



Grace Episcopal Church

The First Sunday after the
Epiphany
The Baptism of our Lord

January 12th, 2025

10:30 A.M. HOLY EUCHARIST RITE II

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

At the tolling of the tower bell, the congregation is asked to stand.

PRELUDE: *Now Let Us All Praise Christ*

Geörg Bohm

Celebrant Blessed be God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People **And blessed be God's kingdom, now and forever. Amen.**

OPENING HYMN: *On Jordan's Bank*

76

Celebrant

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.

Glo-ry to God in the Highest and peace to his people on earth.

Lord God, Hea-ven-ly King, Al - mighty God and Fa - ther, we

wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry. Lord Je - sus

Christ, On - ly son of the fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, you

take a - way the sin of the world, have mer - cy on us; you are seat - ed at the

right hand of the Fa - ther; re - ceive our prayer, for you a - lone are the

ho - ly one, you a - lone are the Lord, you a - lone are the most high,

Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spi - rit in the Glo - ry of God the

Fa - - - - - ther. A - - - - - men.

THE WORD OF GOD

THE OLD TESTAMENT: ISAIAH 43:1-7

Thus says the LORD,

he who created you, O Jacob,

he who formed you, O Israel:

Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;

I have called you by name, you are mine.

When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;

and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you;

when you walk through fire you shall not be burned,

and the flame shall not consume you.

For I am the LORD your God,

the Holy One of Israel, your Savior.

I give Egypt as your ransom,

Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you.

Because you are precious in my sight,

and honored, and I love you,

I give people in return for you,

nations in exchange for your life.

Do not fear, for I am with you;

I will bring your offspring from the east,

and from the west I will gather you;

I will say to the north, "Give them up,"

and to the south, "Do not withhold;

bring my sons from far away

and my daughters from the end of the earth--

everyone who is called by my name,

whom I created for my glory,

whom I formed and made."

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 29



Give to the Lord you sons / **of God,**
Give to the Lord glo-ry and **praise,**
Give to the Lord the glory / **due his name;**
Adore the Lord in ho-ly **attire.**

The voice of the Lord is over / **the waters,**
The Lord, o-ver **vast waters.**
The voice of the / **Lord is mighty;**
The voice of the Lord / **is majestic.**

The God of glo-ry **thunders,**
And in his temple / **all say "Glory!"**
The Lord is enthroned a-**bove the flood;**
The Lord is enthroned as / **king forever.**

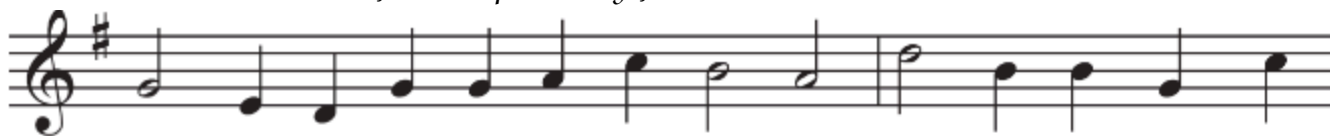
THE EPISTLE: ACTS 8:14-17

When the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them. The two went down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit (for as yet the Spirit had not come upon any of them; they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus). Then Peter and John laid their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL HYMN: *When John Baptized by Jordan's River*



1. When John bap-tized by Jor-dan's riv - er In faith and hope the
2. There as the Lord, bap-tized and pray - ing, Rose from the stream, the
3. O Son of Man, our na - ture shar - ing, In whose o - be - dience



1. peo - ple came, That John and Jor - dan might de - liv - er
2. sin - less one, A voice was heard from heav - en say - ing,
3. all are blest, Sav - ior, our sins and sor - rows bear - ing,



1. Their trou-bled souls from sin and shame. They came to seek a new
2. "This is my own be - lov - ed Son." There as the Fa - ther's word
3. Hear us and grant us this re - quest: Dai - ly to grow, by grace



1. be - gin - ning, The hu - man spir - it's age - less quest, Re - pent - ance,
2. was spo - ken, Not in the pow'r of wind and flame, But of his
3. de - fend - ed, Filled with the Spir - it from a - bove; In Christ bap -



1. and an end to sin - ning, Re - nouc-ing ev - 'ry wrong con-fessed.
2. love and peace the to - ken, Seen as a dove, the Spir - it came.
3. tized, be - loved, be - friend - ed, Chil - dren of God in peace and love.

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

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

THE GOSPEL: LUKE 3:15-17, 21-22

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord.

