

Holy Eucharist, Rite II

Fifth Sunday in Easter | 10:00 am

April 28, 2024



4040 W Bellfort Ave, Houston
832.667.8601
graceinhouston.org

Welcome to Grace Episcopal Church! ¡Bienvenidos a Grace!



“Grace’s mission is to live out the unconditional and reconciling love of God with generous hospitality, inspired worship, and inclusive community.”

Restrooms are in two places. Through the side doors and down the hall, there are two, single-stall restrooms. If you keep going down the hallway to the Parish Hall and turn left, there are multi-stall restrooms (with handicap stalls).

Coffee Hour takes place directly after the 10 am service in the Parish Hall. Exit the sanctuary through the side doors and turn right down the hallway. Keep going and you’ll reach the Parish Hall!

Welcome! To meet with a clergy member, please fill out of Welcome Card located under the seat in front of you.

About our Worship

- We use a set service order called a “liturgy,” taken from the Book of Common Prayer located under the seat in front of you. The order of worship stays (mostly) the same week to week and we share it with all other Episcopal Churches.
- Our worship involves words, music, and movement. Items italicized or listed in red (*rubrics*) are notes about when we stand, sit, and kneel, and what we say and sing together. You are welcome to follow the rubrics or simply sit and listen.
- Children are always welcome. Children’s Chapel takes place between the Collect and the Peace. Younger children and their caregivers are welcome to sit in our “Pray Ground,” located near the back of the sanctuary, as desired.

Scan to
Make an
Offering



Scan to
Dedicate
Flowers



Vestry

Colin Dunham, *Senior Warden*

✉ SeniorWarden@graceinhouston.org

Phillip Kimbrough, *Junior Warden*

✉ JuniorWarden@graceinhouston.org

Jon Buchanan, Bertha Spadone, John Hannan, Pat Mitchell, Thomas Borowski, Kasia Hinkson, Natalia Maradiaga, Robert Burlingame, *Clerk*, Gail Keller, *Treasurer*

School Board

Vyonne Carter-Johnson, *President*, Zach Duran, Christie Hudlow, Peter Koelling, Elise Koestner, Sarah Malcolm, Katie Degan, Derek Zerber

Musicians

Paul English, *piano and director*; Lindsey Weissman, *soprano*; Mitzi Coleman, *alto*; Brady Weldon, *baritone*; Horace Alexander Young III, *sax and vocals*; Katherine Moore, *violin*; Barrett Sills, *cello*; Rob Erickson, *percussion*

Clergy & Staff

The Reverend Wendy Wilkinson, *Interim Rector*

✉ interimrector@graceinhouston.org

The Reverend Dawn Shepler, *Deacon*

✉ deacon@graceinhouston.org

Italivi Mena, *Office Manager & Tech Assistant*

✉ office@graceinhouston.org

The Reverend Alejandro Montes, *Assisting Priest*

Paul English, *Music Director*

Caitlin Powell, *Head of School*

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Prelude

Air on the G String (J S Bach)

In silence, let us prepare our hearts and minds for worship to begin.

Opening Hymn *Located in The Blue Hymnal*

H182 Christ is Alive!

Celebrant Alleluia! Christ is Risen.

People **The Lord is Risen Indeed, Alleluia!**

The Celebrant and People say together

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.

Gloria

L243 Glory, Glory, Hallelujah

Glory, Glory hallelujah,

Lord, we praise your Holy name. (repeat)

1 Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to His people on earth.

2 Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.

3 Lord Jesus Christ, only son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,

4 You take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;

5 You are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.

6 For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are
the Lord,

7 You alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ with
the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father.

Refrain

Refrain

Amen.

Glory to God, #243 from Lift Every Voice and Sing II — Music: Carl Haywood (b. 1949) from Mass for Grace. Copyright © 1992 Carl Haywood.

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

The Celebrant prays

Almighty God, whom truly to know is everlasting life: Grant us so perfectly to know your Son Jesus Christ to be the way, the truth, and the life, that we may steadfastly follow his steps in the way that leads to eternal life; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Then, as the people are seated, children ages 4-10 are invited to follow the cross to Children's Chapel.

The First Lesson

Reader A reading from Acts

8:26-40

An angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a wilderness road.) So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

"Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter,
and like a lamb silent before its shearer,
so he does not open his mouth.

In his humiliation justice was denied him.
Who can describe his generation?
For his life is taken away from the earth."

The eunuch asked Philip, "About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?" He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 22:24-30

The People join the Lector in reading the Psalm responsively by whole verse.

24 My praise is of him in the great assembly; *
I will perform my vows in the presence of those who worship him.

**25 The poor shall eat and be satisfied,
and those who seek the Lord shall praise him: *
"May your heart live for ever!"**

26 All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord, *
and all the families of the nations shall bow before him.

**27 For kingship belongs to the Lord; *
he rules over the nations.**

28 To him alone all who sleep in the earth bow down in worship; *
all who go down to the dust fall before him.

**29 My soul shall live for him;
my descendants shall serve him; *
they shall be known as the Lord's for ever.**

30 They shall come and make known to a people yet unborn *
the saving deeds that he has done.

The Second Lesson

Reader A Reading from 1 John

4:7-21

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. We love because he first loved us. Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

The Gospel

All standing, the Celebrant reads the Gospel, first saying.

