

**“JESUS SAID TO HIM, ‘HAVE YOU BELIEVED BECAUSE YOU HAVE SEEN ME? BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO HAVE NOT SEEN AND YET HAVE BELIEVED.’”
JOHN 20:29**



Caravaggio | Doubting Thomas | 1602-1603 | Oil on canvas

AGAPE MEAL LITURGY

God calls us out of the world and welcomes us into his presence. Opening our hearts to him in love, we respond by confessing our sins, receiving his forgiveness, and fully devoting our lives to him in praise and adoration.

*Congregational responses are indicated in **boldface**.*

THE CALL TO WORSHIP

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

The Lord is risen indeed! Alleluia!

The Lord be with you.

And with your spirit.

Let us pray.

COLLECT OF THE DAY*

O God of unchangeable power and eternal light: Look favorably on your whole Church, that wonderful and sacred mystery; by the effectual working of your providence, carry out in tranquility the plan of salvation; let the whole world see and know that things which were cast down are being raised up, and things which had grown old are being made new, and that all things are being brought to their perfection by him through whom all things were made, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

*A "collect" is a particular type of prayer that, in the context of a worship service, summarizes (or collects) all the parts of the worship service. Think of it as a prayer that focuses on the theme of this particular service.

Almighty God, whose blessed Son Jesus Christ went about doing good, and healing all manner of sickness and disease among the people: Continue in our hospitals and research centers his gracious work among us especially those ministering to people affected by the novel coronavirus; console and heal the sick; grant to the researchers, physicians, nurses, and assisting staff

wisdom and skill, diligence and patience; prosper their work, O Lord, and send down your blessing upon all who serve the suffering; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

GOD I LOOK TO YOU

Jenn Johnson, Ian McIntosh; © 2010 Bethel Music Publishing; CCLI # 11069486

God I look to you, I won't be overwhelmed
Give me vision to see things like you do
God I look to you, you're where my help comes from
Give me wisdom, you know just what to do

I will love you, Lord, my strength
I will love you, Lord, my shield
I will love you, Lord, my rock
Forever all my days, I will love you God

Hallelujah, our God reigns
Hallelujah, our God reigns
Hallelujah, our God reigns
Forever all my days, Hallelujah

HEARING GOD'S WORD

We encounter our Risen Lord in Scripture. As a people defined by God's Word, we respond to God through confession of faith, corporate prayer, and a demonstration of our reconciliation with one another in passing the peace of Christ

THE LESSONS

A reading from **EXODUS 12:1-13**

¹The LORD said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt,
²"This month shall be for you the beginning of months. It shall be the first month of the year for you. ³Tell all the congregation of Israel that on the tenth day of this month every man shall take a lamb according to their fathers' houses, a lamb for a household.

⁴And if the household is too small for a lamb, then he and his nearest neighbor shall take according to the number of persons; according to what each can eat you shall make your count for the lamb. ⁵Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male a year old. You may take it from the sheep or from the goats, ⁶and you shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month, when the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill their lambs at twilight. ⁷“Then they shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses in which they eat it. ⁸They shall eat the flesh that night, roasted on the fire; with unleavened bread and bitter herbs they shall eat it. ⁹Do not eat any of it raw or boiled in water, but roasted, its head with its legs and its inner parts. ¹⁰And you shall let none of it remain until the morning; anything that remains until the morning you shall burn. ¹¹In this manner you shall eat it: with your belt fastened, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand. And you shall eat it in haste. It is the LORD’s Passover. ¹²For I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments: I am the Lord. ¹³The blood shall be a sign for you, on the houses where you are. And when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague will befall you to destroy you, when I strike the land of Egypt.”

Here ends the reading.

*Our psalm is **PSALM 78:13-20**, and will be read responsively by whole verse.*

Psalms 78:13 The LORD divided the sea and let them pass through it, and made the waters stand like a heap.

¹⁴ ***In the daytime he led them with a cloud, and all the night with a fiery light.***

¹⁵ He split rocks in the wilderness and gave them drink abundantly as from the deep.

¹⁶ ***He made streams come out of the rock and caused waters to flow down like rivers.***

¹⁷ Yet they sinned still more against him, rebelling against the Most High in the desert.

¹⁸ ***They tested God in their heart by demanding the food they craved.***

¹⁹ They spoke against God, saying “can God spread a table in the wilderness?”

²⁰ ***He struck the rock so that water gushed out and streams overflowed. Can he also give bread or provide meat for his people.”***

A reading from **PHILIPPIANS 3:7-14**

⁷Whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. ⁸Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ ⁹and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith — ¹⁰that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, ¹¹that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

¹²Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. ¹³Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

Here ends the reading.

