

The Last Sunday after the Epiphany



15 February 2026
Holy Eucharist: Rite II
10:00 am

Grace Episcopal Church

385 Essex Street • Salem • Massachusetts 01970

(978) 744-2796

Email: office@gracechurchsalem.org Web: www.gracechurchsalem.org

Welcome!

Welcome to those of you here. Here's some information:

Most Sundays, we have Church School at 10:00 am with trained teachers. The classroom is located through the door at the front right of the chapel and down the hall; please ask if you need help finding it. The children will join us in church at the Peace and for Communion. All baptized children of any age are welcome to receive Communion.

Please join in the singing! Hymnals are in the pew and the numbers are listed in the leaflet. "S" numbered hymns are found in the front of the *Hymnal 1982*. The *Book of Common Prayer* may also be found in the rack in front of you.

This is a self-supporting congregation, so when the plate is passed in the middle of the service, please be generous. Today's collection will support our ministries to the community.

At the Eucharist, God welcomes all to the heavenly banquet.

The Episcopal Church offers the sacraments to anyone baptized in any denomination who, through prayer and thoughtful consideration, desires them. Please come to the communion rail to receive the bread whether you are an Episcopalian or not, or to receive a blessing.

When coming to the rail for Communion, please kneel or stand at the rail from right to left until the rail is full. You may receive the wafer, receive the wine after consuming the wafer (no intinction) or may ask for a blessing. Please let the priest know if you need a gluten free wafer.

If this is your first time here, please sign the book at the entrance of the church. If you want more information, our website is www.gracechurchsalem.org. Our weekly newsletter, called Grace Notes, can be found there. If you wish to receive the newsletter, simply go to the website, open Grace Notes and subscribe.

May we all find the service meaningful and the embrace of the community inviting. It is a joy to worship together, wherever we are on our journey.

Holy Eucharist: Rite II

10:00 AM

The Opening Rite

Prelude

Herr Gott, nun schleuss den Himmel auf *Johann Sebastian Bach*

Hymn at the Procession

Alleluia! sing to Jesus! *The Hymnal 1982, #460*
Hyfrydol

Opening Acclamation

The Book of Common Prayer, page 355

The Collect for Purity

The Book of Common Prayer, page 355

Song of Praise

Glory, Glory, hallelujah *LEVAS, #243*
Carl Haywood

The Collect of the Day

O God, who before the passion of your only begotten Son revealed his glory upon the holy mountain: Grant to us that we, beholding by faith the light of his countenance, may be strengthened to bear our cross, and be changed into his likeness from glory to glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The Word of the Lord

The Lessons *(The people sit)*

The First Lesson

Exodus 24:12-18

The Lord said to Moses, "Come up to me on the mountain, and wait there; and I will give you the tablets of stone, with the law and the commandment, which I have written for their instruction." So Moses set out with his assistant Joshua, and Moses went up into the mountain of God. To the elders he had said, "Wait here for us, until we come to you again; for Aaron and Hur are with you; whoever has a dispute may go to them." Then Moses went up on the mountain, and the cloud covered the mountain. The glory of the Lord settled on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it for six days; on the seventh day he called to Moses out of the cloud. Now the appearance of the glory of the Lord was like a devouring fire on the top of the mountain in the sight of the people of Israel. Moses entered the cloud,

and went up on the mountain. Moses was on the mountain for forty days and forty nights.

Lector The Word of the Lord.
People Thanks be to God.

Psalm 2

Charles Villiers Stanford



- 1 Why are the ¹nations in an ¹uproar? *
Why do the peoples ¹mutter ¹empty ¹threats?
- 2 Why do the kings of the earth rise up in revolt,
and the princes ¹plot to ¹gether, *
against the ¹LORD and a ¹gainst his A ¹nointed?
- 3 “Let us break their ¹yoke,” they ¹say; *
“let us cast ¹off their ¹boñds ¹from us.”
- 4 He whose throne is in ¹heaven is ¹laughing; *
the Lord ¹has them ¹in de ¹rision.
- 5 Then he speaks to ¹them in his ¹wrath, *
and his ¹räge ¹fills them with ¹terror.
- 6 “I myself have ¹set my ¹king *
upon my ¹holy ¹hill of ¹Zion.”
- 7 Let me announce the de ¹cree of the ¹LORD: *
he said to me, “You are my Son;
this day ¹hävë ¹I be ¹gotten you.
- 8 Ask of me, and I will give you the nations for ¹your in ¹heritance *
and the ends of the ¹earth for ¹your pos ¹session.
- †9 You shall crush them with an ¹iron ¹rod *
and shatter them ¹like a ¹piece of ¹pottery.”
- 10 And now, you ¹kings, be ¹wise; *
be warned, you ¹rulers ¹of the ¹earth.

