

Grace Episcopal Church

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

The Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

July 5, 2026 9:30 AM

Holy Eucharist



Interpreting This Week's Prayer

Collect of the Day: *O God, you have taught us to keep all your commandments by loving you and our neighbor: Grant us the grace of your Holy Spirit, that we may be devoted to you with our whole heart, and united to one another with pure affection; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.*

Dear God: Is it really that simple? Love you and love others? Or, are these the most challenging and worthy callings any person can receive? I know that there is a power in this world and in each human being that gets in the way of love. You have promised me that your Holy Spirit is greater than that power. Send your Holy Spirit to live in me this week – to show me how to keep your greatest commandment and to help me to accomplish it. In Jesus' Name I offer this prayer. Amen



GRACE
EPISCOPAL CHURCH + SHEFFIELD, ALABAMA

Prelude

Processional Hymn 482 Lord of all hopefulness

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

O God, you have taught us to keep all your commandments by loving you and our neighbor: Grant us the grace of your Holy Spirit, that we may be devoted to you with our whole heart, and united to one another with pure affection; 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 Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67

A nerdy reminder about how the lectionary works (the lectionary is our assigned calendar of worship readings): every third summer, we have the option of reading a series of Old Testament lessons that narrate the story of the Jewish people from Abraham to Joshua. Today, we witness the first generational shift in that story. Here, we leave Abraham and Sarah behind in order to focus on their son, Isaac, and his new wife, Rebekah. As long and touching as their story is, Isaac and Rebekah are mostly transition figures. They bridge the story of Abraham to the story of their own son, Jacob, who will soon take center stage in our readings.

The servant said to Laban, “I am Abraham’s servant. The Lord has greatly blessed my master, and he has become wealthy; he has given him flocks and herds, silver and gold, male and female slaves, camels and donkeys. And Sarah my master’s wife bore a son to my master when she was old; and he has given him all that he has. My master made me swear, saying, ‘You shall not take a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites, in whose land I live; but you shall go to my father’s house, to my kindred, and get a wife for my son.’

“I came today to the spring, and said, ‘O Lord, the God of my master Abraham, if now you will only make successful the way I am going! I am standing here by the spring of water; let the young woman who comes out to draw, to whom I shall say, ‘Please give me a little water from your jar to drink,’ and who will say to me, ‘Drink, and I will draw for your camels also’ —let her be the woman whom the Lord has appointed for my master’s son.’

“Before I had finished speaking in my heart, there was Rebekah coming out with her water jar on her shoulder; and she went down to the spring, and drew. I said to her, ‘Please let me drink.’ She quickly let down her jar from her shoulder, and said, ‘Drink, and I will also water your camels.’ So I drank, and she also watered the camels. Then I asked her, ‘Whose daughter are you?’ She said, ‘The daughter of Bethuel, Nahor’s son, whom Milcah bore to him.’ So I put the ring on her nose, and the bracelets on her arms. Then I bowed my head and worshiped the Lord, and blessed the Lord, the God of my master Abraham, who had led me by the right way to obtain the daughter of my master’s kinsman for his son. Now then, if you will deal loyally and truly with my master, tell me; and if not, tell me, so that I may turn either to the right hand or to the left.”

And they called Rebekah, and said to her, "Will you go with this man?" She said, "I will." So they sent away their sister Rebekah and her nurse along with Abraham's servant and his men. And they blessed Rebekah and said to her, "May you, our sister, become thousands of myriads; may your offspring gain possession of the gates of their foes." Then Rebekah and her maids rose up, mounted the camels, and followed the man; thus the servant took Rebekah, and went his way. Now Isaac had come from Beer-lahai-roi, and was settled in the Negeb. Isaac went out in the evening to walk in the field; and looking up, he saw camels coming. And Rebekah looked up, and when she saw Isaac, she slipped quickly from the camel, and said to the servant, "Who is the man over there, walking in the field to meet us?" The servant said, "It is my master." So she took her veil and covered herself. And the servant told Isaac all the things that he had done. Then Isaac brought her into his mother Sarah's tent. He took Rebekah, and she became his wife; and he loved her. So Isaac was comforted after his mother's death.

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

Psalm 45:11-18 *Eructavit cor meum*

This is an ancient wedding song, which was written for the marriage of an Israelite king.

- 11 "Hear, O daughter; consider and listen closely; *
forget your people and your father's house.
- 12 The king will have pleasure in your beauty; *
he is your master; therefore do him honor.
- 13 The people of Tyre are here with a gift; *
the rich among the people seek your favor."
- 14 All glorious is the princess as she enters; *
her gown is cloth-of-gold.
- 15 In embroidered apparel she is brought to the king; *
after her the bridesmaids follow in procession.
- 16 With joy and gladness they are brought, *
and enter into the palace of the king.
- 17 "In place of fathers, O king, you shall have sons; *
you shall make them princes over all the earth.
- 18 I will make your name to be remembered
from one generation to another; *
therefore nations will praise you for ever and ever."

