

Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 10, 2024 A.D.

10:30 A.M.



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

Fourth Sunday in Lent



Welcome & Announcements

Prelude.....Please Observe Silence For Meditation

- * Brief Order for Confession and Forgiveness page 56

PRAISE

- * Opening Hymn**Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing****LBW 499**
- * The Kyrie page 57
- * The Salutation and Prayer of the Day

EQUIP

The First Lesson..... Numbers 21:4-9

L: The Word of the Lord. **All: Thanks be to God.**

The Psalm 107:1-9..... Bulletin pg. 4

The Second Lesson.....Ephesians 2:1-10

L: The Word of the Lord. **All: Thanks be to God.**

- * The Lenten Verse page 63
- * The Holy Gospel John 3:14-21
- Children's Sermon Pastor East
- The Message..... "Death to Life" Pastor East
- Hymn of the Day **I Believe in a Hill Called Mount Calvary** **TCH 318**
- * The Nicene Creed page 64
- * The Prayers and the Peace..... page 65

GIVE

The Offering The People of God

- * The Offertory and Prayer pages 66, 67

RECEIVE

- * The Great Thanksgiving..... page 68
- * The Eucharistic Prayer & The Lord's Prayer pages 69, 71
- * **The Distribution of the Holy Sacrament**
- * Post-Communion Canticle.....*Lord, now you let your servant*..... page 73
- * Post-Communion Prayer page 74
- * The Benediction page 74

SEND

- * The Sending Hymn **Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee****LBW 551**
- * The Dismissal: P: Go in Peace. Be the Church! **All: Thanks be to God!**

Postlude

* = Stand

A reminder that during the season of Lent there is no Hymn of Praise, after the Second Lesson the Lenten verse (p. 63) will be sung, and the Post-Communion Canticle is on page 73 (Lord, now you let your servant...)

Hymnals in Pew Rack: LBW = Green WOV = Blue TCH = Burgundy

WELCOME TO ALL WHO WORSHIP at Grace Church this morning as we gather to worship the Father, + Son and Holy Spirit in truth. As you entered the sanctuary today, you received this bulletin containing the order for worship and announcements. Please also notice the Prayer List where you will find a listing of all the known prayer concerns. You are invited to use this as a guide for your personal prayers throughout the coming week. If you need information about our congregation or if you'd like to update your information, make sure to fill out the yellow Worship Today Form and place it in the offering plate at the time of the offering. If you have a prayer concern, indicate that on your Worship Today Form at the bottom or on the reverse side. The Prayer Teams will be praying with you and for your concerns during the coming week as well. If you are seeking a Church Home or would like more information about Grace, please contact the Church Office this week.

THIS WEEK'S THEME: Without God, life is not possible. Without God, spiritual/eternal death is inescapable. Both the Old Testament and the New Testament point to this. During this season of Lent, we intentionally focus on our sins which separate us from God, and our need for restoration. Today, on our weekly observance of Jesus' saving death on the cross where he took the consequence for our sins, we can repent of those sins and strengthen our faith in Jesus, who brings us life from death.

FIRST LESSON: Numbers 21:4-9

⁴ From Mount Hor they set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom. And the people became impatient on the way. ⁵ And the people spoke against God and against Moses, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we loathe this worthless food." ⁶ Then the LORD sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many people of Israel died. ⁷ And the people came to Moses and said, "We have sinned, for we have spoken against the LORD and against you. Pray to the LORD, that he take away the serpents from us." So Moses prayed for the people. ⁸ And the LORD said to Moses, "Make a fiery serpent and set it on a pole, and everyone who is bitten, when he sees it, shall live." ⁹ So Moses made a bronze serpent and set it on a pole. And if a serpent bit anyone, he would look at the bronze serpent and live.

PSALM 107:1-9

¹Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good,
and his mercy endures forever.

²**Let all those whom the LORD has redeemed proclaim
that he redeemed them from the hand of the foe.**

³He gathered them out of the lands;
from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south.

⁴**Some wandered in desert wastes;
they found no way to a city where they might dwell.**

⁵They were hungry and thirsty;
their spirits languished within them.

⁶**Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble,
and he delivered them from their distress.**

⁷He put their feet on a straight path
to go to a city where they might dwell.

⁸**Let them give thanks to the LORD for his mercy
and the wonders he does for his children.**

⁹For he satisfies the thirsty
and fills the hungry with good things.

SECOND LESSON: Ephesians 2:1-10

And you were dead in the trespasses and sins ²in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— ³among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. ⁴But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, ⁵even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— ⁶and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, ⁷so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. ⁸For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, ⁹not a result of works, so that no one may boast. ¹⁰For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

THE HOLY GOSPEL: John 3:14-21

¹⁴ And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵ that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. ¹⁶ “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷ For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. ¹⁸ Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God. ¹⁹ And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil. ²⁰ For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his works should be exposed. ²¹ But whoever does what is true comes to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that his works have been carried out in God.”

Next Sunday's Readings: Jeremiah 31:31-34; Psalm 119:9-16; Hebrews 5:1-10; Mark 10:32-45. Readings are based on the recommended use of the English Standard Version (ESV) by the North American Lutheran Church and Lectionary of Sola Publishing. Used by Permission.

