**Grace Episcopal Church**

**May 4, 2025**

*The Third Sunday of Easter*

**Grace’s Mission**We are disciples of Jesus, helping one another be the hands and feet of Christ
by sharing God’s love with the world.

## Opening Hymn Blue Hymnal #

**Holy Eucharist Rite Two**  Red Book of Common Prayer (BCP) p355

**The Gloria Praise Book S-280**

**The Collect**  **BCP p 211**

O God, whose blessed Son made himself known to his disciples in the breaking of bread: Open the eyes of our faith, that we may behold him in all his redeeming work; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

**The Lessons**

### A Reading from the Book of Acts 9:1-6, (7-20)

 Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any who belonged to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. Now as he was going along and approaching Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" He asked, "Who are you, Lord?" The reply came, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. But get up and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do." [The men who were traveling with him stood speechless because they heard the voice but saw no one. Saul got up from the ground, and though his eyes were open, he could see nothing; so they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. For three days he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank.

Now there was a disciple in Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, "Ananias." He answered, "Here I am, Lord." The Lord said to him, "Get up and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul. At this moment he is praying, and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight." But Ananias answered, "Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints in Jerusalem; and here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who invoke your name." But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is an instrument whom I have chosen to bring my name before Gentiles and kings and before the people of Israel; I myself will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name." So Ananias went and entered the house. He laid his hands on Saul and said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on your way here, has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit." And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and his sight was restored. Then he got up and was baptized, and after taking some food, he regained his strength.

For several days he was with the disciples in Damascus, and immediately he began to proclaim Jesus in the synagogues, saying, "He is the Son of God."]

Hear what the spirit is saying to God’s people. **Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm 30**

***Exaltabo te, Domine***

1 I will exalt you, O Lord,
because you have lifted me up \*
and have not let my enemies triumph over me.

2 O Lord my God, I cried out to you, \*
and you restored me to health.

3 You brought me up, O Lord, from the dead; \*
you restored my life as I was going down to the grave.

4 Sing to the Lord, you servants of his; \*
give thanks for the remembrance of his holiness.

5 For his wrath endures but the twinkling of an eye, \*
his favor for a lifetime.

6 Weeping may spend the night, \*
but joy comes in the morning.

7 While I felt secure, I said,
"I shall never be disturbed. \*
You, Lord, with your favor, made me as strong as the mountains."

8 Then you hid your face, \*
and I was filled with fear.

9 I cried to you, O Lord; \*
I pleaded with the Lord, saying,

10 "What profit is there in my blood, if I go down to the Pit? \*
will the dust praise you or declare your faithfulness?

11 Hear, O Lord, and have mercy upon me; \*
O Lord, be my helper."

12 You have turned my wailing into dancing; \*
you have put off my sack-cloth and clothed me with joy.

13 Therefore my heart sings to you without ceasing; \*
O Lord my God, I will give you thanks for ever.

### A reading from Revelation 1: 4-8 Insert

### Hear what the spirit is saying to God’s people. Thanks be to God.

## Sequence Hymn Blue Hymnal #

## The Holy Gospel according to John 20: 19-31 Glory to you, Lord Christ.

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

"The Gospel of the Lord: **Praise to you Lord Christ.**

**The Sermon** **Fr. J. Jeffrey Baker**

**The Nicene Creed BCP p 358**

**Prayers of the People Form III BCP p 387**

**A Prayer for Change:** Lord, give us the courage to view the future with hope and expectancy and, most of all, with faith. In the face of change, help us set aside our fears, and urge us to seek and see your hand at work, while opening our hearts to recognize that change brings new life. ***Amen.***

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation. Especially we pray for Aaron Lephart, Valorie Lephart, Vivian, Paul, Sue & Michael. Baby Drake, George & Sandy Luther, Clare McElroy, Martha Mackey, Phil Bennett, Beth and Ray, Bill, Janet, Chris, Matthew, Janice, Kathy S., Carolyn Stacks, Sheila Smith, Julie M., Natalie Z., Doug Z., Debbie Z., Kathy Hill, William Trsek, Sherry Occkial, Debra Z., Dick D., Kevin, Patty, Erin, Leigh S. John & Jenny G., and Riley Gumto. And the Ferguson and the Newyear family.

We celebrate the birthdays of Debbie Zimmerman, Beth Sphatt, Valerie Mackey and M. Rose Anne Lonsway. The Flowers today are given today by Ray Sphatt in celebration of Beth’s Birthday.

**The Peace BCP 360**

**Announcements**

**Holy Communion**

**Offertory Hymn Grace Choir**

## The DoxologyThe Great Thanksgiving *Eucharist* *Prayer A* BCP 361

## Sanctus *Holy, holy, holy, Lord* Praise Book S-125

## Memorial Acclamation Praise Book S-133

## The Great Amen Praise Book S-146

**The Breaking of the Bread BCP p 364**

## Fraction Hymn *Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia* Praise Book S-154

## Communion Hymn Blue Hymnal #

**The Post-Communion Prayer BCP p 366**

**The Blessing**

**Closing Hymn**  **Blue Hymnal #**

**The Dismissal**

**Announcements**

 Easter Egg Hunt the Sunday after Easter. April 27th.