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

THE HOMILY

Rev. Tim McRee

THE NICENE CREED

BCP 358

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE FOR THE SEASON OF EPIPHANY

Lector: God of light and life, our prayers rise before you this day in hope and faith. We pray for your church, for our diocese, bishops, clergy and all people. We pray for Stephen Cottrell, Archbishop of York; for Sean, our Presiding Bishop; for José our bishop; and for all bishops, for Milly, our Rector; and for John and Tim, our clergy. In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer, we pray for The Church in the Province of West Africa, and in the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer, we pray for the Episcopal Church Women and the Daughters of the King ... We pray to You, O Lord.

People: **Flame of abundant love, be our Joy in proclaiming your Good News to the world.**

Lector: We pray for all who are coming to faith, all who are exploring their faith, and all who are struggling with faith. We pray to You, O Lord.

People: **Light of all creation, guide us to lead, teach and nurture your disciples.**

Lector: We pray for those in need of food, shelter, clothing, and of God's healing touch, especially for those in our parish for whom our prayers are especially asked and desired: Steve, Ed, Eva, Robert, Anne, Nancy, Walt, Peter, Laura and Tsz-yan (GN), Bill, Nicholas and Gary.... Are there others? We pray to You, O Lord.

People: **Comforter of the suffering, prepare our hands and hearts for your loving service.**

Lector: We pray for those who have recently departed: Geri Tuck, and for those on the anniversaries of their deaths: Gregory Merrell, Hal Sinclair, Margery Post, Austin Speed, Dave Hastings, Margie Nash, Carl Loftin, Ralph Morris, Joseph Nolan, Rachel Kellogg, Mary Pepper, Beulah May Price... Are there others? We pray to You, O Lord.

People: **God of Eternal love, we continue to commit our loved ones to your eternal care.**

Lector: We pray for all who celebrate in these days. Especially for those who have birthdays: Win Webster, Lynda Miller, Doug McClellan, Blakely Maria Whitner, Michael Jenkins, Angel Stoudt, Anita Sayles, Eric Wood... and those who have anniversaries: Walter and Joyce Noble... We pray to You, O Lord.

People: **Guiding Star of Love, shield the joyous and comfort the afflicted, that together we may come to know your blessed harmony.**

Lector: We pray for the world, where there is trouble and suffering, far away or nearby, especially for those who are suffering from violence and oppression. We pray to You, O Lord.

People: **Ember of steadfast care, fuel our passion to challenge injustice and violence and to pursue peace and reconciliation.**

Lector: We pray for the land on which we stand, the peoples, creatures, plant life and waters around us. We pray to You, O Lord.

People: **Star blaze of glory, lead us to care for this fragile earth, our island home, and to heal the circle of creation.**

Celebrant: God of radiant light, your love illumines our hopes even before we know them, and our needs before we ask. Kindle your flame within us, that in our prayers and service, we may know your transforming presence at work in the world around us. All this we ask through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

