

**“I AM THE GOOD SHEPHERD. THE GOOD SHEPHERD
LAYS DOWN HIS LIFE FOR THE SHEEP.”
JOHN 10:11**



Unknown | The Good Shepherd | circa 200 AD | Fresco in catacombs, Rome

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.

COME THOU FOUNT

Robert Robinson; 1758; Public Domain; CCLI # 11069486

Come thou fount of every blessing
Tune my heart to sing thy grace
Streams of mercy never ceasing
Call for songs of loudest praise
Teach me some melodious sonnet
Sung by flaming tongues above
Praise the mount—I'm fixed upon it
Mount of thy redeeming love

*"Ebenezer" in Hebrew means "stone of help." The prophet Samuel marked God's faithful help in 1 Sam. 7:12 saying, "Till now the LORD has helped us."

Here I raise my ebenezer*
Hither by thy help I'm, come
And I hope by thy good measure
Safely to arrive at home
Jesus sought me when a stranger
Wandering from the fold of God
He to rescue me from danger
Interposed his precious blood

O to grace how great a debtor
Daily I'm constrained to be
Let thy goodness like a fetter
Bind my wandering heart to thee
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it
Prone to leave the God I love
Here's my heart, O take and seal it
Seal it for thy courts above

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 **NEHEMIAH 9:6-15**

6“**You are the LORD, you alone. You have made heaven, the heave of heavens, with all their host, the earth and all that is on it, the seas and all that is in them; and you preserve all of them; and the host of heaven worships you.** 7**You are the LORD, the God who chose Abram and brought him out of Ur of the Chaldeans and gave him the name Abraham.** 8**You found his heart faithful before you, and made with him the covenant to give to his offspring the land of the Canaanite, and the Hittite, and Amorite, the Perizzite, the Jebusite, and the Girgashite. And you have kept your promise, for you are righteous.**

9“**And you saw the affliction of our fathers in Egypt and heard their cry at the Red Sea,** 10**and performed signs and wonders against Pharaoh and all his servants and all the people of his land, for you knew that they acted arrogantly against our fathers. And you made a name for yourself, as it is to this day.** 11**And you divided the sea before them, so that they went through the midst of the sea on dry land, and you cast their pursuers into the depths, as a stone into mighty waters.** 12**By a pillar of cloud you led them in the day, and by a pillar of fire in the night to light for them the way in which they should go.** 13**You came down on Mount Sinai and spoke with them from heaven and gave them right rules and true laws, good statutes and commandments,** 14**and you made known to them your holy Sabbath and commanded them commandments and statutes and a law by Moses your servant.** 15**You gave them bread from heaven for their hunger and brought water for them out of the rock for their thirst, and you told them to go in to possess the land that you had sworn to give them.”**

Here ends the reading.

*Our psalm is **PSALM 23:1-6**, and will be read responsively by whole verse.*

Psalm 23:1 The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.

2 He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters.

3 He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

4 Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and staff, they comfort me.

5 You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

*A reading from **JOHN 10:1-11***

1“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. ***2***But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. ***3***To him the gatekeeper opens. The sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ***4***When he has brought out all his own, he goes before them, and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice. ***5***A stranger they will not follow, but they will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers.” ***6***This figure of speech Jesus used with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

7So Jesus again said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. ***8***All who came before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. ***9***I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture.

¹⁰The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly. ¹¹I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.

Here ends the reading.

*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 SERMON

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

This is a shared experience highlighting our connectedness as a body, and strengthen loving fellowship among Christ's followers.

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.

BUILD MY LIFE

Brett Youker, Karl Martin, Kirby Kaple, Matt Redman, Pat Barrett; © 2016
Kable Music; CCLI# 11069486.

Worthy of every song we could ever sing
Worthy of all the praise we could ever bring
Worthy of every breath we could ever breathe
We live for you

Jesus, the name above every other name
Jesus, the only one who could ever save
Worthy of every breath we could ever breathe
We live for you, O we live for you

Holy! There is no one like you
There is none beside you
Open up my eyes in wonder
And show me who are and fill me
With your heart and lead me
In your love to those around me

I will build my life upon your love it is a firm foundation
I will put my trust in you alone, and I will not be shaken

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.

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.*

*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).

JOY OF THE LORD

Chris Llewellyn, Gareth Gilkeson, Ed Cash; © 2015 Alletrop Music; CCLI# 11069486.

Though the tears may fall my song will rise

My song will rise to you

Though my heart may fail my song will rise

My song will rise to you

While there's breath in my lungs I will praise you, Lord

In the dead of night I'll lift my eyes,

I'll lift my eyes to you

When the waters rise I'll lift my eyes

I'll lift my eyes to you

While there's hope in this heart I will praise you, Lord

The joy of the Lord is my strength

The joy of the Lord is my strength

In the darkness I'll dance, in the shadows I'll sing

The joy of the Lord is my strength

When I cannot see you with my eyes
Let faith arise to you
When I cannot feel your hand in mine
Let faith arise to you
God of mercy and love I will praise you, Lord
Oh, you shine with glory Lord of light
I feel alive with you
In your presence now I come alive
I'm alive with you
There is strength when I say, "I will praise you, Lord"
When sorrow comes my way you are a shield around me
Always you remain my courage in the fight
I hear you call my name, Jesus I am coming
Walking on the waves, reaching for your light

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 — IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO JOIN IN

On Friday, May 1st we began 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 Friday, 7:00-8:30 p.m.

ADULT FORUM

We have resumed 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 sent a link last week. If you do not have it, contact Bill Russell, bill@graceanglicankaty.com.

FOOD BANK UPDATE

We delivered nearly 400 pounds of food to the Brookshire Food Bank. Thank you to everyone who helped restock their shelves. You made a huge difference.

FEEDING THE HOMELESS

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

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.