



# GRACE ANGLICAN CHURCH

where GOD'S FREE GRACE roots us,  
renews us, and reaches through us.

## THE 4<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF EASTER

(commonly called Good Shepherd Sunday)



## A SERVICE OF BAPTISM & COMMUNION

April 26, 2026

## GRACE NOTES – April 26, 2026

**GOOD SHEPHERD SUNDAY.** Today in the Church Calendar we remember the truths of Jesus being our Good Shepherd.

### **TWO BAPTISMS TODAY!**

**8:30am service:** Ryland James Anastasi

**Parents:** Benjamin & Priya Anastasi

**Sponsors:** Gabe & Eliza Gordon

**5pm service:** Marie Lucia Truitt

**Parents:** Conner & Cecilia Truitt

**Sponsors:** Jordan Staffieri, Tegan & Bethany Truitt

**WOODEN COINS.** If you participate in online giving, please take a wooden coin near the entrances of the church to later place in the offering plate. This is a creative way to demonstrate that we give to the work of the church during worship, even as that giving is done electronically.

**PARENT'S WEEKEND.** A special welcome to all the parents of our GCC students who are joining us for worship!

**SENIOR EMAILS.** If you're a senior student, soon to graduate, can we please have your email address? Simply fill out the form on the back of this bulletin, tear it off, and place it in the offering plate. Thank you!

### **THEOLOGICAL VIRTUE OF HOPE.**

This 4pm class, beginning 4/26, seeks to deepen our appreciation of the virtue of hope, to contrast hope with the vices of despair and presumption, and to set forth some spiritual practices that, through the power of Holy Spirit and by grace, we grow in hope. Chris Franklin will teach the class. Please join us!

**SOFTBALL.** Church Softball Begins in May. Please join us for church softball this summer! It's a great opportunity to connect with others in the congregation and community. The season runs from May 7th-July 25th. Games will be played every Thursday at 6pm. The league is open to all men and women, 14 years and older! Reach out to Wes ([wesleyschools@gmail.com](mailto:wesleyschools@gmail.com)) if interested.

**ZELIENOPE PLANT.** Our Diocese has planted a parish in Zelenople, led by

our own Ryan Wise. Find out more about the plant here: [htzelienople.org](http://htzelienople.org)

**WOMEN'S SUMMER PREVIEW.** Join us on May 6th at 7:00 pm at Amy Smith's home (320 Manito Trail) for a preview of women's events this summer! Our team is eager to share all that we have planned! [mcowan@graceanglicanonline.com](mailto:mcowan@graceanglicanonline.com)

### **MARK YOUR CALENDARS!**

-GAC's 20th Anniversary Party: Oct 24.

-Ryan Wise's diaconal ordination: June 6.

**CHILDREN'S LITURGY.** During the evening service for children ages 3-6. The following Sundays there will be no class: May 3, May 24. June 14th will be the last class for this school year.

**MOTHER'S DAY.** Children involved in Christian Ed and Children's Liturgy will be singing "My God Is All I Need" by City Alight during the evening service.

**MONTHLY MISSIONS.** Kathleen serves in Dublin, Ireland with the organization Serge. She is currently engaged in a variety of discipleship ministries to women, young adults, children & youth at her local Anglican church as well as an Alpha course (worldwide curriculum exploring the basics of Christianity with seekers). Kathleen also works in campus ministry with Christian Unions (CU) Ireland.

**INFANT CARE ROOM.** The library is available as a dedicated space to care for your infants during the service. The livestream is available in this space during evening services.

