



GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

PONCA CITY, OKLAHOMA

CHRISTMASTIDE – EPIPHANYTIDE

LITURGY BOOKLET

10:30AM | SUNG MASS

WELCOME TO GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

GRACE CHURCH is an Episcopal Church, and serves as the local presence of the worldwide Anglican Communion here in Ponca City and Kay County. We worship according to a *liturgy*, which means that our services consist of rituals, actions, and written prayers that are structured by the Book of Common Prayer (BCP). You can find the BCP along with the Hymnal in the pew rack in front of you. This booklet will provide you with the basic outline of our service, while the weekly bulletin will show the appointed Scripture lessons, hymns, and page numbers you'll need to participate with us in worship.

We celebrate the Holy Eucharist each and every Sunday; and in our tradition, all Christians who have been baptized in the Name of the Trinity are welcome to receive the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ. If you have not been baptized or would prefer not to receive Communion, you are also welcome to come forward and receive a blessing instead. Just come to the front step as directed with your arms crossed over your chest to indicate that you desire a blessing from the priest.

We're delighted to have you and may God bless you now and always!

WELCOME TO GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

GUESTS – If you're new here at our parish, welcome! We're so glad to have you with us. You'll find a Newcomer Card in the pew rack in front of you – so please fill one out and drop it in the offering plate! You can scan the code below to be directed to an online Newcomer Contact Form that you submit instead.

- To access the form online, pull up the camera on your smartphone and hold it over the code to the right. A link will appear that will direct you to the form.



RESTROOMS are located in the foyer near the Parish Hall, out the door at the front of the nave; and in the Education Building, which is down the hall from the back of the nave.

FOR PARENTS – Babies and toddlers are totally welcome to join their parents for the entirety of the service – we love to hear them and all their sounds! If desired, we also provide childcare during the service in the Church Nursery over in the Education Building. The Parish Library is open for those who want a private space for nursing.

PREPARATION FOR MASS

Consider praying this prayer below to prepare yourself to receive Holy Communion.

THE PRAYER OF ST. THOMAS AQUINAS

Almighty and everlasting God, behold I draw near to the Sacrament of thy only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. I draw near, sick to the Physician of life, foul to the fountain of mercy, blind to the light of eternal glory, poor and needy to the Lord of heaven and earth. I implore thee, therefore, that of the abundance of thine infinite mercy thou wouldest vouchsafe to heal my sickness; to wash my foulness, to enlighten my blindness, to enrich my poverty, to clothe my nakedness: that so I may receive him, who is the Bread of Angels, King of kings and Lord of lords; with all the reverence and humility, all the contrition and devotion, all the purity and faith, and with that due purpose and intention; which shall be profitable for the salvation of my soul. Amen.

THE ENTRANCE RITE

PRELUDE

During the Prelude, take some time to prepare yourself for worship in silence and prayer.

INTROIT

After the bell is rung, we stand and sing the Introit, which is usually comprised of a brief section of the Psalms and other passages from Scripture.

PROCESSION WITH HYMN

Please remain standing. When the cross passes you during the procession, it is customary to bow at the waist.

KYRIE ELEISON

After the opening words, we sing the *Kyrie Eleison* – “Lord, have mercy” – a song of humility before God.

GLORIA

On every Sunday of the year – excluding Sundays in Advent in Lent – we sing the *Gloria*: a hymn of praise that glorifies God for his majesty and proclaims the peace that He has established on earth. It is customary to make the sign of the cross at “...*with the Holy Ghost art most high...*”

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Each Sunday is appointed a particular prayer or “Collect” that sums up the Scriptural themes of the day. Please kneel on the pew kneelers, as you are able.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

THE FIRST LESSON

There are four lessons of Scripture every Sunday, all of which can be found in the weekly bulletin. The First Lesson is usually from the Old Testament. Please be seated.

PSALM

The Psalm appointed for each Sunday is sung to a simple chant tone. Please remain seated.

THE SECOND LESSON

The Second Lesson is usually drawn from one of the Epistles in the New Testament.

GRADUAL

The Gradual is a selection of Scripture that we sing in preparation for the reading of the Holy Gospel. Please stand for the Gradual, Alleluia, and the Holy Gospel.

