

Sunday \sim April 28, 2024

To all who are weary
and need rest
To all who are friendless
and desire friendship
To all who believe in God
and wish to worship Him
To all who are grateful
and would give thanks
To all who hunger for prayer
and wish to pray
To all who know sin
and need the Saviour

Grace Episcopal Church opens wide its doors and in the Name of the Lord Jesus bids Welcome.

WELCOME TO GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Episcopalians are followers of Jesus Christ. We say that God was uniquely present in the life of Jesus of Nazareth. One word we use to describe this belief is that God was "incarnate" in Jesus, that is, God's own self was present in Jesus' very body. Following his death, his disciples found that Christ still lived in their midst. Thus, they found themselves connected to God as they discovered themselves to be part of Christ's resurrected body. And that is still the case today. We Episcopalians say that human beings are united to God through Christ.

We take that relationship seriously. When we worship we are called to see the risen Christ in the persons around us. In our daily lives we are called to see the risen Christ in family, acquaintances, and co-workers. Ultimately, we are called to seek and serve Christ in all persons, to strive for justice and peace among all people, and to respect the dignity of every human being.

Our church is not a community of like-minded people. We do not exist for ourselves alone. Instead, we are a people set apart to be the personal presence and witness of God to the world. We struggle with many issues and we disagree with one another, but we still gather each week to hear the story of God's love for us, to ask forgiveness from one another and God, and to offer our lives up to God.

In our teaching, we learn the grace to live with questions that cannot be answered with certainty. In our worship we are nourished for life's journey. In our faith we trust that God is working through every one of us, and that one day God's very self will be evident in all creation. This is the good news that we proclaim, and we believe that it is the good news that leads us to lives of peace, self control, and hope for the future. We invite everyone to join us in that journey.

WORSHIP SERVICES

Sunday 10:00 a.m. Breakfast & Christian Formation 11:00 a.m. Wednesdays 5:30 p.m.

www.gracesiloam.org

* THE CELEBRATION OF THE HOLY EUCHARIST *

According to Rite Two of The Book of Common Prayer (Pg. 355)

Fifth Sunday of Easter April 28, 2024 ~ 10:00 a.m. Service

* The Liturgy of the Word *

The Prelude: Hymn tune-prelude on *St. James* by Healey Willan * *Please stand* *

Hymn 182: "Christ is alive! Let Christians sing"



Words: Brian A. Wren (b. 1936), rev.

Music: Truro, melody from Psalmodia Evangelica, Part II, 1789; harm. Lowell Mason (1792-1872), alt.

Presider Alleluia. Christ is risen.

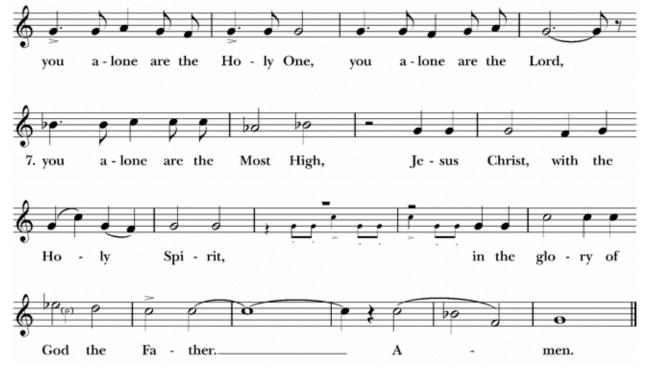
People The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.

Presider

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 278 is sung...all standing





Setting: William Mathias (1934-1992)

* Please note that during the 50 days of the Easter season we will stand for prayers during our Worship services in celebration of the Resurrection. *

Collect of the Day

Presider The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Presider Let us pray.

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.**

❖ Please be seated for the readings ❖

A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

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

Dues, Deus meus

- 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.

A Reading from the First letter of John.

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.

