

Grace Episcopal Church

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

The Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

August 30, 2026 9:30 AM

Holy Eucharist



Interpreting This Week's Prayer

Collect of the Day: *Lord of all power and might, the author and giver of all good things: Graft in our hearts the love of your Name; increase in us true religion; nourish us with all goodness; and bring forth in us the fruit of good works; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever. Amen.*

Dear God: I want to be a part of your orchard. Place the branch of Jesus' goodness alongside me; tie us together with your Holy Spirit; and make us one tree. With Jesus as part of me, let his devotion to you and his compassion for others flow through every one of my limbs and leaves. Water me with the waters of baptism and feed me with the bread and wine of the Eucharist. Help me to produce fruit that makes others strong. In Jesus' name I offer this prayer. Amen.



GRACE
EPISCOPAL CHURCH + SHEFFIELD, ALABAMA

Processional Hymn 686 Come, thou fount of every blessing

Come, thou fount of every blessing, tune my heart to sing thy grace
Streams of mercy never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise
Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above
Praise the mount! Oh, fix me on it, mount of God's unchanging love

Here I find my greatest treasure; hither by thy help, I've come
And I hope, by thy good pleasure, safely to arrive at home
Jesus sought me when a stranger wandering from the fold of God
He, to rescue me from danger, interposed his precious blood

Oh, to grace how great a debtor daily I'm constrained to be
Let thy goodness, like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to thee
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love
Here's my heart, oh, take and seal it, seal it for thy courts above

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 376 vs 1 & 2 Joyful, joyful, we adore thee

Joyful, joyful, we adore thee, God of glory, Lord of love
Hearts unfold like flowers before thee, praising thee, their sun above
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness; drive the dark of doubt away
Giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day

All thy works with joy surround thee, earth and heaven reflect thy rays
Stars and angels sing around thee, center of unbroken praise
Field and forest, vale and mountain, blooming meadow, flashing sea
Chanting bird and flowing fountain, call us to rejoice in thee

Collect of the Day

Lord of all power and might, the author and giver of all good things: Graft in our hearts the love of your Name; increase in us true religion; nourish us with all goodness; and bring forth in us the fruit of good works; 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

Exodus 3:1-15

Last week we began the story of Moses, Jacob's descendant who became a "Prince of Egypt." At age 40, Moses fled Egypt after murdering an Egyptian man who was abusing a Hebrew slave. He is now 80. Since that time, he has been living among the Midianites and is married to a woman named Zipporah (Jethro's daughter). Here, God calls him to the task that will define the final 40 years of his life: helping God to free Jacob's family from captivity in Egypt and lead them back to Canaan. Clearly, retirement is not an option with God! "I AM" in Hebrew is closely related to the word, "Yahweh," which is God's proper name.

Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian; he led his flock beyond the wilderness, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire out of a bush; he looked, and the bush was blazing, yet it was not consumed. Then Moses said, "I must turn aside and look at this great sight, and see why the bush is not burned up." When the Lord saw that he had turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am." Then he said, "Come no closer! Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground." He said further, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.

Then the Lord said, "I have observed the misery of my people who are in Egypt; I have heard their cry on account of their taskmasters. Indeed, I know their sufferings, and I have come down to deliver them from the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey, to the country of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. The cry of the Israelites has now come to me; I have also seen how the Egyptians oppress them. So come, I will send you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt."

But Moses said to God, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh, and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?" He said, "I will be with you; and this shall be the sign for you that it is I who sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall worship God on this mountain." But Moses said to God, "If I come to the Israelites and say to them, 'The God of your ancestors has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' what shall I say to them?"

God said to Moses, "I am who I am." He said further, "Thus you shall say to the Israelites, 'I am has sent me to you.'" God also said to Moses, "Thus you shall say to the Israelites, 'The Lord, the God of your ancestors, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you':

This is my name forever,
and this my title for all generations.

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

Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 45c *Confitemini Domino*

*This psalm complements the first reading by telling the story of Israel and Moses.
Aaron is Moses' biological brother, a priest.*

- 1 Give thanks to the Lord and call upon his Name; *
make known his deeds among the peoples.
- 2 Sing to him, sing praises to him, *
and speak of all his marvelous works.
- 3 Glory in his holy Name; *
let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice.
- 4 Search for the Lord and his strength; *
continually seek his face.
- 5 Remember the marvels he has done, *
his wonders and the judgments of his mouth,
- 6 O offspring of Abraham his servant, *
O children of Jacob his chosen.
- 23 Israel came into Egypt, *
and Jacob became a sojourner in the land of Ham.
- 24 The Lord made his people exceedingly fruitful; *
he made them stronger than their enemies;
- 25 Whose heart he turned, so that they hated his people, *
and dealt unjustly with his servants.
- 26 He sent Moses his servant, *
and Aaron whom he had chosen.
- 45 Hallelujah!

