# HOLY EUCHARIST

5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter 28 April 2024

10am



# **Grace Memorial Episcopal Church**

Ancient prayers. Joyful worship.

## **WELCOME!**

Welcome to Grace Memorial. We are glad you are here. If you are new to Grace, we look forward to introducing ourselves and helping you get to know our friendly community. Please fill out a "connect" card at the entrance.

Grace is a wonderful place to explore your faith, a community of imperfect people who are looking for God to show up in our lives and helping to point to God when we see God's love in action in the world. Maybe that describes you as well. Won't you join us?

## Easter celebrates what God has done and continues to do.

We remember the Resurrection of Jesus Christ and we learn that God resurrects us now and always. Death itself has died.

We will live with God for all time and, more importantly, God is present to us now.

Even as we die daily, God brings resurrection, breathes life into our tired, dry bones, and draws our selves toward God — God, our home.

Therefore, because we encounter new life in God, we live a life that looks like Resurrection, that orients around hope and life and love. We live lives that look like the God that we've encountered in Jesus.

Life-giving, Self-offering, Liberating.

Happy Easter.

## The Word of God

## **Entrance Rite**

#### **ENTRANCE HYMN**

O thou who camest from above (Hereford)

H 704

See blue Hymnal 1982 in pew

#### **OPENING ACCLAMATION**

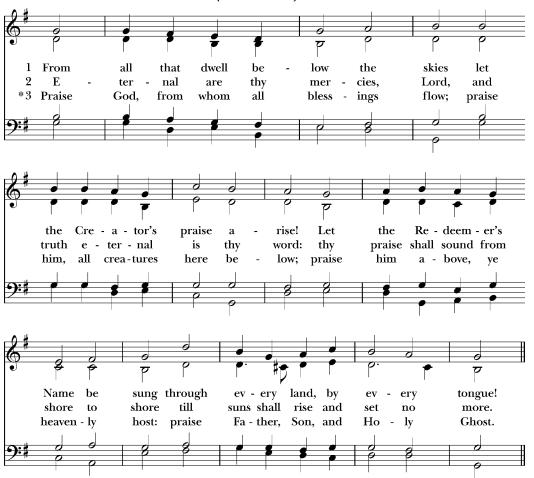
The people standing, the Celebrant says

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ is risen.

People The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.

#### COLLECT FOR PURITY

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.* 



#### THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Let us pray.

Almighty God, whom truly to know is everlasting life: Grant us so perfectly to know your Son Jesus Christ to be the way, the truth, and the life, that we may steadfastly follow his steps in the way that leads to eternal life; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.* 

## The Lessons

#### FIRST READING: Acts 8:26-40

The people sit.

<sup>26</sup>An angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a wilderness road.) <sup>27</sup>So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship <sup>28</sup>and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. <sup>29</sup>Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." <sup>30</sup>So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" <sup>31</sup>He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. <sup>32</sup>Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

"Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter,

and like a lamb silent before its shearer,

so he does not open his mouth.

33 In his humiliation justice was denied him.

Who can describe his generation?

For his life is taken away from the earth."

<sup>34</sup>The eunuch asked Philip, "About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" <sup>35</sup>Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. <sup>36</sup>As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?" <sup>38</sup>He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. <sup>39</sup>When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. <sup>40</sup>But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People Thanks be to God.

Silence may follow.

#### PSALM: Psalm 22:24-30

#### Remain seated.

- <sup>24</sup>My praise is of him in the great assembly; \*
  I will perform my vows in the presence of those who worship him.
- <sup>25</sup>The poor shall eat and be satisfied, and those who seek the LORD shall praise him: \* "May your heart live for ever!"
- <sup>26</sup>All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD, \* and all the families of the nations shall bow before him.
- <sup>27</sup>For kingship belongs to the LORD; \* he rules over the nations.
- <sup>28</sup>To him alone all who sleep in the earth bow down in worship; \* all who go down to the dust fall before him.
- <sup>29</sup>My soul shall live for him; my descendants shall serve him; \* they shall be known as the LORD's for ever.
- <sup>30</sup>They shall come and make known to a people yet unborn \* the saving deeds that he has done.

#### SECOND READING: 1 John 4:7-21

## The people sit.

The loved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

<sup>18</sup>By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. <sup>14</sup>And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. <sup>15</sup>God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. <sup>16</sup>So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. 17Love

has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. <sup>18</sup>There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. <sup>19</sup>We love because he first loved us. <sup>20</sup>Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. <sup>21</sup>The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People Thanks be to God.

Silence may follow.

## **SEQUENCE HYMN**

EOM2 120 Alleluia Gospel Acclamation (Mxadana)

All stand as able.



