

# Seventh Sunday of Easter

May 12, 2024 A.D.

10:30 A.M.



# GRACE

Evangelical Lutheran Church



*Christ-Centered*

*Mission-Driven*

*Traditionally-Grounded*

*Congregationally-Focused*

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# Seventh Sunday of Easter



Welcome and Announcements

Prelude..... Please Observe Silence For Meditation

- \* Brief Order for Confession and Forgiveness ..... page 56

## PRAISE

- \* Opening Hymn ..... **Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty** ..... **LBW 250**
- \* The Kyrie ..... page 57
- \* The Hymn of Praise.....*This is the Feast*..... Page 60
- \* The Salutation and Prayer of the Day.....page 62

## EQUIP

The First Lesson..... Acts 1:12-26

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

The Psalm 1 ..... Bulletin pg. 4

The Second Lesson ..... 1 John 5:19-15

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

- \* The Holy Gospel.....John 17:11b-19
- Children's Sermon .....Pastor Coble
- The Message....."God's Math" .....Pastor Coble
- Hymn of the Day.....**The King of Love My Shepherd Is**.....**LBW 456**
- \* The Apostles Creed.....page 65
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## 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.....*Thank the Lord*..... page 72
- \* Post-Communion Prayer
- \* The Benediction

## SEND

- \* The Sending Hymn ..... **All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name** .....**LBW 328**
- \* The Dismissal: P: Go in peace. Be the Church!    **All: Thanks be to God!**

Postlude

\* = Stand      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. 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:** In today's Gospel lesson, we are going to read part of what is called the High Priestly Prayer, a prayer that is prayed by Jesus to God the Father. Part of this prayer will be that we might be one, even as God the Father and God the Son are one, that we might be one. The sad reality is that often the church is anything but one.

**FIRST LESSON: Acts 1:12-26**

<sup>12</sup>Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day's journey away. <sup>13</sup>And when they had entered, they went up to the upper room, where they were staying, Peter and John and James and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot and Judas the son of James. <sup>14</sup>All these with one accord were devoting themselves to prayer, together with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and his brothers. <sup>15</sup>In those days Peter stood up among the brothers (the company of persons was in all about 120) and said, <sup>16</sup>"Brothers, the Scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit spoke beforehand by the mouth of David concerning Judas, who became a guide to those who arrested Jesus. <sup>17</sup>For he was numbered among us and was allotted his share in this ministry." <sup>18</sup>(Now this man acquired a field with the reward of his wickedness, and falling headlong he burst open in the middle and all his bowels gushed out. <sup>19</sup>And it became known to all the inhabitants of Jerusalem, so that the field was called in their own language Akeldama, that is, Field of Blood.) <sup>20</sup>"For it is written in the Book of Psalms, "'May his camp become desolate, and let there be no one to dwell in it'; and "'Let another take his office.'" <sup>21</sup>So one of the men who have accompanied us during all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among

us, <sup>22</sup>beginning from the baptism of John until the day when he was taken up from us—one of these men must become with us a witness to his resurrection.” <sup>23</sup>And they put forward two, Joseph called Barsabbas, who was also called Justus, and Matthias. <sup>24</sup>And they prayed and said, “You, Lord, who know the hearts of all, show which one of these two you have chosen <sup>25</sup>to take the place in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place.” <sup>26</sup>And they cast lots for them, and the lot fell on Matthias, and he was numbered with the eleven apostles.

## PSALM 1

<sup>1</sup>Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel of the wicked,  
nor lingered in the way of sinners, nor sat in the seats of the scornful!

**<sup>2</sup>Their delight is in the law of the LORD,  
and they meditate on his law day and night.**

<sup>3</sup>They are like trees planted by streams of water, bearing fruit in due season,  
with leaves that do not wither;  
everything they do shall prosper.

**<sup>4</sup>It is not so with the wicked;  
They are like chaff which the wind blows away.**

<sup>5</sup>Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when judgment comes,  
nor the sinner in the council of the righteous.

