



**The Fourth Sunday in Lent**  
**Saturday, March 18, 2023**  
**4:00 PM**

Grace in the Desert Episcopal Church  
2004 Spring Gate Lane  
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Find us on Facebook at Grace in the Desert Episcopal Church

**Welcome to Grace Episcopal Church. We are devoted to following the life and teachings of Jesus, the Christ. It is our hope that your worship experience here today will bless and enrich your life.**

**An overview of our worship contained in this bulletin:**

**Worship is an expression of devotion and adoration that involves our whole being.** It touches and includes our intellect as well as our emotions; our heart, mind and soul.

**The liturgy (“the work of the people”)** contained in this booklet attempts to be both faithful to the liturgical structure prescribed by the Book of Common Prayer as well as creative in seeking fresh and inspiring ways to express our love and devotion.

**Our worship services can be thought of as a two-act play.** Act I is known as the Liturgy of the Word during which we hear and contemplate the Holy Scriptures as well as offer our prayers and praises. Act II is known as the Liturgy of Holy Eucharist. “Eucharist” is the Greek word for “thanksgiving.” The Holy Eucharist, also known as “Holy Communion,” is the gathering of the community together around the Lord’s table

**The message typically focuses on the Gospel reading for the day.** Following the message, we respond by affirming our faith using one of the Creeds from our church history. Many struggle with the words and images contained in the Nicene Creed largely because they have been taught to interpret them literally as though they are the end-point of what our thoughts about the Sacred should be. Instead hear them as a beginning, intended to ponder what we believe. While reciting the words, imagine standing with Christians throughout the centuries.

**The sacrificial language used during the Holy Eucharist is also symbolic language.** The New Testament was written by first century Jews, and therefore, it was written using images and language familiar to first century Jews. Until 70CE when the Romans destroyed all of Jerusalem, the Jerusalem Temple with its ritualized sacrificial system, was at the center of the Jewish religious world. Naturally, in trying to interpret their experience of the Sacred in Jesus, they used Temple language and Temple image. They used sacrificial language and sacrificial images.

Again, all religious language is symbolic language, the language of “meaning-making.” When you hear language in the Liturgy of the Holy Eucharist (Act II) about the body of Jesus being broken and the blood of Jesus being poured out for the sins of the world, we hope you can avoid thinking concretely and interpreting the words literally. Symbolically, “the body” represents the totality of a person, all that they are and “the blood” represents their life. Therefore, Jesus uses ancient symbolic language to say, *“I am going to lay all that I have and all that I am, my very life on the line for your sake and the sake of the world.”*

Scholars explain that Jesus came to challenge the dominant assumptions of his day, namely, that one could have a personal complete relationship with God only through the prescribed forms of participation in the rituals of the Temple in Jerusalem. Jesus challenged that assumption and sought to replace it with a new understanding; that anyone can have a personal, complete relationship with God by simply following the spiritual teaching and living the same kind of faith that Jesus practiced.

**Therefore, every reference to Jesus using the language of sacrifice is a challenge to the idea that God can be contained and limited by any religious system. God is always available to all of us because God lives eternally in and through and all around us!**

## HOLY EUCHARIST Rite II

*The time before worship is for prayer. Please honor the silence in the sanctuary.*

Processional Hymn

Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee

Hymnal 214

Joyful, joyful, we adore Thee, God of glory, Lord of love;  
 hearts unfold like flow'rs before Thee, op'ning to the 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 heav'n reflect Thy rays.  
 stars and angels sing around Thee, center of unbroken praise.  
 Field and forest, vale and mountain, flow'ry meadow, flashing sea,  
 chanting bird and flowing fountain call us to rejoice in Thee!

Thou art giving and forgiving, ever blessing, ever blest,  
 well-spring of the joy of living, ocean depth of happy rest!  
 Thou our Father, Christ our Brother, all who live in love are Thine.  
 teach us how to love each other; lift us to the joy divine.

### Opening Acclamation

**Celebrant:** Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

**All:** *His mercy endures forever.*

### The Decalogue

**Celebrant:** Hear the commandments of God to his people:

I am the Lord your God who brought you out of bondage. You shall have no other gods but me.

**Amen. Lord have mercy.**

You shall not make for yourself any idol.

**Amen. Lord have mercy.**

You shall not invoke with malice the Name of the Lord your God.

**Amen. Lord have mercy.**

Remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy.

**Amen. Lord have mercy.**

Honor your father and your mother.

**Amen. Lord have mercy.**

You shall not commit murder.

**Amen. Lord have mercy.**

You shall not commit adultery.

**Amen. Lord have mercy.**

You shall not steal.

**Amen. Lord have mercy.**

You shall not be a false witness.