The Second Lesson

Romans 12:9-21

Paul continues to describe the character of Christian ethics for both Gentiles and Jews. These verses would make a perfect “In this house we believe...” sign!

Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers.

Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God; for it is written, “Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.” No, “if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink; for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads.” Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

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

Gospel Hymn 488

Be thou my vision

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

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 Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Matthew 16:21-28

This exchange between Jesus and Peter is especially important because it occurs immediately after Peter identifies Jesus as the Messiah. As we saw last week, Peter got the “who” right. Today, however, Peter rejects the “how.” When Jesus mentions Satan, think back to the temptations he passed through in Matthew 4. Jesus hears the same voice that tried to give him a way out at the beginning of this ministry in Peter’s insistence that Jesus not face his cross. The “way of the cross” that Jesus outlines here is the foundation for the ethics Paul lays out in Romans, including the admonition to leave vengeance to God.

Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, “God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you.” But he turned and said to Peter, “Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.”

Then Jesus told his disciples, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life?

“For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

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

Elijah, Reagan, Penney, The Booth Family, Suzy, Betty, Dan, Ro, Heather, Gail, Jessica, George, Jacquelyn, Pamela, Doug, Charles, Dennis, Eric, Larry, Alex, & Bitty.

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:
Susan & Ray Balch, Nancy Byrd, Taylor Richardson, Sydney Byrd, Susan & Ron Kirkland, Lynn Paxton-Romine, & Jan Scofield.

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 145, *Sing Alleluia to the Lord* **Grace Choir & Musicians**
All. III

Sing alleluia to the Lord

Jesus is risen from the dead

Jesus is Lord of heav'n and earth

Jesus, I love You, You're my King

Doxology

People and Celebrant, saying together

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 say this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Sanctus

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 Music

The Goodness of God

Nancy Bolte, piano

Postcommunion Prayer

The Celebrant and People continue

Eternal God, heavenly Father,
you have graciously accepted us as living members
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ,
and you have fed us with spiritual food
in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.
Send us now into the world in peace,
and grant us strength and courage
to love and serve you
with gladness and singleness of heart;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Blessing

Recessional Hymn 671 Amazing grace! how sweet the sound

Amazing grace! How sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me
I once was lost but now am found
Was blind but now I see

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear
And grace my fears relieved
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed

The Lord has promised good to me
His word my hope secures
He will my shield and portion be
As long as life endures

Through many dangers, toils, and snares
I have already come
'Tis grace that brought me safe thus far
And grace will lead me home

When we've been there ten thousand years
Bright shining as the sun
We've no less days to sing God's praise
Than when we'd first begun

Dismissal

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

Servants Today – August 30

VOD
David McKinley

Safety
Trent Scott

Greeter
Jackie & Jim Noles

Usher
Amy Daniel

Reader
Rob Martin

Acolytes
Morgan Robinson
& Bob Allan

Chalice
Patti Thorne
& Rev. Josh Vacik

Server
Bob Allan

Cross
Jen Davis

Altar Guild

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

Fellowship

May Woodie Christopher

The altar flowers are given to the glory of God, and in honor of Ray and Susan Balch's 51st wedding anniversary by Rusty and Annisa Balch and their family.

**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

Chris Earl
Kris Walls
Troy Youngblood

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

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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



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 CHOIR REHEARSAL – 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)

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

CAN YOU ATTEND THE SHOALS PARISH RETREAT @ CAMP MCDOWELL?

Grace, Trinity, & St. Bart's will be at Camp McDowell November 6-8 for our yearly Shoals Parish Retreat.

There are 3 different options to attend:

- 1) 2-night stay option (Friday - Sunday)
- 2) 1-night stay option (Friday-Saturday or Saturday-Sunday)
- 3) Day trip option (Saturday only)

Please let Danielle or Lane know if you plan to attend, and which option you choose!
Need assistance? Scholarships are available!

SHOALS SHELTER SUMMER COOL-DOWN DAYS

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

August 27: Ellen Black provides lunch (256)443-6621

September 10: Bunny Willard and Barney Martin provides lunch (256)762-0987

September 24: OPEN

If you can help one of the above lunch hosts, reach out to them by text or call! If you can provide lunch on 9/10, let Danielle or Lane know!

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!

Sunday, Nov 1: **All Saints' Evening Prayer** at Historic St. John's in Tusculumbia at 3:30 PM

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 1!!!*

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.