**NURSERY.** We offer nursery for children (infants to three-year-olds) downstairs.

**THE CASA YOUTH MINISTRY** is on Tuesday nights at 7pm at Holy Trinity.

### **WAYS TO GIVE AT GRACE**

-Offering plate

-Mail: PO Box 45 Grove City PA 16127

-Venmo: GraceAnglicanChurch

-PayPal: [donate@graceanglicanonline.com](mailto:donate@graceanglicanonline.com)

## Processional Hymn: Alleluia! Sing to Jesus!

Words: Dix, 1866 Tune: Hypherdol

1. Alleluia! sing to Jesus! His the scepter, His the throne.  
Alleluia! His the triumph, His the victory alone.  
Hark! the songs of peaceful Zion thunder like a mighty flood.  
Jesus out of every nation hath redeemed us by His blood!
2. Alleluia! not as orphans are we left in sorrow now;  
Alleluia! He is near us, faith believes, nor questions how;  
Though the cloud from sight received Him when the forty days were o'er  
Shall our hearts forget His promise, I am with you evermore?
3. Alleluia! bread of heaven, Thou on earth our food, our stay;  
Alleluia! here the sinful flee to Thee from day to day:  
Intercessor, friend of sinners, Earth's Redeemer, plead for me,  
Where the songs of all the sinless sweep across the crystal sea.
4. Alleluia! Best of Shepherds, pilgrim seeking those astray  
Alleluia! Striving onward t'ward us as we fled away.  
Searching 'midst our ruined cities, barren valleys wet with tears.  
Takes us back to greener pastures where we dwell for endless years.
5. Alleluia! sing to Jesus! His the scepter, His the throne.  
Alleluia! His the triumph, His the victory alone.  
Hark! the songs of holy Zion thunder like a mighty flood.  
Jesus out of every nation hath redeemed us by His blood!



**Minister.** Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**Answer.** The Lord is risen indeed! Alleluia!

**Minister.** There is one Body and one Spirit;

**People.** There is one hope in God's call to us;

**Minister.** One Lord, one Faith, one Baptism;

**People.** One God and Father of all.

**Minister.** Let us pray.

### The Collect for the Fourth Sunday of Easter

**O** GOD, whose Son Jesus Christ is the Good Shepherd of your people:  
Grant that, when we hear his voice, we may know him who calls us each by  
name, and follow where he leads; who, with you and the Holy Spirit, lives and  
reigns, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

## The Epistle Lesson: I Peter 2:13-25 (ESV)

**Reader.** A reading from the first letter of Peter.

**B**e subject for the Lord's sake to every human institution, whether it be to the emperor as supreme,<sup>14</sup> or to governors as sent by him to punish those who do evil and to praise those who do good.<sup>15</sup> For this is the will of God, that by doing good you should put to silence the ignorance of foolish people.<sup>16</sup> Live as people who are free, not using your freedom as a cover-up for evil, but living as servants of God.<sup>17</sup> Honor everyone. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the emperor.

<sup>18</sup>Servants, be subject to your masters with all respect, not only to the good and gentle but also to the unjust.<sup>19</sup> For this is a gracious thing, when, mindful of God, one endures sorrows while suffering unjustly.<sup>20</sup> For what credit is it if, when you sin and are

beaten for it, you endure? But if when you do good and suffer for it you endure, this is a gracious thing in the sight of God.<sup>21</sup> For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps.<sup>22</sup> He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth.<sup>23</sup> When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly.<sup>24</sup> He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed.<sup>25</sup> For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

**Reader.** The Word of the Lord.

**Answer.** Thanks be to God

## Psalm 23 (KJV)

The Lord is my shepherd;

I shall not want.

He maketh me to lie down in green pastures:

he leadeth me beside the still waters.

He restoreth my soul:

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

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil:

for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

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

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

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.

**The Gospel Lesson:** John 10:1-10 (ESV)

**Reader.** The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

**Answer.** Glory to you, Lord Christ.

✝ Jesus said, “Truly, truly, I say to you, he who does not enter the sheepfold by the door but climbs in by another way, that man is a thief and a robber. <sup>2</sup>But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. <sup>3</sup>To him the gatekeeper opens. The sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. <sup>4</sup>When he has brought out all his own, he goes before them, and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice. <sup>5</sup>A stranger they will not follow, but they will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers.”

<sup>6</sup>This figure of speech Jesus used with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them. <sup>7</sup>So Jesus again said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. <sup>8</sup>All who came before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. <sup>9</sup>I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture. <sup>10</sup>The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.”