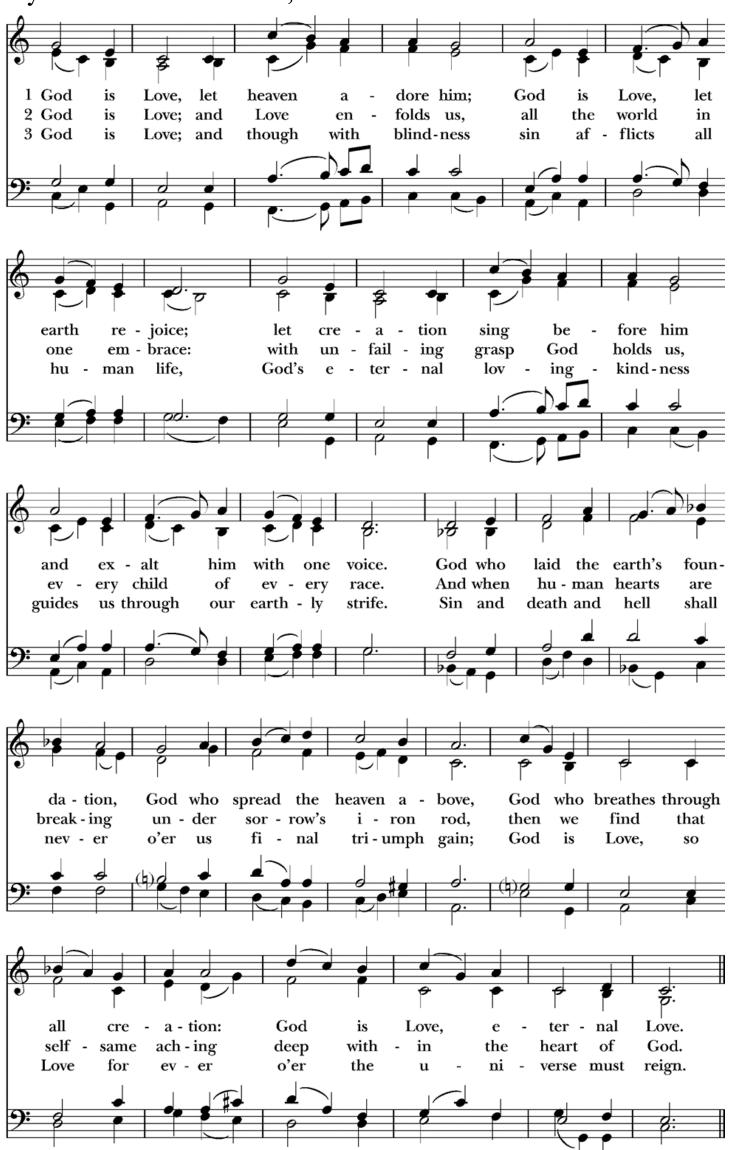
By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. So we have known and believe the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

* All stand for the Hymn and Gospel reading *

Hymn 379: "God is Love, let heaven adore him"



Words: Timothy Rees (1872-1939), alt.

Music: Abbot's Leigh, Cyril Vincent Taylor (1907-1991)

Holy Gospel John 15:1-8

Presider The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to

John.

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."

Presider The Gospel of the Lord.People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Homily

The Rev. Lowell Grisham

Nicene Creed

(BCP Pg. 358)

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.

Prayers of the People

5 Easter, Year A

Presider

As branches of Jesus, the living Vine, abiding in the Spirit of love, we bring our prayers to God: Eternal Loving One, accept the wishes of our hearts as we pray faithfully: For God is love; and perfect love casts out all fear.

Leader

Gracious One, you have called us to abide in your life and to bear witness to Christ the Lamb: Grant that the Church may reveal your love through Jesus, that we might live in him and bear good fruit.

For God is love;

People

and perfect love casts out all fear.

Light of the Word, dominion belongs to you, for you rule over the nations: Raise up for your Church bold witnesses like Philip who will testify to the rich and powerful about God's good news which is perfected in love, so that peace may abound in our time.

For God is love;

People

and perfect love casts out all fear.

Attentive Vinegrower, you tend the branches and fruit of your vineyard extending to the ends of the earth: Let your loving attention reach out to all people who live in suffering and threatening conditions, that they may be restored to life and fruitfulness.

