

Ash Wednesday

February 14, 2024 A.D.

7:00 PM

Main Sanctuary



GRACE

Evangelical Lutheran Church



Christ-Centered

Mission-Driven

Traditionally-Grounded

Congregationally-Focused

4536 Hickory Lincolnton Highway
Newton, North Carolina 28658
Church Office: 704-462-1035
email: gracenalcnewton@aol.com
www.gracelutheran-newton.org

WELCOME TO ALL WHO WORSHIP at Grace Church this evening and affirm to worship the Father, Son+ and Holy Spirit in truth. Please fill out the purple Worship Today Form in your bulletin and place it in the Offering Plate so we might have any concerns or prayer requests you might want to offer. If you are seeking a Church Home or would like more information about Grace, please contact the Church Office.



Silent Prayer

Welcome/Announcements

Worship Leader: Glory to the Father, and to the Son+, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen

PSALM 51:1-19 (read in unison)

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. ² Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin! ³ For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. ⁴ Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you may be justified in your words and blameless in your judgment. ⁵ Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me. ⁶ Behold, you delight in truth in the inward being, and you teach me wisdom in the secret heart. ⁷ Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. ⁸ Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that you have broken rejoice. ⁹ Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities. ¹⁰ Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. ¹¹ Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me. ¹² Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit. ¹³ Then I will teach transgressors your ways, and sinners will return to you. ¹⁴ Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God, O God of my salvation, and my tongue will sing aloud of your righteousness. ¹⁵ O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare your praise. ¹⁶ For you will not delight in sacrifice, or I would give it; you will not be pleased with a burnt offering. ¹⁷ The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise. ¹⁸ Do good to Zion in your good pleasure; build up the walls of Jerusalem; ¹⁹ then will you delight in right sacrifices, in burnt offerings and whole burnt offerings; then bulls will be offered on your altar.

* **The Order of Confession and Forgiveness**

Worship Leader: Brothers and sisters: God created us to experience joy in communion with Him, to love all humanity, and to live in harmony with all of His creation. But sin separates us from God, our neighbors, and creation, and so we do not enjoy the life our Creator intended for us. Also, by our sin we grieve our Father, who does not desire for us to come under His judgment, but to turn to Him and live. As disciples of the Lord Jesus, we are called to struggle against everything that leads us away from love of God and neighbor. Repentance, fasting, prayer, and works of love - the disciplines of Lent - help us to wage our spiritual warfare. I invite you, therefore, to commit yourselves to this struggle and confess your sins, asking our Father for strength to persevere in your Lenten discipline.

Worship Leader: Most holy and merciful Father:

Congregation: **We confess to you and to one another, and to the whole communion of saints in heaven and on earth, that we have sinned by our own fault in thought, word, and deed; by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.**

Worship Leader: Most Holy Lord God, we have not loved You with our whole heart, and mind, and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not forgiven others, as we have been forgiven.

Congregation: **Have mercy on me, Lord.**

Worship Leader: We have been deaf to Your call to serve as Christ served us. We have not been true to the mind of Christ. We have grieved Your Holy Spirit.

Congregation: **Have mercy on me, Lord.**

Worship Leader: We confess to You, Lord, all our past unfaithfulness: Our unwillingness to accept your plain teachings; the pride, hypocrisy, and impatience in our lives,

Congregation: **I confess to You, Lord.**

Worship Leader: Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our exploitation of other people,

Congregation: **I confess to You, Lord.**

Worship Leader: Our anger at our own frustration, and our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves,

Congregation: I confess to You, Lord.

Worship Leader: Our intemperate love of worldly goods and comforts, and our dishonesty in daily life and work,

Congregation: I confess to You, Lord.

Worship Leader: Our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to commend the faith that is in us,

Congregation: I confess to You, Lord.

Worship Leader: Accept our repentance, Lord, for the wrongs we have done. For our blindness to human need and suffering, and our indifference to injustice and cruelty,

Congregation: Accept my repentance, Lord.

Worship Leader: For all false judgments, for uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors, and for our prejudice and contempt toward those different from us,

Congregation: Accept my repentance, Lord.

Worship Leader: For our waste and pollution of Your creation, and our lack of concern for those who come after us,

Congregation: Accept my repentance, Lord.

Worship Leader: Restore us, good Lord, and let Your anger depart from us.

Congregation: Hear us, Lord, for Your mercy is great. Amen.

THE IMPOSITION OF ASHES

(Meditate on Psalm 90, LBW page 258)

Worship Leader: Accomplish in us, O God, the work of Your salvation,

Congregation: that we may show forth Your glory in the world.

Worship Leader: By the cross and Passion of Your Son, Our Lord,

Congregation: bring us with all Your saints to the joy of His resurrection.

Worship Leader: Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, does not desire the death of sinners, but rather that they may turn from their wickedness and live. Therefore, we implore Him to grant us true repentance and His Holy Spirit, that those things may please Him which we do on this day, that the rest of our life may be pure and holy, and that at the last we may come to His eternal joy. Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Congregation: Amen.

