

GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

May 10, 2026 – The Sixth Sunday of Easter – Mother's Day
8:30 Bulletin

LITURGICAL SEASON EXPLAINED

The season after Easter Day until Pentecost is called the **Easter Season** or **Eastertide** and lasts 50 days. The central theme of Eastertide is the resurrection of Jesus and the promise of new life, hope, and redemption. This is the most joyful season in the Christian calendar, the mood is bright and triumphant. The scripture readings focus on the appearances of the risen Christ and the beginnings of the Christian community with the missionary work of the apostles. The liturgical color is white, symbolizing joy and purity.



OPENING HYMN: Faith Of Our Mothers

Please stand as you are able



1. Faith of our moth - ers, liv - ing still,
2. Faith of our sis - ters, serv - ing still,
3. Faith of our daugh - ters, hop - ing still,
4. Faith of our fam - 'lies, grow - ing still,



through gifts de - rid - ed, calls de - nied,
with towel and ba - sin, cup and bread,
ven - tur - ing path - ways yet un - trod,
var - ied in gen - der, class, and race,



striv - ing un - daunt - ed through the years,
tend - ing earth's needs with pa - tient care,
part - ners in wit - ness to the world,
patch-work of pat - terns, shapes, and hues,



till bolt - ed doors have o - pened wide;
till hurts are healed and hun - gers fed:
seek - ing a liv - ing, mov - ing God:
vast as the man - tle of God's grace:



faith of our moth - ers, firm and strong:
faith of our sis - ters' art and skill,
faith of our daugh - ters, bold and true,
faith of our fam - 'lies, grow - ing faith,



voic - es long si - lenced rise in song!
lov - ing with heart and mind and will.
rest - less till Christ makes all things new.
we hon - or you in life and death.

ACCLAMATION *BCP p. 355*

Celebrant Alleluia! Christ is risen!

People **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

Celebrant continues:

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 *BCP p. 356*

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, you have prepared for those who love you such good things as surpass our understanding: Pour into our hearts such love towards you, that we, loving you in all things and above all things, may obtain your promises, which exceed all that we can desire; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **AMEN.**

*This Week's Reader: **Cheryle Kahl** † Next Sunday: **Karen Davenport***

FIRST READING Acts 17:22-31

Please be seated

Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, "Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, 'To an unknown god.' What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. For 'In him we live and move and have our being'; as even some of your own poets have said,

'For we too are his offspring.'

Since we are God's offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead."

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

PSALM 66:7-18

*Verses read alternately by the reader and the people, breaking at the **

⁷Bless our God, you peoples;*

make the voice of his praise to be heard;

⁸Who holds our souls in life,*
and will not allow our feet to slip.

⁹For you, O God, have proved us;*
you have tried us just as silver is tried.

¹⁰You brought us into the snare;*
you laid heavy burdens upon our backs.

¹¹You let enemies ride over our heads;
we went through fire and water;*
but you brought us out into a place of refreshment.

¹²I will enter your house with burnt-offerings
and will pay you my vows,*
**which I promised with my lips
and spoke with my mouth when I was in trouble.**

¹³I will offer you sacrifices of fat beasts
with the smoke of rams;*
I will give you oxen and goats.

¹⁴Come and listen, all you who fear God,*
and I will tell you what he has done for me.

¹⁵I called out to him with my mouth,*
and his praise was on my tongue.

¹⁶If I had found evil in my heart,*
the Lord would not have heard me;

¹⁷But in truth God has heard me;*
he has attended to the voice of my prayer.

¹⁸Blessed be God, who has not rejected my prayer,*
nor withheld his love from me.

SECOND READING 1 Peter 3:13-22

Now who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated, but in your

hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and reverence. Keep your conscience clear, so that, when you are maligned, those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame. For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God's will, than to suffer for doing evil. For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water. And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL John 14:15-21

Please stand as you are able

Jesus said, "If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

"I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them."

Celebrant The Gospel of our Lord.

People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

SERMON

Please be seated

NICENE CREED *BCP p. 358*

Please stand as you are able

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.