The Second Lesson

Romans 7:15-25a

Here is one of Paul's most relatable moments! How many times have you wanted – so badly! – to do the right thing only to find yourself repeating the same old mistakes. Paul explores the idea in these verses that willing something is not enough to make it happen. Sins are not standalone mistakes. Rather, Sin (capital S) is a force that exerts power over us from without and from within. We cannot release ourselves from it on our own steam. Only a power stronger than Sin, the grace of Christ, can help us.

I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. Now if I do what I do not want, I agree that the law is good. But in fact it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me. For I know that nothing good dwells within me, that is, in my flesh. I can will what is right, but I cannot do it. For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do. Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me.

So I find it to be a law that when I want to do what is good, evil lies close at hand. For I delight in the law of God in my inmost self, but I see in my members another law at war with the law of my mind, making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. Wretched man that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!

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 11:16-19, 25-30

Each of this summer's Gospel readings moves us forward just a little bit more in the story of Jesus: forward geographically and forward in time, always moving closer to Jerusalem and to the moment of his cross. Today, Jesus is still ministering in Galilee, speaking to crowds about John the Baptist, who is still alive at this point. Jesus a) points out the fickleness of the people b) thanks God that his message is more easily understood by humble folk and not by the well-off or powerful and c) invites those who experience weariness to find freedom in him.

Jesus said to the crowd, "To what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another,

'We played the flute for you, and you did not dance;
we wailed, and you did not mourn.'

For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, 'He has a demon'; the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, 'Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!' Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds."

At that time Jesus said, "I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

"Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

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; Richard, our Bishop; 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, Tommy B, LaVera, Peter, Doug, Courtney, Bruce, Frances, Betty, Dan, Ro, Heather, Gail, Deborah, Jessica, & George.

We pray for all whose work puts them in harm's way and for those on active duty in the military, saying together

Taylor, Johnathan, Ben, Conner, John Gage, Nathan, Henry, Jacob, Kadin, Dustin, Rebekah, Bryan, & William.

Hear us, Lord;

For your mercy is great.

We pray for those celebrating birthdays or anniversaries:
Jim Walton, Nicholas Ware V, Nancy Borden, Jennifer Black, & Debbie
Thompson.

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 Anthem

Come and Rest

Come and rest my weary one.

Lay your heavy burden down.

Come and rest my little child.

And you will find rest for your soul.
Won't you come and give up the fight?
Come exchange the load you have to bear
for one that is easy and light

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 189, All III What a friend we have in Jesus

What a friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear
What a privilege to carry ev'rything to God in prayer
Oh, what peace we often forfeit, oh, what needless pain we bear
All because we do not carry ev'rything to God in prayer

Have we trials and temptations? Is there trouble anywhere
We should never be discouraged, take it to the Lord in prayer
Can we find a friend so faithful who will all our sorrows share
Jesus knows our ev'ry weakness, take it to the Lord in prayer

Are we weak and heavy laden, cumbered with a load of care
Precious Savior, still our refuge; take it to the Lord in prayer
Do thy friends despise, forsake thee? Take it to the Lord in prayer
In His arms He'll take a shield thee; thou wilt find a solace there

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 544

Jesus shall reign

Dismissal

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

Servants Today - July 5

VOD
Kris Walls

Safety
Mike Williams

Greeter
Janet Klas

Usher
Natalie Richardson

Reader
Iron Kirkland

Acolytes
Bob Allan
& George
Youngblood

Chalice
Bob Allan
& Fred Joly

Server
Bob Allan

Crass
Fred Joly

Altar Guild

Mary Holland Black, Jan Bennett, Annie Laurie Gray, Rita Kelly, & Jessie Wilson

Fellowship

Kris & John Walls

The altar flowers are given today to the glory of God, and in celebration of our country's 250th birthday, Nancy Borden's 87th birthday, and the birthday of Nancy's daughter, Tamara Montgomery.

**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

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

Grace Episcopal Church

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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 Ozbin

Parish Administrator: Lane Hardison Ennis

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SUNDAY, JULY 5

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 Deacon Josh

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 – WEDNESDAY AT 4 PM (PARISH HOUSE)

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

CHOIR – WEDNESDAY AT 6 PM (NAVE)

GRACE NOTES OPEN JAM SESSION – THURSDAY AT 3:45 PM (PARISH HALL)

CENTERING PRAYER – THURSDAY AT 5:15 PM (PARISH HOUSE)

*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*

HANDY FEST ... TIMES TWO!

Wednesday July 22: **Grace 2.0** (formerly A Taste of Grace), 6:00 pm in the church

Sunday July 26: **Unending Praise** 5th Anniversary Concert, 6:00 pm in the church

THE OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED MONDAY, JULY 6

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.