



Grace Episcopal Church

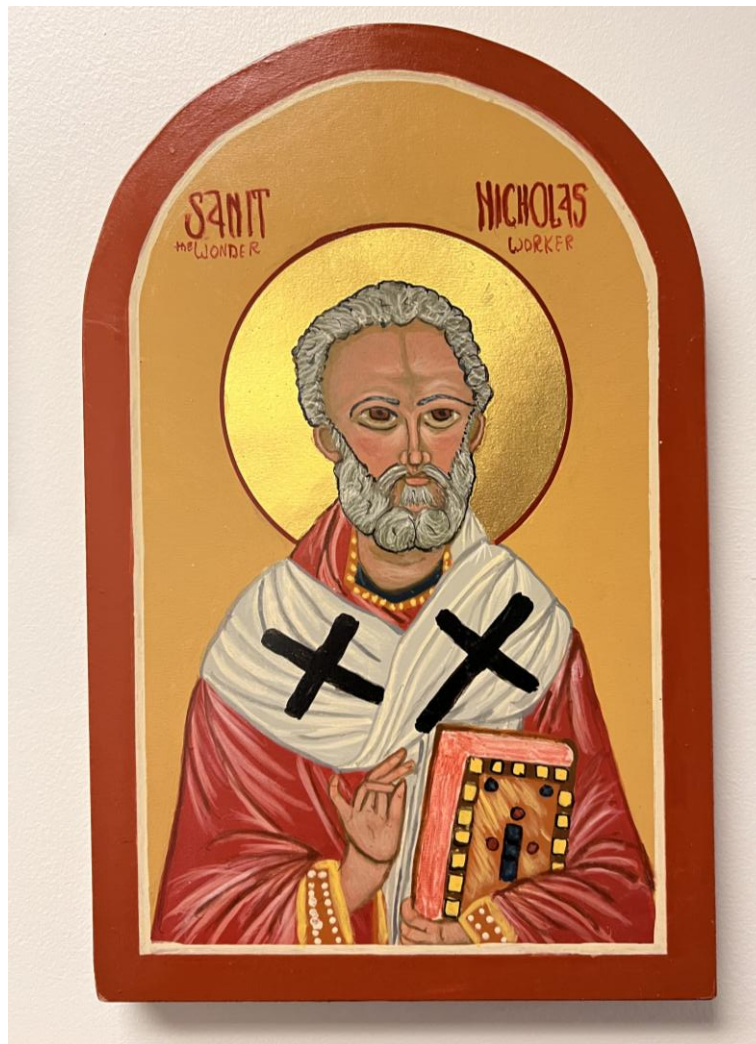
3601 Russell Rd. Alexandria, Virginia 22305

www.gracealex.org 703.549.1980

Second Sunday of Advent

December 7, 2025– 10:30 am

Choral Eucharist, Rite I



Saint Nicholas, whose feast day falls on December 6th, makes a special visit to Grace Church each year during Advent.

Connecting @ Grace

Address: 3601 Russell Rd., Alexandria, VA 22305 ♦ Phone: 703.549.1980 ♦ Website: www.gracealex.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/GraceEpiscopalChurchAlexandriaVa ♦ Instagram: @graceepisalexva

YouTube: Search Grace Episcopal Alexandria, Virginia on Youtube.com

WELCOME TO GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

We are pleased to welcome you to Grace Church. If you are joining us for the first time, please send us a message at welcome@gracealex.org, so we can get to know you. We can also add you to our mailing list by request. We're glad to have you join with us in worshipping God in the beauty of holiness, something which is central to our identity at Grace. We hope you will join with us in sharing the love of God with this world that needs healing. Assisted listening devices are available for use during worship. Please see an usher if you'd like to use one.



Please silence your cell phones during worship.

Our Mission Statement

To Love, Proclaim, and Serve God

through life-giving liturgical worship + joyful community + empowering others

Contacting Grace

Please feel free to contact our staff.

Our office hours are Monday to Thursday 9 am – 3 pm, and 9 am – 12 pm on Fridays.

(Mother Anne is out of the office on Mondays and Father Santiago & Mother Emma are out of the office on Fridays)

Staff

Betsy Bamford

Jane Avery

Nursery Workers (part-time)

The Rev. Emma Brice

Associate Rector & School Chaplain

emma.brice@gracealex.org

Mary Cyrus

Financial Administrator (part-time)

financial.admin@gracealex.org

Kalli Edwards

Operations & Finance Assistant (part-time)

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Kevin Hamilton

Director of Operations and Communication

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Josh Harrington

Interim Director of Music (part-time)

josh.harrington@gracealex.org

Pedro Hernández

Amorita Quintanilla

Sextons

Amanda Hungerford

Head of Grace Episcopal School

ahungerford@graceschoolalex.org

The Rev. Dr. Anne Michele Turner

Rector

anne.turner@gracealex.org

2025-2026 Seminarians from Virginia Theological Seminary

Seth Wise Buck

Gabriel (Gabe) Oakes

Miranda Peters

IN NEED OF PASTORAL CARE?