For God is love;

People

and perfect love casts out all fear.

Everyone who loves is born of God and knows God: Inspire all in our community to seek to expand the fruits of compassion and care so that the poor shall eat and be satisfied and all the ends of the earth remember and turn to the Lord.

For God is love;

People

and perfect love casts out all fear.

You have first loved us and called us to love our neighbor as ourselves:

Hear our prayers for all for whom we intercede, especially those we name silently or aloud.

Accept our grateful thanks for your abundance in our lives, especially for those we name silently or aloud.

Gather into your banquet all who have died, may their hearts live forever! We remember especially those we name silently or aloud.

For God is love;

People

and perfect love casts out all fear.

Presider

You have planted us in the nurturing ground of your steadfast

love, O God, and grafted us into the life of your resurrected Son, Jesus: Keep us evermore abiding within your Spirit of love, that we may bear the fruit of reconciliation for all that is and is to come, through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

The Peace

Presider The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People And also with you.

*The members of the community greet one another in peace and then sit for announcements. *

* The Liturgy of Holy Communion *

Presider

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

❖ You may give from your seat by texting "GRACESILOAM" to 73256 ❖

Anthem at the Offertory

Ubi caritas et amor,

Deus ibi est.

Congregavit nos in unum

Christi amor.

Exsultemus et in ipso jucundemur.

Timeamus et amemus Deum vivum.

Et ex corde diligamus

nos sincero. Amen.

Where there is charity and love,
God is there.
The love of Christ has gathered us
together.
Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

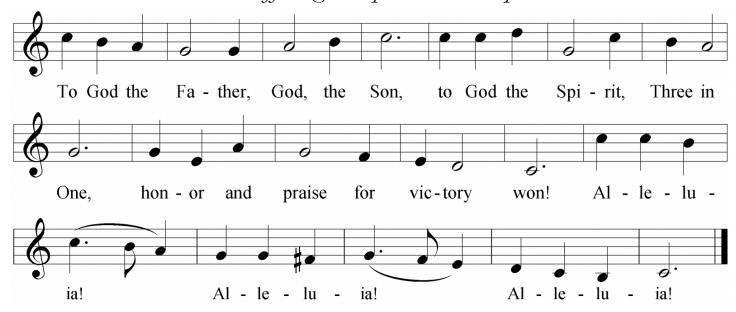
Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Let us revere and love the living God,
and from a sincere heart let us love one
another. Amen.

Text: an antiphon from the Maundy Thursday liturgy; translation by Ron Jeffers

Music: Maurice Duruflé

* Please stand while the offerings are presented and placed on the Altar *



* Please remain standing *

The Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer D (Pg. 372)

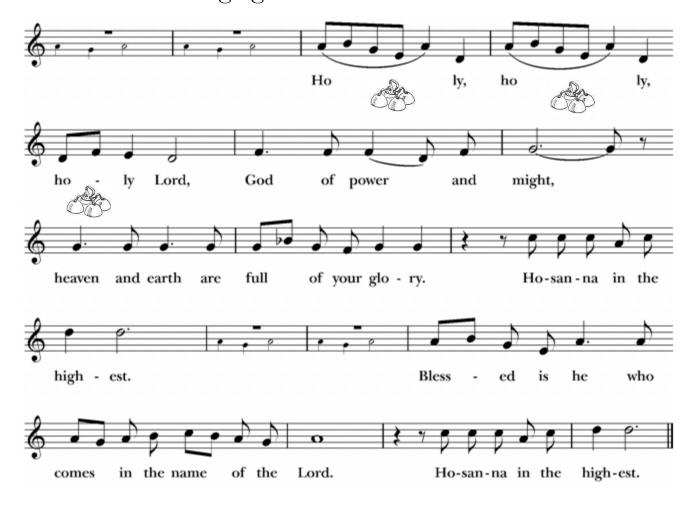
Sursum Corda S-120 sung responsively...



