

Grace Church in the Mountains

October 18, 2026 | 8:00 am



Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost

WELCOME! / ¡BIENVENIDOS!

Fr. Earle Pratt, presiding

We are honored by your presence as we gather as God's people to worship in the "beauty of holiness" through our ancient liturgy, contemporary prayers, and vibrant community.

We'd love to get to know you: to learn more about Grace and our ministries, scan the QR code below:



Celebrating that Christ is all and in all

by

Seeking Inviting

Belonging Serving

Reverencing God's Creation

THE WORD OF GOD

The people standing, the Presider says

Presider: Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People: **And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

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

HYMN OF PRAISE

All: Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth. Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory. Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. **Amen.**

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Presider: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Presider: Let us pray.

All: Almighty and everlasting God, in Christ you have revealed your glory among the nations: Preserve the works of your mercy, that your Church throughout the world may persevere with steadfast faith in the confession of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

FIRST READING: Exodus 33:12-23 *(please be seated)*

A Reading from the Book of Exodus

Moses said to the Lord, "See, you have said to me, 'Bring up this people'; but you have not let me know whom you will send with me. Yet you have said, 'I know you by name, and you have also found favor in my sight.' Now if I have found favor in your sight, show me your ways, so that I may know you and find favor in your sight. Consider too that this nation is your people." He said, "My presence will go with you, and I will give you rest." And he said to him, "If your presence will not go, do not carry us up from here. For how shall it be known that I have found favor in your sight, I and your people, unless you go with us? In this way, we shall be distinct, I and your people, from every people on the face of the earth."

The Lord said to Moses, "I will do the very thing that you have asked; for you have found favor in my sight, and I know you by name." Moses said, "Show me your glory, I pray." And he said, "I will make all my goodness pass before you, and will proclaim before you the name, 'The Lord'; and I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will show mercy on whom I will show mercy. But," he said, "you cannot see my face; for no one shall see me and live." And the Lord continued, "See, there is a place by me where you shall stand on the rock; and while my glory passes by I will put you in a cleft of the rock, and I will cover you with my hand until I have passed by; then I will take away my hand, and you shall see my back; but my face shall not be seen."

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 99 *(read responsively)*

¹ The Lord is King;
let the people tremble; *
**he is enthroned upon the cherubim;
let the earth shake.**

² The Lord is great in Zion; *
he is high above all peoples.

³ Let them confess his Name, which is great and
awesome; *
he is the Holy One.

⁴ "O mighty King, lover of justice,
you have established equity; *
**you have executed justice and righteousness in
Jacob."**

⁵ Proclaim the greatness of the Lord our God
and fall down before his footstool; *
he is the Holy One.

⁶ Moses and Aaron among his priests,
and Samuel among those who call upon his Name, *
they called upon the Lord, and he answered them.

⁷ He spoke to them out of the pillar of cloud; *
**they kept his testimonies and the decree that he
gave them.**

⁸ O Lord our God, you answered them indeed; *
**you were a God who forgave them,
yet punished them for their evil deeds.**

⁹ Proclaim the greatness of the Lord our God
and worship him upon his holy hill; *
for the Lord our God is the Holy One.

SECOND READING: 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

A Reading from the First Epistle to the Church in Thessalonica

Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy, To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:

Grace to you and peace.

We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. For we know, brothers and sisters beloved by God, that he has chosen you, because our message of the gospel came to you not in word only, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction; just as you know what kind of persons we proved to be among you for your sake. And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for in spite of persecution you received the word with joy inspired by the Holy Spirit, so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. For the word of the Lord has sounded forth from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but in every place your faith in God has become known, so that we have no need to speak about it. For the people of those regions report about us what kind of welcome we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols, to serve a living and true God, and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead~ Jesus, who rescues us from the wrath that is coming.

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

People:

Thanks be to God. *(please stand)*

GOSPEL: Matthew 22:15-22

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

People: **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

The Pharisees went and plotted to entrap Jesus in what he said. So they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, "Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one; for you do not regard people with partiality. Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to the emperor, or not?" But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, "Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? Show me the coin used for the tax." And they brought him a denarius. Then he said to them, "Whose head is this, and whose title?" They answered, "The emperor's." Then he said to them, "Give therefore to the emperor the things that are the emperor's, and to God the things that are God's." When they heard this, they were amazed; and they left him and went away.

Deacon: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

THE SERMON

THE NICENE CREED p. 358 *(please stand)*

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Deacon: Let us pray for the revealing of the reign of God in the world, now and always.

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

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

For Sean, our Presiding Bishop, for José, our own Bishop, 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 word, 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, especially Donald, Josh, Gary and all our elected officials, 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 Grace Church in the Mountains, 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, especially (insert names from prayer list); 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, especially (insert names from prayer list); 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.**

The Presider adds a concluding Collect.

CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION OF SIN

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

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

The Presider offers the absolution.

THE PEACE

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

People: **And also with you.**

Then the Ministers and the People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE HOLY COMMUNION

OFFERTORY SENTENCE

Give to Grace via the QR code



OFFERTORY PRAYER

Presider: All things come of thee, O Lord.

People: **And of thine own have we given thee.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING (*Eucharistic Prayer C, BCP p. 369*)

COMMUNION

A Note About Communion: All are welcome at God's table! You may receive the bread and sip from the cup or just receive the bread, which is considered a full communion. If you prefer intinction, that is the bread dipped in the wine, the clergy will be happy to do that for you. Please do not dip the bread yourself. If you only wish to receive a blessing, cross your arms over your chest. Ushers will direct you forward. Gluten-free wafers are available.