Clergy and staff are available for pastoral care. Please call the church office at (703) 549-1980 if you're ill or need pastoral care. For emergencies after hours, please call the **After-hours Emergency Number: (703) 261-9079**, and the priest on call will assist you.

HOME COMMUNION

Home Communion is available upon request for parishioners who desire this service by Eucharistic Visitors every Sunday. Home Communion will be in one form, Bread only. To request Home Communion, parishioners are asked to contact the Parish Office by telephone at 703-549-1980 no later than 12 pm on the Wednesday prior to the Sunday on which they would like to receive Home Communion.

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT
CHORAL EUCHARIST, RITE I

Children 3 months until 3 years are welcome in the nursery. Please ask an usher to direct you.

PRELUDE

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

Diane Bish

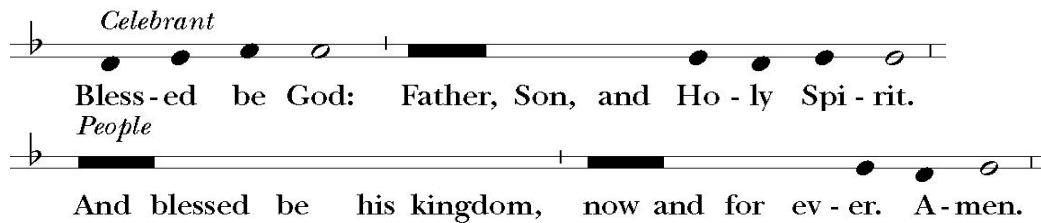
The people stand.

HYMN 76

On Jordan's bank the Baptist's Cry

Winchester New

THE OPENING ACCLAMATION



Celebrant
Bless-ed be God: Father, Son, and Ho-ly Spi-rit.
People
And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ev-er. A-men.

THE COLLECT FOR PURITY

Almighty God, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love thee, and worthily magnify thy holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen**

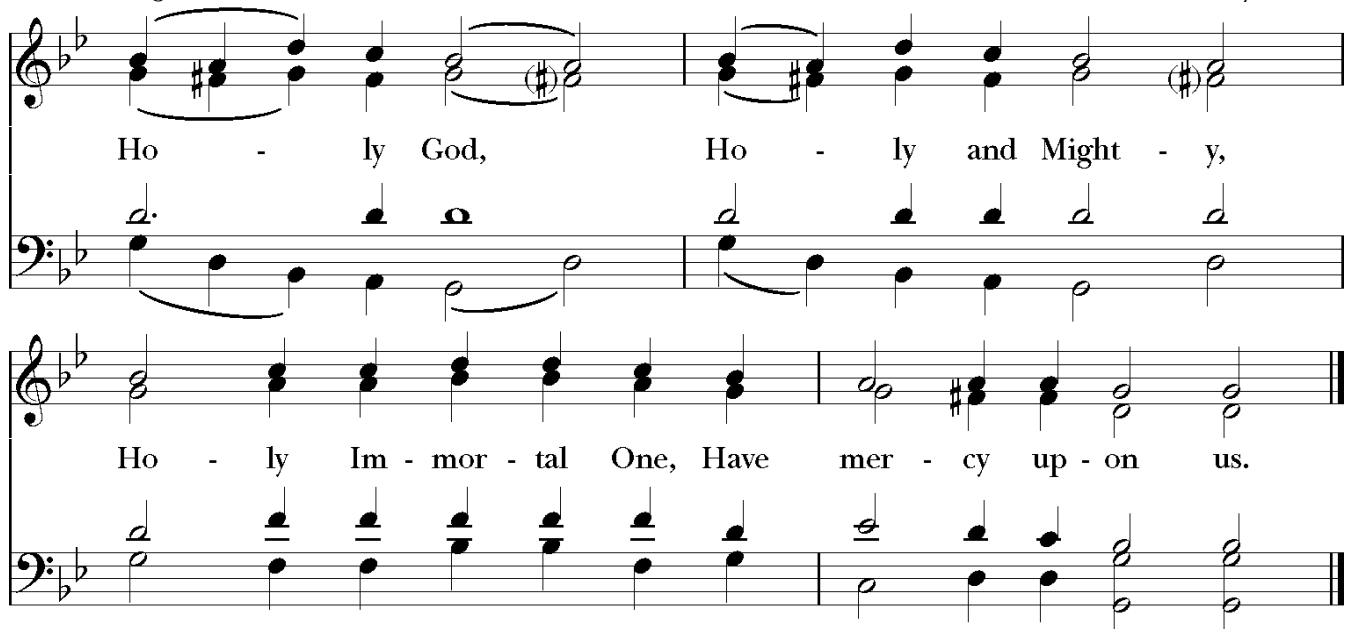
THE SUMMARY OF THE LAW

Hear what our Lord Jesus Christ saith: Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it: Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.