11 Submit to the¹LORD with¹fear, *
and with¹trembling¹bow be¹fore him;

12 Lest he be¹angry and you¹perish; *
for his¹wrath is¹quickly¹kindled.

13 Happy¹are they¹all *
—¹who take¹refuge in¹him!

The Second Lesson

2 Peter 1:16-21

We did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we had been eyewitnesses of his majesty. For he received honor and glory from God the Father when that voice was conveyed to him by the Majestic Glory, saying, “This is my Son, my Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.” We ourselves heard this voice come from heaven, while we were with him on the holy mountain. So we have the prophetic message more fully confirmed. You will do well to be attentive to this as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. First of all you must understand this, that no prophecy of scripture is a matter of one’s own interpretation, because no prophecy ever came by human will, but men and women moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.

Lector The Word of the Lord.
People Thanks be to God.

The Sequence Hymn

The Hymnal 1982, #129
Mowlsley

Christ upon the mountain peak

The Gospel

Matthew 17:1-9

Gospeller The Holy Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ
according to Matthew.
People Glory to you, Lord Christ

Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became dazzling white. Suddenly there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. Then Peter said to Jesus, “Lord, it is good for us to be here; if you wish, I will make three dwellings here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.” While he was still speaking, suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud a voice said, “This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!” When the disciples heard this, they fell to the ground and were overcome by fear. But Jesus came and touched them, saying, “Get up and do not be afraid.” And when

they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus himself alone. As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus ordered them, “Tell no one about the vision until after the Son of Man has been raised from the dead.”

Gospeller The Gospel of the Lord.
People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Sermon

The Reverend Sarah A. Conner

The Nicene Creed

The Book of Common Prayer, page 358

The Prayers of the People: Form III

BCP, page 387

The Confession and Absolution

BCP, page 360

The Peace

Welcome and Announcements

The Holy Communion

The Offertory Anthem

Johann Sebastian Bach

Jesu, joy of man's desiring

*1 Jesus, joy of our desiring,
holy wisdom, love most bright;
drawn by thee, our souls aspiring
soar to uncreated light.
Word of God, our flesh that fashioned,
with the fire of life impassioned,
striving still to truth unknown,
soaring, dying round thy throne.*

*2 Through the way where hope is guiding,
hark, what peaceful music rings;
where the flock, in thee confiding,
drink of joy from deathless springs.
Theirs is beauty's fairest pleasure;
theirs is wisdom's holiest treasure.
Thou dost ever lead thine own
in the love of joys unknown.*

The Hymn at the Presentation

O wondrous type! O vision fair

The Hymnal 1982, #137

Wareham

The Great Thanksgiving: Eucharistic Prayer B

BCP, page 367

Sanctus

Holy, holy, holy

LEVAS, #255

Grayson Warren Brown

The Lord's Prayer

BCP, page 364

The Fraction Anthem

O Lamb of God

LEVAS, #270

Marjorie Landsmark-DeLewis

Communion

All present are invited to reverently receive the Holy Sacrament

Hymn at Communion

I want to walk as a child of the light

The Hymnal 1982, #490

Houston

Postcommunion Prayer

BCP, page 365

Postcommunion Hymn

All praise to you, O Lord

The Hymnal 1982, #138

Carlisle

Blessing and Dismissal**Postlude**

Liebster Jesu, wir sind hier

Johann Gottfried Walther

The flowers on the altar are given to the glory of God in celebration of the January births of Joseph Gray Duffy in Salem, MA, and Aya Melby-Thompson in Kashima, Japan, by their loving grandparents.