THE CONFESSION OF SIN

BCP 359

THE PEACE

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

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

THE HOLY COMMUNION

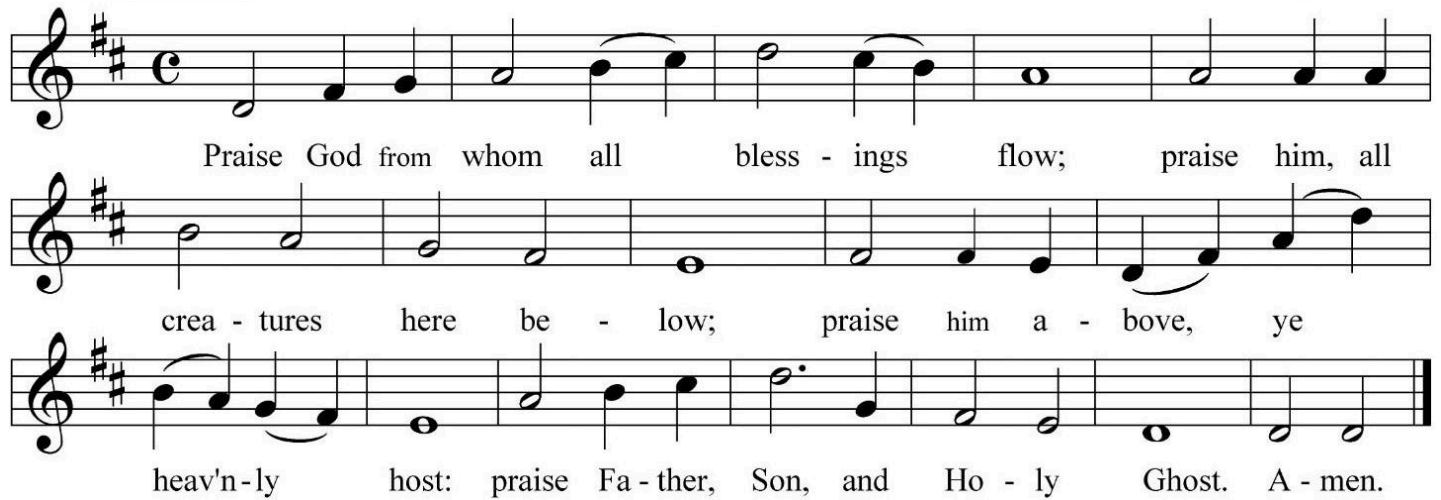
OFFERTORY

Celebrant Let us now offer to God the fruits of our labors and our love.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM: *The Only Son From Heaven*

Donald Busarow

DOXOLOGY:



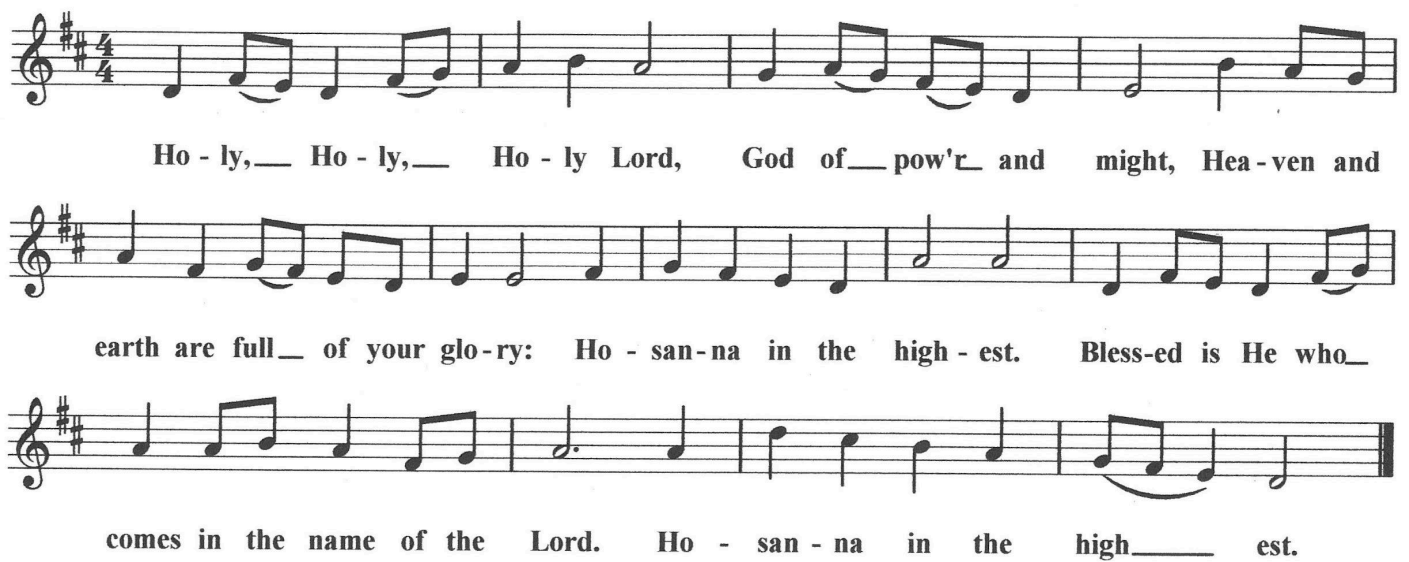
Praise God from whom all bless - ings flow; praise him, all
crea - tures here be - low; praise him a - bove, ye
heav'n-ly host: praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. A - men.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING: EUCHARISTIC PRAYER C

BCP 369

SANCTUS

Cassarino



Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might, Hea - ven and
earth are full of your glo - ry: Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

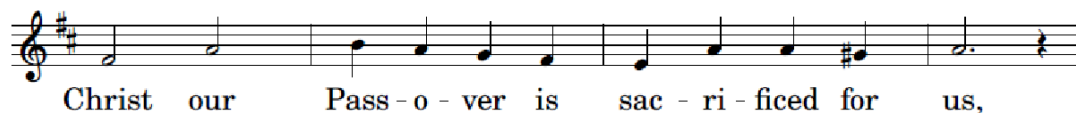
THE LORD'S PRAYER (Traditional)

BCP 364

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

FRACTION ANTHEM:

Cassarino



INVITATION TO COMMUNION (*gluten free wafers available upon request*)

COMMUNION HYMN : *Deck Thyself, My Soul with Gladness*

339

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

BCP 365

THE BLESSING

CLOSING HYMN: *Hail to the Lord's Anointed*

616

THE DISMISSAL

THE POSTLUDE: *Finale Jubilante*

Healey Willan



The flowers are given to the Glory of God by Will Israel in honor of his mother Mary Israel.

