

Grace Episcopal Church

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The Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost August 24, 2025

The Rev. Susan L. Scranton, Rector ~ The Rev. James Seipel, Assisting
David Aldrete, Choirmaster ~ Pavel Petrov, Organist

Welcome to Grace Parish! We are glad that you have answered God's call to worship, and we are honored that you have chosen to be with us. In addition to the service, we offer childcare for children age 4 and under, and Sunday School for preschool through 6th grade.

Visitors, we would like to meet you! Please take a moment to fill out the "Voice from the Pew" found in the red folders.

Grace Episcopal Church

~ Blessing of the Backpacks ~

Prelude

Pavel Petrov

I was glad when they said unto me, "Let us go into the house of the Lord."

(Please stand)

Processional Hymn 432

Laudate Dominum

"O praise ye the Lord"

The Word of God

Call to Worship

Celebrant: Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.

People: Come, let us adore him.

Celebrant: Calling all children of the Living God: the gospel is good news for every age and every stage.

People: Let us worship together, the young and the old.

Celebrant: The good news is proclaimed in God's Word and song, with crayons and laptops, lunch and giggles, Bible Study and baseball, and in all that we do.

People: Let us worship together, every generation.

Celebrant: In the love we share, and in the blessings we are about to receive

People: Let us worship together, with our family of faith.

Celebrant: Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.

People: Come, let us adore him.

Celebrant: Let us pray.

O Eternal God, as we gather today to celebrate the beginning of a new school year, we ask you to bless all preschools, day care centers, schools, and colleges, that they may be lively centers for sound learning, new discovery, and the pursuit of wisdom; and grant that those who teach and those who learn may find you to be the source of all truth; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **AMEN.**

The Lessons

First Lesson: Deuteronomy 6:4-9

Stacey Aldrete

Hear, O Israel: The Lord is our God, the Lord alone. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might. Keep these words that I am commanding you today in your heart. Recite them to your children and talk about them when you are at home and when you are away, when you lie down, and when you rise. Bind them as a sign on your hand, fix them as an emblem on your forehead, and write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 23 *Dominus regit me*

Stacey Aldrete

1 The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.

2 He maketh me to lie down in green pastures; he leadeth me beside the still waters.

3 He restoreth my soul;

he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his Name's sake.

4 Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,

I shall fear no evil; for thou art with me;

thy rod and thy staff, they comfort me.

5 Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies;

thou anointest my head with oil, my cup runneth over.

6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,

and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

Second Reading: Colossians 3:12-15

Jared Anders

As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful.

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

(Please stand)

Sequence Hymn 488

“Be thou my vision”

Slane

THE GOSPEL: Matthew 22:34-40

Rev. Susan L. Scranton

Celebrant: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

When the Pharisees heard that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, and one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. “Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?” He said to him, “‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.”

Celebrant: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

(Please be seated.)

Sermon

The Rev. Susan L. Scranton

The Nicene Creed

(Said by all. Please stand.)

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 ~ Blessings for a New School Year Jade Petteruto

O God, today we gather to celebrate the beginning of a new school year. It is a time filled with joy and excitement as well as uncertainty and wonder. Be with us as we journey.

God of knowledge and wisdom, we pray to you for all schools that they may be lively centers for learning, new discovery, and the pursuit of goodness. We pray also for our places of work, that our time laboring may be fruitful and enriching.

Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

As students begin the year, give them open minds and open hearts to learn and to experience the joys of new discoveries. May this year be full of promise for them, and for their teachers, as together they experience new beginnings and fresh starts.

Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Bless, O God, all who will teach our children in the coming days. Give them the wisdom to find inspiration for each child. Give them energy and creativity and love that will make their work a blessing to our children.

Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Bless, O God all school administrators and support staff, that they may be faithful stewards of the resources entrusted to your care. Make them fair and merciful, able to do their crucial work with a spirit of grace and compassion.

Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Bless, O God, those who will carry backpacks across our hills and mountains. May their treks give them a vision of the majesty of the world you have created. Keep them safe in their ventures, reminding them always to pack the 10 essentials.

Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Bless, O Lord, all who carry briefcases, bags, computers, music, and the assorted tools of the work they have been given to do. Guide them in their work, giving them both wisdom and joy as their work brings blessings to a world in need.

Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

O Lord, as our backpacks are gathered, blessed, and returned and we go off to learn and teach and learn some more, may we always remember that you have plans for us, plans for our welfare and not for harm, to give us a future with hope.

Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

We pray now for those who perhaps cannot go off to learn and teach because they are ill, in body, mind, or spirit. We ask that you bring healing and strength, joy and recovery. We pray especially for those on our parish prayer list.

Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Collect: Almighty God, the fountain of all wisdom, who is always more ready to give than we are to pray, hear the prayers of your people, and fill us with all joy and peace in believing through the power of the Holy Spirit. Glory to God, whose power working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine: Glory to him from generation to generation in the Church, and in Christ Jesus for ever and ever. **AMEN.**

Confession and Absolution

(Please kneel or sit)

Celebrant: Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

(Said by all.)

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.

We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. AMEN.

Celebrant: Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

The Peace

Celebrant: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: And also with you.

~ The Blessing of the Backpacks ~

Welcome, Announcements and Special Blessings

(Say together)

Watch over your children, O Lord, as their days increase; bless and guide them wherever they may be. Strengthen them when they stand; comfort them when discouraged or sorrowful; raise them up if they fall and in their hearts may your peace which passes understanding abide all the days of their lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Holy Communion

Offertory Anthem

Pavel Petrov

(Please stand)

Presentation Hymn 380 v. 3

Old 100th

“Praise God from whom all blessings flow”

The Great Thanksgiving (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.**

Celebrant: 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:

Sanctus and Benedictus S128 (Sing)

Mathias

**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.

(Please kneel as able.)