— Worship Leaders —

The Reverend Sarah A. Conner

Joanne Moar

Gavin Watson-Bertrand

Deb Papps

Holly Willis

Peggy Carter and Faith Aroko

Presider and Preacher

Verge

Acolyte

Lector

Chalicer

Ushers

Our Prayers are offered for

Robert Borden, Linda Abbene, Deven Manthorne, Margarett Connor, Chuck Manck, Barbara Dwyer, Lilyann, John Gilbo, Vance Gilbert, Reny Sparapani, Laurel, Gary Young, Amy, Paul, Heather and Prescott, Ariana, Sheridan, Javy, Faith Aroko and Family, Jesse Hurst and Family, Maureen Joyce, Arthur, Deb Young, Cindy Rhodes, Ron, Allison Mascolo, Melissa Glassman, Max Joyce, Marc Britt, those battling cancer, Mel, Corey MacNeil, Dianne, Jenny, Loretta and Kris, Priscilla Lemons, Deb Papps, Derek Fuller and Family, for the peaceful repose of the soul of Smadar and all victims of war the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem and their ministries; the Boys and Girls Club of Greater Salem, the Salem Public Schools and for an end to racism, war, anti-Semitism, Islamophobia, gun violence and oppression. In thanksgiving, we pray for the ministry of The Reverend Debbie Phillips and her husband, Eric Wagner, this community of faith, for God's grace and forgiveness, for those with the courage to stand up to tyranny, for creation, for the diversity of people, and for all the blessings of this life.

If you have additions or deletions to the prayer list, please email prayerlist@gracechurchsalem.org by Tuesday at noon for publication in that week's e-news. The Parish Prayer List is read aloud each Wednesday at Morning Prayer.

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Epiphany Gifts for Our Neighbors

Our church school children recognize that gifts appear in many different ways. Please help us collect any of the following items during the Epiphany season, to be given in love to our neighbors who are in great need, with the intention of giving the gift of comfort and joy.



Please bring any of these suggested gifts to church during Epiphany; they will then be donated to Lifebridge. The collection will conclude on Sunday, February 15th .

~ Melissa Barnes

- Bar Soap
- Personal Wipes
- Toothpaste
- Toothbrushes
- Toothbrush covers
- Dental floss
- Hand cream
- Chapstick
- Gloves
- Hats
- Rain Ponchos
- New socks
- New underwear
- Packets of Tuna
- Packets of Chicken
- Protein bars
- Fruit cups in juice
- Individual PB servings



Antiracism Team Forum **TODAY at 5:30**

As the Antiracism Team of Grace Church, we seek a just society where all are unique and interconnected, one in Christ (Gal. 3: 28). As Dr. Martin Luther King said, “We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny.” Yet just one week prior to the Church’s celebration of Absalom Jones – the first Black priest in the Episcopal Church, ordained in 1802 – racist depictions of former President Obama and his wife, Michelle, were posted online. These stereotypes dehumanize Black people and tear at the fabric of our faith. For white Christians, it recalls our complicity in the racial structuring of our society, and we cannot “stand idly by” (Lev. 19:16).

After the Celtic Service at 4:00 p.m. today, a Forum in the Common Room will offer a discussion of this racist depiction, as well as the recent letter signed by 154 Episcopal bishops calling for immigration policies respecting the dignity of all. In addition, time will be set aside for the signing of postcards containing an inclusive message to House as well as Senate committee chairs.

The Forum is open to all. In true Anglican style there will be tea and biscuits. Join us for worship at 4:00 p.m. and the Forum to follow.



Suggestions for Keeping a Holy Lent

Pray

Prayer is our conversation with God, spoken and unspoken; to pray is to place ourselves in God's presence. Some ways to pray:

- Attend church each Sunday in Lent.
- Attend an Ash Wednesday service and as many of the Holy Week services as you can.
- Say grace before meals.
- Pray one of the Daily Devotions for Individuals and Families from the prayer book (these are shortened forms of the Daily Office; you can find them at missionstclare.com).
- Set aside 5-10 minutes each day to sit quietly in God's presence.