LAY MINISTERS

Acolyte: **Susan Robinson** Chalicerist: Steve Birkhofer

Lectors: Steve Birkhofer, Ted Hill Intercessor: Kristen Dusenbery

Ushers: Ben Scales & Mike Vines Greeters: Diane Wilkey

Vestry Member of the Day: Tahani Sticpewich

ELECTRONIC GIVING MADE EASY: Grace Church receives electronic giving via our website at graceavl.com. There is a "Give to Grace" button on the top blue banner of our home page. Additional ways to give to our "virtual collection plate" and various fundraising efforts are through the Simple Church app and the Venmo app @GraceEpiscopal-Church.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Jones Backpack Program is Need of Volunteers

January-May 2025. Contact Sarah Beasley at sdkbeasley@gmail.com to sign up for a month to deliver food from MANNA to Jones Elementary. Please note that, due to damage caused by the hurricane, you will need to be available to pick up at MANNA's new location, 99 Broadpointe Drive, Mills River at 9:30 a.m. on Wednesdays and then transport the food to Jones Elementary.

Monday Meals at Safe Shelter

Are you interested in helping provide Monday meals for Safe Shelter? Could you spend a day a month making a pot of soup or chili? If your answer is "Yes!" please contact Kim Hayes, kimhys53@gmail.com, or Tahani Sticpewich, tahaniweb@gmail.com for more information.

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd

We offer the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd for our children here at Grace on Sundays between 9:00 and 10:15am, and there is an additional Monday afternoon class now offered from 3:30-4:30pm. Children may attend either one or both at any time. Contact Shannon Townsend for a tour, or further information at gstownsend@att.net or 828-713-5081.

Join the Choir!

Grace is blessed with a talented group of vocalists always ready to offer their gifts

to enrich our worship. In a day when people are hesitant to give up their free time, Grace is truly fortunate to have a choir of giving and dedicated singers - a rarity in many churches today. As we move into the new year, choir rehearsals will take place on Sunday mornings at 9:30am. Whether you're a seasoned singer or just love to make a joyful noise, all voices are welcome! Choir is a wonderful way to connect with others and help enrich our worship services. If you have any questions or would like more information contact Jim Cassarino, Music Director, at 802-558-6583 or jamescassarino@gmail.com

Care-Filled Stewardship in 2025

When we pledge to Grace Church we are pledging to care for our community, to be present with those in need, and to seek God in all that we do. Make your pledge to Grace Church by scanning this code or using a pledge card found in the narthex. In-Gathering on February 2nd, 2025.



The Pastoral Care Team at Grace

Reach out to us with any pastoral care needs you, or your family, may have, by emailing the team at FrJohn@graceavl.com. You can also email, text or call Rev. John Rice at 828-371-7281.

WEEKLY GATHERINGS

Monday Morning Bible Study: *Mondays at 10:30am* We study the scriptures for the upcoming Sunday service. Please join us virtually by clicking on the button at graceavl.com/.

Taize: *Tuesdays at 6pm* Weekly Taize services are held in the sanctuary. Healing prayer is offered throughout the service for oneself or on behalf of someone else. For more information on Taizé at Grace visit: www.graceavl.com/taize-grace

Women Walking the Way: *Thursdays at 8:00am* meet at the Bird Sanctuary parking lot.



SimpleChurch CRM

Members: Have You Accessed Our Directory? An online directory is available to our members. *If you want to know how to become a member of Grace, please contact Rev. John Rice at frjohn@graceavl.com.*

This Week's Services and Meetings

<u>Date and Time</u>	<u>Service or Meeting</u>	<u>Location</u>
Sundays 9:15am	Catechesis of the Good Shepherd	Atrium
Sundays 9:15am	Adult Formation	Parish Hall
Sundays 10:30am	Holy Eucharist Service *	Sanctuary
Mondays 10:30am	Monday Morning Bible Study	Zoom
Mondays 1:00pm	Chair Aerobics	Parish Hall
Mondays 3:30pm	Chatechesis of the Good Shepherd	Atrium
Tuesdays 6:00pm	Taize	Sanctuary
Wednesdays 9:30am	Pastoral Care Team Meeting	Library
Wednesdays 1:00pm	Tai Chi Classes	Parish Hall
Wednesdays 5:30pm	Centering Prayer	Zoom
Thursdays 8:00am	Women Walking the Way	Beaver Lake

