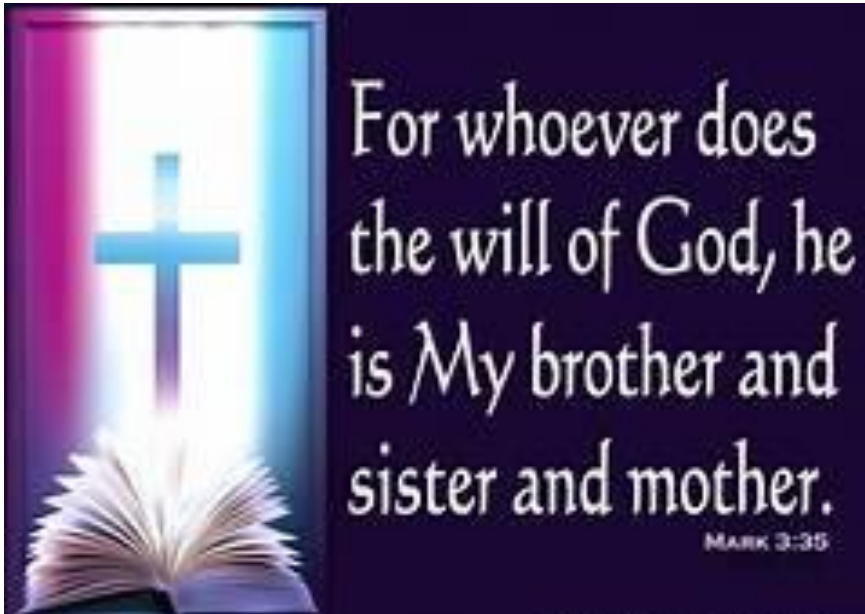


# Third Sunday after Pentecost

June 9, 2024 A.D.

10:30 A.M.



## GRACE

Evangelical Lutheran Church



*Christ-Centered*

*Mission-Driven*

*Traditionally-Grounded*

*Congregationally-Focused*

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# Third Sunday after Pentecost



Welcome and Announcements

Prelude..... Please Observe Silence For Meditation

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

## PRAISE

- \* Opening Hymn ..... **God of Grace and God of Glory**..... **LBW 415**
- \* The Kyrie ..... page 57
- \* The Hymn of Praise..... *Glory to God*..... Page 58
- \* The Salutation and Prayer of the Day..... page 62

## EQUIP

The First Lesson..... Genesis 3:8-15

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

The Psalm 130 ..... Bulletin pg. 4

The Second Lesson ..... 2 Corinthians 4:13-5:1

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

- \* The Holy Gospel..... Mark 3:20-35
- Children's Sermon ..... Pastor East
- The Message..... "Overcoming Sin"..... Pastor East
- Hymn of the Day..... **When Peace, Like a River**..... **LBW 346**
- \* The Apostles' Creed..... page 65
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## GIVE

The Offering ..... The People of God

- \* The Offertory and Prayer ..... pages 66, 67

## RECEIVE

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- \* 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 ..... **Built on a Rock**..... **LBW 365**

- \* 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:** Satan has been at work since the beginning of creation to lure all people into sin. But God has a plan to help people avoid that. He sent his Son Jesus to take away the consequences of sin, and his Holy Spirit to help believers avoid sin. Good news for us is that God's plan is available to us if we are willing to accept it and be a part of it.

**FIRST LESSON: Genesis 3:8-15**

<sup>8</sup>And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. <sup>9</sup>But the LORD God called to the man and said to him, "Where are you?" <sup>10</sup>And he said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself." <sup>11</sup>He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" <sup>12</sup>The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate." <sup>13</sup>Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate." <sup>14</sup>The LORD God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, cursed are you above all livestock and above all beasts of the field; on your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. <sup>15</sup>I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel."

## **PSALM 130**

<sup>1</sup>Out of the depths have I called to you, O LORD; LORD, hear my voice;  
let your ears consider well the voice of my supplication.

