

Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

June 16, 2024 A.D.

10:30 A.M.



GRACE

Evangelical Lutheran Church



Christ-Centered

Mission-Driven

Traditionally-Grounded

Congregationally-Focused

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Fourth Sunday after Pentecost



Welcome and Announcements

Prelude..... Please Observe Silence For Meditation

- * Brief Order for Confession and Forgiveness page 56

PRAISE

- * Opening Hymn **Rise Up, O Saints of God!** **LBW 383**
- * 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..... Ezekial 17:22-24

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

The Psalm 1 Bulletin pg. 3

The Second Lesson 2 Corinthians 5:1-17

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

- * The Holy Gospel..... Mark 4:26-34
- Children's Sermon Pastor Coble
- The Message..... "The Purpose Is..." Pastor Coble
- Hymn of the Day..... **Almighty God, your Word is Cast**..... **LBW 234**
- * The Apostles' Creed..... page 65
- * 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..... *Thank the Lord*..... page 72
- * Post-Communion Prayer
- * The Benediction

SEND

- * The Sending Hymn **Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing**..... **LBW 559**

- * 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: If you wanted to know who the Messiah is, where would you look for an answer? Usually I go to the Gospels that tells us the story of Jesus. But today Ezekiel gives us a great view of who the Messiah is and what that means for us.

FIRST LESSON: Ezekial 17:22-24

²² Thus says the Lord GOD: "I myself will take a sprig from the lofty top of the cedar and will set it out. I will break off from the topmost of its young twigs a tender one, and I myself will plant it on a high and lofty mountain. ²³ On the mountain height of Israel will I plant it, that it may bear branches and produce fruit and become a noble cedar. And under it will dwell every kind of bird; in the shade of its branches birds of every sort will nest. ²⁴ And all the trees of the field shall know that I am the LORD; I bring low the high tree, and make high the low tree, dry up the green tree, and make the dry tree flourish. I am the LORD; I have spoken, and I will do it."

PSALM 1

¹Happy 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!

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

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

**⁴It is not so with the wicked;
they are like chaff which the wind blows away.**

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

**⁶For the LORD knows the way of the righteous,
but the way of the wicked is doomed.**

SECOND LESSON: 2 Corinthians 5:1-17

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. ² For in this tent we groan, longing to put on our heavenly dwelling, ³ if indeed by putting it on we may not be found naked. ⁴ For while we are still in this tent, we groan, being burdened—not that we would be unclothed, but that we would be further clothed, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life. ⁵ He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who has given us the Spirit as a guarantee. ⁶ So we are always of good courage. We know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord, ⁷ for we walk by faith, not by sight. ⁸ Yes, we are of good courage, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. ⁹ So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him. ¹⁰ For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil. ¹¹ Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we persuade others. But what we are known to God, and I hope it is known also to your conscience. ¹² We are not commending ourselves to you again but giving you cause to boast about us, so that you may be able to answer those who boast about outward appearance and not about what is in the heart. ¹³ For if we are beside ourselves, it is for God; if we are in our right mind, it is for you. ¹⁴ For the love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this: that one has died for all, therefore all have died; ¹⁵ and he died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised. ¹⁶ From now on, therefore, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we once regarded Christ according to the flesh, we regard him thus no longer. ¹⁷ Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

THE HOLY GOSPEL: Mark 4:26-34

²⁶ And he said, "The kingdom of God is as if a man should scatter seed on the ground. ²⁷ He sleeps and rises night and day, and the seed sprouts and grows; he knows not how. ²⁸ The earth produces by itself, first the blade, then the ear, then the full grain in the ear. ²⁹ But when the grain is ripe, at once he puts in the sickle, because the harvest has come." ³⁰ And he said, "With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable shall we use for it? ³¹ It is like a grain of mustard seed, which, when sown on the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth, ³² yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes larger than all the garden plants and puts out large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade." ³³ With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it. ³⁴ He did not speak to them without a parable, but privately to his own disciples he explained everything.

Next Sunday's Readings: Job 38:1-11; Psalm 124; 2 Corinthians 6:1-13; Mark 4:35-41. 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.

THE ALTAR FLOWERS are given to the Glory of God,
in loving memory of my father, Randall Childers.

By: Lisa Childers Fox

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, 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, friends and family of Harold Ray Scronce, 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.

