Grace Episcopal Church
Sheffield, Alabama

The 6th Sunday of PENTECOST
July 12, 2020
9:30 AM
Holy Eucharist with Spiritual Communion

The Green Wheat Field behind the Asylum
Vincent van Gogh

Announcements

• Welcome to the Spiritual Communion service! This recorded service will be available to you on the church website by 9:30 AM on Sunday, July 12, but you can participate in it whenever convenient. (graceepiscopalsheffield.dioala.org) You can follow the service with this bulletin.

• Please join your church friends for Coffee Hour Fellowship at 10:30 AM on Sunday, July 12. Your link for that Zoom gathering has been emailed to you. But if you missed it in your emails, call or text Lynn at 256-554-0123. She will send another email with the link to you.

• The Diocese has postponed face-to-face worship until August 1.

• The next Meals on Wheels for Grace Church will be July 20—24.

• Finally…Rev. Danielle wants to get acquainted with everyone as soon as possible. So watch for your emails and newsletters sent from the church. We will keep you informed about upcoming opportunities to get to know our new priest and let her know you as well. Do not hesitate to contact her at thomdl80@gmail.com or 931-636-4898.

• Don’t forget the Grace Church PO Box mailing address: Grace Episcopal Church, PO Box 838, Sheffield AL 35660. Many thanks to all the Grace parishioners who are mailing their tithes to the church in these awkward times.
Hymn 8  Morning has broken

Morning has broken like the first morning,           Mine is the sunlight! Mine is the morning
blackbird has spoken like the first bird.          born of the one light Eden saw play!
Praise for the singing! Praise for the morning!   Praise with elation, praise every morning,
Praise for them, springing fresh from the Word!  God’s recreation, of the new day!

Sweet the rain’s new fall sunlit from heaven,
like the first dewfall on the first grass.
Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden,
sprung in completeness where his feet pass.

The people standing, the Celebrant says

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

People  And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

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.

Gloria  The Gloria is said, all standing.

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

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

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.

For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.
Collect of the Day

O Lord, mercifully receive the prayers of your people who call upon you, and grant that they may know and understand what things they ought to do, and also may have grace and power faithfully to accomplish them; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

First Reading Isaiah 55:10-13

As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return there until they have watered the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

For you shall go out in joy, and be led back in peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall burst into song, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands. Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress; instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle; and it shall be to the Lord for a memorial, for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.

The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God

Psalm 65:1-14 Te deus hymnus

1 You are to be praised, O God, in Zion; * to you shall vows be performed in Jerusalem.
2 To you that hear prayer shall all flesh come, * because of their transgressions.
3 Our sins are stronger than we are, * but you will blot them out.
4 Happy are they whom you choose and draw to your courts to dwell there! * they will be satisfied by the beauty of your house, by the holiness of your temple.
5 Awesome things will you show us in your righteousness, O God of our salvation, * O Hope of all the ends of the earth and of the seas that are far away.
6 You make fast the mountains by your power; * they are girded about with might.
7 You still the roaring of the seas, * the roaring of their waves, and the clamor of the peoples.
8 Those who dwell at the ends of the earth will tremble at your marvelous signs; * you make the dawn and the dusk to sing for joy.
9 You visit the earth and water it abundantly; you make it very plenteous; * the river of God is full of water.
10 You prepare the grain, * for so you provide for the earth.
11 You drench the furrows and smooth out the ridges; * with heavy rain you soften the ground and bless its increase.
12 You crown the year with your goodness, * and your paths overflow with plenty.
13 May the fields of the wilderness be rich for grazing, * and the hills be clothed with joy.
14 May the meadows cover themselves with flocks, and the valleys cloak themselves with grain; *
Second Reading Romans 8:1-11

There is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do: by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and to deal with sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, so that the just requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law—indeed it cannot, and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God

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

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. And he told them many things in parables, saying: “Listen! A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away. Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. Let anyone with ears listen!

“Hear then the parable of the sower. When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; yet such a person has no root, but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.
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

The Leader and People pray responsively

Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church;
That we all may be one.

Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;
That your Name may be glorified by all people.

We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons;
That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.

We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;
That there may be justice and peace on the earth.

Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;
That our works may find favor in your sight.

We pray for those on our intercessory prayer list, saying together
Cole, Reagan, Penney, Max, David, Andrea, Robin, Kris, John, Ledlow family, Rose, Lawrence, Zane, Wilson family, Dane, Tanya, Christopher family, Youngblood family, Poolney, & Sheila.

We pray for those on active duty in the military, saying together
Joshua, Nathan, Ben, Michael, Keith, Jacob, Corey, Jeffrey, Tim, Dominic, Nolan, Jeanne, Cassins, Eric, Austen, David, Noah, Rush, Henry, Connor, Gaige, Sam, & JonPhillip.

We rejoice with those celebrating birthdays or anniversaries:
Carl Bright, & Beth & Eric Kimbrell.

Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;
That they may be delivered from their distress.

Give to the departed eternal rest. We pray especially for Tom Christopher.
Let light perpetual shine upon them.

We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;
May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.

God our Father, we live in an unsteady and confusing world: Show us that your ways give life and that following you is better than chasing after fruitless goals. Help us to take failure, not as a measure of our worth, but as a chance for a new start. Give us strength to hold our faith in you, and to keep alive our joy; Amen.

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.
Silence

The People may add their own petitions.
The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.
Confession of Sin

The Minister says

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence may be kept.

Minister and People

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 Minister 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

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

A moment of silence.

Offertory

The Minister brings to the table together the chalice, paten, and host with purificator draped on top, then brings the cruet of wine and cruet of water. The altar book and stand are placed on the table.

The Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer A

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 him thanks and praise.
Then, facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. For you are the source of light and life, you made us in your image, and called us to new life in 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:

Celebrant and People

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. 
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

The Celebrant continues

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself, and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Celebrant and People
Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

The Celebrant continues.

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.
Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. AMEN.

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

*People and Celebrant*

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.

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;  
Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

*Facing the people, the Celebrant says the following Invitation:*

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

*The Prayer of Spiritual Communion is said by all:*

My Jesus, I believe that you are truly present in the Blessed Sacrament of the Altar.  
I desire to offer you praise and thanksgiving as I proclaim your resurrection. 
I love you above all things and long for you in my soul.

Since I cannot receive you in the Sacrament of your Body and Blood, come spiritually into my heart. Cleanse and strengthen me with your grace,  
Lord Jesus, and let me never be separated from you. 
May I live in you, and you in me, in this life and in the life to come. Amen.

**Piano**  
*I Need Thee Every Hour*  
Nancy Bolte
The Celebrant and People continue.

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.

Alleluia III 161  The First Song of Isaiah—Surely It Is God Who Saves Me

_refrain_
Surely it is God who saves me;
I will trust in Him and not be afraid.
For the Lord is my stronghold and my sure defense, and He will be my Savior.

Therefore you shall draw water with rejoicing from the springs of salvation.
And on that day you call say:
“Give thanks to the Lord,” and call upon His name.

Make His deeds known among the peoples;
see that they remember that His name is exalted.
Sing the praises of the Lord for He has done great things, and this is known in all the world.
Cry aloud inhabitants of Zion,
ring out your joy,
for the Great One in the midst of you is the Holy One of Israel.

_refrain_

The Minister may bless the people.

The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you.
The Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.

The people are dismissed.
Minister: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.
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Rector: The Reverend Danielle L. Thompson
Director of Christian Education: Burgess Fox Wyker
Parish Musician: Christa Belue Milligan
Organist: Nancy Hughes Bolte
Parish Administrator: Lynn Paxton-Romine