Children ages 3 years – 3rd grade follow the Crucifer to Children's Chapel.

TRISAGION (*Sung three times*)

Hymnal S-102



Ho-ly God, Ho-ly and Might-y,
Ho-ly Im-mor-tal One, Have mer-cy up-on us.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And with thy spirit.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

Merciful God, who didst send thy messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The people are seated.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

THE FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 11:1-10

Lector A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah.

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.

His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.

On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

PSALM 72: 1-7, 18-19

Robert Knox Kennedy (b. 1945)



© 1979, Robert Knox Kennedy.

1 Give the King your justice, O | God, *
and your righteousness to the King's | Son;
2 That he may rule your people | righteously *
and the poor with | justice;
3 That the mountains may bring prosperity to the | people, *
and the little hills bring | righteousness.
4 He shall defend the needy among the | people; *
he shall rescue the poor and crush the o- | ppressor.
5 He shall live as long as the sun and moon en- | dure, *
from one generation to a- | nother.
6 He shall come down like rain upon the mown | field, *
like showers that water the | earth.
7 In his time shall the righteous | flourish; *
there shall be abundance of peace till the moon shall be no | more.
18 Blessed be the Lord God, the God of | Israel, *
who alone does wondrous | deeds!
†19 And blessed be his glorious Name for | ever! *
and may all the earth be filled with his glory.
Amen. A- | men.
[† = 2nd half of chant]

Lector A reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans.

Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written, "Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles, and sing praises to your name"; and again he says, "Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people"; and again, "Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples praise him"; and again Isaiah says, "The root of Jesse shall come, the one who rises to rule the Gentiles; in him the Gentiles shall hope."

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

The people stand for the Gospel Procession and sing the hymn.

HYMN 54

Savior of the nations, come

Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland

THE HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 3:1-12

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

People **Glory be to thee, O Lord.**

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said,

"The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.'"

Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit worthy of repentance. Do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

"I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

Deacon The Gospel of the Lord.

People **Praise be to thee, O Christ.**

The people are seated.

SERMON

Seminarian Miranda Peters

Silence is kept.

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.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Form V; BCP, p. 389

The Leader and People pray responsively

In peace, let us pray to the Lord, saying, "Lord, have mercy."

For the holy Church of God, that it may be filled with truth and love, and be found without fault at the day of your coming, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For Sean Rowe, our Presiding Bishop, for E. Mark Stevenson, Gayle E. Harris, and Mark Allen Bourlakas, our Bishops, for all bishops and other ministers, and for all the holy people of God, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For all who fear God and believe in you, Lord Christ, that our divisions may cease, and that all may be one as you and the Father are one, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the mission of the Church, that in faithful witness it may preach the Gospel to the ends of the earth, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace of the world, that a spirit of respect and forbearance may grow among nations and peoples, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For those in positions of public trust that they may serve justice, and promote the dignity and freedom of every person, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the poor, the persecuted, the sick, and all who suffer; for refugees, prisoners, and all who are in danger; that they may be relieved and protected, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For this congregation for those who are present, and for those who are absent, that we may be delivered from hardness of heart, and show forth your glory in all that we do, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For all who have commended themselves to our prayers; for our families, friends, and neighbors; that being freed from anxiety, they may live in joy, peace, and health, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For all who have died in the communion of your Church, and those whose faith is known to you alone, that, with all the saints, they may have rest in that place where there is no pain or grief, but life eternal, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Rejoicing in the fellowship of the ever-blessed Virgin Mary, and all the saints, let us commend ourselves, and one another, and all our life to Christ our God.

To you, O Lord our God.

Silence is kept.

Celebrant

For yours is the majesty, O Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory, now and for ever.

People **Amen.**

THE CONFESSION OF SIN & ABSOLUTION

BCP, p. 331

Deacon

Let us humbly confess our sins unto Almighty God.

All

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against thee, in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved thee with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of thy Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in thy will, and walk in thy ways, to the glory of thy Name.

Amen.

Celebrant

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who of his great mercy hath promised forgiveness of sins to all those who with hearty repentance and true faith turn unto him, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and bring you to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And with thy spirit.**

The people are seated.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE HOLY COMMUNION



THE OFFERTORY We invite you to give to the work of the church electronically via Tithe.ly by scanning this QR code.
If you give electronically, please place the tag in your pew in the offering so that your gift can be blessed.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Lo How a Rose E'er Blooming

Praetorius

*Lo, how a rose e'er blooming, From tender stem hath sprung.
Of Jesse's lineage coming, As men of old have sung;
It came, a flow'ret bright, Amid the cold of winter,
When half spent was the night.*

*Isaiah 'twas foretold it, The Rose I have in mind,
With Mary we behold it, The virgin mother kind;
To show God's love aright, She bore to men a Savior,
When half spent was the night.*

The people stand and sing the hymn.

