

The Twenty-fifth Sunday
after Pentecost



19 November 2023

Choral Holy Eucharist: Rite II
10:00 AM

Grace Episcopal Church

The Reverend Deborah Phillips, *Rector*

385 Essex Street • Salem • Massachusetts 01970

E-mail: office@gracechurchsalem.org (978) 744-2796 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 located 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 communion, 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 indicting) or may ask for a blessing. Please let the priest know if you need **gluten free**.

The priest, Debbie, is available after the service to answer any questions you might have. Please let her know your thoughts about today's service.

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 in our journey.

The Word of God

Voluntary Nun freut sich, lieben Christen g'mein J. S. Bach

Hymn at the Procession *The Hymnal 1982, #433*
We gather together *Kremser*

The Opening Sentences *The Book of Common Prayer, page 355*

The Collect for Purity *The Book of Common Prayer, page 355*

The Trisagion *The Hymnal 1982, S 102*

The Collect of the Day for Thanksgiving

Almighty and gracious Father, we give you thanks for the fruits of the earth in their season and for the labors of those who harvest them. Make us, we pray, faithful stewards of your great bounty, for the provision of our necessities and the relief of all who are in need, to the glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Lessons *The people sit.*

First Lesson

Judges 4:1-7

The Israelites again did what was evil in the sight of the Lord, after Ehud died. So the Lord sold them into the hand of King Jabin of Canaan, who reigned in Hazor; the commander of his army was Sisera, who lived in Harosheth-ha-goiim. Then the Israelites cried out to the Lord for help; for he had nine hundred chariots of iron, and had oppressed the Israelites cruelly twenty years. At that time Deborah, a prophetess, wife of Lappidoth, was judging Israel. She used to sit under the palm of Deborah between Ramah and Bethel in the hill country of Ephraim; and the Israelites came up to her for judgment. She sent and summoned Barak son of Abinoam from Kedesh in Naphtali, and said to him, "The Lord, the God of Israel, commands you, 'Go, take position at Mount Tabor, bringing ten thousand from the tribe of Naphtali and the tribe of Zebulun. I

will draw out Sisera, the general of Jabin’s army, to meet you by the Wadi Kishon with his chariots and his troops; and I will give him into your hand.”

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Psalm 123



- 1 To you I lift up my **eyes**, *
to you enthroned in the **heavens**.
- 2 As the eyes of servants look to the hand of their **masters**, *
and the eyes of a maid to the hand of her **mistress**,
- 3 So our eyes look to the Lord our **God**, *
until he show us his **mercy**.
- 4 Have mercy upon us, O Lord, have **mercy**, *
for we have had more than enough of con- **tempt**,
- +5 Too much of the scorn of the indolent **rich**, *
and of the derision of the **proud**.

The Second Lesson

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. When they say, “There is peace and security,” then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. So then let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Sequence Hymn

Praise to God

The Hymnal 1982, #288

Dix

The Gospel

Matthew 25:14-30

Gospeller The Holy Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ
according to Matthew.

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus said, "It is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' But his master replied, 'You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have

will be taken away. As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”

Gospeller
People

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

Sermon

The Reverend Cliff Cutler

The Nicene Creed

The Book of Common Prayer, page 358

The Prayers of the People

Celebrant: Gather us together, O God, that we might share the prayers, intentions, and thanksgivings of our community.

We are generous with our gifts

Because we are Rooted in Abundance

Leader: I ask your prayers for the Church, for all who worship God this day. For our clergy, our diocesan leaders, and for our congregation. We pray especially for this season in which we celebrate our stories of leadership and our support for mission.

We are generous with our gifts of leadership,

Because we are Rooted in Abundance.

Leader: I ask your prayers for our Nation and all nations; for refugees fleeing climate change and war; for conflicts of resources and land; for lawmakers, peacekeepers, and informed citizens. We pray for a distribution of wealth that helps the poor and the marginalized.

We are generous with our gifts of peace,

Because we are Rooted in Abundance.

Leader: I ask your prayers for the sick, the lonely, the lost, and those who grieve. We remember those on our parish prayer list, and those we name now in silence or aloud ...

We are generous with our gifts of healing,

Because we are Rooted in Abundance.

Leader: I ask your prayers for those who have died, those who are dying, and those who mourn. For those on our parish list, and for those we name now in silence or aloud ...

