Welcome to Grace Church

## The Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost Holy Eucharist September 5, 2021

10:00 a.m. at Crissey Farm and on Zoom



Step into Grace where strangers become friends. We are an open and affirming church. Every one of every age, race, ethnicity, culture, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, physical or mental ability, or economic status is invited to join us as together we live out the Gospel message of love, forgiveness, service, and justice. No matter where you are in your spiritual journey—you are welcome here.

#### PRELUDE

### The Word of God

All stand as able

#### **OPENING HYMN**

#### Verses 1-5 O for a thousand tongues to sing 0 o σ 0 for a thou - sand tongues to sing my dear Re - deem - er's praise, 1 2 Mv gra - cious Mas - ter and my God, as - sist me to pro - claim 3 sor - rows cease; Ie sus! the Name that charms our fears and bids our 4 He speaks; and, lis - tening to his voice, new life the dead re - ceive, voice - less ones, your loos-ened tongues em - ploy; 5 Hear him, ye deaf; ye 8 o0 P σ σ the glo - ries of my God and King, the tri-umphs of his grace! 1 2 and spread through all the a - broad the hon - ors thy Name. earth of 3 mu - sic in the sin - ner's ears, 'tis life and health and peace. 'tis 4 the mourn - ful bro-ken hearts re - joice, the hum - ble poor be - lieve. be - hold, your Sa - vior comes; and 5blind, leap, ye lame, for joy! ye

 Glory to God and praise and love be now and ever given by saints below and saints above, the Church in earth and heaven.

PresiderBlessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.PeopleAnd blessed be God's kingdom now and forever.Amen.

H 493

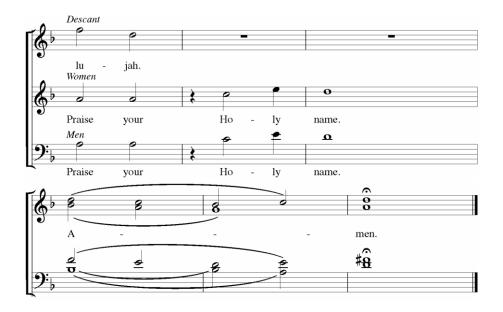
### GLORIA

**LEVAS 243** 

The following is sung, all standing as able







**COLLECT OF THE DAY** 

Presider	The Lord be with you.
People	And also with you.
Presider	Let us pray.

Grant us, O Lord, to trust in you with all our hearts; for, as you always resist the proud who confide in their own strength, so you never forsake those who make their boast of your mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen*.

### THE FIRST READING

ISAIAH 35:4-7a

Say to those who are of a fearful heart,

'Be strong, do not fear!

Here is your God.

He will come with vengeance,

with terrible recompense.

He will come and save you.'

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped;then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert;

the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water;

*Reader* Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.*People* Thanks be to God.

### PSALM 146

1 Hallelujah!

Praise the LORD, O my soul! \*

I will praise the LORD as long as I live;

I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.

- 2 Put not your trust in rulers, nor in any child of earth, \* for there is no help in them.
- 3 When they breathe their last, they return to earth, \* and in that day their thoughts perish.
- 4 Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help! whose hope is in the LORD their God;
- 5 Who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them; \*

who keeps his promise for ever;

- 6 Who gives justice to those who are oppressed, \* and food to those who hunger.
- 7 The LORD sets the prisoners free; the LORD opens the eyes of the blind; \* the LORD lifts up those who are bowed down;
- 8 The LORD loves the righteous; the LORD cares for the stranger; \*

he sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way of the wicked.

9 The LORD shall reign for ever, \* your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. Hallelujah!

### THE SECOND READING

James 2:1-10, 14-17

My brothers and sisters, do you with your acts of favoritism really believe in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ? For if a person with gold rings and in fine clothes comes into your assembly, and if a poor person in dirty clothes also comes in, and if you take notice of the one wearing the fine clothes and say, "Have a seat here, please," while to the one who is poor you say, "Stand there," or, "Sit at my feet," have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts? Listen, my beloved brothers and sisters. Has not God chosen the poor in the world to be rich in faith and to be heirs of the kingdom that he has promised to those who love him? But you have dishonored the poor. Is it not the rich who oppress you? Is it not they who drag you into court? Is it not they who blaspheme the excellent name that was invoked over you?

You do well if you really fulfill the royal law according to the scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." But if you show partiality, you commit sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it.

What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, and one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill," and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead. *Reader* Hear what the Spirit is saying to the churches.*People* Thanks be to God.

All stand as able.