*The Prayer of the Day

FIRST LESSON: Joel 2:12-19

¹² “Yet even now,” declares the LORD, “return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; ¹³ and rend your hearts and not your garments.” Return to the LORD your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love; and he relents over disaster. ¹⁴ Who knows whether he will not turn and relent, and leave a blessing behind him, a grain offering and a drink offering for the LORD your God? ¹⁵ Blow the trumpet in Zion; consecrate a fast; call a solemn assembly; ¹⁶ gather the people. Consecrate the congregation; assemble the elders; gather the children, even nursing infants. Let the bridegroom leave his room, and the bride her chamber. ¹⁷ Between the vestibule and the altar let the priests, the ministers of the LORD, weep and say, “Spare your people, O LORD, and make not your heritage a reproach, a byword among the nations. Why should they say among the peoples, ‘Where is their God?’” ¹⁸ Then the LORD became jealous for his land and had pity on his people. ¹⁹ The LORD answered and said to his people, “Behold, I am sending to you grain, wine, and oil, and you will be satisfied; and I will no more make you a reproach among the nations.

SECOND LESSON: 2 Corinthians 5:20b - 6:10

^{20b}We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹ For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. ^{6:1} Working together with him, then, we appeal to you not to receive the grace of God in vain. ² For he says, “In a favorable time I listened to you, and in a day of salvation I have helped you.” Behold, now is the favorable time; behold, now is the day of salvation. ³ We put no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, ⁴ but as servants of God we

commend ourselves in every way: by great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, ⁵ beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; ⁶ by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, the Holy Spirit, genuine love; ⁷ by truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; ⁸ through honor and dishonor, through slander and praise. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; ⁹ as unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and behold, we live; as punished, and yet not killed; ¹⁰ as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, yet possessing everything.

The Lenten Verse page 63

*** HOLY GOSPEL: Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21**

“Beware of practicing your righteousness before other people in order to be seen by them, for then you will have no reward from your Father who is in heaven.

² “Thus, when you give to the needy, sound no trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may be praised by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. ³ But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, ⁴ so that your giving may be in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

⁵ “And when you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites. For they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, that they may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. ⁶ But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

¹⁶ “And when you fast, do not look gloomy like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces that their fasting may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. ¹⁷ But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face,

¹⁸ that your fasting may not be seen by others but by your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you. ¹⁹ “Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, ²⁰ but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Ash Wednesday Message..... Herb Travis

Hymn of the Day**Savior, When in Dust to You** **LBW 91**

The Offering.....The People of God

* The Prayers.....page 65

* The Benedictionpage 74

Depart in Silence

* = Stand as you are able

+ + +

GRACE PRAYER LIST

In the Grace Church Family: Jeffrey Bivens, Rick & Cindy Bivens, Glenda Childers, Pat Dietz, Allen and Kay Hatchett, Irene Heavner, Lorene Heavner, Rachel Heavner, Lula Ingle, Larry & Brenda Jarrett, Martha Johnson, Faye Lane, Phil Leatherman, Betty Matheson, Jane Moss, Christine Norman, Tricia and Dan Panek, Debi Pisko, Michael Pisko, Stephen Pisko, Helen Smith, Ethan Starnes, Richard & Sandi Tallant, Libby Travis, Shirley Warlick, Carolyn & Scott Whisnant.

Nursing Home: Juanita Haas (Trinity Village), Ted Whisnant (Trinity Village),

Friends and Relatives in our Prayers: Pray for Peace in Israel and the World, New Covenant Lutheran Mission Church, Bobby Aderholdt, Jimmy Aderholdt, LeAnn Buckwell, Caleb Bumgarner & Family, Travis Bumgardner, Jessica Cassels & Family, Dennis & Evelyn Childers, Sheila Cook, Harold Crouse, Julie Foster, Guy Franzen, Brian Fruits, Wendy Hannah, Larry Heavner, J.C., Peggy Klutz, Lily Rose, Ryan McMullen, Greg Masters, Chris Medlin, Larry Milsaps, Katie Patton, Angela Sanford, Scott Speagle, Zachary Speagle and Amber, Cozel Spencer, Shanie Spencer, Steven, Sue, Monica Thomas, United States of America; Faye White, and especially the families of those who have given their lives in the service of our country and those who continue to protect our freedoms and for all members of our Armed Forces.

(Names are left on the prayer list for 30 days unless the office is notified otherwise.)



The Ministers.....	The People of Grace Lutheran Church
Pastor
Organist.....	Sandi Tallant
Administrative Assistant.....	Pam Tallent
Leadership Board President	Tim Eckard
Youth Leader	Stormy Shull
Lector	Herb Travis
Communion Assistants.....	Sheila Drum, Cindy Bivens, Libby Travis
Ushers	Jack Wilfong and James Hall
Altar Preparation.....	Herb and Libby Travis
Offering Tabulators	Todd Childers, Alan Shull
Custodians.....	Chris Abernethy