GRACE PRAYER LIST

In the Grace Church Family: Jeffry Bivens, Rick & Cindy Bivens, Glenda Childers, Pat Dietz, Allen and Kay Hatchett, Irene Heavner, Lorene Heavner, Rachel Heavner, Lula Ingle, Don & Nicky Jarrett, Larry & Brenda Jarrett, Martha Johnson, Faye Lane, Gary Leatherman, 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, John and Terry Barnett, LeAnn Buckwell, Caleb Bumgarner & Family, Travis Bumgardner, Jessica Cassels & Family, Dennis & Evelyn Childers, Sheila Cook, Harold Crouse, Doris Duckworth, Wayne and Joyce Eckard, Julie Foster, Guy Franzen, Wendy Hannah, Larry Heavner, J.C., Michelle Kirkland, Peggy Klutz, Lily Rose, Family of Gerald Leonhardt, Sgt. Ryan McMullen and shift, Greg Masters, Chris Medlin, Katie Patton, April Pilkenton, Angela Sanford, Melinda Smith, 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.)

PLEASE WELCOME PASTOR BRACK EAST who is leading worship this morning!

THE DEADLINE TO ORDER EASTER LILIES IS NEXT SUNDAY! Please: (1) fill out the yellow form in your bulletin, (2) place it and your check or cash inside the special envelope, (3) fill out the front of the special envelope, and (4) put it in the offering plate. The cost is **\$12.00 per plant**. Please make checks payable to Grace Lutheran Church, For: Lily. **Please have all orders in by next Sunday, March 17th**, so that we may properly acknowledge the dedications. (Note: On the Sunday you place your lily order, you do not need to use your regular numbered envelope. However, it is greatly appreciated when you use them on the other Sundays of the year.)

THE CALL COMMITTEE OF GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH has taken the first step in the process of calling a pastor for our church. We met Monday, March 4, 2024, through Zoom, with Pastor Shelly Shultz who is the NALC Call Committee Director. The Committee was given instructions to continue the process. This process will take all of the Call Committee plus the congregation to proceed. Each step will get us closer to having God's choice for us come to realization. The main step will be to pray. We, the committee and the congregation, will need to pray daily for God's guidance in the process. (Prayers can be found in the Lutheran Book of Worship.)

ECCCM HAS A NEW NAME – ASHURE MINISTRY! The Board of Directors of Eastern Catawba Cooperative Christian Ministry recently unanimously voted to change the name to Ashure Ministry in order to represent the expanded service area (**all** of Catawba County). This change does not affect the types of programs and services being offered, and the people of Catawba County may continue to apply for food and crisis assistance. (More to come in April Edition of Grace Notes Newsletter.) Ashure appreciates the continued generosity of food donations from the disciples of Grace.

BETTY MATHESON WOULD LIKE TO EXTEND HER THANKS AND APPRECIATION for all the well wishes and prayers from the disciples of Grace. She misses all of you and hopes she will be well soon.

PLEASE PRAY FOR SHEILA DRUM and all those attending the Via de Cristo Women's 85 Conference at Bethelwoods in York, South Carolina this weekend.

*“Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good,
and his mercy endures forever.”*
Psalm 107:1

HAPPY MARCH BIRTHDAY TO

11 – Sharon Whalen
12 – Danny Robertson

THIS WEEK AT GRACE

Today: **FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT**
Daylight Savings Time Begins
9:30A – Sunday School
10:30A - Worship Celebration

Next Sunday: **FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT**
St. Patrick’s Day
Deadline to Order Easter Lilies
9:30A – Sunday School
10:30A - Worship Celebration

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



Table Talk II

By Rev. Timothy J. Swenson • ILT Dean of Chapel

The Fourth Sunday in Lent | March 10, 2024



JOHN 6:1-15

“Perceiving then that they were about to come and take him by force to make him king...” Vs. 15

This account, the feeding of the five thousand, remains unique in that it is included in all four gospels. Among the four, the Gospel of John has Jesus both giving thanks for the food and distributing the food to the five thousand (vs. 11). Consider, here, the profligate abundance: Not only did the people eat “as much as they wanted” (vs. 11), but when all had eaten their fill, the leftovers exceeded the initial amount—twelve baskets full vs. the initial five loaves and two fish (vs. 13). Note this: the leftovers were not cast aside but carefully gathered up so “that nothing may be lost” (vs. 12). The Lord may provide in abundance... The Lord may even be profligate in that abundance... but the Lord does not leave things to waste. The Lord wants nothing lost (vs. 12).

Neither does the Lord want you to be lost. You may consider your life to be an afterthought... a leftover... something fit only for the waste bin. Your Lord, however, thinks differently. Your Lord, having poured out his salvation, his grace, his life abundantly even profligately upon the world, ensures against the loss of any... against any person going to waste... by sending out his helpers to gather them up. In the Lord's calculus, everyone is worthy of being gathered in even

those labeled leftovers. The Lord sends his preachers to do this gathering.

The abundance of the Lord's profligate bestowal of benefits exemplified by this important account of the feeding of five thousand, also exemplifies the selfish misuse by the people of their Lord's abundance. The people will use force upon their Lord, coercing him to be their king (vs. 15), and demanding a perpetual comfort from the Lord's abundance. Right here, this text from God's Word delivers the Law—afflict the comfortable—and proclaims the Gospel—comfort the afflicted. Those who would use force and coercion are afflicted while those who would be leftovers, fit only for the waste bin, are comforted.

Table Talk: Discuss the importance of hearing Scripture as Law and Gospel.

Pray: Heavenly Father place your word in my ears as Law and Gospel. Amen



ilt.edu • PO Box 833 • Brookings, SD • (605) 692-9337