

# Grace Church in the Mountains

April 11, 2021 | 8:00 am



## Second Sunday of Easter

WELCOME! / ¡BIENVENIDOS!  
MISSION FOCUS 2021

Celebrating that Christ is all and in all

by

Seeking      Inviting

Belonging      Serving

Reverencing God's Creation

We are honored by your presence as we gather as God's people to worship in the "beauty of holiness" through our ancient liturgy, contemporary prayers, and vibrant community. Audio and visual aids are available. Ask an usher for assistance.

# THE WORD OF GOD

## OPENING ACCLAMATION

*The people standing, the Presider says*

*Presider* Alleluia. Christ is risen.

*People* **The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

*The following is said, all standing*

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.

## THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

*Presider:* The Lord be with you

*People:* **And also with you**

*Presider:* Let us pray

*All:* Almighty and everlasting God, who in the Paschal mystery established the new covenant of reconciliation: Grant that all who have been reborn into the fellowship of Christ's Body may show forth in their lives what they profess by their faith; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

## FIRST READING: Acts 4:32-35

*A Reading from the book of Acts*

<sup>32</sup>The community of believers was one in heart and mind. None of them would say, "This is mine!" about any of their possessions, but held everything in common. <sup>33</sup>The apostles continued to bear powerful witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and an abundance of grace was at work among them all. <sup>34</sup>There were no needy persons among them. Those who owned properties or houses would sell them, bring the proceeds from the sales, <sup>35</sup>and place them in the care and under the authority of the apostles. Then it was distributed to anyone who was in need.

*Lector:* The Word of the Lord.

*People:* **Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM: 133

<sup>1</sup>Oh, how good and pleasant it is, \*  
when brethren live together in unity!

<sup>2</sup>It is like fine oil upon the head \*  
that runs down upon the beard,

<sup>3</sup>Upon the beard of Aaron, \*  
and runs down upon the collar of his robe.

<sup>4</sup>It is like the dew of Hermon \*  
that falls upon the hills of Zion.

<sup>5</sup>For there the LORD has ordained the blessing: \*  
life for evermore.

## SECOND READING: 1 John 1:1-2:2

*A reading from the first letter of John*

We announce to you what existed from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have seen and our hands handled, about the word of life. <sup>2</sup>The life was revealed, and we have seen, and we testify and announce to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was revealed to us. <sup>3</sup>What we have seen and heard, we also announce it to you so that you can have fellowship with us. Our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ. <sup>4</sup>We are writing these things so that our joy can be complete.

<sup>5</sup>This is the message that we have heard from him and announce to you: "God is light and there is no darkness in him at all." <sup>6</sup>If we claim, "We have fellowship with him," and live in the darkness, we are lying and do not act truthfully. <sup>7</sup>But if we live in the light in the same way as he is in the light, we have fellowship with each other, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, cleanses us from every sin. <sup>8</sup>If we claim, "We don't have any sin," we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. <sup>9</sup>But if we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and cleanse us from everything we've done wrong. <sup>10</sup>If we claim, "We have never sinned," we make him a liar and his word is not in us.

<sup>2</sup> My little children, I'm writing these things to you so that you don't sin. But if you do sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous one. <sup>2</sup> He is God's way of dealing with our sins, not only ours but the sins of the whole world.

*Lector:* The Word of the Lord.

*People:* **Thanks be to God.**

(Please stand)

## GOSPEL: John 20:19-31

*Presider:* The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John

*People:* **Glory to you, Lord Christ**

<sup>19</sup> It was still the first day of the week. That evening, while the disciples were behind closed doors because they were afraid of the Jewish authorities, Jesus came and stood among them. He said, "Peace be with you." <sup>20</sup> After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. When the disciples saw the Lord, they were filled with joy. <sup>21</sup> Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father sent me, so I am sending you." <sup>22</sup> Then he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. <sup>23</sup> If you forgive anyone's sins, they are forgiven; if you don't forgive them, they aren't forgiven."

<sup>4</sup> Thomas, the one called Didymus,<sup>u</sup> one of the Twelve, wasn't with the disciples when Jesus came. <sup>25</sup> The other disciples told him, "We've seen the Lord!"

But he replied, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands, put my finger in the wounds left by the nails, and put my hand into his side, I won't believe."

<sup>26</sup> After eight days his disciples were again in a house and Thomas was with them. Even though the doors were locked, Jesus entered and stood among them. He said, "Peace be with you." <sup>27</sup> Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here. Look at my hands. Put your hand into my side. No more disbelief. Believe!"

<sup>28</sup> Thomas responded to Jesus, "My Lord and my God!"

<sup>29</sup> Jesus replied, "Do you believe because you see me? Happy are those who don't see and yet believe."