We are generous with our gifts of support,

Because we are Rooted in Abundance.

Leader. I ask for your remembrances of thanksgivings and blessings, for we are given time, talent, and treasure to share with the world ...
We are generous with our gratitude,
Because we are Rooted in Abundance.

Celebrant. Hear the prayers of your people, Creator God. May we who are blessed by so much wealth and wisdom, share our works with a world in need. *Amen.*

The Confession and Absolution *page 360*

The Peace

The Holy Communion

Offertory Sentence

The Anthem Mark Schweizer
The text may be found in the Hymnal 1982, #554

Hymn at the Presentation *The Hymnal 1982, #397*
Now thank we all our God *Nun danket alle Gott*

*During the hymn, those who have pledged will come forward
and place their bulb in the flower pot.*

They will then be covered in dirt to root and bloom in abundance this Spring.

The Great Thanksgiving: Eucharistic Prayer A *page 361*

Sanctus (Holy, holy, holy) *The Hymnal 1982, S 124*
David Hurd

The Lord's Prayer *Page 364*

Fraction *The Hymnal S 161*
David Hurd

Hymn During Communion *The Hymnal 1982, #3341*
For the bread *Omni die*
All present are invited to receive the Holy Sacrament.

Postcommunion Hymn
O worship the King

The Hymnal 1982, #388
Hanover

Blessing and Dismissal

Closing Voluntary Wir danken dir, Herr Jesu Christ J. S. Bach

— **Worship Leaders** —

The Reverend Cliff Cutler	<i>Celebrant and Preacher</i>
Mark N. Peterson	<i>Organist</i>
Joanne Moar, Hugh MacKay	<i>Vergers</i>
Gavin Watson Bertrand	<i>Acolyte</i>
Caroline Watson-Felt	<i>Lector</i>
Barbara Layne	<i>Chalicer</i>
Tom Gaither, Angela Williams	<i>Ushers</i>

Our Prayers are offered for

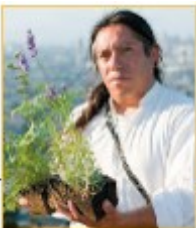
For Neal and Maureen Joyce, Arthur, Jane, Marty Siegel, Laszlo Katko, Jane Thompson, Deb Young, Cindy Rhodes, Ron, Linda Layne, Gerald Tucker, Allison Mascolo, Melissa Glassman, Max Joyce, Inga, Henry, and Lucas, Mel, Corey MacNeil, Helen Phillips and her family, Dianne, Michael Towey, Jenny, Loretta and Kris, Deb Papps, Derek Fuller and Family, the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem and their ministries, for Ukraine; the Boys and Girls Club of Greater Salem, the Salem Public Schools and for an end to racism, war, anti-Semitism, gun violence and oppression. If you have prayer requests, please email prayerlist@gracechurchsalem.org by Tuesday at noon for publication in that week's e-news.

Rooted in Abundance Reflection: Practice

“It all begins with Gratitude,” says Guillermo Vasquez, the head of the Bay Area nonprofit Indigenous Permaculture. “I give thanks one, two, three times to our creators and makers for everything.” This has been the attitude and action of Indigenous Permaculture since its creation in 2002. The idea behind this project is to form partnerships with local communities and indigenous peoples as a part of the “obligation to bring in Mother Earth’s way of thinking” to all systems, Guillermo reports from a yellow flowering field of mustard, groundcover in the Bay Area’s East Bay.

“We are all connected,” he continues. “We empower low-income peoples to understand and respond directly to how food, nutrition, health, and land are intertwined.” IP is more than a food production and gardening program, although the food they produce does provide free vegetables to local food pantries and other distribution sites. Guillermo is most interested in seeing how the connection between creation and the creator are formed through partnership with the land and the cycles of the Earth. He operates with an idea of Tiguanceguite, or, working together. “Always together, never out of alignment.”

“It is all related,” he explained, “food, energy, water, community.” Whether in rural or urban environments, permaculture, also known as biointensive polyculture, is a blend of traditional farming techniques that help people grow food while conserving water, land, and energy. It is a holistic way of examining gardening and the world, a process Guillermo calls cosmovision. When we share our most sacred meal, we are giving thanks for a system rooted in an ancient abundance, blessing upon blessing. We honor the life of the created land and the many lives who have touched it, sown, reaped, and shared its increase with a hungry world.