**Reader.** The Gospel of the Lord.

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

**The Sermon**

The Rev'd Ethan Magness, Rector

**THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM**

**D**EARLY BELOVED, Scripture teaches that we were all dead in our sins and trespasses, but by grace we may be saved through faith. Our Savior Jesus Christ said, “Unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God”; and he commissioned the Church to “make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.” Here we ask our heavenly Father that this child, being baptized with water, may be filled with the Holy Spirit, born again, and received into the Church as a living member of Christ’s body. Therefore, I urge you to call upon God the Father, through our Lord Jesus Christ, that of his abundant mercy he will grant to this Candidate that which by nature *he* cannot have. The Candidate for Holy Baptism will now be presented.

**The Sponsors**

We present *N.N.* to receive the Sacrament of Holy Baptism.

*The minister asks the sponsors,*

**T**ODAY on behalf of this child you shall make vows to renounce the devil and all his works, to trust God wholeheartedly, and to serve him faithfully. It is your task to see that *he* is taught the full meaning of all these vows, and of the Faith that you will profess as revealed in the Holy Scriptures. *He* must put *his* trust in Christ, and learn the Creeds, the Lord's Prayer, the Ten Commandments, and all other things which a Christian ought to know, believe, and do for the welfare of the soul. When *he* embraces all these things, having become a disciple of Jesus, *he* is to come to the bishop to be confirmed, that *he* may be further strengthened by the Holy Spirit to serve Christ and his Kingdom. Are you willing and ready to undertake this?

*Sponsors say,* **I am, the Lord being my helper.**

**Profession of Faith** *The minister then asks,*

**Question** Do you renounce the Devil and all the spiritual forces of wickedness that rebel against God?

**Answer** I renounce them.

**Question** Do you renounce the empty promises and deadly deceits of this world which corrupt and destroy the creatures of God?

**Answer** I renounce them.

**Question** Do you renounce the sinful desires of the flesh that draw you from the love of God?

**Answer** I renounce them.

**A**LMIGHTY God deliver you from the powers of darkness and evil, and lead you into the light and obedience of the kingdom of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**Question** Do you turn to Jesus Christ and confess him as your Lord and Savior?

**Answer** I do.

**Question** Do you joyfully receive the Christian Faith, as revealed in the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments?

**Answer** I do.

**Question** Will you obediently keep God's holy will and commandments, and walk in them all the days of your life?

**Answer** I will, the Lord being my helper.

*The minister then says to the congregation*

**L**ET us stand and profess our faith in the words of the ancient baptismal confession, the Apostles' Creed.

**Minister** Do you believe and trust in God the Father?

**People** I do. I believe in God the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

**Minister** Do you believe and trust in Jesus Christ?

**People** I do. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried: He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

**Minister** Do you believe and trust in the Holy Spirit?

**People** I do. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

### **Prayer for the Candidate**

**A**LMIGHTY and everlasting Father, in your great mercy you saved Noah and his family in the Ark from the destruction of the flood, prefiguring the sacrament of Holy Baptism. Look mercifully upon this child, your servant. Wash and sanctify *him* through your Holy Spirit that *he*, being delivered from destruction and received into the Ark of Christ's Church, would be made steadfast in faith, joyful through hope, and rooted in love. May *he* pass through the turbulent floods of this troublesome world and come into the land of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*The minister pours the baptismal water.*

### **Thanksgiving Over the Water**

**Minister** The Lord be with you.

**People** And with your spirit.

**Minister** Lift up your hearts.

**People** We lift them up to the Lord.

**Minister** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

**W**E thank you, Almighty God, for the gift of water. Over it the Holy Spirit moved in the beginning of creation. Through it you led the children of Israel out of their bondage in Egypt into the land of promise. In it your Son Jesus received the baptism of John in the River Jordan when the Holy Spirit descended upon him as a dove. We thank you, Father, for the water of Baptism. In it we are buried with Christ in his death. By it we share in his resurrection. Through it we receive the sign of regeneration by the Holy Spirit. Therefore in joyful obedience to your Son, we bring into his fellowship those who come to him in faith, baptizing them in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. And now, O Father, sanctify this water by the power of your Holy Spirit. We pray that all who are baptized here would be cleansed from sin, born again, and continue for ever faithful in the risen life of Jesus Christ our Savior. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**