#### GOSPEL: John 15:1-8

All stand.

Deacon The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to John.

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

[Jesus said to his disciples,] "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples."

Deacon The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

#### THE SERMON

The Rev. Alan B. Cowart

#### THE CREED

All stand.

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

## All remain standing.

We give you thanks for your church, a community of people to proclaim your Good News. We pray for our bishops, priests, deacons, and all who carry out your mission of reconciliation.

Pray for God's church.

#### Silence.

We offer our prayers for the leaders of our nation—for our president, our governor, Congress, and the courts of this land. Give them courage. Give them wisdom and a heart for justice. Give them the courage to wage peace in a world of war.

Pray for justice and peace.

#### Silence.

We pray for mercy for those who suffer from hunger, those who live in the wake of violent storms and natural disasters, those who are bowed down by the weight of poverty, those who live in terror and anxiety. Sustain them in their struggles and give them hope. We are thankful for compassionate people who answer their call for help.

Pray for those who suffer around the world.

(continued on next page)

#### Silence.

We pray especially for
In our Grace community prayer cycle, we pray for the ministry of Lynchburg Daily Bread,
that you might strengthen our bonds and lead us into common service.

We pray for those who are ill, for those who live in fear and whose spirits are restless. Give comfort for those who are dying as well as those who care for them.

Pray for new and unending life in this world and the next.

Silence.

We pray also for those who have died.

Silence.

Celebrant adds a concluding collect.

#### **CONFESSION OF SIN**

The Deacon or Celebrant says
Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.
Silence may be kept.

## Minister and People

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 Priest stands and says

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

All stand.

Celebrant The peace of Christ 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.

# The Holy Communion

#### **OFFERTORY SENTENCE**

## The Celebrant says

Yours, O Lord, is the greatness, the power, the glory, the victory, and the majesty. For everything in heaven and on earth is yours. Yours, O Lord, is the kingdom, and you are exalted as head over all. 1 Chronicles 29:11

#### OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Christ be with me

Oliver Tarney

Grace Memorial Chancel Choir

Christ be with me, Christ within me, Christ behind me, Christ before me, Christ beside me, Christ to win me, Christ to comfort and restore me. Christ beneath me, Christ above me, Christ in quiet, Christ in danger, Christ in the hearts of all who love me, Christ in the mouths of friend and stranger.

## Giving at Grace

Thank you for your presence today and the many gifts you share with this community. If you would like to contribute to God's mission and ministry here at Grace Memorial, you can always leave a gift in the **offering plates at the front and back of the nave** (worship space). You can also contribute safely online at <a href="https://tithe.ly/give?c=1844109">https://tithe.ly/give?c=1844109</a> or scan the code below. Anytime you contribute online, feel free to place an "I joyfully gave online" card in the offering plate (these cards are found next to the bulletins at the entrance).

## The Great Thanksgiving

## The People remain standing.

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.

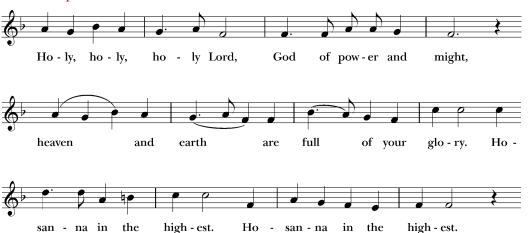
### Facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds

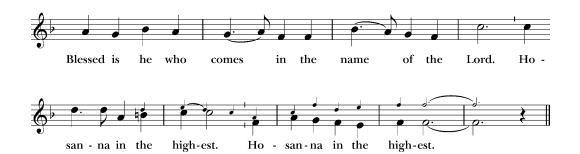
It is truly right to glorify you, Holy One, and to give you thanks; for you alone are God, living and true, dwelling in light inaccessible from before time and for ever.

Fountain of life and source of all goodness, you made all things and fill them with your blessing; you created them to rejoice in the splendor of your radiance.

Countless throngs of angels stand before you to serve you night and day; and, beholding the glory of your presence, they offer you unceasing praise. Joining with them, and giving voice to every creature under heaven, we acclaim you, and glorify your Name, as we say,

## Celebrant and People





## The People stand or kneel. The Celebrant continues

We acclaim you, holy God, glorious in power. Your mighty works reveal your wisdom and love. You formed us in your own image, giving the whole world into our care, so that, in obedience to you, our Creator, we might rule and serve all your creatures. When our disobedience took us far from you, you did not abandon us to the power of death. In your mercy you came to our help, so that in seeking you we might find you. Again and again you called us into covenant with you, and through the prophets you taught us to hope for salvation.