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.

Celebrant: 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.**

The Lord's Prayer

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

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

(The Celebrant breaks the bread. A period of silence is kept.)

Celebrant: Alleluia! Christ our Passover has been sacrificed for us.

People: Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia!

Celebrant: The gifts of God for the people of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

(All are welcome to receive communion at our Lord's Table. If you would like communion brought to you in your seat, please notify an usher.)

Gluten free wafers are available.

Communion Hymn 508

Nova Vita

"Breathe on me, Breath of God"

Postcommunion Prayer

(Said by all.)

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Blessing

Recessional Hymn 376

Hymn to Joy

“Joyful, joyful, we adore thee”

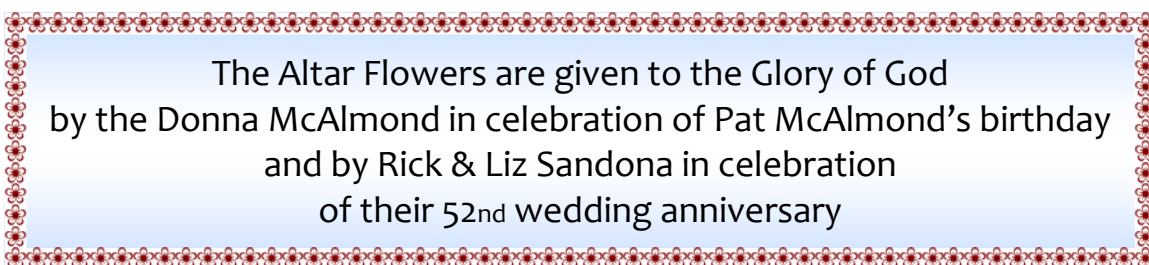
Dismissal

Celebrant: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

Pavel Petrov



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Adopt-a-Lunch - August 24 today in Baxter Hall after the 10 AM service.

Summer Bible Study - We will be meeting Wednesday, August 27 at 7:00 PM in the Fireside Room in Baxter Hall.

Grace Parish Choir - August 28 at 7:00 PM in the choir room.

Grace Episcopal Church Night for the Quakes!! Come join us on Thursday, September 4 at 6:30 PM in Rancho Cucamonga at the Loanmart Field. You may buy tickets online and sit in the Grace Church section. Tickets are \$15.30 and it's Thirsty Thursday with cheaper soda and beer options available. Please speak with Liz Sandona if you have any questions or need help buying your tickets.



Grandparents Day - We will be celebrating on September 7. Grandparents, please bring your grandchildren; grandchildren, please bring your grandparents.

Youth Group - Sunday, September 7 after the 10 AM service.

Welcome Back BBQ and Ministry Faire - September 14 after the 10 AM service. Enjoy fellowship with your fellow parishioners and visit the various ministries. Perhaps something will excite you to join one!!

Blessing of the Animals - October 5 at the 10 AM service in Baxter Hall.

Serving In Today's Worship:

Celebrant..... The Rev. Susan L. Scranton
Lay Eucharistic Ministers..... Frank Boyd
Lectors..... Stacey Aldrete, Jared Anders, Jade Petteruto
Acolytes..... Morgan Patterson, Ethan Seielstad, Amelie Palpant
Organist..... Pavel Petrov
Flower Guild..... Amelie Palpant, Hannah Palpant
Stream Team Karen Williamson, Mizuki Williamson
Altar Guild..... Dawn Mellon, Pat Meyer, Debbie Pullen, Cathy St. Onge
Grace Usher Alex McKenzie, Rob Van Derbur
Vestry Person of the Week Heather Moore

Prayer List

For healing and comfort: Edie Noland, Sam Luna, Frank Boyd,
Susie Seielstad, Rick, Lucy, Jon Sharp. Lindsay, Manette Thomas,
Liz Hernandez, Andy Lambert, Margo Keller, Larry Mayle, Janet,
Gabriel Valenzuela

For strength & guidance: Gayle, Jennifer & Justin, Brock,
The Hernandez Family

For those serving in the military: Chad Donohoe ~ U.S. Navy,
Nelson Acosta ~ U.S. Air Force, Sgt. Mitchell Bennett ~ Army,
Adam Corona Jr. ~ U.S. Air Force, Seth Tradel ~ U.S. Navy,
Mitchell Mann ~ U.S. Marines

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

5 - Trevor Camargo	9 – Patricia Coppack	23 – Carl Colley
6 – Nancy Rice	9 - Rick England	25 – Patrick McAlmond
8 - Donte Apperwhite	20 - Rob Van Derbur	26 - David Moore

AUGUST WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

Betsy and Karl Davis – Aug 12 ~ Debby and Rick England – Aug 17
Heather and Michael Moore – 28 ~ Bobbi and Steven Patterson – Aug 7
Liz and Rick Sandona – Aug 25 ~ Cathy and Al St. Onge - Aug 27



Grace Episcopal Church Vestry Members 2025

Rev. Susan L. Scranton,
Frank Boyd - Senior Warden, Heather Moore - Junior Warden
Miles Bresee - Treasurer, Todd Rice - Buildings & Grounds,
Kathi Ferris, Janet Kawamoto,
Hannah Palpant, Jade Petteruto, Linda Rice