### **The Baptism**

**N.**, I baptize you in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

*The sign of the Cross is then made upon the forehead of the newly baptized as this prayer is said,*

**RECEIVE** the sign of the Cross as a token of your new life in Christ, in which you shall not be ashamed to confess the faith of Christ crucified, to fight courageously under his banner against the world, the flesh, and the devil, and to continue as his faithful soldier and servant to the end of your days. **Amen.**

*Minister and people,*

**W**E receive you into the fellowship of the Church. Confess the faith of Christ crucified, proclaim his resurrection, and share with us in the royal priesthood of all his people.

**Hymn:** My Shepherd Will Supply My Need

Tune: Resignation

1. My Shepherd will supply my need; Jehovah is His Name;  
In pastures fresh He makes me feed beside the living stream.  
He brings my wand'ring spirit back when I forsake His ways,  
And leads me, for His mercy's sake, in paths of truth and grace.
2. When I walk thru the shades of death, thy presence is my stay;  
A word of Thy supporting breath drives all my fears away.  
Thy hand, in sight of all my foes, doth still my table spread;  
My cup with blessings overflows; thine oil anoints my head.
3. The sure provisions of my God attend me all my days;  
O may Thy house be mine abode, and all my work be praise!  
There would I find a settled rest while others go and come,  
No more a stranger or a guest, but like a child at home.

## Invitation to Confession

LET us confess our sins unto Almighty God, as we devoutly kneel. Silence.

### General Confession, said by all.

**M**OST 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.

### Absolution

**A**LMIGHTY God, our heavenly Father, who in his great mercy has promised forgiveness of sins to all those who sincerely repent and with true faith turn to 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.

### The Comfortable Words

**H**EAR the comfortable words from the Word of God to all who truly turn to him. Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. -MATTHEW 11:28

God so loved the world, that he gave his only-begotten Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. -JOHN 3:16

The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. -1 TIMOTHY 1:15

If anyone sins, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world. -1 JOHN 2:1-2

**Minister.** The Peace of the Lord be always with you.

**People.** And with your spirit.

**Offertory Sentence.** You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. **I Peter 2:9.**

**Doxology** (tune: lasst uns erfreuen)

## The Sacrament of Holy Communion (the 1662 Order)

**Minister.** The Lord be with you.

**Answer.** And with your spirit.

**Minister.** Lift up your hearts.

**Answer.** We lift them up to the Lord.

**Minister.** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**Answer.** It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

IT is right, our duty and our joy, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth;

BUT chiefly are we bound to praise you for the glorious Resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord: for he is the true Paschal Lamb, which was offered for us, and has taken away the sin of the world; who by his death has destroyed death, and by his rising to life has restored to us everlasting life.

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:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -  
san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -  
san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

### The Prayer of Humble Access, said by all, kneeling.

WE do not presume to come to this your table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in your abundant and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under your table; but you are the same Lord whose character is always to have mercy. Grant us, therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of your dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that our sinful bodies may be made clean by his body, and our souls washed through his most precious blood, and that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.

*The People continue to kneel. The minister stands and continues.*

ALL praise and glory is yours, O God our heavenly Father, for in your tender Mercy, you gave your only Son Jesus Christ to suffer death upon the Cross for our redemption. He made there, by his one oblation of himself once offered, a full, perfect, and sufficient sacrifice, oblation, and satisfaction, for the sins of the whole world; and he instituted, and in his Holy Gospel commanded us to continue, a perpetual memory of his precious death and sacrifice, until his coming again. Hear us, merciful Father, and grant that we receiving these gifts from your creation, this bread and this wine, according to your Son our Savior Jesus Christ's institution, in remembrance of his death and passion, may be partakers of his most blessed Body and Blood; For on the night that he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks, 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, Jesus 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 forgiveness of sins: Whenever you drink it, do this in remembrance of me." **AMEN.**