**<sup>6</sup>For the LORD knows the way of the righteous,  
but the way of the wicked is doomed.**

## SECOND LESSON: 1 John 5:9-15

<sup>9</sup>If we receive the testimony of men, the testimony of God is greater, for this is the testimony of God that has borne concerning his Son. <sup>10</sup>Whoever believes in the Son of God has the testimony in himself. Whoever does not believe God has made him a liar, because he has not believed in the testimony that God has borne concerning his Son. <sup>11</sup>And this is the testimony that God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. <sup>12</sup>Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life. <sup>13</sup>I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life. <sup>14</sup>And this is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will he hears us. <sup>15</sup>And if we know that he hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests that we have asked of him.

## **THE HOLY GOSPEL: John 17:11b-19**

<sup>11b</sup> Holy Father, keep them in your name, which you have given me, that they may be one, even as we are one. <sup>12</sup> While I was with them, I kept them in your name, which you have given me. I have guarded them, and not one of them has been lost except the son of destruction, that the Scripture might be fulfilled. <sup>13</sup> But now I am coming to you, and these things I speak in the world, that they may have my joy fulfilled in themselves. <sup>14</sup> I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. <sup>15</sup> I do not ask that you take them out of the world, but that you keep them from the evil one. <sup>16</sup> They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. <sup>17</sup> Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. <sup>18</sup> As you sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. <sup>19</sup> And for their sake I consecrate myself, that they also may be sanctified in truth.

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**Next Sunday's Readings:** Ezekiel 37:1-14; Psalm 139:1-16; Acts 2:1-21; John 15:26-27, 16:4b-15. 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.

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### **GRACE PRAYER LIST**

**In the Grace Church Family:** Jeffry Bivens, Rick & Cindy Bivens, Glenda Childers, Pat Dietz, Sheila Drum, Allen and Kay Hatchett, Irene Heavner, Lorene Heavner, Rachel Heavner, 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, Becky Cartee, Jessica Cassels & Family, Dennis & Evelyn Childers, Harold Crouse, Dennis D'Alessio, Julie Foster, Guy Franzen, Wendy Hannah, Larry Heavner, J.C., Michele Kirkland, Peggy Klutz, Lily Rose, Alexis McCrary, Sgt. Ryan McMullen and shift, Greg Masters, Chris Medlin, Larry Milsaps, Jenny Mulcahy, 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.)

**PLEASE WELCOME PASTOR GARY COBLE** who is leading worship this morning.

**TODAY IS MOTHER'S DAY!** We lift up our beloved Mothers today (and every day) in honor and remembrance and thank them for their sacrifices!

**STEPHEN MINISTRY SUPERVISION** will be held on Monday, May 13<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m.

**THE GRACE PRAYER LUNCHEON** will be held on Wednesday, May 15<sup>th</sup> at noon in the Fellowship Hall. This is a time for any adults from Grace and the community to come together and enjoy fellowship and good food! Please give Betty Wilfong a call at (828) 461-6604 and let her know if you plan to attend.

**CALLING ALL GRADUATES!** If a child, grandchild or family member is graduating soon, please notify the church office so that we can congratulate them in the June issue of Grace Notes!

**ASHURE (FORMERLY ECCCM)** food ask for the month of May is pet food (National Pet Month). Since the service area has been expanded to include all of Catawba County, there is a great need for food donations and volunteers. It's a way to make a real difference right here in Catawba County!

**NEXT SUNDAY WE CELEBRATE PENTECOST,** the "birthday of the church." We encourage everyone to wear red to signify the work of the spirit, which came upon the disciples as tongues of fire. But don't only wear red...wear the Holy Spirit!