The Presider continues

It is truly right to glorify you, Holy One, and to give you thanks; for you alone are God, living and true, dwelling in light inaccessible from before time and for ever. Fountain of life and source of all goodness, you made all things and fill them with your blessing; you created them to rejoice in the splendor of your radiance. Countless throngs of angels stand before you to serve you night and day; and, beholding the glory of your presence, they offer you unceasing praise. Joining with them, and giving voice to every creature under heaven, we acclaim you, and glorify your Name, as we sing,

Sanctus S-128 sung together...



Setting: William Mathias (1934-1992)

❖ Please remain standing ❖

The Presider continues

We acclaim you, holy God, glorious in power. Your mighty works reveal your wisdom and love. You formed us in your own image, giving the whole world into our care, so that, in obedience to you, our Creator, we might rule and serve all your creatures. When our disobedience took us far from you, you did not abandon us to the power of death. In your mercy you came to our help, so that in seeking you we might find you. Again and again you called us into covenant with you, and through the prophets you taught us to hope for salvation.

Holy God, you loved the world so much that in the fullness of time you sent your only Son to be our Savior. Incarnate by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, he lived as one of us, yet without sin. To the poor he proclaimed the good news of salvation; to prisoners, freedom; to the sorrowful, joy. To fulfill your purpose Jesus gave himself up to death; and, rising from the grave, destroyed death, and made the whole creation new.

And, that we might live no longer for ourselves, but for Christ who died and rose for us, he sent the Holy Spirit, his own first gift for those who believe, to complete his work in the world, and to bring to fulfillment the sanctification of all. When the hour had come for Jesus to be glorified by you, his heavenly Father, having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end; at supper with them Jesus 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 Jesus 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."

Almighty God, we now celebrate this memorial of our redemption. Recalling Christ's death and his descent among the dead, proclaiming his resurrection and ascension to your right hand, awaiting his coming in glory; and offering to you, from the gifts you have given us, this bread and this cup, we praise you and we bless you.

Presider and People together...



The Presider continues

God our Creator, we pray that in your goodness and mercy your Holy Spirit may descend upon us, and upon these gifts, sanctifying them and showing them to be holy gifts for your holy people, the bread of life and the cup of salvation, the Body and Blood of your Son Jesus Christ. Grant that all who share this bread and cup may become one body and one spirit, a living sacrifice in Christ, to the praise of your Name. Remember, Lord, your one holy catholic and apostolic Church, redeemed by the blood of your Christ. Reveal its unity, guard its faith, and preserve it in peace.

Remember Michael, our Presiding Bishop, John our Bishop, Stan, our Rector, and all who minister in your Church.

Remember all your people, and those who seek your truth. Remember all those suffering from natural disasters and from violence at the hands of others.

Remember all who have died in the peace of Christ, and those whose faith is known to you alone; bring them into the place of eternal joy and light.

And grant that we may find our inheritance with the Blessed Virgin Mary, with matriarchs, patriarchs, prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and all the saints who have found favor with you in ages past. We praise you in union with them and give you glory through Jesus Christ our Savior.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, all honor and glory are yours, Almighty God and Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, for ever and ever. **AMEN**.

The Lord's Prayer

Presider 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.

The Breaking of the Bread

a period of silence is kept, followed by...

Fraction Anthem S-155 sung altogether...



Setting: Gerald Near (b. 1942)

The Presider says

The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

* To receive Holy Communion, please come forward and kneel or stand, filling in the altar rail from either the far right to the center, or the center to the left. If preferred, you may request a gluten free wafer when receiving Communion; simply hold one hand turned over. If you wish to receive a blessing instead of the bread and wine, cross your arms over your chest. Once you have received, you may exit to the side and return to your pew. *



Words: Susan Palo Cherwien (b.1953-2021); © 1993 Susan Palo Cherwien Music: *Berglund*, Robert Buckley Farlee (b. 1950); © 1993 Robert Buckley Farlee

Postcommunion Prayer

(Pg. 366)

Presider Let us pray.