**Invitation to Communion.** All baptized, believing Christians of an understanding age who are admitted to the Sacrament within their own church are encouraged to receive it with us. The New Testament requires some understanding of the Supper, instructing those who commune to 'discern' the Body as well as 'examine themselves' (I Cor. 11) before partaking. It is the historic and consistent Anglican practice for young children to be catechized before receiving the Supper (please contact a minister for catechism resources). Please walk down the middle aisle to receive the bread in open hands and then consume it. Drinking the wine directly from the common cup is the customary manner of receiving it, though the bread may be carefully intincted (dipped) into the wine. Small, individual cups of wine are available in the front for those who have health concerns.

**Intercessory prayer** is available in the back of the church. This takes place during the distribution of Communion. You can come back for prayer for any reason whatsoever. If you want prayer for healing (physical or otherwise), you can also request anointing with oil (a biblical symbol for healing and restoration).

## **The King of Love My Shepherd Is**

Lyrics: Baker, 1868 Tune: St Columba

1. The King of love my Shepherd is, whose goodness faileth never;  
I nothing lack if I am His, and He is mine forever.
2. Where streams of living water flow My ransomed soul He leadeth,  
And, where the verdant pastures grow, with food celestial feedeth.
3. Perverse and foolish oft I strayed, but yet in love He sought me,  
And on His shoulder gently laid, and home rejoicing brought me.
4. In death's dark vale I fear no ill with Thee, dear Lord, beside me;  
Thy rod and staff my comfort still, thy Cross before to guide me.

5. Thou spread'st a table in my sight; thy unction grace bestoweth;  
And oh, what transport of delight from Thy pure chalice floweth!

6. And so through all the length of days thy goodness faileth never;  
Good Shepherd, may I sing Thy praise within Thy house forever.

## All Creatures of Our God & King

Words: St. Francis, 1225 Tune: Lasst Uns Erfreuen

1. All creatures of our God & King, lift up your voice and with us sing: O praise Him, alleluia!  
Thou burning sun with golden beam, Thou silver moon with softer gleam

Refrain - O praise Him, O praise Him, Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia

2. Thou rushing wind that art so strong, ye clouds that sail in heav'n along. O praise Him, alleluia!  
Thou rising moon in praise rejoice, Ye lights of evening find a voice

3. All the redeemed washed by His blood, victorious through His great love. O praise Him! alleluia!  
Christ has defeated every sin; Cast all your weariness on Him

4. Let all things their Creator bless, & worship Him in humbleness. O praise Him, alleluia!  
Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son, & praise the Spirit, three in One

## The Love of God

Words and Music: Frederick M. Lehman, 1917

1. The love of God is greater far than tongue or pen can ever tell;  
It goes beyond the highest star, and reaches to the lowest hell;  
The guilty pair, bowed down with care, God gave His Son to win;  
His erring child He reconciled, and pardoned from his sin.

Refrain: O love of God, how rich and pure! How measureless and strong!  
It shall forevermore endure—the saints' and angels' song.

2. When weary time shall pass away, and earthly thrones and kingdoms fall;  
When men who here refuse to pray, on rocks and hills and mountains call,  
God's love so sure, shall still endure, all measureless and strong;  
Redeeming grace to Adam's race—the saints' and angels' song.

3. Could we with ink the ocean fill, and were the skies of parchment made,  
Were every stalk on earth a quill, and every man a scribe by trade;  
To write the love of God above would drain the ocean dry;  
Nor could the scroll contain the whole, though stretched from sky to sky.

## The Lord's Prayer, said by all

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, forever and ever. Amen.

## Post-Communion Prayer, said by all

ALMIGHTY God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ. Through him we offer you our souls and bodies to be a living sacrifice. Send us out into the world in the power of your Spirit, to live and work to your praise and glory. Amen.