#### SEQUENCE HYMN

Heal me, hands of Jesus



WLP 773

### THE GOSPEL

Mark 7:24-37

Priest The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus set out and went away to the region of Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know he was there. Yet he could not escape notice, but a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit immediately heard about him, and she came and bowed down at his feet. Now the woman was a Gentile, of Syrophoenician origin. She begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter. He said to her, "Let the children be fed first, for it is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." But she answered him, "Sir, even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs." Then he said to her, "For saying that, you may go the demon has left your daughter." So she went home, found the child lying on the bed, and the demon gone.

Then he returned from the region of Tyre, and went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis. They brought to him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they begged him to lay his hand on him. He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spat and touched his tongue. Then looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, "Ephphatha," that is, "Be opened." And immediately his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. Then Jesus ordered them to tell no one; but the more he ordered them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. They were astounded beyond measure, saying, "He has done everything well; he even makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak."

# PriestThe Gospel of the Lord.PeoplePraise to you, Lord Christ.

THE SERMON

The Rev. Tina Rathbone

#### NICENE CREED

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

I ask your prayers for God's people throughout the world; for our Bishop, Doug; for this gathering; and for all ministers and people. Pray for the Church.

### The people offer their prayers, either silently or aloud.

I ask your prayers for peace; for goodwill among nations; and for the well-being of all people. Pray for justice and peace.

### The people offer their prayers, either silently or aloud.

I ask your prayers for the poor, the sick, the hungry, the oppressed, and those in prison. Pray for those in any need or trouble.

### The people offer their prayers, either silently or aloud.

I ask your prayers for all who seek God, or a deeper knowledge of God. Pray that they may find and be found by God.

The people offer their prayers, either silently or aloud.

I ask your prayers for the departed. Pray for those who have died.

The people offer their prayers, either silently or aloud.

Praise God for those in every generation in whom Christ has been honored. Pray that we may have grace to glorify Christ in our own day.

Silence

### The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.

Almighty God, to whom our needs are known before we ask: Help us to ask only what accords with your will; and those good things which we dare not, or in our blindness cannot ask, grant us for the sake of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.** 

### THE CONFESSION

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

God of all mercy, we confess that we have sinned against you, opposing your will in our lives. We have denied your goodness in each other, in ourselves, and in the world you have created. We repent of the evil that enslaves us, the evil we have done, and the evil done on our behalf. Forgive, restore, and strengthen us through our Savior Jesus Christ, that we may abide in your love and serve only your will. Amen.

### THE ABSOLUTION

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through the grace of 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 Christ be always with you.
People	And also with you.

The Minister and the People may greet one another in the name of God by sharing a physically distanced sign of Christ's peace.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### **BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES**

Let us pray together:

O God, our times are in your hand: Look with favor we pray, on your servants as they begin another year. Grant that they may grow in wisdom and grace, and strengthen their trust in your goodness all the days of their lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen*.

### A GRATITUDE MOMENT

Take a few moments to think of one thing during the past week for which you thank God. If you wish to share your gratitude moment with the congregation, please come to the microphone.

### THE BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS

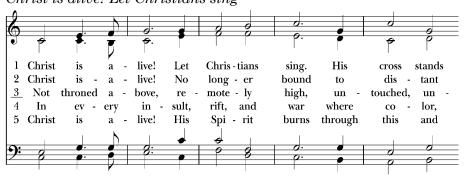
### The Holy Communion

### THE OFFERTORY SENTENCE

Celebrant Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God.

### OFFERTORY HYMN

Christ is alive! Let Christians sing



H 182



CelebrantAll things come from you, O Lord.PeopleAnd of your own have we given you.

### THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Eucharistic Prayer B

Book of Common Prayer

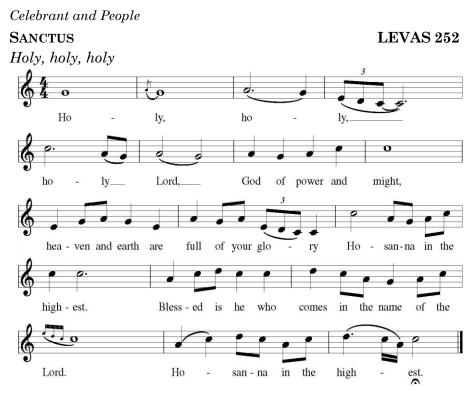
Celebrant	The Lord be with you.
People	And also with you.
Celebrant	Lift up your hearts.
People	We lift them to the Lord.
Celebrant	Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People	It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The Celebrant continues

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:



### Then the Celebrant continues

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life. On the night before he died for us, 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, according to his command, O Father,

### We remember his death, We proclaim his resurrection, We await his coming in glory;

### The Celebrant continues

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with St. George, St. James and all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation. 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**.