Holy God, you loved the world so much that in the fullness of time you sent your only Son to be our Savior. Incarnate by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, Jesus lived as one of us, yet without sin. To the poor he proclaimed the good news of salvation; to prisoners, freedom; to the sorrowful, joy. To fulfill your purpose Jesus gave himself up to death; and, rising from the grave, destroyed death, and made the whole creation new.

And, that we might live no longer for ourselves, but for Christ who died and rose for us, he sent the Holy Spirit, your own own first gift for those who believe, to complete your work in the world, and to bring to fulfillment the sanctification of all.

When the hour had come for him to be glorified by you, his heavenly Father, having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end; at supper with them Jesus 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 Jesus 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 re-

membrance of me."

Almighty God, we now celebrate this memorial of our redemption. Recalling Christ's death and his descent among the dead, proclaiming Christ's resurrection and ascension to your right hand, awaiting Christ's coming in glory; and offering to you, from the gifts you have given us, this bread and this cup, we praise you and we bless you.

## Celebrant and People

We praise you, we bless you, we give thanks to you, and we pray to you, Lord our God.

#### The Celebrant continues

God our Creator, we pray that in your goodness and mercy your Holy Spirit may descend upon us, and upon these gifts, sanctifying them and showing them to be holy gifts for your holy people, the bread of life and the cup of salvation, the Body and Blood of our Savior Jesus Christ.

Grant that all who share this bread and cup may become one body and one spirit, a living sacrifice in Christ, to the praise of your Name.

Remember, Lord, your one holy catholic and apostolic Church, redeemed by the blood of your Christ. Reveal its unity, guard its faith, and preserve it in peace.

Remember all who have died in the peace of Christ, and those whose faith is known to you alone; bring them into the place of eternal joy and light.

And grant that we may find our inheritance with the Blessed Virgin Mary, with matriarchs, patriarchs, prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and all the saints who have found favor with you in ages past. We praise you in union with them and give you glory through Jesus Christ our Savior.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, all honor and glory are yours, Almighty God and Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, for ever and ever. *AMEN* 

#### THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

## People and Celebrant

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,

## The Breaking of the Bread

now and forever. Amen.

The consecrated bread is broken. A moment of silence is observed.

#### FRACTION ANTHEM

## WLP 880 Christ our Passover (Vaughan Williams) (Sine Nomine)

Verse 1 ONLY



#### INVITATION

The Celebrant says

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

#### **DISTRIBUTION**

The ministers receive the Sacrament in both kinds, and then immediately deliver it to the people. Communion is received at the altar rail (fill in from Right to Left). If you wish to receive at your pew, please let an usher know.

None who seek God at this table will be turned away. If you do not wish to receive Communion, come forward and cross your arms over your chest; the celebrant will offer a prayer of blessing. The bread will be offered first — extend your hands, right over left, to receive and then consume. Then the chalice will be offered. Use your hands on the base of the chalice to help guide it to your lips. If you do not wish to receive from the common cup, cross your arms over your chest. The chalice bearer will pause with they cup so that you might acknowledge it in a way that is meaningful to you.

#### POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

After Communion, the Celebrant says Let us pray.

## Celebrant and People

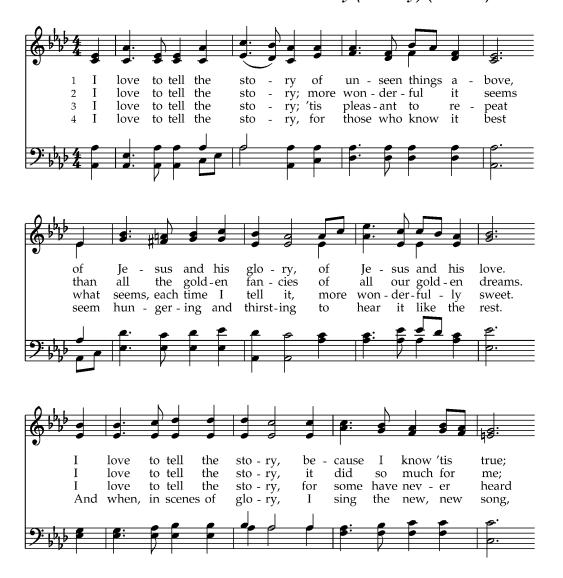
Eternal God, you have graciously accepted us as living members of our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Savior. Amen.

#### **BLESSING**

The Priest blesses the people, saying

The blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. *Amen*.

## POST-COMMUNION HYMN I love to tell the story (Hankey) (VF 125)





Words: Katherine Hankey (1834–1911).

Music: Hankey, William G Fischer (1835–1910).

#### **DISMISSAL**

Celebrant Go in peace to love and serve God & Neighbor. Alleluia! Alleluia! People Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!