<sup>2</sup>**If you, LORD, were to note what is done amiss,  
O LORD, who could stand?**

<sup>3</sup>For there is forgiveness with you;  
therefore you shall be feared.

<sup>4</sup>**I wait for the LORD; my soul waits for him;  
in his word is my hope.**

<sup>5</sup>My soul waits for the LORD, more than watchmen for the morning,  
more than watchmen for the morning.

<sup>6</sup>**O Israel, wait for the LORD,  
for with the LORD there is mercy;**

<sup>7</sup>with him there is plenteous redemption,  
and he shall redeem Israel from all their sins.

## **SECOND LESSON: II Corinthians 4:13-5:1**

<sup>13</sup> Since we have the same spirit of faith according to what has been written, “I believed, and so I spoke,” we also believe, and so we also speak, <sup>14</sup> knowing that he who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus and bring us with you into his presence. <sup>15</sup> For it is all for your sake, so that as grace extends to more and more people it may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God. <sup>16</sup> So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. <sup>17</sup> For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, <sup>18</sup> as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal. <sup>5:1</sup> For we know that if the tent that is our earthly home is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

## **THE HOLY GOSPEL: Mark 3:20-35**

<sup>20</sup> Then he went home, and the crowd gathered again, so that they could not even eat. <sup>21</sup> And when his family heard it, they went out to seize him, for they were saying, “He is out of his mind.” <sup>22</sup> And the scribes who came down from Jerusalem were saying, “He is possessed by Beelzebul,” and “by the prince of demons he casts out the demons.” <sup>23</sup> And he called them to him and said to them in parables, “How can Satan cast out Satan? <sup>24</sup> If a kingdom is divided against itself, that

kingdom cannot stand. <sup>25</sup> And if a house is divided against itself, that house will not be able to stand. <sup>26</sup> And if Satan has risen up against himself and is divided, he cannot stand, but is coming to an end. <sup>27</sup> But no one can enter a strong man's house and plunder his goods, unless he first binds the strong man. Then indeed he may plunder his house. <sup>28</sup> "Truly, I say to you, all sins will be forgiven the children of man, and whatever blasphemies they utter, <sup>29</sup> but whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit never has forgiveness, but is guilty of an eternal sin" — <sup>30</sup> for they were saying, "He has an unclean spirit." <sup>31</sup> And his mother and his brothers came, and standing outside they sent to him and called him. <sup>32</sup> And a crowd was sitting around him, and they said to him, "Your mother and your brothers are outside, seeking you." <sup>33</sup> And he answered them, "Who are my mother and my brothers?" <sup>34</sup> And looking about at those who sat around him, he said, "Here are my mother and my brothers!" <sup>35</sup> For whoever does the will of God, he is my brother and sister and mother."

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**Next Sunday's Readings:** Ezekial 17:22-24; Psalm 1; 2 Corinthians 5:1-10(11-17); Mark 4:26-34. 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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**THE ALTAR FLOWERS** are given to the Glory of God,  
in loving memory of Helen Leatherman,  
and in honor of Harvey and Gary Leatherman for Father's Day  
by the Harvey Leatherman Family.

### **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, Harvey Leatherman, Phil and Malinda 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, Terry Barnett, 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, Sgt. Ryan McMullen and shift, Greg Masters, Chris Medlin, Paul and Genni Mulcahy, Katie

Patton, 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.

**WE WELCOME TO GRACE** this morning Andrew Adkins as our guest musician. We thank Andrew for sharing his musical gifts and adding to our worship. Please greet Andrew following worship.

**WE ALSO WELCOME KRISTI TUCKER TO GRACE!** Kristi is the new Administrative Assistant at Grace! Kristi will be shadowing Pam until her last day at Grace on June 27<sup>th</sup>.

**CALL COMMITTEE UPDATE** – The Call Committee met Tuesday, June 4<sup>th</sup> at Grace. The meeting was to update the Call Members on the progress of the pastor call. There has been no news; however, we all knew the process takes patience and prayer. Prayers were offered up for encouragement and unity. The Committee will once again ask for prayers from the congregation in this call process. Thank you – Call Committee.

