

Grace Episcopal Church

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

The Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

August 16, 2026 9:30 AM

Holy Eucharist



Interpreting This Week's Prayer

Collect of the Day: *Almighty God, you have given your only Son to be for us a sacrifice for sin, and also an example of godly life: Give us grace to receive thankfully the fruits of his redeeming work, and to follow daily in the blessed steps of his most holy life; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.*

Dear God: Jesus' death was not a transactional exchange – one good man for a bunch of bad apples. Jesus' death was not to calm your anger or soothe your rage. Jesus' death was the full revelation of your love for all of creation. His life was the living breathing example of what it looks like to walk with you. Help me to be grateful, every day, for the gift you gave me through him: the gift of an eternal loving relationship with you. And, plant my feet in Jesus' steps so I can walk with you like he did. In His Name I offer this prayer. Amen.



GRACE
EPISCOPAL CHURCH + SHEFFIELD, ALABAMA

Prelude

Processional Hymn 50, All. III Great is Thy Faithfulness

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

Almighty God, you have given your only Son to be for us a sacrifice for sin, and also an example of godly life: Give us grace to receive thankfully the fruits of his redeeming work, and to follow daily in the blessed steps of his most holy life; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

The First Lesson

Genesis 45:1-15

Since we last met Joseph, he has been a slave; a prisoner; a royal employee; and now he is the right-hand-man ... of the king of Egypt! Quite unexpectedly, Joseph meets his brothers who have traveled to Egypt from famine-stricken Canaan in order to seek grain. They do not recognize him, but he cannot forget them. Benjamin is Joseph's youngest brother and his only full-brother. He was born after Joseph had already been sold by his brothers to passing traders.

Joseph could no longer control himself before all those who stood by him, and he cried out, "Send everyone away from me." So no one stayed with him when Joseph made himself known to his brothers. And he wept so loudly that the Egyptians heard it, and the household of Pharaoh heard it. Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?" But his brothers could not answer him, so dismayed were they at his presence.

Then Joseph said to his brothers, "Come closer to me." And they came closer. He said, "I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. And now do not be distressed, or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. For the famine has been in the land these two years; and there are five more years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. So it was not you who sent me here, but God; he has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, 'Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me, do not delay. You shall settle in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children's children, as well as your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. I will provide for you there—since there are five more years of famine to come—so that you and your household, and all that you have, will not come to poverty.' And now your eyes and the eyes of my brother Benjamin see that it is my own mouth that speaks to you. You must tell my father how greatly I am honored in Egypt, and all that you have seen. Hurry and bring my father down here." Then he fell upon his brother Benjamin's neck and wept, while Benjamin wept upon his neck. And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them; and after that his brothers talked with him.

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

Psalm 133 *Ecce, quam bonum!*

The first words of this psalm, which praises unity and harmony, is the official motto of The University of the South, an Episcopal college and seminary: Ecce quam bonum, "Behold how good ..."

- 1 Oh, how good and pleasant it is, *
 when brethren live together in unity!
- 2 It is like fine oil upon the head *
 that runs down upon the beard,
- 3 Upon the beard of Aaron, *
 and runs down upon the collar of his robe.
- 4 It is like the dew of Hermon *
 that falls upon the hills of Zion.
- 5 For there the Lord has ordained the blessing: *
 life for evermore.

The Second Lesson Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32

In Ch. 10, Paul is still exploring his questions, concerns, and reflections on fellow Jewish believers who have not accepted Christ. He reasons that their slowness to receive Jesus has given Gentiles more time and opportunity to draw near to Abraham's God. Eventually, Paul believes, God's promises toward all will be fulfilled.

I ask, then, has God rejected his people? By no means! I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, a member of the tribe of Benjamin. God has not rejected his people whom he foreknew.

For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. Just as you were once disobedient to God but have now received mercy because of their disobedience, so they have now been disobedient in order that, by the mercy shown to you, they too may now receive mercy. For God has imprisoned all in disobedience so that he may be merciful to all.

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 15:21-28

Tyre and Sidon were coastal towns located in what is now Lebanon, north of Galilee, where Jesus grew up. It was a mostly Gentile region with a distinct culture. Usually, that wouldn't stop Jesus from showing compassion to someone. What other dynamics, then, could account for Jesus' initial response to this woman?

Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, "Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon." But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, "Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us." He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." But she came and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, help me." He answered, "It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." She said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table." Then Jesus answered her, "Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish." And her daughter was healed instantly.

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 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, Suzy, Betty, Dan, Ro, Heather, Gail, Jessica, George, Jacquelyn, Pamela, Doug, Charles, Jane, Dennis, Eric, & Larry.

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, and William.

Hear us, Lord;

For your mercy is great.