PRAYERS of the PEOPLE

The Leader and people pray responsively:

Christ is risen—alleluia! In the confidence of the Resurrection, we now pray in our Savior's name for all of God's people throughout the world, saying: Awake, O Sleeper, rise from death,

And Christ will give you life!

Bring newness and change to your church, O God, that we might serve you with courage and grace. Awake, O Church, rise from death,

And Christ will give you life!

Bring newness and change to your world, O God, that all might know the goodness of your love. Awake, O World, rise from death,

And Christ will give you life!

Bring newness and change to our nation, O God, that each person might share with and honor the other. Awake, O People, rise from death,

And Christ will give you life!

Bring newness and change for the poor of the earth, O God, for the victims of warfare and natural disasters, and for refugees around the world, especially in Ukraine, the Middle East, Sudan, Haiti, the Congo, and Venezuela. Awake, O Downcast, rise from death,

And Christ will give you life!

Bring newness and change to our community, O God, as we pray for the children in our lives and in our world. Grant us calm strength and patient wisdom that we may teach them to love whatever is just, true, and good. Awake, O Family, rise from death,

And Christ will give you life!

Bring newness and change for the sick and the suffering, especially those on our prayer list. Are there others?

That they might know your saving help. Awake, O Sorrowful, rise from death,

And Christ will give you life!

Bring newness and change to even the departed, O God, that they might forever grow in your likeness. Awake, O Saints, rise from death,

And Christ will give you life!

Bring newness and change to our hearts, O God, that we might grow larger in faith and hope. Awake, O Soul, rise from death,

And Christ will give you life!

Awake, O Sleeper, rise from death, for Christ has burst forth from the tomb, making all things new. Rise and live, says the Lord. This day God has made for life and all joy!

Alleluia, amen!

CONCLUDING COLLECT

God our creator, you are constantly and unconditionally loving us even when we stray from you. Hear our prayers and guide us into the way of your peace. **AMEN.**

MOTHER'S DAY BLESSING

Celebrant:

We celebrate all women today who in many and varied ways "mother" others through their love, support, caring, compassion, listening ear, hard work, nurturing, sacrifice, and presence to help people grow and develop to become the people they are meant to be. Some of these women are biological mothers, some are adoptive mothers, some are single mothers, some are grandmothers or great-grandmothers, some are aunts, some are neighbors, some are friends, some are volunteers, and some may be grieving—but they all have relationships with children, teenagers, or adults who require that special gift of "mothering."

May the God of our mother Sarah be your fountain of life to bless you and give you health and happiness, so that you may be a blessing to your family and to all who are in your care.

May Jesus, the Son of Mary, be your protector to give you strength and health and peace, so that you may be a refuge and haven for all those you care for. And may the blessing of God shield you from all the powers of darkness and give you joy in being a mother figure to all those who need you. We ask this through Christ our Lord. **AMEN.**



THE PEACE

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

The Celebrant and People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please be seated

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Please stand as you are able

Celebrant May God be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them to our God.**

Celebrant Let us give thanks to our God.

People **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Celebrant continues:

All thanks and praise are yours at all times and in all places, our true and loving God; through Jesus Christ, your eternal Word, the Wisdom from on high by whom you created all things. You laid the foundations of the world and enclosed the sea when it burst out from the womb; you brought forth all creatures of the earth and gave breath to humankind.

Wondrous are you, Holy One of Blessing; all you create is a sign of hope for our journey. And so, as the morning stars sing your praises, we join the heavenly beings and all creation as we shout with joy:

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.

Glory and honor are yours, Creator of all; your Word has never been silent. You called a people to yourself, as a light to the nations; you delivered them from bondage and led them to a land of promise. Of your grace, you gave Jesus to be human, to share our life, to proclaim the coming of your holy reign, and to give himself for us. Through Jesus Christ our Redeemer, you have freed us from sin, brought us into your life, reconciled us to you, and restored us to the glory you intend for us.

We thank you that on the night before he died for us, Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, gave it to his friends, and said: "Take, eat, this is my Body, broken for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper, Jesus took the cup of wine, said the blessing, gave it to his friends, and said: "Drink this, all of you: this cup is the new Covenant in my Blood, poured out for you and for all. Do this for the remembrance of me."