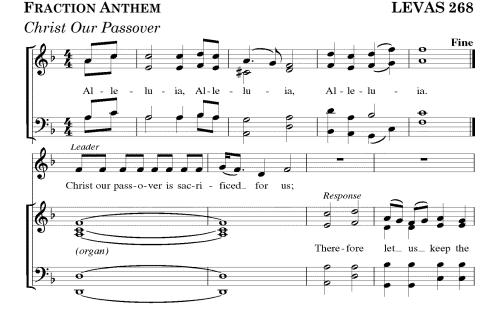
### The Celebrant continues

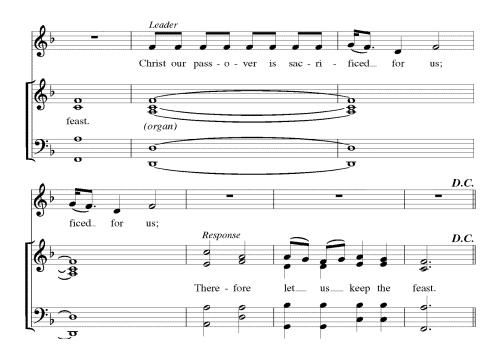
As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray,

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your Name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and for ever. Amen.

#### THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated bread and a period of silence is kept, then all sing:





To ensure the safety of all, we are currently sharing only the bread from the altar, not the wine. Gluten-free bread is also available. Please let the priest know if you prefer this. If you would rather receive a blessing instead of communion, please come forward and cross your hands over your chest. And, lastly, if you need communion brought to you, just let the usher know. All are welcome at God's feast!

If you can't physically receive the communion bread because you are participating in this service virtually, you are invited to pray this Prayer for Spiritual Communion:

Lord Jesus, as you promised to be with us in the bread and wine that is your body and blood, grant that we may receive you spiritually today into our hearts, minds, and souls. Stay with us; be our companion in the way; kindle our hearts and awaken hope that we may know you and have confidence in your loving care, now and forever. Amen. **COMMUNION HYMN** 

**LEVAS 137** 

 $Just\ as\ I\ am$ 





**THE POST COMMUNION PRAYER** 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.

### A PRAYER FOR OUR CHILDREN

Most generous and loving God, we thank you for the gift of children. With each child you refresh your promises to all of us. Through each child you remind us to take care of all you have created.

We pray your blessing on each child today. Teach them to love courage and to trust you. Help them see you at work in your world.

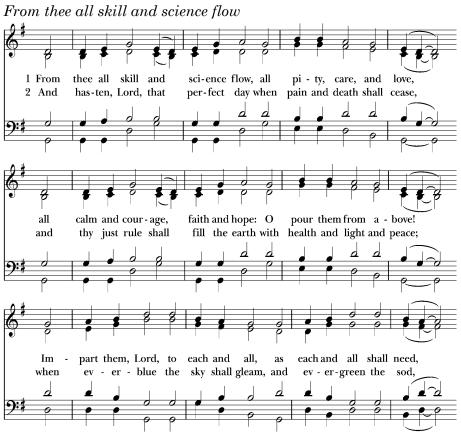
Help them speak words of love, peace, and friendship. Turn their faces in kindness toward their neighbors, and fill each one with confidence in your steadfast love. This we ask in the name of your child, Jesus Christ. Amen.

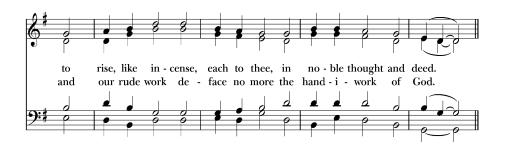
### THE BLESSING

The Lord bless you and watch over you. The Lord make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you. The Lord look kindly on you and give you peace; and the blessing of God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be with you always. **Amen.** 

### CLOSING HYMN

H 566





### THE DISMISSAL

- Celebrant Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.
- People Thanks be to God.

### POSTLUDE

Flowers are given today by Pennie Curry in thanksgiving for her Godson, Riley Donigan.