**Amen. Lord have mercy.**

You shall not covet anything that belongs to your neighbor.

**Amen. Lord have mercy.**

Celebrant: Jesus said, "The first commandment is this: Hear, O Israel: The Lord your God is the only Lord. Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. The second is this: Love your neighbor as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these." If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

### **The Confession of Sin**

*All: 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 Absolution**

Celebrant: 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**

### **Hymn of praise**

**Holy One, Holy and Mighty**

**Holy One, Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal One.**

### **The Collect of the Day**

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Gracious Father, whose blessed Son Jesus Christ came down from heaven to be the true bread which gives life to the world: Evermore give us this bread, that he may live in us, and we in him; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **AMEN**

## The Reading from the Hebrew Scriptures

1 Samuel 16:1-13

The Lord said to Samuel, “How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons.” Samuel said, “How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me.” And the Lord said, “Take a heifer with you, and say, ‘I have come to sacrifice to the Lord.’ Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you.” Samuel did what the Lord commanded, and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling, and said, “Do you come peaceably?” He said, “Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the Lord; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice.” And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, “Surely the Lord’s anointed is now before the Lord.” But the Lord said to Samuel, “Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the Lord does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart.” Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. He said, “Neither has the Lord chosen this one.” Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, “Neither has the Lord chosen this one.” Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, “The Lord has not chosen any of these.” Samuel said to Jesse, “Are all your sons here?” And he said, “There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep.” And Samuel said to Jesse, “Send and bring him; for we will not sit down until he comes here.” He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and had beautiful eyes, and was handsome. The Lord said, “Rise and anoint him; for this is the one.” Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the presence of his brothers; and the spirit of the Lord came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

*All: Thanks be to God.*

## The Psalm

Psalm 23

**1 The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not be in want.**

**2 He makes me lie down in green pastures and leads me beside still waters.**

**3 He revives my soul and guides me along right pathways for his Name's sake.**

**4 Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.**

**5 You spread a table before me in the presence of those who trouble me; you have anointed my head with oil, and my cup is running over.**

**6 Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.**

## The Epistle

Ephesians 5:8-14

Once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light— for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly; but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, “Sleeper, wake! Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.”

Lector: The Word of the Lord

*All: Thanks be to God.*

## Gospel Hymn

### Open my eyes

**Open my eyes that I may see, open my ears that I may hear,  
open my mind that I may know, open my heart that I may live.**

## The Holy Gospel

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

**John 9:1-41**

*All: Glory to you, Lord Christ.*

As Jesus walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” Jesus answered, “Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God’s works might be revealed in him. We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man’s eyes, saying to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, “Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?” Some were saying, “It is he.” Others were saying, “No, but it is someone like him.” He kept saying, “I am the man.” But they kept asking him, “Then how were your eyes opened?” He answered, “The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, ‘Go to Siloam and wash.’ Then I went and washed and received my sight.” They said to him, “Where is he?” He said, “I do not know.”

They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, “He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see.” Some of the Pharisees said, “This man is not from God, for he does not observe the sabbath.” But others said, “How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?” And they were divided. So they said again to the blind man, “What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened.” He said, “He is a prophet.”

The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight and asked them, “Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?” His parents answered, “We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself.” His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. Therefore his parents said, “He is of age; ask him.”

So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, “Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner.” He answered, “I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.” They said to him, “What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?” He answered them, “I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?” Then they reviled him, saying, “You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from.” The man answered, “Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. Never since the world began has it been heard that

anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.” They answered him, “You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?” And they drove him out. Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?” He answered, “And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him.” Jesus said to him, “You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he.” He said, “Lord, I believe.” And he worshiped him. Jesus said, “I came into this world for judgment so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind.” Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him, “Surely we are not blind, are we?” Jesus said to them, “If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, ‘We see,’ your sin remains.”

## **The Message**

**Mother Gae**

## **Statement of Faith**

## **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**

*Response: Lord, have mercy*

## **The Sharing of the Peace**

**Shalom**

**Hymnal 714**

**Shalom, my friends, shalom, my friends, shalom, shalom.  
Shalom, my friends, shalom, my friends. Shalom, shalom.**

Celebrant: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**All: And also with you.**

**Birthday Prayer**

*Watch over your children, O Lord, as their days increase; bless and guide them wherever they may be. Strengthen them when they stand; comfort them when discouraged or sorrowful; raise them up if they fall, and in their heart may your peace which passes understanding abide all the days of their lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN*

**Anniversary Prayer**

*The blessing of God, whose love gave you life, be with you this day. The blessing of God, whose love makes all things new, be with you on this special occasion. The blessing of God, whose love gives us hope for tomorrow be with you now and always. AMEN*

**THE LITURGY OF THE TABLE****Offertory Anthem****Shepherd Me, O God****Marty Haugen****The Presentation of the Offering****Doxology**

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise Him all creatures here below,  
Praise Him above ye heavenly hosts. Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. AMEN*

**The Prayer of Thanksgiving**

**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 our thanks and praise.*

Celebrant: It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. Through Jesus Christ our Lord; who was tempted in every way as we are, yet did not sin. By his grace we are able to triumph over every evil, and to live no longer for ourselves alone, but for him who died for us and rose again.