HYMN 307

Lord, enthroned in heavenly splendor

Bryn Calfaria

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING: EUCHARISTIC PRAYER II

BCP, p. 340

<i>Celebrant</i>	<i>People</i>

The Celebrant continues.

It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto thee, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God, Because thou didst send thy beloved Son to redeem us from sin and death, and to make us heirs in him of everlasting life; that when he shall come again in power and great triumph to judge the world, we may without shame or fear rejoice to behold his appearing. Therefore with Angels and Archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious Name; evermore praising thee, and saying,

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, Lord God of

Hosts: Hea - ven and earth are full of thy glo - ry. Glo -

- ry be to thee, O Lord Most High. Bless - ed is he that com - eth

in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

The people stand or kneel. Then the Celebrant continues.

All glory be to thee, O Lord our God, for that thou didst create heaven and earth, and didst make us in thine own image; and, of thy tender mercy, didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to take our nature upon him, and to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption. He made there a full and perfect sacrifice for the whole world; and did institute, and in his holy Gospel command us to continue, a perpetual memory of that his precious death and sacrifice, until his coming again.

For in the night in which he was betrayed, he took bread; and when he had given thanks to thee, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take, eat, this is my Body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." Likewise, after supper, he took the cup; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink this, all of you; for this is my Blood of the New Covenant, which is shed for you, and for many, for the remission of sins. Do this, as oft as ye shall drink it, in remembrance of me."

Wherefore, O Lord and heavenly Father, we thy people do celebrate and make, with these thy holy gifts which we now offer unto thee, the memorial thy Son hath commanded us to make; having in remembrance his blessed passion and precious death, his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension; and looking for his coming again with power and great glory.

And we most humbly beseech thee, O merciful Father, to hear us, and, with thy Word and Holy Spirit, to bless and sanctify these gifts of bread and wine, that they may be unto us the Body and Blood of thy dearly-beloved Son Jesus Christ.

And we earnestly desire thy fatherly goodness to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, whereby we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, our selves, our souls and bodies. Grant, we beseech thee, that all who partake of this Holy Communion may worthily receive the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son Jesus Christ, and be filled with thy grace and heavenly benediction; and also that we and all thy whole Church may be made one body with him, that he may dwell in us, and we in him; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord;

By whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Ghost all honor and glory be unto thee, O Father Almighty, world without end. **Amen.**

And now, as our Savior Christ hath taught us, we are bold to say,

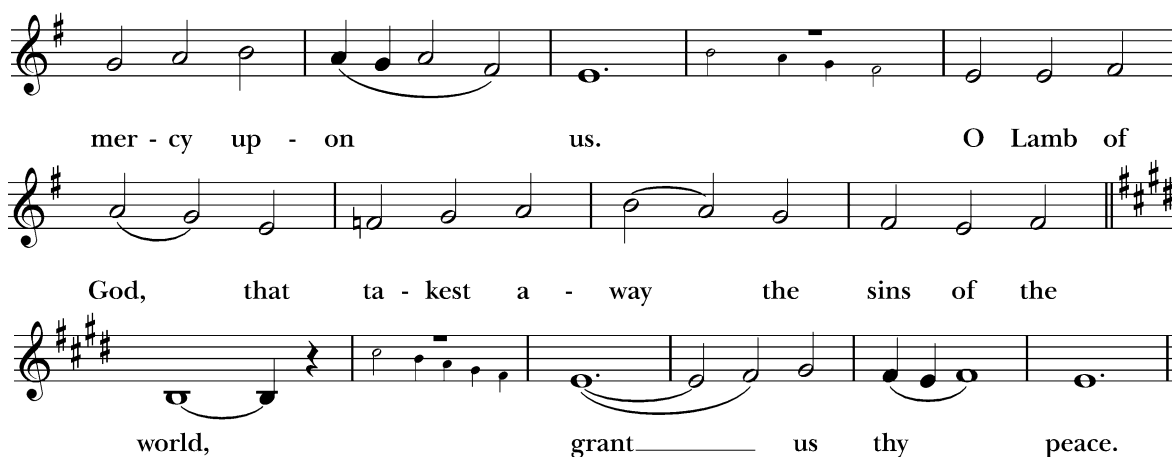
Our Father, who art in heaven, Hal-lowed be thy name,
 Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth, as it is in Heav-en.
 Give us this day our dai-ly bread, And forgive us our trespasses,
 As we forgive those who tres-pass a-gainst us.
 And lead us not in-to temp-ta-tion, but de-liv-er us from e-vil.
 For thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glo-ry,
 For ev-er and ev-er, A - men.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

THE FRACTION ANTHEM

HYMNAL S-158

O Lamb of God, that ta - kest a -
 way the sins of the world, have mer - cy up -
 on us. O Lamb of God, that
 ta - kest a - way the sins of the world, have



Music: From *Missa de Sancta Maria Magdalena*, Healey Willan (1880-1968). By permission of Oxford University Press.