SENDING FORTH OF THE EUCHARISTIC VISITOR *(When scheduled)*

Deacon: In the name of our parish family, I send you forth bearing these holy gifts, that {N.} to whom you go, may share with us in the communion of Christ's body and blood.

People: We who are many are truly one body, because we all share one bread and one cup. Amen.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER *(please stand)*

Presider: Let us pray.

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

BLESSING

DISMISSAL

The Deacon dismisses the people.

All: Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

SERVING TODAY

	8:00	10:30
Lectors	Janine Geenen	Amanda Burgin Eddie Allison
Eucharistic Ministers	Donna Buckner Lorelei Yerse	Jody Hadley Chris Smith
Eucharistic Visitor	Pat Robinson visiting Bob Willgoos & Joyce Brooks visiting Barbara Leach	
Children's Chapel	Amy Swanger	
Acolytes	Gene Sloan, Bobby Schmiel, & Leticia Morgan	
Coffee Hour	Keith Harper & James Tola	
Ushers	Daniel Atterholt & Ann Owen	
Altar Guild	Kathryn Church & Diana Bahm	
Counters	Donna Buckner & Sylvia Leeb	

IN OUR PRAYERS

Members of Grace:	Dan Linker, John Klingler, Cindy Leatherwood, Melanie & Larry Walt, Mike Kranker, Frank Blevins, Britton Jordan, Jeff Askins, Dave Bullard, Judy Geist, Vickie Pope, and our Homebound Members: Gloria Moe & Barbara Leach
Ministries of Grace:	Congregational Care
Friends of Grace:	Matthew Pcenicni, brother of Trent Pcenicni; Taylor Joyce, son of Debbie & Alan Joyce; Madison Gardner, granddaughter of Jackie & Frank Blevins; Meg Smith, former parishioner of Grace; Marcy Sinnett, friend of Clyde & Walt Austin; Lisa Miller, family of Betty Harrison; Mike Wenger, friend of Clyde & Walt Austin; Artie Karagiosiz, brother-in-law of Andrea Salib; Meredith Harper, daughter-in-law of Keith Harper; Fr. Matthew Venuti, son-in-law of Paula Welling; Paul Holden, family of Sarah Fulton; Stella Natale, sister of Sylvia Leeb; Brenda, niece of Dale & Lorelei Yerse; Janet Griffin, friend of Ingrid Burton; Paul & Carol Viau, family of Rob Viau; Iris Durell, former member of Grace; Geoff Smith, son of Betty Smith; Jeff Dalton, cousin of Joslyn Schaefer; Caleb Leeb, son of Amoz & Sylvia Leeb; Judah Traylor, grand nephew of Kathryn Church
Rest in Peace:	
In Our Cycle of Prayer:	The Anglican Church of Canada St. Luke's of Asheville, Boone, & Lincolnton

HAPPENING TODAY

Godly Play: Sunday School for K – 5th grade at 9:15 downstairs

Journey to Adulthood: Formation for Middle & HS Youth – 9:15 downstairs

Sunday Forum: A look into the diaconate & liturgy with Deacon Carter

Matthew: The Gospel of Promised Blessings - 6-week Bible Study, Sundays at 5:30 pm, starting today!

LOOKING AHEAD

Pub Theology: Has been canceled for the month of October

Sunday 10/25: Forum: The Way of Love Series #5 – Pray | Join us after church in Thatcher Hall to pack some breakfast bags for neighbors who will participate in Cold Grace at Pathways when the evening temperatures drop below 40 degrees.

The Feast of All Saints is coming up on Sunday, November 1st. Join us as we celebrate:

- **Chanted Compline for All Hallows' Eve – October 31 at 7:00 p.m.** On this sacred evening, we will remember those who have died and pray for our own “perfect end,” entrusting ourselves and those we love to God's eternal care.
- **Remembering Loved Ones**
 1. Send names of those whom you'd like read aloud during our annual commemoration.
 2. Bring in photos of any saints in your life as we'll place them on the altar at the beginning of the service.
- **Potluck @ 9:15** Over breakfast, we'll share about some local saints from Grace Church...and welcome new saints among us!

HAPPENING THIS WEEK

Mon Oct 19	6:00	Education for Ministry
Tues Oct 20	8:00	Lectionary Bible Study in the Library and on Google Meet
Wed Oct 21	Noon 6:30	Holy Eucharist & Luncheon Choir Rehearsal
Thurs Oct 22	8:30 10:00	Chime Choir Rehearsal Marthas Knitting; Sew Graceful Quilting
Fri Oct 23	9:00	Giving Garden Maintenance – all are welcome
Sat Oct 24		DOK Fall Assembly
Sun Oct 25	9:15 9:15 Noon 5:30	Godly Play for K – 5 th grade Adult Forum – The Way of Love Series #5 – Pray Episcopal Church 101 Matthew Bible Study

GRACE CHURCH IN THE MOUNTAINS, EPISCOPAL

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The Rt. Rev. José A. McLoughlin, Bishop of Western North Carolina

The Rev. Joslyn Ogden Schaefer, Rector

The Revs. Orion Davis & Earle Pratt, Priest Associates

The Rev. Carter A. Smith, Deacon

Sean Coughlin, Director of Music/Parish Administrator

David Ferguson, Bookkeeper

Emma Thomas, Nursery Supervisor | Aerin Snyder, Nursery Assistant

MEMBERS OF THE VESTRY

Betty Bradley, Sr. Warden (2026)	Joyce Brooks (2027)	Clyde Austin (2028)
Jesse Nelson (2026)	Alex Coimbre (2027)	Sue Hilson (2028)
Georgia Raines (2026)	Blake Hadley, Jr. Warden (2027)	Gene Sloan (2028)

Michael Boss, Treasurer

Marion Klingler, Clerk