And so, remembering all that was done for us: the cross, the tomb, the resurrection and ascension, longing for Christ's coming

in glory, and presenting to you these gifts your earth has formed and human hands have made, we acclaim you, O Christ:

Dying, you destroyed our death. Rising, you restored our life. Christ Jesus, come in glory!

Send your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts of bread and wine, that they may be to us the Body and Blood of your Christ. Grant that we, burning with your Spirit's power, may be a people of hope, justice, and love.

For it is through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, that we worship you, our God and Creator, in voices of unending praise.

Blessed are you now and forever. AMEN.

THE LORD'S PRAYER *BCP p. 364*

Celebrant:

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

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.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Celebrant We break this bread to share in the Body of Christ.

People **We who are many are one body, for we all share in the one bread.**

COMMUNION

Please be seated

Communion at Grace is Open to Everyone

Whoever you are, wherever you find yourself on the journey of faith, there is a place for you at God's table. You may choose to receive bread (gluten free wafers available upon request). You may choose to receive wine in the silver chalice or grape juice in the white and blue chalice. You may drink from either cup or intinct (dip) the bread into the chalice. You may refrain from the bread and chalice and just receive a blessing by crossing your arms over your chest.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Please stand as you are able

After Communion, the Celebrant says:

Let us pray.

Celebrant and People:

God of abundance, you have fed us with the bread of life and cup of salvation; you have united us with Christ and one another; and you have made us one with all your people in heaven and on earth. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue forever in the risen life of Christ our Savior. AMEN.



BLESSING

May the Wisdom of God, the Love of God, and the Grace of God strengthen you to be Christ's hands and heart in this world. And may the blessing of God Almighty—God our Creator, God our Redeemer, and God our Sanctifier—be with you this day and forevermore. **AMEN.**

CLOSING HYMN: Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise



1. Im - mor - tal, in - vis - i - ble, God on - ly wise,
2. Un - rest - ing, un - hast - ing, and si - lent as light,
3. Life - giv - ing Cre - a - tor, of both great and small;
4. Great Fa - ther of glo - ry, pure Fa - ther of light,



1. In light in - ac - ces - si - ble hid from our eyes,
2. Nor want - ing, nor wast - ing, you rule day and night;
3. Of all life the mak - er, the true life of all;
4. Your an - gels a - dor - ing, all veil - ing their sight;



1. Most bless - ed, most glo - rious, the An - cient of Days,
2. Your jus - tice like moun - tains high soar - ing a - bove
3. We blos - som, then with - er, as leaves on a tree,
4. We too, God in - vis - i - ble, of - fer our praise;



1. Al - might - y, vic - to - rious, your great name we praise.
2. Your clouds, which are foun - tains of good - ness and love.
3. But you live for ev - er, who is and will be.
4. O light in - ac - ces - si - ble, An - cient of Days!

DISMISSAL

Celebrant My friends, our worship has now ended. Let us go forth in peace to show the world by our actions and our words the saving power of the risen Jesus! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

People **We will, with God's help! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**



The Prayers of this Congregation

Sean Rowe, our Presiding Bishop; our Bishop, Bonnie Anne Perry; Moises Quezada Mota, Bishop of the Diocese of the Dominican Republic; Elizabeth Eaton, ELCA Presiding Bishop; Donald P. Kreiss, ELCA Bishop, SE Michigan Synod; Craig A. Satterlee, ELCA Bishop, NW Lower Michigan Synod. Our retired bishop, Wendell Gibbs; our retired community, spouses, and companions. Our diocesan household: Committees, commissions, ministries, agencies, priests, deacons, lay leaders, volunteers, and staff members; Steven Steinberger-Domienik; Grace Church Mt. Clemens; Bonaio, DR Church of the Pentecost.