Therefore, we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who forever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

**Sanctus**

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might.**

**Heaven and earth are full, full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.**

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

**Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.**



Celebrant: 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,

*All: We remember his death. We proclaim his resurrection. We await his coming in glory.*

Celebrant: 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 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 forever. **AMEN**

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

### **The Lord's Prayer (sung)**

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your Name,  
your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sin as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. AMEN**

## The Breaking of the Bread

Celebrant: Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

*All: Therefore, let us keep the feast. The Invitation to Holy Communion*

*It is the custom in our church to receive both the Host (consecrated bread) and the Common Cup (consecrated wine). To receive the Host, cross your hands over each other, facing up. If you desire a gluten free Host, please cross your hands, one over the other, facing down. To receive the Common Cup either take a sip from the cup or dip the Host in the cup (intinction). You can also cross your arms over your chest and the Minister will raise the Cup in front of you and say, "The Blood of Christ". Parents, please help your child receive communion.*

## The Holy Communion

### Communion Hymn

### Heal me, hands of Jesus

Heal me, hands of Jesus, and search out all my pain;  
Restore my hope, remove my fear and bring me peace again.

Cleanse me, blood of Jesus, take bitterness away;  
Let me forgive as one forgiven and bring me peace today.

Know me, mind of Jesus, and show me all my sin;  
dispel the memories of guilt, and bring me peace within.

Fill me, joy of Jesus: anxiety shall cease and  
heaven's serenity be mine, for Jesus brings me peace!

### Prayer of Thanksgiving

*All: 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*

### Recessional Hymn

### I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

Thomerson

I want to walk as a child of the light, I want to look at Jesus.  
I want to see the brightness of God. I want to look at Jesus.  
God set the stars to give light to the world.  
The star of my life is Jesus.

Refrain: In Him there is no darkness at all.  
The night and the day are both alike.  
The Lamb is the light of the city off God.  
Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.

I want to see the brightness of God. I want to look at Jesus.  
Clear sun of righteousness, shine on my path  
and show me the way to the Father. \* Ref.

I am looking for the coming of Christ. I want to be with Jesus.  
When we have run with patience the race, we shall know the joy of Jesus. \*Ref.

### Blessing & Dismissal

Priest : Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

*All: Thanks be to God.*

## **GRACE IN THE DESERT EPISCOPAL CHURCH WHO ARE WE? WHAT DO WE BELIEVE?**

We are a community of Christ-followers. We follow Jesus, the one we call “the Christ” (anointed one). Jesus shows us the Kingdom of God and God’s unconditional love for everyone.

We search for truth via scripture, tradition, and our own ability to reason. We find more grace in the search for understanding than we do in dogmatic certainty – more value in questioning than in absolutes.

We love the bible, but we are not biblical literalists. In our study, we engage the scripture at three levels: The story in its historical context; How the story was heard by the faith community to whom it was written. The story is speaking to us today.

We are a sacramental church. We believe the sacraments of Holy Baptism and Holy Eucharist (Communion) are important for the journey of a Christ follower.

We are lay ministers, deacons, priests, and bishops. We believe all Christ followers are to serve God in the world.

Our mission is to bring about the Kingdom of God on this earth by sharing the Good News of God’s unconditional love. We know that the way we behave toward one another, and toward other people is the fullest expression of what we believe.

We are members of the worldwide Anglican communion.

We recognize the faithfulness of other people who have other names for the way to God’s realm, and acknowledge that their ways are true for them, as our ways are true for us.

**Put on then, as God’s chosen ones, holy and Beloved, compassion, kindness, lowliness, meekness and patience, forbearing one another and if anyone has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. And above all these things put on LOVE which binds together everything in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called into this one body. And always be thankful. Colossians 3:12-17**

**PARTICIPANTS IN WORSHIP****Celebrant**

The Rev. Gae Chalker

**Preacher**

The Rev. Angela Anderson

**Deacon**

The Rev. Barbara Preas

**Lectors**

Marge Becker

**Acolytes**

Ellen Stevens

**Musicians**

Bare Bones & Friends

**Audio/Visual**

Paul Biddle

**Greeters & Ushers**

Ray Clark & Tom Roberts

**Altar Guild**

Janice Beatty, Ellen Stevens, Edith Mingalone

**Flower Guild**

Mamie Hechter & Darlene Albert