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

15:1-8

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

Jesus said to his disciples, "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples."

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord.

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

The Sermon

The Rev. Wendy Wilkinson

The Nicene Creed | El Credo Niceno

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 worshipped 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 People stand as able.

Creemos en un solo Dios, Padre todopoderoso,
Creador de cielo y tierra,
de todo lo visible e invisible.
Creemos en un solo Señor, Jesucristo,
Hijo único de Dios,
nacido del Padre antes de todos los siglos:
Dios de Dios, Luz de Luz,
Dios verdadero de Dios verdadero,
engendrado, no creado,
de la misma naturaleza que el Padre,
por quien todo fue hecho;
que por nosotros y por nuestra salvación
bajó del cielo:
por obra del Espíritu Santo
se encarnó de María, la Virgen,
y se hizo hombre.
Por nuestra causa fue crucificado
en tiempos de Poncio Pilato:
padeció y fue sepultado.
Resucitó al tercer día,
según las Escrituras,
subió al cielo
y está sentado a la derecha del Padre.
De nuevo vendrá con gloria
para juzgar a vivos y muertos,
y su reino no tendrá fin.
Creemos en el Espíritu Santo, Señor
y dador de vida,
que procede del Padre y del Hijo,
que con el Padre y el Hijo
recibe una misma adoración y gloria,
y que habló por los profetas.
Creemos en la Iglesia, que es una, santa, católica
y apostólica.
Reconocemos un solo Bautismo
para el perdón de los pecados.
Esperamos la resurrección de los muertos
y la vida del mundo futuro. Amén.

Prayers of the People

The Prayer Leader begins

Today we say Alleluia, for what was dead shall live; what was dark shall shine; what was forgotten shall be remembered, for the Lord is risen and walks among us. Let us with all confidence bring before God the needs of all our world, asking God for renewal, saying: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

God of life, in gratitude and great joy we laud you for the gifts of Christ's resurrection. Give all God's people hope throughout the world; for Christ is risen, so we pray: **Lord, hear our Prayer.**

May this community here gathered have the persistent faith of Mary Magdalene and the surprised belief of Peter and John. May we long to be God's sign of life in our world; for Christ has risen, so we pray: **Lord, hear our Prayer.**

Guide the Search Committee of Grace as they discern the calling of our next Rector. Grant us grace to entrust you with the future of your Church and the courage to follow the guidance of the Holy Spirit, for Christ is risen, so we pray: **Lord, hear our Prayer.**

Honoring the gift of Christ's risen body, may we rise to serve all those whose needs keep them from seeing themselves as the image of God; for Christ is risen, so we pray: **Lord, hear our Prayer.**

For all who have need of the gift of Easter; for all who journey from illness to health, from despair to hope, from grief to consolation, from loneliness to love; and for all of those listed on our Prayer List this morning _____ that death and illness may have no more power over us; for Christ is risen, so we pray: **Lord, hear our Prayer.**

For all who suffer and all who mourn, that the Lord God will wipe away all tears, for Christ is risen; so we pray: **Lord, hear our Prayer.**

For the people living in war zones throughout the world. We pray for peace and the laying down of weapons of war. We pray for those who fear for tomorrow, that your Spirit would comfort and draw near to them. for Christ is risen; so we pray: **Lord, hear our Prayer.**

May all who have died be received at your heavenly banquet and may we be one in faith with all of them, for our life is hidden with Christ in God; for Christ is risen, so we pray: **Lord, hear our Prayer.**

The Celebrant concludes with

Alleluia! Risen Christ, you reveal the kingdom of God, a new covenant of incarnate love. Accept the prayers of this faith community and give us your grace to serve your kingdom on earth. **Alleluia! Amen.**

The Celebrant says

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence may be kept.

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

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

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

Welcome and Announcements

If you are new or visiting with us today, we invite you to fill out a Welcome Card located under the seat in front of you, or scan the QR code.



Blessing for Birthdays and Anniversaries

O God, our times are in your hand: Look with favor, we pray, on your servants as they begin another year. Grant that they may grow in wisdom and grace, and strengthen their trust in your goodness all the days of their life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Holy Communion

The Offertory

“Ascribe to the Lord the honor, due his Name bring offerings and come into his courts.”

Offertory Anthem

The Ten (Paul English)

1. I am your God and none shall come before me.
2. And worship no idols of silver or gold.
3. Take not my name in vain.
4. Remember the Sabbath the day of rest.
5. Honor thy father and mother and
6. Do not kill.
7. Thou shall not commit the sin of adult'ry, and
8. Thou shall not steal.
9. Neither shall you bear false witness
10. Nor covet what is not yours.

You should love your neighbor;
love your neighbor.
And love your Lord with all of your heart
and all of your
soul and all of your body,
with all of your mind and all of your strength.
I am the Lord, your God.
I am the Lord, your God.
I am the Lord, your God.

Doxology

**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.**

The Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer B (*Book of Common Prayer*, 367)

The Celebrant says

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, the Celebrant proceeds with the prayer.