For our Wednesday and Sunday supper guests; Donna Hanes; Frankie Dion; Elliott Belair; Charlotte Kalligeros; Tom Stotz; Jennifer Holland; Joan Walsh; Elizabeth Gage; Logan & Teresa Davidson; Jeanne Nowak; Donna Powell; Pamela Sherry; Linda Fields; Michael Woodard; Sara Mattocks; Gene Skladnowski; Sherie Borsa; Joan Donald; Rob Haynes; Scott Kadets; Brenda Steinberger-Domienik; Laurisa; Jason Zadorski; Pat Ruditis; Jean & Terry Hitchcock; Laura Mary Lake; Allen Clay; Mary Anne Jackson; Martha Wehba; Jody Gorney; Tammy Murphy; Eka & Kiana Bassey; Suzanne LaMontagne; Vito Fontana; Christa Carpenter; Nancy & Bob Johnson; Rick Gheresi; Rory Heinz; Carole Schwertman; Tish Germain; Shirley & Nelson Rumpel; Helen Fitzgibbon; Joyce & Roy Schafer; Danielle; Betty Brogan; Paige Biehl; Ulrike Lamb; Debbie H.; Beverly Wolff; Ellen Laudicina; Beth Jarvis; Dave Salyer; Al Gazoul; Randy; Sharon Fedchenko; Joyce Geiger; Steve Burns; Brenden Murphy and family; the Domienik family; Michael Oakley; Betty Moore; Sandy Krell; Bobby Coutts; Sharon Potter; Rita Vermeersch; Sallie Coffey; Frank Davis; Jerry Gardner; Shelly Volpe; Bud Denham; John Schober; Tish Mastro-Burns; Jane Kaminski.

Do you know someone who can use our prayers?

Please contact the office to add them to or keep them on the prayer list.

CURRENT ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please send all bulletin submissions to bulletins@gracechurchmtclemens.org

ALTAR FLOWERS

Altar flowers were given by Lucy Smith in memory of Jim Smith. Please sign up for altar flowers on the bulletin board in the hallway leading to the sanctuary.

COFFEE HOUR

Please volunteer to host a coffee hour; the sign-up sheet is in the hallway. The host(s) makes and sets up the coffee and any snacks and then cleans up afterwards. You may also be reimbursed for any money you spend for

snacks—just let Marchea (in the office) know! Thank you for sharing in the hospitality ministry of our parish!

BIBLE STUDY

Please join us on **Sundays** at **9:30 AM** in the Guild Room for our Bible study. No preparation needed; just come and listen and join in the conversation. Each session is self-contained so you do not have to attend each week; come when you can. We learn a great deal about Scripture, our faith, ourselves, and each other! Hope to see you there!

CHOIR

Please join us for choir rehearsal on **Wednesdays** at **6:30 PM** in the sanctuary. No experience required; just bring your spirited heart and a friend! Thank you!

GARDENS OF GRACE

Spring's arrival means it's time to give some TLC to our church gardens. Please see the Amazing Grace newsletter (available at both entrances and online) for monthly updates and ways you can help out. Also, we'd like to borrow some lightweight safety cones for when we rent out our parking lot in June. If you have some to spare, please drop them off in the office. Thanks!

BOOK CLUB

The next book club meeting will be **this Thursday, May 14** at **6 PM** at Grace Church. At the last meeting we couldn't decide which book was next, so we ended up choosing two books! They are: *Hold Strong* by Robert Dugoni and *twice* by Mitch Albom. We hope to see you at the next meeting! If you have any questions or concerns, please speak to Ann Strevel.

For Those Whose U.S. Citizenship is Being Challenged

God of **community**, whose Son proclaimed your kingdom where **all are invited** and none are cast aside, **we pray** for those whose U.S. citizenship is being challenged through denaturalization proceedings or debated in public policy. **We grieve** the rhetoric and proposals that may expand or more aggressively apply **the use of denaturalization** against foreign-born citizens. Remain close, O God, with **those who have found home** in the United States and now face uncertainty. **Comfort them**, comfort their families, and **give us all strength** to advocate for their rights. **Be with those** in federal and state **governments**, and in the courts, and **grant them the wisdom** to uphold the dignity and safety of those who have accepted the privilege and responsibilities of citizenship. **Make the United States** and all nations places of **security and belonging**, and give us courage to advocate for laws and just practices that look like your kingdom. Help us to repent of every desire to create unjust exclusion that denies the dignity of others, where you have called for unity and world-transforming love, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.