### WORSHIP LEADERS

ROTA	TODAY	NEXT SUNDAY
WELCOME TEAM	Sally Brooke Doreen Hutchinson	Doreen Hutchinson Sarah Sieber
LECTOR	Pennie Curry	Pennie Curry
INTERCESSOR ALTAR GUILD	John Cheek Sarah Seiber Margaret Layton	Robert Forman Cathy Haywood Margaret Layton
TECH	Abe Streeter	Abe Streeter
COFFEE HOUR	Gore, Cheek	Booton, Brooke
COUNTERS	Sue Gore Sarah Sieber	Ian Booton

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### GRACE CHURCH INTERCESSORY PRAYERS

Please Include in Your Daily Prayers This Week

**Members of the Parish Family:** Doreen Hutchinson, Anne Andrews, Pennie Curry, Mark Anderson, Stacey, Claire and Mark Thomas, Meredith Haider, Linda White, Rosemarie Blakely, Marina Bowens, John Breasted, Jane Brooks, Vonnie Frye, Barbara Gore, Sara Keene, Barbara Turner and Annalise Clausen.

**Others we Love:** Larry Cheek, John's brother; Karen LaRocque friend of Sue Gore; Rosalind Haywood, Sue Gore's mother; Deborah McCurdy.

**Those who have died:** Alan Sparks, brother of Debbie Holmes; Ruth Crawford; Emily Trespas, friend of Jainee McCarroll and John Ericson; John Grammer, husband of Mary Anne; Neil Brandt, brother of Linda White; John Turner, husband of Barbara Turner; Leslie Albert, friend of Margaret Layton and Sarah Sieber. **Our world:** For the people of Afghanistan, and of Haiti, who have struggled for so long under burdens seemingly too great to bear and for all who were killed in the recent violence in Kabul. For the people of Louisiana as they recover from Hurricane Ida. For all victims of gun violence, and for those who inflict gun violence on others. For people who suffer from COVID, those who have died, those who mourn, caregivers, hospital workers, and those who have been affected through loss of work, income, and housing. For all who are alone, or afraid, or despairing. For prisoners, unhoused people, newly arrived immigrants and all our neighbors, near and far.

**The many ministries of our local community, especially:** for our partners at St. Paul's, Stockbridge and the Revs. Sam Smith and Jane Tillman; Christ Trinity, Sheffield and the Rev. Erik Karas; our Bishop, the Rt. Rev. Doug Fisher; and the Mampong Babies' Home in Ghana;.

And we offer thanks: for all those celebrating a birthday or anniversary this week. Especially, Jason Robitaille Jr., and Diana Raifstanger.

### CALENDAR

### ONGOING

Thursdays	Centering Prayer <sup>1 &amp; 3</sup>	$5:00 \ \mathrm{PM}$
Sundays	Worship Service <sup>2 &amp; 3</sup>	10:00 AM

All Sunday services in September will be at Crissey Farm, both inperson and live-streamed. If you are unable to join us in person, please visit our website, <u>www.graceberkshires.org</u>, for zoom links.

The Office/Chapel <sup>1</sup>/ Crissey Farm <sup>2</sup>/ On Zoom <sup>3</sup>

For more information about the Grace Church's regular work and worship, please visit **Tuesday's Child** newsletter on the website.

### GRACE CHURCH STAFF

Bishop of Western Massachusetts: The Rt. Rev. Dr. Douglas Fisher

Rector: The Rev. Tina Rathbone <u>RevTina@graceberkshires.org</u> (617) 852-4916

Gideon's Garden Director of Farming: Ms. Annalise Clausen gideonsgarden@graceberkshires.org (413) 644-6572

> Keyboardist: Ms. Lee Cheek <u>lee.cheek@yahoo.com</u> (413) 854-1095

> > Office hours: by appointment

### GRACE CONTACT INFORMATION

67 State Road / PO Box 114 Great Barrington, MA 01230 Voice Mail (413) 644-0022 E-mail: Office@GraceBerkshires.org Visit us on the web at www.graceberkshires.org

### GRACE CHURCH VESTRY

Senior Warden	Kathy Clausen
Junior Warden	Richard Gore, Jr.
Treasurer	Sue Gore
Clerk	Mary Anne Grammer
Class of 2022	John Cheek, Cathy Haywood
Class of 2023	Dindy Anderson, Holly Murray
Class of 2024	Anne Andrews, Dutch Pinkston

## The Five Marks of Mission

A unifying commitment of The Anglican Communion and The Episcopal Church

The Mission of the Church is the Mission of Christ

To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom

To teach, baptize and nurture new believers

To respond to human need by loving service

To seek to transform unjust structures of society

To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth



Thank you for attending Grace Church! We hope your time with us will help you take God's peace and love into the week ahead. We look forward to seeing you again next Sunday.