**THE GRACE CONGREGATION IS INVITED TO THE MISSION DISTRICT FAMILY AND YOUTH MINISTRY EVENT** – New Jerusalem and St. Martin's Lutheran Church are inviting families and student ministries to join them on May 19<sup>th</sup> from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm at New Jerusalem for **Mission Frenzy!** This will be a hands-on activity that involves giving back to the community by helping organizations that provide services to those in need. Each congregation is asked to help collect items and/or give a monetary donation to allow items to be purchased. If interested, please contact Megan Gwaltney, Director of Youth and Family Ministry by May 13<sup>th</sup> at [mgwaltneydyfm@gmail.com](mailto:mgwaltneydyfm@gmail.com) or 828-228-0542.

**APPLICATIONS FOR PART-TIME SECRETARY/ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT POSITION** are now being accepted by Grace. For details, see a Board Member.

*“For the LORD knows the way of the righteous,  
But the way of the wicked is doomed.”*

Psalm 1:6

**HAPPY MAY BIRTHDAY TO:**

- 12 – Joe Whisnant
- 14 – Jacob Waldrop
- 18 – Michael Hall

**THIS WEEK AT GRACE**

- Today:** SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER  
**Mother’s Day**  
9:30A – Sunday School  
10:30A - Worship Celebration
- Monday:** 6:00P – Stephen Ministry Supervision
- Wednesday:** 12:00P – Grace Prayer Luncheon
- Next Sunday:** DAY OF PENTECOST  
**Foster Care Sunday**  
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 Leader .....	Stormy Shull
Lector .....	Alan Shull
Communion Assistants.....	Alan and Stormy Shull
Ushers .....	Jack Wilfong and James Hall
Altar Preparation.....	Herb and Libby Travis
Offering Tabulators .....	Todd Childers and Alan Shull
Custodian .....	Chris Abernethy



# Table Talk II

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

The Ascension of Our Lord | May 9, 2024



## LUKE 24:44-53

*"...repentance for the forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name" Vs. 47*

Jesus bestows a gift upon his disciples. He opens their minds to understand the Scriptures (vs. 45). Those disciples have been with him three years... three years and they still hadn't understood. They didn't comprehend Jesus' place in their own Scriptures and his fulfillment of what was written. But now, Jesus is changing their title and job description. No longer will they be known as disciples, following after Jesus. They can't follow him as he's carried up into heaven; it's not yet their time. Their new title is that of "apostle." They are the "sent out ones." Specifically, they are sent out to proclaim, "repentance for the forgiveness of sins in Jesus' name to all nations" (vs. 47).

This is but one of five "sending" accounts: all four Gospels and the Book of Acts have one. We have become so accustomed to emphasizing the so-called "Great Commission" from Matthew's gospel that the other four sending accounts have withered in importance. We forget that "Great Commission" is merely a title assigned to it by an editor of some English language translation.

These five sending accounts (Mt. 28:16-20; Mk. 16:14-18; Lk. 24:44-49; Acts 1:6-11; & Jn. 20:19-23) have several threads in common. For instance, the disciples are not complemented

by Jesus or the gospel evangelists. Rather, the disciples are described as "fearful," "ignorant," "uncomprehending," and "disbelieving." Yet, the same authority is given to all without distinction. They are sent out to bear witness to Jesus Christ, to proclaim repentance for the forgiveness of sins in his name, and to baptize in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Jesus "blessed them" in their sending and proclamation (vs. 50).

Oh, what fruitfulness that blessing has obtained! The proclamation of those original apostles has been multiplied generation-after-generation until it has reached you. Upon its reaching you, you are enlisted into the ranks of apostles. Worship services conclude with your being "sent out;" you are "apostle-ized!" No matter if you be "fearful," "ignorant," "uncomprehending," or even "disbelieving." So were the originals! Go! Bear witness to Jesus Christ!

**Table Talk:** Have you ever thought of being an "apostle" of Jesus Christ rather than a disciple of Christ? Why or why not?

**Pray:** Heavenly Father, grant that I would hear my sending out and so become an apostle of Christ. Amen



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