THE INVITATION TO COMMUNION

BCP, p. 338

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 baptized Christians are welcome to receive the eucharist. Please come forward at the direction of the ushers.

*A full communion is made with the bread alone, but if you choose to receive the wine,
you may either drink from the cup, or you may offer your wafer to the person holding the chalice,
who will dip the bread in the wine for you.*

If you prefer a blessing, please cross your arms over your chest. Gluten free wafers are available; simply ask the priest.

If you do not wish to receive communion at the altar, let an usher know, and communion can be brought to you in your pews.

COMMUNION ANTHEM

Advent Message

Martin How

Come, Lord Jesus, Amen, come, Lord Jesus.

*O come quickly, come Lord Jesus,
come Lord, come.*

A voice of him that crieth in the wilderness

"Prepare ye the way of the Lord.

Make straight in the desert a highway for our God."

Yea, come quickly. Amen.

THE SENDING FORTH OF LAY EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS

Celebrant In the name of this congregation, I send you forth bearing these holy gifts, that those to whom you go may share with us in the communion of Christ's Body and Blood.

People **We who are many are one body, because we share in one bread, one cup.**

The people stand or kneel.

THE POSTCOMMUNION PRAYER

Almighty and everliving God, we most heartily thank thee for that thou dost feed us, in these holy mysteries, with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and dost assure us thereby of thy favor and goodness towards us; and that we are very members incorporate in the mystical body of thy Son, the blessed company of all faithful people; and are also heirs, through hope, of thy everlasting kingdom. And we humbly beseech thee, O heavenly Father, so to assist us with thy grace, that we may continue in that holy fellowship, and do all such good works as thou hast prepared for us to walk in; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honor and glory, world without end. Amen.

THE BLESSING

May the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you and scatter the darkness from before your path; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

All stand and sing the hymn.

CLOSING HYMN 368

Holy Father, great Creator

Regent Square

THE DISMISSAL

BCP, p. 339

Deacon Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People **Thanks be to God.**

VOLUNTARY

Toccata on Angels We Have Heard on High

Richard Elliott

SERVING @ GRACE TODAY

Celebrant

The Rev. Emma Brice

Deacon

The Rev. Dr. Anne M. Turner

Subdeacon

Chris Kupczyk

Preacher

Miranda Peters

Lay Eucharistic Minister

Miranda Peters, Seth Wise Buck

Lector

Seth Wise Buck

Intercessor

Teresa Preston

Interim Music Director

Josh Harrington

Altar Guild Crew Leaders

Eleanor Reed, Kemp Williams

Livestream Crew

Eleanor Reed

Ushers

Colleen McArdelle, Elizabeth Legere, Brad Bergmann, June Huber

ANNOUNCEMENTS AS OF DECEMBER 7, 2025

The weekly announcement deadline is Monday at 12 pm.

Announcements arriving after that time will be held for the following week. Please limit submissions to 75 words. Announcements will be edited for content/length. Email requests to announcements@gracealex.org.

The Greens on the Altar are given to the Glory of God.

Help decorate the nave for Christmas! See the announcement with more details.
Scan the QR Code in the header with your smart phone to access the donation form.



ANNOUNCEMENTS @ GRACE THIS WEEK

***** Headings for New Announcements Added This Week are Shaded. *****

FELLOWSHIP (COFFEE) HOUR LOCATION UPDATE & PARTICIPATION REQUEST

While the front elevator (outside of the church office) is still out of service undergoing a planned modernization, our Fellowship Hour (Coffee Hour) will return to the Auditorium this week at the request of many in our parish. You can help make Fellowship Hour a great way for our parish to connect by volunteering to host, provide food donations, and help with cleanup after fellowship hour. If you and/or your family enjoy having refreshments and snacks, please consider signing up. To volunteer, use your phone's camera to scan the QR code or fill out the hard copy signup sheet located on the snack table. Please note, refreshments and snacks will only be available during a fellowship hour when someone has volunteered to host to perform setup and food donations are provided. With your gift of volunteering our fellowship hours will continue to be a success! If you have questions, please reach out to Mother Emma at emma.brice@gracealex.org.



ADULT FORUM SCHEDULE

Adult forum is offered Sundays 9:40 -10:15 am in the St. Mark room (2nd floor) or virtually via Zoom link sent in the Sunday morning email. Tea and coffee are available just outside the St. Mark Room from 9:30 am. All are welcome at any forum; no commitment required.