THE SERMON

*The Apostles' Creed is a theological summary of Christian beliefs, which dates back to the 7th century. However, similar forms of this creed date back to the 3rd century. Today this creed serves as an ecumenical symbol of faith.

*"Catholic," here means that every local church founded on the gospel is part of the one universal church founded by God through Jesus Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit.

*Since God first gathered a people to himself, a fundamental part of public worship has been that his people pray together. In the presence of God, we ask for ourselves and on behalf of others, those things that are necessary for our life and salvation.

THE APOSTLES' CREED*

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

***He was conceived by the power of 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.

***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.***

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE*

Let us pray for the Church and for the world, saying, "hear our prayer."

For the peace of the whole world, and for the well being and unity of the people of God...Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

For Foley, our Archbishop, and Clark, our Bishop, and for all the clergy and people of our Diocese and Congregation...Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

For all those who proclaim the Gospel at home and abroad; and for all who teach and disciple others...Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

For our brothers and sisters in Christ who are persecuted for their faith...Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

For our nation, for those in authority, and for all in public service especially for our President...Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

For family members serving in the armed forces: Andrew, Steve, Keith, Ryan, Chris, Joshua, Katy, Adam, Alex, and Zach...Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

For medical personnel working to care for the sick and for those searching to find a cure to this disease; protect their health and bless their work that many may be restored...Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

For all those who are in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness, or any other adversity...Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

For all those who have departed this life in the certain hope of the resurrection, in thanksgiving let us pray...

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Heavenly Father, grant these our prayers for the sake of Jesus Christ, our only Mediator and Advocate, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

*When we confess our sins to God we are not groveling in guilt; we are dealing with our guilt. If we deny our sins, we will never get free of from them.

THE CONFESSION OF SIN*

Let us humbly confess our sins to Almighty God.

Almighty and most merciful Father, we have erred and strayed from your ways like lost sheep. We have followed the devices and desires of our own hearts. We have offended against your holy laws. We have left undone those things which we ought to have done, and we have done those things which we ought not to have done; and apart from your grace, there is no health in us.

O Lord, have mercy upon us. Spare all those who confess their faults. Restore all those who are penitent, according to your promises declared to all people in Christ Jesus our Lord. And grant, O most merciful Father, for his sake, that we may now live a godly, righteous, and sober life, to the glory of you holy Name. Amen.

*Only God can forgive sins. In announcing God's forgiveness, we are declaring the miraculous work of God to restore and unite us both to himself and one another.
(See 1 John 1:4-7).

THE ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS*

The Almighty and merciful Lord grant you absolution and remission of all your sins, true repentance, amendment of life, and the grace and consolation of his Holy Spirit.
Amen.

AGAPE MEAL BLESSING

The Agape Meal, while not the same as Eucharist, is a shared experience designed to highlight our connectedness as a body. With roots in early Church practice, this meal is intended to strengthen the fellowship and love among Christ's followers. In this time of physical separation, the agape meal is a great way for us to be one in the Spirit.

Blessed are you, O Lord God, King of the Universe, for you give us food and drink to sustain our lives and make our hearts glad; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Let us now share bread and wine and a time of silent prayer.

GENERAL THANKSGIVING

Almighty God, Father of all mercies, we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks for all your goodness and loving-kindness to us and to all whom you have made. We bless you for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life; but above all for your immeasurable love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ; for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory. And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies, that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise, not only with our lips, but in our lives, by giving up ourselves to your service, and by walking before you in holiness and righteousness all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory throughout all ages. Amen.

BEFORE THE THRONE OF GOD ABOVE

Charity Lees Bancroft, Vikki Cook; © 1997 Sovereign Grace Worship; CCLI# 11069486.

Before the throne of God above
I have a strong and perfect plea
A great high priest whose name is "Love"
Who ever lives and pleads for me
My name is graven on his hands
My name is written on his heart
I know that while in heaven he stands
No tongue can bid me thence depart
No tongue can bid me thence depart
When Satan tempts me to despair
And tells me of the guilt within
Upward I look and see him there
Who made an end of all my sin
Because a sinless Savior died
My sinful soul is counted free
For God the just is satisfied

To look on him and pardon me
To look on him and pardon me

Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Praise the one, risen Son of God

Behold him there, the Risen Lamb
My perfect, spotless righteousness
The great unchangeable "I Am"
The King of glory and of grace
One in himself I cannot die
My soul is purchased by his blood
My life is hid with Christ on high
With Christ my Savior and my God
With Christ my Savior and my God

I bow before the cross of Christ
And marvel at this love divine
God's perfect Son was sacrificed
To make me righteous in God's eyes
This river's depths I cannot know
But I can glory in it's flood
The Lord Most High has bowed down low
And poured on me his glorious love
And poured on me his glorious love

THE BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

Lord Jesus Christ, you stretched out your arms of love on the hard wood of the Cross that everyone might come within the reach of your saving embrace: So clothe us in your Spirit that we, reaching forth our hands in love, may bring those who do not know you to the knowledge and love of you; for the honor of your Name. Amen.

