; so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves. Beware of them, for they will hand you over to councils and flog you in their synagogues; and you will be dragged before governors and kings because of me, as a testimony to them and the Gentiles. When they hand you over, do not worry about how you are to speak or what you are to say; for what you are to say will be given to you at that time; for it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you.”

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

Gospel Hymn

Seek ye first
Please sing vs 3 after the Gospel.

We shall not live by bread alone
But by ev'ry word
That proceeds from the mouth of God
Allelu, alleluia
Refrain

The Sermon

The Reverend Danielle Thompson

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.

In peace, we pray to you, Lord God.

Silence

For all people in their daily life and work;

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

For this community, the nation, and the world. We pray for Donald, our president; Kay, our governor; and for the mayors, city councils, and county commissions of the Shoals;

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

For the just and proper use of your creation;

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

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

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

For the peace and unity of the Church of God;

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

For Sean, our Presiding Bishop; Glenda, our Bishop; Richard, our Bishop-Elect; Danielle, our Priest; Josh, our Deacon; and for all bishops, priests, and deacons;

For all who serve God in his Church.

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation.

Silence

The People may add their own petitions.

We pray for those on our intercessory prayer list, saying together

Ryan, Carole, Sam, MJ, Martin, Bennie, Robin, Wayne, Ron, Tommy B, LaVera, Peter, Doug, Courtney, Bruce, Frances, Betty, Dan, Ro, Heather, Gail, Deborah, & Jessica.

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.

Hear us, Lord;

For your mercy is great.

We pray for those celebrating birthdays or anniversaries:
Annie Laurie Gray, Mary Catherine Heflin, Pat Walton, & Josh Vacik

We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life.
Silence

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

We pray for all who have died, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom.
Silence

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

Concluding Collect

Almighty and eternal God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth: Mercifully accept the prayers of your people, and strengthen us to do your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Confession of Sins

The Deacon says
Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence may be kept

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

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 Hymn 59, All. III Here I Am, Lord

I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard My people's cry
All who dwell in dark and sin My hand will save
I, who made the stars of night, I will make their darkness bright
Who will bear My light to them? Whom shall I send

*Refrain: Here I am, Lord. Is it I Lord
I have heard you calling in the night
I will go, Lord, if You lead me
I will hold Your people in my heart*

I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne My people's pain
I have wept for love of them. They turn away
I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love alone
I will speak My word to them. Whom shall I send

Refrain

I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame
I will set a feast for them. My hand will save
Finest bread I will provide Till their hearts be satisfied
I will give My life to them. Whom shall I send

Refrain

Doxology Hymn 380

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 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.

For you are the source of light and life, you made us in your image, and called us to new life in 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-129

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

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 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 321 My God, thy table now is spread

My God, thy table now is spread
Thy cup with love doth overflow
Be all thy children thither led
And let them thy sweet mercies know

O let thy table honored be
And furnished well with joyful guests
And may each soul salvation see
That here its sacred pledges tastes

Drawn by thy quickening grace, O Lord
In countless numbers let them come
And gather from their Father's board
The Bread that lives beyond the tomb

Nor let thy spreading Gospel rest
Till through the world thy truth has run
Till with this Bread shall all be blessed
Who see the light or feel the sun

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 530 Spread, O spread, thou mighty word

Dismissal

Let us go forth in the name of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia.
Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.

Servants Today - June 14

VOD
Chris Earl

Safety
Goodloe Pride

Greeter
Janet Klas

Usher
Natalie Richardson

Reader
Bill Dodds

Acolytes
David Springer
& George
Youngblood

Chalice
David Springer
& Fred Joly

Server
Dennis Cole

Cross
Fred Joly

Altar Guild

Laurie Gray, Tana Andrews, & Mark Orman

Fellowship

Nancy Borden & Bunny Willard

**Danielle, our priest, and Josh, our deacon, would love to hear from you!
Please do not hesitate to contact either or both of them!**

Danielle Thompson: 931-836-4898 THOMDL80@gmail.com

Josh Vacik: 256-740-1255 JVICIK@comcast.net

The altar flowers today are given to the glory of God

Grace Church Vestry 2026

Lisa Gardner
Annie Laurie Gray
Jerry Shea - Senior Warden

Dennis Cole
David McKinley - Junior Warden
Janet Fort - Treasurer

Darrell Todd- Clerk

Chris Earl
Kris Walls
Troy Youngblood

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The Reverend Danielle Thompson, **Rector**

The Reverend Josh Vacik, **Deacon**

Parish Musician: Christa Belue Byrd

Organist: Nancy Hughes Bolte

Bookkeeper: Gayle Ozbirn

Parish Administrator: Lane Hardison Ennis

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SUNDAY, JUNE 14

Worship: 9:30 AM Holy Eucharist

Connect: Fellowship in the Parish Hall

Keep in touch: Fill out a contact information card or send a text to Danielle or Josh

Today: Sign up for Grace Groups – Our three small groups are ready to kick off this week on Tuesday at 4 PM and Wednesday at 6 PM! Thank you to Rev. Josh Vacik, Chris Earl, Kris Walls, Troy Youngblood, Dennis Cole, Jen Awwad, Dan Bolte, and Mark Adkins for helping to facilitate Grace Groups this summer.

*Sign up by form in the Church or Parish Hall.
Or, sign up online: forms.gle/rsnU6PAiScEEmbGM6*

THIS WEEK AT GRACE:

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY – MONDAY AT 8 AM (PARISH HALL)

LEARN TO PLAY BRIDGE – TUESDAY AT 10 AM (PARISH HALL)

GRACE GROUP 1 – TUESDAY AT 4 PM (PARISH HOUSE)

CENTERING PRAYER – TBD (PARISH HOUSE)

GRACE GROUPS 2 & 3 – WEDNESDAY AT 6 PM (PARISH HOUSE)

CHOIR – WEDNESDAY AT 6 PM (NAVE)

GRACE NOTES JAM SESSION – THURSDAY AT 4 PM (PARISH HALL)

Email gracesheffieldoffice@gmail.com, call the parish office, or text of our clergy to be put in touch with one of these groups!

*The **nave** is the main worship space in the church*

*The **parish house** is the building next to the church*

*The **parish hall** is the main room in the parish house*

SCAN ME



Save our church website QR code!

Our church website is easily found using this QR code! Please save a picture of the QR code so you can share it with others.

How do I use a QR code?

Simply open your camera app, point it at the QR code, and tap the link that appears.