Fall Schedule

December 7: Turn, Turn, Turn: Navigating Change Spiritually, by Tracy Enger

December 14: Answering Children's Questions About God, by Mother Emma Brice

December 21: Advent Art: Watching for the Light, by Anne Boris

December 28: No Adult Forum. Forum will resume January 4.

MORNING PRAYER TAKES A BREAK

In this time of clergy transition, Morning Prayer will not be read through Advent and Christmas.

ADVENT CARD SIGNING – TODAY, DECEMBER 7

Advent Card Signing is today, Sunday, December 7 in the Merrow Hall Auditorium. Please come sign cards for college students, clergy/staff, parishioners abroad, and those on our pastoral care list. A limited coffee hour will be available upstairs to tempt your participation.

ADVENT LESSONS & CAROLS WITH EUCHARIST – TODAY, DECEMBER 7, 5:00 PM

As we prepare for the spiritual birth of Jesus at Christmas, join us on Sunday, December 7 at 5:00 pm for our Advent Lessons & Carols Service with Eucharist. This popular seasonal service includes readings from scripture paired with choral music. Invite a family member or friend! The special reception after the service in the Malm Narthex will welcome and celebrate all newcomers to Grace.

ANNOUNCEMENTS @ GRACE THIS WEEK

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT – DECEMBER 14

It is time to start preparing for the annual Grace Christmas Pageant! This year the pageant is on Sunday, December 14 at 5pm, and it will be followed by a festive cookie party. All ages of children and youth are invited to participate (pre-school through 12th grade). Scan the QR code for the sign-up form.



BABY SHOWER FOR BABY BRICE – JANUARY 11 (UPDATED INFO)

You're Invited! Please join us for an afternoon tea to shower the mamas-to-be with love on Sunday, January 11 from 2:00-4:00 pm at Merrow Hall. All are welcome, including little ones. Please use the QR code to RSVP by Jan 2 and sign up to bring a treat from the list - or surprise us with something delightful! Let's raise our teacups to Mother Emma and Crichelle's upcoming arrival!



2025 PLEDGE PAYMENTS

The end of the calendar year is a busy time for all of us, as we prepare for the coming of Our Lord and for the next year. But we are not done with 2025 yet. The church still has work to do and we need your help in completing that work. If you have not already done so, please complete your 2025 pledge payments at your earliest convenience. As a reminder, all gifts via the mail must be postmarked on or before December 31, 2025 to be considered a 2025 donation. Thank you!

FOYER GROUP- SIGNUPS OPEN FOR SHORTER SPRING SEASON OF SMALL GROUP FELLOWSHIP

Want to get to know fellow parishioners in a smaller, offsite setting? Do you crave home cooking or trying new restaurants and want some good company? If so, Foyer Groups are for you! Please register using the QR code so we can randomly assign you to a group of 6 people who will meet for three relaxed, fun meals that will be scheduled at a mutually agreeable time in the January through June timeframe. Each group will have a convener who reaches out to the group to find a time for the first meal, and then each couple (singles will have a partner to collaborate with) will take turns hosting the meal. New this year is a "foodies foyer" which is for people who want to meet at a restaurant for a "dutch treat" meal instead of cooking at home - this is designed as a "lighter lift" for those who don't have time or space to host at home. If you have any questions, or would like to help explore ideas for a kid-friendly option, please email Cricket at cb9@verizon.net. Register by Sunday January 4, 2026 so we can kick off the next round of Foyers that second week of the new year.



CHRISTMAS FLOWER DONATIONS (*Deadline is December 14!*)

It's time for Christmas Flower and Greens donations. The Altar Guild invites you to help make Grace Church beautiful with seasonal decoration. Scan the QR code on the right if you wish to contribute electronically to the Christmas decoration fund.

If you wish to donate via physical check, fill out the form below, cut out, and enclose a donation of \$60. These forms may be dropped in the Sunday offering or sent directly to the church office. Please note 'Christmas Flowers' on the check memo line. If you wish to have your dedication in the Christmas bulletin, the office must receive this form and payment **by 4 pm on Sunday, December 14.**

Questions? Contact Chad Eckles, Altar Guild Flower Chair, at cke1986@gmail.com. Please consider making a donation this year as the flower fund is at a low and our Christmas donations can help increase the fund for 2025.