<sup>30</sup> Then Jesus did many other miraculous signs in his disciples' presence, signs that aren't recorded in this scroll. <sup>31</sup> But these things are written so that you will believe that Jesus is the Christ, God's Son, and that believing, you will have life in his name.

*Presider:* The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ

*People:* **Praise to you, Lord Christ**

## THE SERMON

### 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

We join our hearts and voices in praying for ourselves, our neighbors, the church, the world.

*My Lord, and my God. Amen. Alleluia.*

Even as your people, living in your world, as we praise your name, we recognize a twinge of fear and doubt in our hearts, we ask you to manifest your presence in our lives in a tangible and glorious way.

*We pray to you, My Lord, and my God. Amen. Alleluia.*

We pray for your followers throughout the world, that they have an experience of your love for themselves, and a genuine experience of love with each other.

*We pray to you, My Lord, and my God. Amen. Alleluia.*

We pray for those in authority everywhere, that they are sensitive to the needs of those they serve, that they create environments in which integrity, truth, and justice flourish.

*We pray to you, My Lord, and my God. Amen. Alleluia.*

We bring before you those who are on our hearts this day, who are suffering from spiritual or physical pain, who are paralyzed with anxiety and despair. Come into their lives with powerful healing, and into their hearts with words of comfort and peace. Hold those dying today close to your heart and welcome them into your eternal light and life.

*We pray to you, My Lord, and my God. Amen. Alleluia.*

*The Presider adds a concluding collect.*

### THE PEACE

*Presider:* The peace of the Lord be always with you.

*People:* **And also with you**

*Then the Ministers and the People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.*

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

## THE HOLY COMMUNION

### OFFERTORY SENTENCE

*The Presider says*

Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God. *Ephesians 5:2*

*All stand.*

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

*Presider:* The Lord be with you.

*People:* **And also with you.**

*Presider:* Lift up your hearts.

*People:* **We lift them to the Lord.**

*Presider:* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

*People:* **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

But chiefly are we bound to praise thee for the glorious resurrection of thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord; for he is the very Paschal Lamb, who was sacrificed for us, and hath taken away the sin of the world; who by his death hath destroyed death, and by his rising to life again hath won for us everlasting life.

Therefore, joining with Angels and Archangels and with the faithful of every generation, we lift our voices with all creation as we say:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

*People stand*

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:

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

*The Presider 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.

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

**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,**

**forever and ever. Amen.**

## THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD & INVITATION

*Presider:* Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

*People:* **therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia!**

*Presider:* The Gifts of God for the People of God.

## INVITATION

*Presider:* This is the table, not of the Church, but of God.

It is made ready for those who love God and for those who want to love God more.

So, come, you who have much faith and you who have little,

you who have been here often and you who have not been here long,

you who have tried to follow and those who struggle to find the path.

Come, because it is God who invites you.

It is God's will that those who desire to do so should meet God here.

## COMMUNION

*Ushers will direct you forward to receive the body and blood. If you prefer a blessing, simply cross your arms over your chest.*

*Gluten-free wafers are available. Please sing the hymn below as others receive communion.*

## POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray.

*Presider and People*

**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

May Almighty God, who has redeemed us and made us his children through the resurrection of his Son our Lord, bestow upon you the riches of his blessing. ***Amen.***

May God, who through the water of baptism has raised us from sin into newness of life, make you holy and worthy to be united with Christ for ever. ***Amen.***

May God, who has brought us out of bondage to sin into true and lasting freedom in the Redeemer, bring you to your eternal inheritance. ***Amen.***

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. ***Amen.***

## DISMISSAL

*Presider:* Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

*All:* Thanks be to God.

## SERVING TODAY

**Lector/EM** 8:00 Laura Armour/Lori Yerse  
10:30 Ralph Andrew/Mary Lockey  
**Counters** Dan Linker, Melanie Cyre  
**Altar Guild** Stephen Hattendorf, Edwina Costley

## IN OUR PRAYERS

**Members of Grace:** Carol Ploch; Rachel Robles; Tony & Linda Sexton, Kim Campbell, Vickie Pope, Becky Prevost, and our Homebound Members: Elizabeth Weber, Evelyn Overman, Elizabeth Clark, Katherine Calhoun, & Charles Baker.