*More than 3,500 years ago God instructed the priests of Israel to bless his people (Number 6:22-27). The result is that God will put his name upon the people, and he will bless them. (Phil. 4:7).

The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. Amen.*

LIGHTHOUSE

Gareth Gilkeson, Chris Llewellyn; © 2013 Thankyou Music; CCLI# 11069486.

In my wrestling and in my doubts
In my failures you won't walk out
Your great love will lead me through
You are the peace in my troubled seas
Whoa oh! You are the peace in my troubled seas

In the silence you won't let go
In the questions your truth will hold
Your great love will lead me through
You are the peace in my troubled seas
Whoa oh! You are the peace in my troubled seas

My lighthouse, my lighthouse
Shining in the darkness I will follow you
My lighthouse, my lighthouse
I will trust your promise, you will carry me
Safe to shore, safe to shore, safe to shore, safe to shore

I won't fear what tomorrow brings
With each morning I'll rise and sing
My God's love will lead me through
You are the peace in my troubled seas
Whoa oh! You are the peace in my troubled seas

Fire before us, you're brightest
You will lead us through the storms (hey!)

Alleluia! Alleluia! Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!

NEWS AND EVENTS

MIDDAY PRAYER

In these days of anxiety and stress, we all need a spiritual boost. One great way is by stopping regularly for a few minutes to be with God. To help you in that, we are offering Midday Prayer, from the ACNA Book of Common Prayer. Luke Kunefke is leading it live on Monday—Friday from 12:15-12:30 p.m. at our Facebook page. Give it a try. It will refresh your day.

ALPHA HAPPY HOUR

On Friday, May 1st we will begin our Happy Hour, featuring Alpha. This is a multifaceted experience that includes fellowship, a fast paced video and group conversation about the big issues of life. We welcome everyone, no matter where they are on their spiritual journey. All we ask is that people bring their questions and good will. No question is too dumb. It is a fun environment where people are free to explore. If you have done Alpha in the past, you are welcome to do it again. Sign up on our website, www.graceanglicankaty.com. The time is 7:00-8:30 p.m.

ADULT FORUM

On Sunday, May 3rd we will pick up with our Adult Forum study of God as seen through the Nicene Creed. It will be via Zoom from 9:30-10:15 a.m. We will send out access link by Constant Contact. Be on the lookout for it.

FEEDING THE HOMELESS

Thanks to everyone who has stepped forward to feed the homeless community in Katy on Thursday. We have enough food and staffing. We will let you know when we do it again.

FOOD BANK UPDATE

We had a tremendous turnout and response for the Brookshire Food Bank, literally hundreds of pounds of food. Thank you to everyone who responded so generously to help hungry people. We will collect food again soon.

GIVING

During this uncertain and stressful time, with no Sunday offering, our congregational giving has been remarkably consistent. Thank you for your faithfulness. As a reminder, you may give in the following ways.

- By check through the mail: 24968 Katy Ranch Rd. #100, Katy TX, 77494
- Online: our website www.graceanglicankaty.com has a link at the top for online giving. It will be through PayPal.
- Through your bank: Use Bill Pay or Zelle to have the money sent to us. This is the easiest method. Just set it and forget it. For assistance in setting this up, contact Bill Russell, bill@graceanglicankaty.com.

BENEVOLENCE FUND

Thanks for the many donations to our Benevolence Fund. We are already dispersing it to people impacted by the virus and the economy. If you would like to make a donation, you may use any of the methods shown above. Be sure to designate it as “Benevolence Fund.” If you use PayPal, there is no way to designate so you will need to contact Bill Russell (email above) and tell him your designated gift.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Send prayer requests to prayer@graceanglicankaty.com. Our team of dedicated pray-mrs will lift your request to God.

INFORMATION

If you have specific questions about things like God, faith or church send them to info@graceanglicankaty.com. We will respond promptly.

CHECK THE WEBSITE AND FACEBOOK

Be sure to use these resources for the latest information.