CHRISTMAS FLOWER DONATIONS

Check one and write dedication below: ___ "In loving memory of" ___ "In thanksgiving for"

Given by (print the name or names of the donors below exactly as you want them to appear): _____

BIRTHDAYS @ GRACE THIS WEEK

Monday, Dec. 08	Valerie Eudy
Saturday, Dec. 13	Emmy Doyle, Isabella Giacomo
Sunday, Dec. 14	Michael Stancil, Mother Anne Turner, Lucy Waskowicz



Parishioner birthdays are listed weekly based on records from Breeze, our church database. For birthdays missing or listed on an incorrect date, please contact the church office to update your record. **Thank you!**

EVENTS @ GRACE THIS WEEK

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	CONTACT / INFO*
Sunday 12/07	7:30 am Holy Eucharist, Rite I	Lady Altar	
	8:45 am La Santa Eucaristía	Nave	
	9:00 am Little Church, Rite II	Auditorium	
	9:40 am Formation Hour	Various Rooms	
	9:40 am Adult Forum	St. Mark Room	
	10:30 am Choral Eucharist, Rite I (Livestreamed)	Nave	
	5:00 pm Advent Lessons & Carols Service	Nave	
	Youth Night - 6 pm		
Monday, 12/08	Food Pantry Bagging - 3:30 - 5:30 pm	1 st floor Lobby	Jennifer.Pease@gracealex.org
Tuesday, 12/09	Food Pantry Distribution - 6 pm	1 st floor Lobby	Jennifer.Pease@gracealex.org
Wednesday, 12/10	Worship Planning Meeting - 5:00 pm	Zoom	Anne.Turner@gracealex.org
	Evening Prayer - 5:30 pm	Zoom	Lucy-Lee Reed - 703.842.3121
	Bible Study - 7:30 pm	Zoom	Stephen.Lovell@gracealex.org
	Alcoholics Anonymous - 8 pm	MH Auditorium	
	Alanon - 8 pm	St. Luke Room	
Thursday, 12/11	Midweek Eucharist - 12 pm	Nave	
	Food Pantry Bagging - 3:30 - 5:30 pm	1 st floor Lobby	Jennifer.Pease@gracealex.org
	Handbell Rehearsal - 6 pm	Malm Narthex	
	Adult Choir Rehearsal - 7 pm	St. Cecilia Room	
Friday, 12/12	Food Pantry Bagging - 3 - 5 pm	1 st floor Lobby	Jennifer.Pease@gracealex.org
	Food Pantry Distribution - 6 pm		Jennifer.Pease@gracealex.org
Saturday, 12/13	Altar Guild Set Up - 9 am	Narthex, Sacristy	

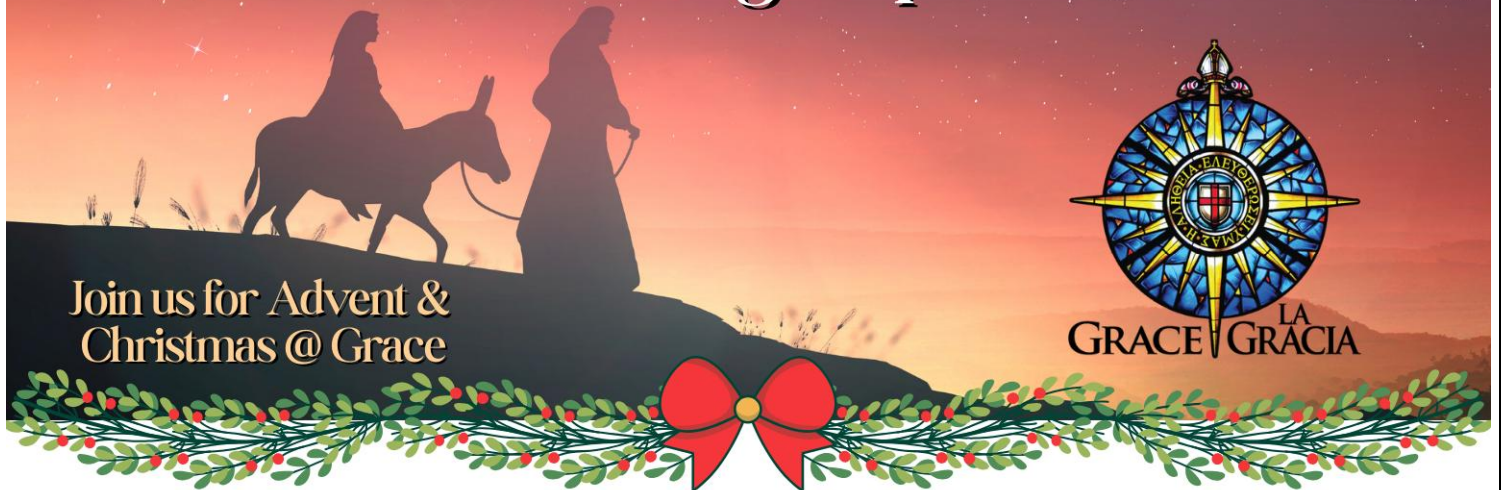
PRAYER @ GRACE THIS WEEK (NOT UPDATED YET)

We continue praying for all those in need of healing of mind, body, or spirit. We also pray for wisdom and strength for our communities, our elected officials, and our leaders as they make difficult and important decisions. As we join in common prayer this weekend, let us remember those who are in any need or trouble.