Prayer for Congregation to consider:

*Almighty God, giver of all good gifts, look on your church with grace and guide the minds of those who shall choose a pastor for Grace Lutheran Church, that we may receive a faithful servant who will call for your people and equip us for our ministries. Through Jesus Christ, Amen.*

**ASHURE (FORMERLY ECCCM)** food ask for the month of June is cereal. Your donations make a real difference right here in Catawba County! Thank you for helping to keep the food pantry stocked! Thank you disciples of Grace for the 37 pounds of food delivered to Ashure on May 29, 2024.

**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL** starts **today**, June 9th – Thursday, June 13th at Plateau United Methodist Church from 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm. The theme this year is “Camp Firelight.” There will be classes and activities for every age. Come join us!

**STEPHEN MINISTRY SUPERVISION** is cancelled until August, 2024.

**NEW JERUSALEM LUTHERAN CHURCH** will be using parsonage for the Solid Rock Day Camp Counselors to stay during the week of June 16<sup>th</sup>.

*“Sing with joy to God our strength  
and raise a loud shout to the God of Jacob.”*  
Psalm 81:1

**HAPPY JUNE BIRTHDAY TO:**

- 9 – Carrie Setzer; Jeffery Warlick
- 11 – Cindy Bivens; Pam Smith, Alicia Wilfong
- 13 – Matthew Whalen
- 14 – Emily Robertson
- 15 – Steven Hall

**THIS WEEK AT GRACE**

**Today:**

**THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

- 9:30A – Sunday School
- 10:30A - Worship Celebration

**Sun. – Thurs.:**

6:00P – VBS – Plateau UMC

**Next Sunday:**

**FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

**FATHER’S DAY**

- 9:30A – Sunday School
- 10:30A – Worship Celebration

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



# TableTalk II

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

Second Sunday after Trinity | June 9, 2024

WHAT'S  
YOUR  
EXCUSE?

LUKE 14:15–24

*"Please have me excused." (Vs. 18 and 19)*

The man... the master of the house... the man with means enough to throw a banquet with the expectation that many would attend... the man sent out his servant to announce, "It's ready! Come now, eat and feast!" (Is. 55:1). Rather than the expected rejoicing and celebration that the banquet was at hand, the servant heard only excuses. Those invited had good reasons for not accepting the invitation: each had a duty to do (cf. Lk 10:29-37). One had to steward the land; one had an investment to secure; another had marital duties. Their excuses justified their rejection of the banquet.

Excuses. We've all used them. Excuses provide good and acceptable reasons for certain behaviors or attitudes on our part... reasons that justify us before the court of public (or private) opinion... reasons that maintain our righteousness in the given situation. Excuses. We've all used them. Excuses explain and give context to our sins. The adulterer says, "We didn't mean for it to happen. We just fell in love." The murderer says, "I don't know what came over me. I didn't mean to kill him; it was an accident." The one guilty of coveting asks, "Why should my neighbor have such beauty and not me?"

If you listen closely, you can hear people make excuses for their sin rather than make confession of their sin. Perhaps you've even done it yourself. An excuse, however, is not a confession; it is, rather, a justification. These justifications deny your justification by faith. To be justified by faith means the end of excuses... the end of justifying yourself... the end of using your so-called duty (even religious duty—cf. Lk 10:31-32) to excuse your absenting yourself from the master's banquet.

The master depicted in this parable is a thinly veiled stand in for the Lord himself. The banquet being thrown is the Lamb's High Feast. You have no excuse to refuse the invitation. The Lord has already justified you. Trust him! Believe him! He does not lie! The Lord... the Master of All... will have a full house... every seat at the Table will be filled (Lk 14:23). What's your excuse for not attending?

**Table Talk:** Discuss those times you've excused your sin rather than confessed your sin.

**Pray:** Heavenly Father, lead me to confess my sin instead of making excuses for it. Amen



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