Guillermo Vasquez is of Mayan descent and grew up in Central America. He came to the Bay Area to study Agroecology at University of California, Santa Cruz.

Rooted in Abundance

These last few weeks we have heard reflections about how people are rooted in abundance. We have considered our own faith journey rooted in the love of God. We have also heard the words of Jesus about generous love depicted in parables.

This Sunday, we are called to act upon this grace. This Sunday, we are challenged to make a thoughtful and honest pledge to support God's work here at Grace Church. This spiritual practice of pledging will open new doors of joy. It will open new ways into your heart. It will allow new generations to learn about their own identity as children of the Divine and to see the loveliness of Christ in others. It will bring reassurance to those who are anxious and fearful. It will allow our neighbors to witness to the loving purposes of God which we model in our ministries to those in any kind of need, sickness, or loneliness.

You may make this pledge in a variety of ways.
You may bring it to church and drop it in the plate.
You may mail it to Grace Church.
You may email stewardship@gracechurchsalem.org.
You may go on our website www.gracechurchsalem.org and click "Stewardship" on the menu bar.

However you make your pledge, know that it will make a significant impact on lives in ways you may never know. It will even impact you! For in pledging to Grace Church, you are acting on the faith and trust you have in God to nourish and sustain you all the days of your life.

Each of us is rooted in abundance in some way. Let us celebrate the many gifts present in everyone who walks through our doors. Let us also be mindful of the needs and rights of others, and of the ways we can meet some of those needs and advocate for some of those rights as a community who loves Christ.

Advent is Coming

Next week is the final Sunday in the liturgical year, also known as Christ the King. We begin the year preparing for the arrival of the coming of Christ and we end it with Christ is glorious majesty. It is a “New Year’s Eve” of sorts.

The following week, we begin the church year anew with Advent. Advent is a season observed in most Christian denominations as a time of expectant waiting and preparation for both the celebration of the Nativity of Christ at Christmas and the return of Christ at the Second Coming. The name was adopted from Latin *adventus* "coming; arrival", translating Greek *parousia* from the New Testament, originally referring to the Second Coming.

The season of Advent in the Christian calendar anticipates the "coming of Christ" from three different perspectives: the physical nativity in Bethlehem, the reception of Christ in the heart of the believer, and the eschatological Second Coming.

Practices associated with Advent include Advent calendars, lighting an Advent wreath, praying an Advent daily devotional, and a hanging of the greens ceremony.

Advent also begins a new cycle of readings from Scripture. The Gospel readings will be predominantly from the Gospel according to Mark.

On the first Sunday of Advent, we will have purple hangings to represent the coming of the King of kings. We will bless the greens and light the first candle on the Advent wreath. The music will have a feeling of expectation, and we will add an introit anthem by the choir at the beginning of each service at 10:00 am.

With it being the first Sunday in the month, we will also have the Birthday prayer and blessing. As we begin a new year, let us join our hope-filled hearts together as we await the coming of God with us.

— Grace Episcopal Church —

A parish in the Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts

The Most Reverend Michael B. Curry	<i>Presiding Bishop</i>
The Right Reverend Alan M. Gates	<i>Bishop Diocesan</i>
The Right Reverend Carol Gallagher	<i>Assistant Bishop</i>
The Reverend Deborah A. Phillips	<i>Rector</i>
The Reverend E. Clifford Cutler	<i>Assisting Clergy</i>
The Reverend Manny Faria	<i>Assisting Clergy</i>
The Reverend Ann Perrott	<i>Assisting Clergy</i>
Mark N. Peterson	<i>Music Director</i>
Tom and Karen Tucker	<i>Property Stewards</i>

— Vestry —

Ryan Patten	<i>Senior Warden</i>
Margaret Carter	<i>Junior Warden</i>
Barbara Layne	<i>Clerk</i>
Katie Scott	<i>Treasurer</i>
Joanne Moar	<i>Assistant Treasurer</i>
Melissa Barnes, Andrew Bishop, Marianne Cannon	<i>Members of Vestry</i>
Lisa Duffy, Joanna Troy, Matt VanHamersveld	

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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.