- **Parishioners:** Hector, Amorita, Debbie, Kelly, Ed, Charles, Colin, Jennifer, Joanie, Jean, Linda, John & Anne, Ismael, Wendy, Stephen, Lisa, Priscilla & Paul; Liz; Anne; Claire; Don; Doug, Lesley, Charles.
- **Parishioners and others in assisted living:** Margaret, Nancy, Sally, Clare, Elesa, Marilyn, Don, Susan, James, Peck, Vylma, Bette, Cynthia, Elly.
- **Family & friends:** Klaus, Nancy, Michael, Sharon, Ashby, Troy, Cathie, Cameron, Patti & Joe, Amy, Bill, Theresa, Rob, Sherry, Pearl, Heather, Jack, Eileen, Charlotte, Deanna, Allen, Leslie, Fielding, Lit & Mary Carol; Jeannine; Sam; Lisa; Margianne; Courtney; Gina; Joanne; Victoria; Erin; Marc; Annelie; Matt; Charlotte, Jim, Theresa; Ron, Gwendolyn.
- **Members of our staff:** Amorita, Mother Anne, Betsy, Mother Emma, Gabriel, Ginny, Jane, Josh, Kevin, Kalli, Mary, Miranda, Pedro, Seth.
- **Grace School:** Students & their families; for the staff, especially Amanda, head of school.
- **Outreach & Justice Partners:** ALIVE; Casa Chirilagua; Christ Church Refugee and Lazarus Ministries; Community Lodgings; Haiti Micah Project; Health Tanzania; Meade Memorial Lunch Program; Tenants and Workers; V.O.I.C.E.; Kathleen and Eddie Arthur Hearts of Love Fund.
- **Those who have died:** who have died from illnesses and natural disasters; all those killed in acts of terror, violence, and war around the world.
- **Those serving our country in the Armed Forces and State Department overseas:** Karen & Eric Coulson; Erika Olander; for healing for US troops wounded as casualties of war; and for physical and mental well-being of all veterans.
- **Others who are overseas serving the Church or our nation or teaching or studying abroad:** Chris & Melissa Reed, Virginia Robinson, Julie Mills Cizek & Theo Halliwell; Ace Crane.
- **Diocese of Virginia Prayer Cycle:** Holy Cross, Batesville; St. Asaph's, Bowling Green; St. James', Louisa
- **Anglican Prayer Cycle:** The Church of Bangladesh; The Diocese of Ruwenzori – The Church of the Province of Uganda; The Diocese of East Ruwenzori – The Church of the Province of Uganda; The Diocese of South Ruwenzori – The Church of the Province of Uganda; The Diocese of Sabah – Church of the Province of South East Asia; The Diocese of Sabongidda- Ora – The Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion); The Sacred Circle – The Anglican Church of Canada

You can fill out a Prayer Request Form on our website or email your request to prayers@gracealex.org

Come Thou Long Expected Jesus



Join us for Advent &
Christmas @ Grace



Special Events & Services

In addition to our regular service offerings, we invite you to experience the seasons of Advent and Christmas here at Grace Church with special events and services, outlined below.

* **Childcare provided**

LIVE = Livestreamed on our YouTube Channel

Sunday, November 30, Advent I

9:30 am- Intergenerational Wreath Making Event

Sunday, December 7, Advent II

8:45, 9, & 10:30 am- Saint Nicholas visits these services*

5 pm- Advent Lessons & Carols with Choral Eucharist **LIVE**

6 pm- Youth Christmas Party

Sunday, December 14, Advent III

5 pm- Youth & Children's Christmas Pageant

A reception follows in the Auditorium.

Sunday, December 21, Advent IV

6 pm- Greening of the Church

Join us as we decorate the nave for Christmas Services!

Tuesday, December 23

7 pm- Las Posadas & Santa Eucaristía, Rito II

Servicio en español

Sunday, December 29

10:30 am- Christmas Lessons & Carols* **LIVE**

8:45 am Spanish Service & 9 am Little Church held as usual.

No 7:30 am or 5 pm services.

Thursday, January 1, Feast of the Holy Name

Noon- Festival Eucharist **LIVE**

Sunday, January 4

5 pm- Bilingual Festival Eucharist for Epiphany (transferred) **LIVE**

7:30, 9, & 10:30 am Services held as normal, no 8:45 am service.

Christmas Eve & Christmas Day Services

Held in the nave

Christmas Eve, 3 pm, Rite II *

Little Church Service with Holy Eucharist

Christmas Eve, 5 pm, Rite II *

Festival Eucharist, with procession to the Creche **LIVE**

Music Prelude starts at 4:30 pm

Christmas Eve, 7:30 pm, Rite I

Festival Eucharist

Christmas Eve, 11 pm, Rite I

Festival Eucharist **LIVE**

Music Prelude starts at 10:30 pm

Christmas Day, 12 pm, Rite I

Festival Eucharist **LIVE**



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