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

Because in the mystery of the Word made flesh, you have caused a new light to shine in our hearts, to give the knowledge of your glory in the face of your Son 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

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord
God of power and might** (*repeat*)

**Heaven and earth are full, full of your glory
Hosannah, Hosannah, in the highest**

**Blessed, blessed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord** (*repeat*)

**Hosannah, in the highest
Hosannah, hosannah, in the highest**

The people stand or kneel as able. The Celebrant continues with the prayer.

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, 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, according to his command, O Father,

Celebrant and People

We remember his death,

We proclaim his resurrection,

We await his coming in glory;

The Celebrant continues with the prayer.

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with _____ and all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation. 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 | El Padre Nuestro

Celebrant 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,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

**Padre nuestro que estás en el cielo,
santificado sea tu Nombre,
venga tu reino,
hágase tu voluntad,
en la tierra como en el cielo.
Danos hoy nuestro pan de cada día.
Perdona nuestras ofensas,
como también nosotros
perdonamos a los que nos ofenden.
No nos dejes caer en tentación
y líbranos del mal.
Porque tuyo es el reino,
tuyo es el poder, y tuya es la gloria,
ahora y por siempre. Amén.**

The Breaking of the Bread

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept.

Celebrant Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

People Therefore let us keep the feast.

Fraction Anthem

**One bread, one body, one Lord of all,
One cup of blessing which we bless.
And we, though many, throughout the earth,
We are one body in this one Lord.**

Celebrant The Gift of God for the People of God.

How to Receive Communion:

The ushers will signal when it is time for you to move to the front to receive Communion. If you are not able to process to the altar rail, please let an usher know so that Eucharistic ministers may serve you from your seat.

Holy Communion may be received in the Bread only ("in one kind"), or in both Bread and Wine ("in both kinds"). Wine may be received by dipping the Bread (wafer) slightly into the chalice ("intinction") or by drinking directly from the chalice.

Those not receiving the Sacrament may approach with others, crossing arms across the chest to indicate a desire for the Priest to administer a prayer of blessing.

If you would like to pray with someone, our healing prayer ministers are waiting to pray with you in the Columbarium Chapel (back right of the sanctuary).

Communion Music

Located in The Blue Hymnal

H304 I Come with Joy

The Prayer after Communion

After Communion, the Celebrant says

Let us pray.

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.

The Benediction

The Celebrant blesses the people.

Closing Hymn

Located in The Blue Hymnal

H438 Tell Out My Soul

The Dismissal

Deacon Let us bless the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

We invite you to join us for Coffee Hour in the Parish Hall. (Turn left out of the sanctuary, then right down the hallway.)

Printed music arranged by © Paul English

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Announcements

Have an announcement you'd like to share? Submit your information no later than the Tuesday before the Sunday you'd like it to be shared to office@graceinhouston.org.

Help Us Support Our Seminarian! - Join us in supporting our Seminarian, Jonathan Maresca, as he prepares for his ordination this summer! Jonathan is in need of vestments for his new ministry as a member of the clergy, and we're aiming to raise \$1,000 to help him acquire them. You can contribute during Sunday services using the offering plate or by giving online at www.graceinhouston.org/giving. Simply select "Seminarian Gift" from the giving options to make your contribution. Let's come together as a community to support Jonathan in this important step of his vocational journey!

Support Our Confirmands - Please come and support our confirmands:

Araceli and Nils Jonsson,
Cody Moore,
Gabriela Austgen,
Stephanie Antich,
Becky Cateora
and Chloe Porter

as they are confirmed and received into the Episcopal Church by Bishop Doyle at Palmer Memorial Episcopal Church on Wednesday, May 1st at 7:00pm. They completed the confirmation classes at Grace in the fall. Palmer is at 6221 Main St Houston

Sunday School - ORIGINAL BLESSING: PUTTING SIN IN ITS RIGHTFUL PLACE by Danielle Shroyer.

Grace Sunday school is discussing the ORIGINAL BLESSING: PUTTING SIN IN ITS RIGHTFUL PLACE by Danielle Shroyer. Helen Rose Ebaugh will facilitate the discussion at 9:00 in the parish hall. Even if you do not yet have the book, please come participate in a lively discussion.

We Need Your Books or Magazines – Clients at the Harris County Psychiatric Center could benefit from your gently used softcover books or magazines in Spanish and English. Please contact The Rev. Dawn Shepler for more information at Deacon@graceinhouston.org

Coffee Hour Hosts Needed — Sign up for a Sunday on the clipboard in Parish Hall or contact Ivy Mena (office@graceinhouston.org), and we will connect with you and get all the details. Offerings can be as simple as fruit or cookies, or as creative and fancy as you'd like to go. Thank you!



PLEASE COME AND SUPPORT OUR CONFIRMANDS:

ARACELI AND NILS JONSSON.

CODY MOORE.

GABRIELA AUSTGEN.

STEPHANIE ANTICH.

BECKY CATEORA

AND CHLOE PORTER

WEDNESDAY, MAY 1ST AT 7:00PM.

Palmer is at 6221 Main St
Houston