Our Prayer List

For Parishioners: **Steve Booth; Ed Denison; Eva Dupree; Robert; Anne Jarema; Nancy Lewis; Walt Noble; Peter Sprague; Laura and Tsz-yan (GN) Snyder, Bill Warren, Nicholas and Gary Woods**

For Homebound Parishioners and Those in Healthcare Facilities: **Nancy Sink; Rita Spragg**

For Others: (Names will remain on the list for 6 weeks unless we hear otherwise.) **Geraldine Allen** (aunt of Carole McClellan); **Allen** (brother of Cheryl Aull); **Wes Auret** (godson of Elaine Potter); **Bob Brennan** (relative of Anne Jarema); **Crista Bridgeman** (friend of Ginny Moser); **Gabriel and Lara Brongel and family** (grandson and daughter of Jackie Schauer); **Cherie Brown** (daughter of Ed and Marla Woeckener); **Marcie Coleman** (friend of Lynda McCredie); **Joan Creasman** (friend of Ginny); **Glenn Fleishman** (friend of Anne Jarema); **Jackie Haines** (sister of Carol Booth); **Jim Kaderabek** (father of Todd Kaderabek); **Chuck McDonald** (brother of Susan Robinson); **Megan; Barney Noble** (son of Joyce and Walt Noble); **Meredith Peppers** (cousin of Carole McClellan); **Kip and Val Pritchard** (friends of Cliff); **Liz Sides** (friend of Joyce Noble); **Stacy Walker** (relative of Elaine Potter); **Alex Watkins** (friend of Lorie Tola); **Mike Wilson** (friend of Jeff Russell).

We grieve and pray with the families of: **Geri Tuck**

For those celebrating birthdays: **Win Webster, Lynda Miller, Doug McClellan, Blakely Maria Whitner, Michael Jenkins, Angel Stoudt, Anita Sayles, Eric Wood**

For those celebrating anniversaries: **Walter and Joyce Noble**

For Those in Service to Our Country: **Tommy Brown** (grandsons of Ed & Marla Woeckener); **Matt & Martha Cardenas** (daughter and son in law of Hannah Pennell); **Matthew George** (son of Zoe Davis); **Jason Marino** (son of Lynda McCredie); **Sarah Jane Wilkey** (daughter of Diane & Tony Wilkey).

For Those in the Episcopal Church: **Sean** (our presiding Bishop); **José** (our Bishop); **the clergy, vestry, staff, ministries, and people of this parish; Church of the Advocate.**

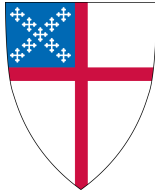
For our President Joe Biden, his Cabinet, Congress & our country; for victims of violence across the world; for local agencies & those who work for relief of the poor; for better stewardship of the environment; for resolution of crises throughout our world.

Please go to graceavl.com/spiritual-growth/prayer-ministries/ for more opportunities to request prayer. Get permission from anyone you would like to add to this list and contact our Pastoral Care Ministry by emailing FrJohn@graceavl.com or contact the church.

Grace Episcopal Church
871 Merrimon Ave., Asheville, NC 28804
828-254-1086
office@graceavl.com

The Right Reverend José McLoughlin, *Bishop*
The Reverend Milly Morrow, *Rector*
The Reverend Timothy McRee, *Adjunct Clergy*
The Reverend John Rice, *Adjunct Clergy*
James Cassarino, *Director of Music*
Cathy Adkins, *Organist*
Katie Douglas, *Finance Manager*
Angel Stoudt, *Sexton*
Archie Clarkson, *Tech Director*
Katherine Johnson, *Wedding Coordinator, Office Administrator*

Grace Church is a place where we hope you experience the empowering presence of the living God and where we collaborate with God in building the Kingdom of Heaven, here on earth. We are grateful you are among us today.



Volunteers are at the heart of Grace ministry.

The volunteers at Grace keep things running smoothly. Our greeters and our ushers welcome you. Readers, intercessors, acolytes, and chalicists enhance your worship. Coffee hour hosts provide coffee, treats, and an opportunity to enjoy fellowship after church. Office volunteers are available throughout the week to assist you. Volunteers are so important, and we never have enough of them. If you have an interest in getting involved, please let us know by contacting our church office, office@graceavl.com