Presider and People

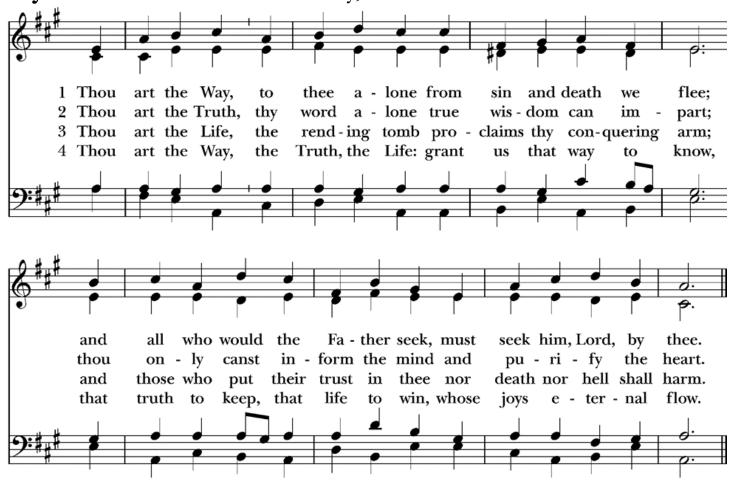
Almighty and everliving God,
we thank you for feeding us
with the spiritual food
of the most precious Body and Blood
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ;
and for assuring us in these holy mysteries
that we are living members of the Body of your Son,
and heirs of your eternal kingdom.
And now, Father, send us out
to do the work you have given us to do,
to love and serve you
as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord.
To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit,
be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

The Blessing

The Presider blesses the people, saying

God is love, and perfect love casts out fear. Fear not, and love one another, because love is from God. Abide in Christ as Christ abides in you, and bear much fruit as his beloved disciples. By this you know that you abide in God and God abides in you, because God has given you the Holy Spirit. And the blessing of our loving God, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be with you and abide in you, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Hymn 457: "Thou art the Way, to thee alone"



Words: George Washington Doane (1799-1859), alt. Music: *St. James*, Raphael Courteville (d. 1735)

The Dismissal

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

The Postlude: Hymn tune-prelude on *Truro* by Franklin D. Ashdown

 \diamond \diamond \diamond \diamond \diamond

If you are a visitor to Grace Episcopal Church, we welcome you and ask that you make yourself known to us by filling out the visitor card in the pew and placing it in the collection plate or handing it to an usher. We also invite you to sign the guest register before leaving.

THE FLOWERS AT THE ALTAR are given to the glory of God and in honor of Bay Greenhill and all that she does, by the Altar Guild.

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES THIS WEEK:

May	1	Bay Greenhill
	1	Travis & Angie Chaney
	1	Casey & Dorothy Letellier
	3	Jeff & Alli Johnson
	4	Hazel Greenhill

* Prayers of the People *

Nancy; Presiding Bishop Michael Curry; Vic; Maggie; Olivia; Jay Hilliard's family; the White family (esp. Lilly); Bobby & family

Bishop Harmon; our seminarian, Andy; Stan & Laurie; Grace Church aspirants & discernment committee

For the air, water, land, plants, animals, and people suffering from natural disasters around the globe; for those suffering from violence at the hands of others; for the healthcare system and all those serving their communities.

***** Announcements *****

ALL ARE INVITED TO ADULT FORUM immediately following the service, where Lowell will be teaching a series on prayer for the month of April.

YOUTH GROUP will be meeting tonight at 5:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY SERVICES until May 8th will be Evening Prayer services at 5:30 p.m. Please join us.

REGISTRATIONS ARE OPEN for summer camp at Camp Mitchell! Scholarships and carpooling options are available through the office, please see Bay for more information.

WE ARE EXCITED TO BE PARTNERING with Canopy NWA to welcome our new refugee neighbors to Siloam Springs! They are currently in need of volunteers to create "Circles of Welcome". The Circle Of Welcome is a team of at least six people who will commit to be the "first friends" for an arriving family. The Circle helps initially with tasks like furnishing the home, welcoming at the airport, and providing the first meal. They continue for the next six months to help the family learn to be a part of our NW Arkansas community. Find out more at www.canopynwa.org, or contact John.Wilson@canopynwa.org, you can also visit with Bay in the office.