### Gloria in Excelsis

1. Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and  
peace to his peo - ple on earth. 2. Lord God, heaven - ly  
King, al - mighty God and Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we  
give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry. 3. Lord Je - sus  
Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, 4. you  
take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy  
on us; 5. you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re -  
ceive our prayer. 6. For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One,  
you a - lone are the Lord, 7. you a - lone are the Most  
High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spi - rit, in the  
glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

## The Easter Blessing

**T**HE God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the eternal covenant, make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is well-pleasing in his sight; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

## Recessional Hymn: O Praise the Name

1. I cast my mind to Calvary where Jesus bled and died for me  
I see His wounds, His hands, His feet my Saviour on that cursed tree

2. His body bound and drenched in tears they laid Him down in Joseph's tomb  
The entrance sealed by heavy stone messiah still and all alone

**Chorus:** O praise the name of the Lord our God - O praise His name forevermore  
For endless days we will sing Your praise - O Lord, O Lord our God

3. And then on the third at break of dawn the Son of heaven rose again  
O trampled death where is your sting? The angels roar for Christ the King (Chorus)

4. He shall return in robes of white the blazing sun shall pierce the night  
And I will rise among the saints my gaze transfixed on Jesus' face (Chorus)

Alleluia, Alleluia! Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

**Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia!**

# WHY DO ANGLICANS BAPTIZE INFANTS?

A question that some Baptists and non-denominational Christians ask me (and it's a good one) is this: "Why do Anglicans baptize infants before they can profess any faith?" Some assume that Anglicans baptize babies simply out of an adherence to a tradition that has strayed from the Bible, or that we have superstitious reasons for doing so. What I want to suggest is that we have *Bible*-reasons for practicing the baptism of infants. Here are a few:

1. Within the Bible, are entrance rites – that is, God-ordained, visible rites of entering a covenant - ever given to babies? Absolutely. Circumcision was the visible 'entrance rite' into the Old Covenant community, and it was given to Jewish boys 8 days after their birth, marking them as belonging to the community before they had professed any faith. Circumcised boys were then raised as a member and then, later, grew into an understanding of what membership within Judaism looked like. Paul sees baptism as the New Covenant fulfilment of Old Covenant circumcision (Colossians 2:11-12).
2. Jesus' own disposition toward children was uniformly positive. In fact, he welcomed babies when the disciples wished to push them away, and said that anyone who wants to enter the Kingdom of God must approach it like a child.
3. The New Testament describes entire 'households' being baptized (an expansive term in Greek, usually including parents, grandparents, employees, and children).
4. God's promises are for children. In Acts 2 Peter says, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. This promise belongs to you and *your children*."
5. Paul's letters include instructions for husbands, wives, employees, and *children*; thus, Paul assumes that children are full, active, initiated members of the body of Christ.
6. Infant baptism was common practice within the early church, acknowledged as occurring in the second century. There were very few objections to it at the time.
7. The baptism of infants sends a biblical message about God's prevenient Grace – namely, that God comes to us before we come to him. Salvation is a miracle gifted by God, never originating in the human will. Tish Warren writes, *'Baptism is the first word of grace spoken over us by the church. In Anglicanism we baptize infants. When my daughters were baptized, it was a bold proclamation: before you know the faith, before you doubt the faith, before you confess the faith, before you can sing the faith; you are beloved by God, not by your effort but because of what Christ has done for you.'*

Anglicans do not believe baptism it and of itself *automatically* makes someone a regenerate Christian, whether they are baptized as infants or adults. Rather, baptism is an effective *PREACHER* of the regenerating Gospel. Baptism effectively, by the power of the Spirit, proclaims a Christ who cleanses people from sin and aligns them with his death and resurrection. And **HE**, Christ, is the only one who saves. Baptism gives us a Christ worth believing in.

# SENIOR GRADUATING STUDENTS:

Can you please write your email here and tear off this portion and place it in the offering plate.



EMAIL:

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## New to Grace? (Please fill out and place in the offering plate.)

I'm a \_\_\_resident \_\_\_college student.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

We'd love to meet you at our Welcome Table after the service!