**Friends of Grace:** Roney Sutton, friend of Melissa VanNoppen; Tristain Gracie, son of Valerie & Michael Gracie; Wendell Harrison, husband of Betty Harrison; For the upcoming marriage of Ashleigh Wells & Suman Medda; Jimmy, uncle of Lauri SoJourney; Barbara Bagnall; Ethan Schilling and Jay Manalo, neighbors of the Clarys & Lodicos; Pamela Cocke, friend of Michael Lodico; Dottie & Sal, friends of Dottie Jarvis; Joe Mitchell, friend of Lauri SoJourney; Carmen Suter, Aunt of & Joelle & Jeff Clark, friends of Karlinne Wulf-Lamphear; Debby Coughlin, sister of Dale McDonald; Joe Dugan, cousin of Bob Stambaugh; Joni Marie Becker, friend of Edwina Costley; Monica, friend of Annelle Woggon & Kenneth Ratcliffe; Kathy McNeil, former organist at Grace Church; Carrie Schuler, friend of Lauren & Blair Bishop; Debbie Pitcock, friend of Mariah Nehus; Jason Nurse, son of Peter & Jane Nurse.

**For those who have died** Anne Crocker, parishioner; Lola Moss, aunt of Martha Coats.

**For those on the front-  
lines of our public health  
crisis** Caitlin Williams, psychologist; Margaret Violet, DSS worker; Sydney Franklin, Sierra McCleary Emily Mackey, nurse at Harris Hospital; Tucker & Campbell Austin, daughters of Clyde & Walt Austin; Adam McDonald; Martha Hartman Woodburn; Sarah, niece of Betsy Stecher; and our members Valerie Gracie who works at Urgent Care, & Sara Warren-Hill, Labor and Delivery Nurse.

## THIS WEEK

Sunday, April 11		Grace prepares meal for Pathways
Tuesday, April 13	Noon	Deadline for eNews & bulletin announcements
	7:30	Mid-Life Grace for Women
Wednesday, April 14	10:30	Funeral for Anne Crocker followed by reception
	Noon	Holy Eucharist with Healing Prayer*
Thursday, April 15	10:00	Marthas Knitting Group via Zoom*
	6:00	Vestry Meeting
		Choir Practice in-person
Friday, April 16	9:00	Morning Prayer via Facebook
	4:00	Children & Family Storytime around the fire pit

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Fresh Air Fellowship @ Cataloochee / Saturday, April 24:** Make plans to join the Grace parish family at Cataloochee for a picnic lunch, fellowship and more. Mary Lou Daily is coordinating this for us and would appreciate your ideas and support. Details forthcoming.

**Deadline to order nametags is April 15<sup>th</sup>.** See Al Fortney to place an order or let the office know.

**Dementia Caregiver Support** Parishioner and Methodist Pastor Adele Novotney will be offering a 5-6 week class to support caregivers, especially those who care for a loved one with dementia. These hour-long classes will likely begin in late April. Each class will include prayer, a specific education topic such as self-care and time for fellowship. We are working to identify a date and time. Contact Adele ([czechforward@gmail.com](mailto:czechforward@gmail.com)) the parish office or Joslyn+ for more information.

**Parish Fair / Saturday, July 24:** We look forward to the return of our Parish Fair this summer. Fellowship & community outreach are our primary goals for this event. We will be "right-sizing" the fair to take into account both COVID and what our space can handle. Contact Laurel Destry with questions, ideas, or to volunteer.

**Our Gift to the Church Universal: *The Book of Common Prayer* / Sundays, May 2 & 9:** Every denomination has special gifts that it brings to the universal church. The BCP is one of ours. Come learn about its history and hear suggestions about how it might support and deepen your spirituality. On the Deck and Live-streamed at 9:15 am.

## GRACE CHURCH IN THE MOUNTAINS, EPISCOPAL

394 N. Haywood Street, Waynesville, NC 28786

(828) 456-6029 • [www.gracewaynesville.com](http://www.gracewaynesville.com)

**General email:** [admin@gracewaynesville.com](mailto:admin@gracewaynesville.com)

**Rector:** [rector@gracewaynesville.com](mailto:rector@gracewaynesville.com)

**Music Director:** [music@gracewaynesville.com](mailto:music@gracewaynesville.com)

**Treasurer:** [finance@gracewaynesville.com](mailto:finance@gracewaynesville.com)

**Parish Administrator/Bookkeeper:** [admin@gracewaynesville.com](mailto:admin@gracewaynesville.com)

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*The Rt. Rev. José A. McLoughlin, Bishop of Western North Carolina*

*The Rev. Joslyn Ogden Schaefer, Rector*

*The Revs. Orion Davis, Earle Pratt, & Harriet Simmons, Priest Associates*

*Virginia Moe, Music Director*

*Andrea Croskery, Parish Administrator/Bookkeeper*

*Tony Caldwell, Sexton*

## MEMBERS OF THE VESTRY

Dale McDonald, Sr. Warden (2021) Lauri SoJourney (2021) Mary Lockey (2021)	Michael Lodico, Jr. Warden (2022) Patricia (Pat) Robinson (2022) Laurel Destry (2022)	Laura Armour (2023) Larry Davis (2023) Mariah Nehus (2023)
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Sandra Curtis & Walt Austin, Treasurers

Karen Morris, Clerk

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