Announcements

• Welcome to Grace! This service soon will be on the church website so that parishioners can participate in it from home when convenient. See (graceepiscopalsheffield.dioala.org). Check Anchor Lines, the website, and Facebook for our plans: outdoor worship at 6:00 PM on Sundays and indoor worship, resuming today, September 13.

• Check Anchor Lines, the website, and Facebook for news about Centering Prayer on Zoom, at 5:00 PM on Thursdays. Also, we begin “The Commons,” adult fellowship and formation on Zoom, Wednesdays at 12:00 PM, beginning September 16.

• The Colbert Caring Center needs your help! See a message from Tom Heflin in Anchor Lines and on Facebook for more details about how you can help.

• Don’t forget our mailing address: Grace Episcopal Church, PO Box 838, Sheffield AL 35660. Many thanks to all the parishioners who are mailing their tithes to the church.

• Our Director of Christian Education, Burgess Wyker, and our great young people are doing so many good things that there is no room to list them here! Please read the Grace Youth newsletter or ask Burgess to learn about their impressive activities. You'll be proud of them.

• The Rev. Dr. Allison St. Louis and Dr. Josh Davis are offering a FREE course: Social Justice and the Body of Christ, beginning late September. For more information, contact Dr. Josh Davis, Dean of AIMS, at jdavis@dioala.org.
Hymn 390  Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation; O my soul, praise him, for he is thy health and salvation: join the great throng, psaltery, organ, and song, sounding in glad adoration.

Praise to the Lord; over all things he gloriously reigneth: borne as on eagle wings, safely his saints he sustaineth. Hast thou not seen how all thou needest hath been granted in what he ordaineth?

Praise to the Lord, who doth prosper thy way and defend thee: surely his goodness and mercy shall ever attend thee; ponder anew what the Almighty can do, who with his love doth befriend thee.

Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore him! All that hath life and breath come now with praises before him! Let the amen sound from his people again; gladly for ever adore him.

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 you 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 God, because without you we are not able to please you, mercifully grant that your Holy Spirit may in all things direct and rule our hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

First Reading  Genesis 50:15-21

Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph’s brothers said, “What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?” So they approached Joseph, saying, “Your father gave this instruction before he died, ‘Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.’ Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father.” Joseph wept when they spoke to him. Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, “We are here as your slaves.” But Joseph said to them, “Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones.” In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

The Word of the Lord.
People  Thanks be to God

Psalm 103:1-13  Benedic, anima mea

1 Bless the Lord, O my soul, *  and all that is within me, bless his holy Name.
2 Bless the Lord, O my soul, *  and forget not all his benefits.
3 He forgives all your sins *  and heals all your infirmities;
4 He redeems your life from the grave *  and crowns you with mercy and loving-kindness;
5 He satisfies you with good things, *  and your youth is renewed like an eagle's.
6 The Lord executes righteousness *  and judgment for all who are oppressed.
7 He made his ways known to Moses *  and his works to the children of Israel.
8 The Lord is full of compassion and mercy, *  slow to anger and of great kindness.
9 He will not always accuse us, *  nor will he keep his anger for ever.
10 He has not dealt with us according to our sins, *  nor rewarded us according to our wickedness.
11 For as the heavens are high above the earth, *  so is his mercy great upon those who fear him.
12 As far as the east is from the west, *  so far has he removed our sins from us.
13 As a father cares for his children, *  so does the Lord care for those who fear him.
Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God.

We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. For it is written,

"As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God."

So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

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 18:21-35

Peter came and said to Jesus, “Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?” Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

“For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, ‘Pay what you owe.’ Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?’ And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

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.

In peace, we pray to you, Lord God.
Silence

For all people in their daily life and work;
For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.

For this community, the nation, and the world;
For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.

For the just and proper use of your creation;
For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.

For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;
For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.

For the peace and unity of the Church of God;
For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.

For all bishops and other ministers;
For all who serve God in his Church.

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation.
Silence

We pray especially for those on our intercessory prayer list, saying together
Mary Ann, Phillip, Marian, Andrea, Robin, Kris, John, Ledlow family, Rose, Lawrence, Zane, Wilson family, Dane, Tanya, All Hospital Staff, Nathaniel, Jacob, Milesa, Phyllis, Keith, All Students and School Staff, Robert, & Kaye.

We pray also 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.

The People may add their own petitions.

Hear us, Lord;
For your mercy is great.

We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life.
Silence

We rejoice with those celebrating birthdays or anniversaries:
Eddie Daniel; Hattie Morgan; Ro & Dan Larsen; Betty McCutchen; Melissa Rumbley; Julian Minor; & Dan Bolte

The People may add their own thanksgivings.
We will exalt you, O God our King;  
And praise your Name for ever and ever.

We pray for all who have died, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom.  
Silence

Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon them;  
Who put their trust in you.

We pray to you also for the forgiveness of our sins.  
Silence may be kept.

Leader and People.  
Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father; in your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and left undone; and so uphold us by your Spirit that we may live and serve you in newness of life, to the honor and glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

The Celebrant concludes with an absolution or a suitable Collect.

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 cruets of water. The altar book and stand are placed on the table.

Anthem Ain’t Got Time to Die Choral Scholars

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.

*This prayer is provided for all who desire to receive Holy Communion but are not able to do so at this time.*

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.

*Anthem*  
*In Need*  
*Choral Scholars*
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.

Hymn 671

Amazing grace!

Amazing grace! how sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me! I once was lost but now am found, was blind but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved; how precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed!

The Lord has promised good to me, his word my hope secures; he will my shield and portion be as long as life endures.

Through many dangers, toils, and snares, I have already come; 'tis grace that brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.

When we've been there ten thousand years, bright shining as the sun, we've no less days to sing God's praise than when we'd first begun.

The Minister may bless the people.

The people are dismissed.

Minister: Let us go forth in the name of Christ.
People: Thanks be to God.