ALLELUIA

We sing the Alleluia verse in praise and thanksgiving. As the Deacon processes into the congregation, it is customary to turn and face him.

THE HOLY GOSPEL

The prior Lessons from Scripture all lead us to the proclamation of the Holy Gospel.

As the Deacon introduces the Gospel lesson, it is customary to make the sign of the cross on your forehead, lips, and heart.

THE SERMON

Please be seated.

NICENE CREED

We confess the Nicene Creed each week as a definitive statement of the Christian Faith. Please stand.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

The Prayers of the People address our common petitions to God for the welfare and peace of the world and for the needs of our community. Please be seated.

CONFESSION OF SIN

As we continue to prepare ourselves for the Holy Eucharist, we confess our sins together as a congregation before God. Please kneel.

THE PEACE

As a sign of the reconciliation we've received from the Absolution, we greet one another with the Peace of the Lord.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

At this point in the service, some may choose to pick up their children from the Nursery and bring them back into the nave for Holy Communion.

THE LITURGY OF THE ALTAR

THE OFFERTORY

During the Offertory Anthem, members of the parish are invited to make a financial offering to support the life and work of the church. If you're visiting, please know that you are our guest and your presence is a gift in itself.

- To give online, go to gracechurchponcacity.org, click "Give," and fill out the form, as directed on the page.
- To give via text message, just text FULLOFGRACE to 73256, followed by the amount of your gift.
- You may also place cash or check (payable to Grace Episcopal Church) in the offering plate.

Thank you for your support of the life and mission of our parish!

OFFERTORY BLESSING

See bulletin.

SURSUM CORDA

The Great Thanksgiving begins with the *Sursum Corda* – Latin for "Lift up your hearts." – which we sing together.

The Celebrant continues with the Proper Preface appointed for the day.

SANCTUS

Sanctus simply means "Holy" – which we sing in praise of God's holiness with "Angels and Archangels and all the company of heaven."

THE LITURGY OF THE ALTAR

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

The Celebrant continues with the Eucharistic Prayer, in which the bread and wine are consecrated by the Holy Spirit to become for us the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

We conclude the Eucharistic Prayer by praying together the prayer that our Lord taught us to pray.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Also known as the “Fraction,” this is when the Celebrant reverently breaks the consecrated bread to prepare it for distribution.

AGNUS DEI

The *Agnus Dei* – or “Lamb of God” – is the hymn we sing in reverence for our Lord, the Lamb who was slain.

(Omitted on the First Sunday of each month.)

INVITATION TO HOLY COMMUNION

All baptized Christians, regardless of age or denomination, are invited to receive Holy Communion. See the next page for instructions.

THE LITURGY OF THE ALTAR

HOLY COMMUNION, CONTINUED

To receive Communion:

- Come up by row, as directed by the ushers.
- When you get to the altar rail, place your right palm over your left and extend your hands to receive the bread from the priest. A chalice bearer will then guide the chalice to you so you can drink the wine.
- Return to your seat along the side aisles.
- If you need to have Communion brought to you in your pew, please let an usher know.

If you are not yet baptized or would prefer not to receive Communion, you can still come to the altar rail and receive a blessing from the priest. To indicate that you would like a blessing, kneel at the altar rail and cross your arms over your chest.

COMMUNION HYMNS

See the bulletin for the hymns that you may sing while the congregation is receiving communion.

THE PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

This prayer concludes the Holy Eucharist. See the bulletin for the BCP page number.

THE BLESSING

The Celebrant turns and gives a final blessing to the congregation in the Name of the Holy Trinity. It is customary to make the sign of the cross.

THE LITURGY OF THE ALTAR

PROCESSION WITH HYMN

The clergy and altar party then process to the back of the nave while a final hymn is sung.

THE DISMISSAL

The Deacon then dismisses the congregation.

POSTLUDE

During the Postlude, many take a moment to pray in thanksgiving.



CLERGY

The Rev. Caleb Roberts,
Rector

The Rev. Steve Mallory,
Deacon

ADDRESS

109 North 13 Street
Ponca City, OK 74601

CONTACT

580.765.7609
gracechurchponcacity.org

STAFF

Laura Marshall, Parish Administrator

Jackie Saylor, Organist

Chad Keilman, Choirmaster

SOCIAL MEDIA

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