We pray for those celebrating birthdays or anniversaries:
Bunny Willard

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

My Redeemer is Faithful and True

Grace Choir

There is a Redeemer, Jesus God's own Son
Precious Lamb of God, Messiah, Holy One
Thank you, O, My Father, for giving us your Son
And leaving your Spirit 'till the work on earth is done

As I look back on this road I've travelled
I see so many times He's carried me through
And if there's one thing that I've learned in my life
My Redeemer is faithful and true

*My Redeemer is faithful and true
Everything He has said He will do
Every morning His mercies are new
My Redeemer is faithful and true*

My heart rejoices when I read the promise
"There is a place that I'm preparing for you"
I know someday I'll see my Lord face to face
'Cause my Redeemer is faithful and true

And in every situation He has proved His love to me
When I lack the understanding, He gives more grace to me

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 100, All. III It is well with my soul

When peace, like a river, attendeth my way
When sorrows like sea billows roll
Whatever my lot, Thou hast taught me to say
“It is well, it is well with my soul”

*Refrain: It is well (it is well)
With my soul (with my soul)
It is well, it is well with my soul*

Though Satan should buffet, though trials should not come
Let this blest assurance control
That Christ hath regarded my helpless estate
And hath shed His own blood for my soul
Refrain

My sin O, the bliss of this glorious thought
My sin not in part, but the whole
Is nailed to the cross, and I bear it no more
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul
Refrain

And, Lord, haste the day when the faith shall be sight
The clouds be rolled back as a scroll
The trump shall resound and the Lord shall descend
“Even so,” it is well with my soul
Refrain

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

My hope is built on nothing less

My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' blood and righteousness
I dare not trust the sweetest frame, but wholly lean on Jesus' Name

*Refrain: On Christ the solid Rock I stand, all other ground is sinking sand
All other ground is sinking sand*

When darkness veils His lovely face, I rest on His unchanging grace
In every high and stormy gale, my anchor holds within the veil
Refrain

His oath, His covenant, His blood, support me in the whelming flood
When all around my soul gives way, He then is all my hope and stay
Refrain

When He shall come with trumpet sound, oh may I then in Him be found
Dressed in His righteousness alone, faultless to stand before the throne
Refrain

Dismissal

Let us go forth in the name of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.

Servants Today - August 16

VOD David McKinley	Safety Richard Parker	Greeter Rob, Barney, & Colby Martin	Usher Natalie Richardson	Reader Kris Walls
------------------------------	---------------------------------	--	------------------------------------	-----------------------------

Acolytes Bob Allan & George Youngblood	Chalice Fred Joly & George Youngblood	Server Bob Allan	Cross Fred Joly
--	---	----------------------------	---------------------------

Altar Guild

Mary Cecelia Youngblood, Jodi McDaniel, Beth Scott, & Debbie Thompson

Fellowship

Potluck Snack Sunday

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:	931-636-4898	THOMDL80@gmail.com
Josh Vacik:	256-740-1255	JVACIK@comcast.net

Grace Church Vestry 2026

Lisa Gardner
Annie Laurie Gray
Jerry Shea - Senior Warden

Dennis Cole
David McKinley - Junior Warden
Janet Port - Treasurer
Darrell Todd- Clerk

Chris Earl
Kris Walls
Troy Youngblood

Grace Episcopal Church

103 Darby Avenue, PO Box 838
Sheffield, AL 35660

Office: 256-383-2014

Text: 256-335-4546

Email: gracesheffieldoffice@gmail.com

Website: graceepiscopalsheffield.dioala.org

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



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 GROUPS – WEDNESDAY AT 4 PM & 6 PM

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

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

*ALL GROUPS ARE "ROLLING ADMISSION" AND CAN BE JOINED AT ANY TIME! CONTACT
LANE OR DANIELLE AND WE WILL PUT YOU IN TOUCH WITH A GROUP LEADER!*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SHOALS SHELTER SUMMER COOL-DOWN DAYS

We are hosting 10-15 guest from Shoals Shelter from 12p - 4p in the Parish Hall on the following Thursdays:

August 27, September 10, September 24

Can you help with snacks, lunch, or on-site presence? Let Danielle know!

GRACE NIGHT RETURNS!

An easy-breezy monthly dinner with friends.

Bring a dish to share: whatever you want to eat or whatever you like to make – no need to sign up.

Dinner starts at 5:30 on Sunday, August 23.

FALL PREVIEW

Saturday, Sept 19: **Centering Prayer Workshop at Grace**, facilitated by Contemplative Outreach, Birmingham. Open to the public! 9 AM - 12 PM

Sunday, October 4: **The Great Episcopal Picnic**, hosted by St. Bart's. 10:30 AM

Sunday, October 18: **Pet Blessing AND Grace Night**. A combo platter of fun in our pavilion!

Friday, Nov 6 - Sunday, Nov 8: **Shoals Parish Retreat at Camp McDowell!** A weekend of fun with our friends from Trinity and St. Bart's. *Sign ups begin August 1st!*

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.