#### Please remember those commended to our prayer lists:

Kim, Jim, Cindy, Ann, Alan S., Leah, Roen, Presiding Bishop Michael Curry, Pat, Hal, Andrew, Mike, Lauri, Kari, Frank, Lavonia, Lissa, Erin, Trey, Kelty, Butch, Bev, Gloria C., Sharon, Joseph, Bonnie, Robyn, Lana, Gary, Faye, Trudy, Betty, Brandy, Dee, Skip, Bud, Kris, Barbara, Betty, Gloria W., Jo, Henry

In our **Diocesan Cycle of Prayer:** Pray today for the Bishop's Visitation to Emmanuel, Staunton. Pray for the people of Emmanuel, Staunton and their Rector, The Rev. Jonathan Bauer. For Grace and Peace in the Diocese of Haiti. Our companion diocese, the Diocese of Leeds and their Bishop, The Rt. Rev. Nick Baines

In our Grace Community Cycle of Prayer, we pray this month for the ministry of Lynchburg Daily Bread.



In sure and certain hope of the resurrection, the flowers on the altar are offered to the glory of God by Gary & Judy Smith in loving memory of his father, Arthur Roy Smith, Jr., and his grandmother, Lina Donnelly.

# **Announcements**

#### **CPR TRAINING**

## SATURDAY, MAY 25, 9AM-12PM

Get certified in CPR and using the Automatic Defibrillator. The Buildings & Grounds committee is once again offering a certification class on May 25. Contact Sharon Davis to sign up. Cost is \$45. Scholarships are available (See Father Alan).

# PEER-TO-PEER VISITATION TRAINING SUNDAY, MAY 19

Want to learn more about how to make home visits as a part of our Pastoral Care Ministry? Save the date for training on peer-to-peer visitation. This special training is designed for all those who wish to make regular home visits in the Grace Memorial community, especially when visiting those who are ill or in crisis. We will talk about theology, best practices, and include specific situations like sitting with people who live with dementia. Please note: This training does NOT qualify as a certification in Safe Church practices which is required for everyone who visits regularly.

### **TUESDAY MORNING PRAYER.**

LIVE on YouTube, each Tuesday at 9am.

Look for the link in the weekly newsletter or subscribe to our YouTube channel.

# THE SPRING CLEAN APRIL 21-May 12

The Outreach Committee is in search of clothing to donate. As you clean out your closets, bring unwanted or unneeded clothing to church (or arrange pickup!) and we will take care of the rest. We will collect April 21-May 12. To find out more or arrange a pick up, contact Outreach members, including Linda Carroll, Gloria Cardwell, Sharon Davis, Cynthia Pegram, & Ronda Spinner (or join the Outreach Committee! You'd be very welcome!).

# LYNCHBURG HILLCATS MAY 1, 6:30PM

Come out to City Stadium for a night at the ballpark as we have some fun together (and cheer on the Hillcats, of course!). Join us at the park before first pitch. We expect tickets to be \$10-13 but will have more info soon. If cost is an issue, please connect with Father Alan and let us treat you!

## NEW BOOK CLUB SUNDAY, JUNE 2

After the popularity of our Dorothy Day readings, there has been interest in starting a book club. **So, here we go!** The first book will focus on an important local event — The Bedford Boys by Alex Kershaw tells the story of Company A at the D-Day invasion, which forever changed the town of Bedford. We'll meet once for the book discussion on **Sunday, June 2**. Speak with Judy Gibson for information or questions. If you would like to participate but would like assistance purchasing a copy, see Judy or Father Alan.

There will also be a church trip to the D-Day Memorial in Bedford, more details to come.

## COMPASSION CAMP JULY 14-17

We are teaming up with Trinity Boonsboro, Peakland Baptist, and St. Mark's Episcopal to offer an amazing Summer Camp opportunity. Registration is available for campers, age 4-13. We also have Junior Counselor positions (ages 14-18). If you know children that should be at camp (or Youth to lead/assist), let's get them signed up! If you are an adult who loves leading a fun VBS-type curriculum, talk with Alan. All volunteers will need to complete Safe Church training. There will also be other ways to support Compassion Camp as we get closer - stay tuned - and spread the word! Find out more at https://www.trinitylynchburg.com/compassioncamp

## Thank you to those serving today:

Lector: Dee Blackstock Intercessor: Ronda Spinner

Ushers: George Klacynski

Cuppa Grace: TBD Acolyte: TBD

# **Grace Memorial Episcopal Church**

Ancient prayers. Joyful worship.

1021 New Hampshire Ave., Lynchburg, VA 24502 gracelynchburg.org

Rector: The Rev. Alan B. Cowart Organist & Choir Director: Elizabeth Wilkinson