Fast

To fast is to refrain from something for a time so that we clear space for a greater awareness of God. The absence of something can help us return our focus to God. Some ways to fast:

- Refrain from – or reduce your consumption of – meat, sugar, or caffeine, etc. Then, at Easter, make a donation to The Salem Pantry or another local hunger-relief organization.
- Fast from noise; schedule some time for silence each day, preferably at the same time so it's part of your routine.
- Do a “digital fast” – schedule time in which you do not use your digital devices. You might commit to a digital fast each evening, or for a day or two each week, etc.

Read

Spiritual reading can help recenter us and return our attention to our spiritual life. It also gives us something to reflect on throughout the day. Here are some suggestions:

- Read one of the gospels all the way through, a chapter each day. You might try reading Matthew's gospel, since our Sunday gospel readings this year are mostly taken from Matthew.
- Read one or two psalms each day.
- Do some spiritual reading (e.g., a book of Lenten devotions; *Forward Day by Day*; a book on prayer or the spiritual life).
- Go to episcopalrelief.org/lent and sign up to receive a daily Lenten email from Episcopal Relief & Development, focused on the holy habits of prayer, worship, and engagement with Scripture.
- Reading can include taking a class – consider attending one of the classes offered at Grace during Lent: “Journeying with the Mystics” and “Episcopal 101,” as well as the monthly forum offered by our antiracism team on March 15.

Serve

Thomas Merton wrote, “Action is the stream, and contemplation is the spring.” Our life of prayer and worship flows naturally into service to others. Here are some ways to consider serving:

- Spend some time reflecting on your gifts and skills, and who might need them.
- If you're seeking ways to volunteer, consider a local organization that helps people in need, such as Lifebridge, The Salem Pantry, etc.
- Make a donation to our diocese's [Immigrant Legal Emergency Fund](#).
- Explore [Episcopal City Mission's Emergent Action Network](#) to find resources for immigration and racial justice.

UPCOMING — — Events

TODAY!

“Shrove Sunday”
Pancake Breakfast



February 15th at 11am

Help is always welcome!

If you're interested, add your name
to the signup sheet in the lobby.

Ash Wednesday

February 18th



Children's Service

5:30 pm

This brief 20-30 minute service is for children and their families. We'll learn about where the ashes come from, what the season of Lent is all about, and receive the imposition of ashes. Enter by the parish house door.

Choral Holy Eucharist

7:00 pm

We will observe the Liturgy for Ash Wednesday with imposition of ashes, homily, and music sung by our choir.

SAVE THE DATES FOR *Lenten Learning*



JOURNEYING WITH THE MYSTICS



Five Thursdays starting February 26th
In-person at Grace from 7:00p.m.–8:00 p.m.

Cliff Cutler will lead an exploration of the mystics to enhance each participants capacity for their own spirituality, and to awaken wonder in daily life.

* * * * *

EPISCOPAL 101



Four Tuesdays starting February 24th

On Zoom from 7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

(with one in-person session after each service on
Sunday, March 22nd)

Sarah Conner will lead an introduction to the Episcopal Church for those who are new to it or want to learn more.

The class will also prepare adults for baptism, confirmation, or reception into the Episcopal Church.

Please let Sarah know in advance if you d like to participate.

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The Mission of Grace Church is to unconditionally invite all people to join us in building a faithful Episcopal congregation that goes out into the community and through prayer, presence, and partnering improves the quality of life by bringing everyone closer to God.

— Grace Episcopal Church —

A parish in the Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts

The Most Reverend Sean Rowe
The Right Reverend Julia Whitworth
The Reverend Sarah A. Conner
The Reverend E. Clifford Cutler
The Reverend Manny Faria
Mark N. Peterson
Tom and Karen Tucker

Presiding Bishop
Bishop Diocesan
Interim Priest
Assisting Clergy
Assisting Clergy
Music Director
Property Stewards

— Vestry —

Ryan Patten
Lisa Duffy
Joanna Troy
Katie Scott
Javy Awan, Kai Freyleue, Christine Reichert,
Susan Tweed, Caroline Watson-Felt, Holly Willis

Senior Warden
Junior Warden
Clerk
Treasurer
Members of Vestry