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 27th.

HAPPY FATHER'S DAY! We lift our Fathers up today in honor and remembrance and thank them for their sacrifices!

THE PEOPLE OF GOD AT GRACE extend our Christian sympathy, love and prayers to the family of Harold Ray Scronce, who entered the Church Triumphant on June 9, 2024. May God comfort all who mourn. Services to celebrate and remember Harold were held on June 12, 2024 at Daniels Lutheran Church in Lincolnnton.

THE LEADERSHIP MINISTRY BOARD will hold its regular monthly meeting tomorrow evening, June 17th at 6:00 pm. All board members are urged to attend.

GRACE PRAYER LUNCHEON Reminder that the Grace Prayer Luncheon will not be held during the summer months.

RACHEL SIGMAN IS TURNING 100! You are invited to join her family and friends in a celebration of Rachel's 100th birthday on June 29th at 5pm at St. Paul's Reformed Church. Please RSVP to Sherry (828)308-0469.

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!

STEPHEN MINISTRY SUPERVISION is canceled until August 2024.

NEW JERUSALEM LUTHERAN CHURCH will be using parsonage for the Solid Rock Day Camp Counselors to stay starting today through Thursday.

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

Psalm 1:3

HAPPY JUNE BIRTHDAY TO:

18 – Travis Bivens

THIS WEEK AT GRACE

Today:

FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

9:30A – Sunday School

10:30A - Worship Celebration

Next Sunday:

FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

9:30A – Sunday School

10:30A – Worship Celebration

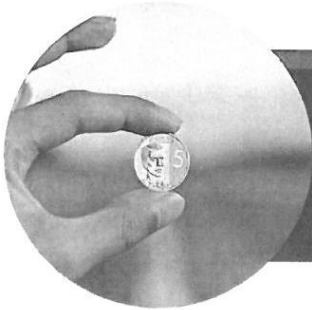
The Ministers..... The People of Grace Lutheran Church
Pastor
Organist Sandi Tallant
Administrative Assistant Pam Tallent and Kristi Tucker
Leadership Board President Tim Eckard
Youth Leader Stormy Shull
Lector Tim Eckard
Communion Assistants Rick and Cindy Bivens
Ushers Jack Wilfong and James Hall
Altar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



Table Talk II

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

Third Sunday after Trinity | June 16, 2024



LUKE 15:1–10

“And when (s)he has found it...” (Vs. 5 & 9)

Jesus uses these parables to deliver us into a profound truth: to be found is a passive event. The seeker is the active subject of the sentence; the lost is the passive object of the sentence. The seeker finds while the lost is found. Popular psychology aside, no one “finds” themselves, even if that “found” self is some sort of authentic self.” The condition of being found is always imposed upon the lost by an outside actor... the one who accomplishes the finding. This is the truth revealed by repentance: no one finds themselves... the lost do not become the found on their own... a finder is necessary.

When the finding is accomplished, just look at the result: the finder rejoices... heaven rejoices... the whole neighborhood rejoices... even the angels celebrate. When Jesus calls out the ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance (vs. 7), he calls out a fiction. In this old, passing away creation (the one in which Jesus was standing and you and I are now standing), there are no righteous people except in their own imaginations. Everyone needs repentance. Jesus preached it (Mk. 1:15), Paul preached it (Ro. 2:4). Peter preached it (2 Pe. 3:9). John preached it (Rev. 2:16). Your preacher preaches it, not merely repentance once but

repentance time and time again. Repentance recognizes that you are a lost and condemned sinner who cannot find yourself but have now been found by the Good Shepherd, the one shepherd who matters.

We have often sung together: “... I once was lost but now am found...” The being found is always an act of God’s grace which reveals the sinner as being lost... dead in the grip of their sin ((Ro. 6:11), but in being found are now alive in the life of Christ (Ro. 6:11). God’s Word is actively seeking you out today. As it is poured in your ears, the Holy Spirit goes to work repenting you and possessing you with a faith that will not leave you in your lost condition. You are found. Heaven rejoices. The angels celebrate. Your neighbors are full of joy. You are the sinner repented.

Table Talk: Discuss the importance of understanding “being found” as a passive activity.

Pray: Heavenly Father, seek me out with your Word, repent me of my imagined righteousness, and give me faith. Amen

