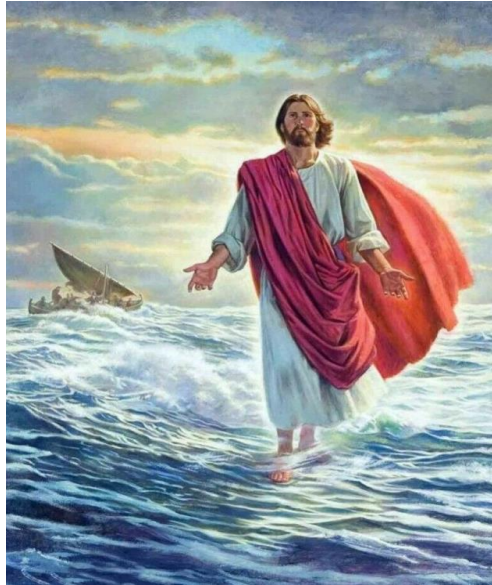


Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

July 28, 2024 A.D.

10:30 A.M.



GRACE

Evangelical Lutheran Church



Christ-Centered

Mission-Driven

Traditionally-Grounded

Congregationally-Focused

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Newton, North Carolina 28658
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Tenth Sunday after Pentecost



Welcome and Announcements

Prelude..... Please Observe Silence For Meditation

- * Brief Order for Confession and Forgiveness page 56

PRAISE

- * Opening Hymn **Great is Thy Faithfulness**..... **WOV 771**
- * 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 9:8-17

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

The Psalm 136:1-9 Bulletin pg. 3

The Second Lesson Ephesians 3:14-21

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

- * The Holy Gospel.....Mark 6:45-56
- Children's Sermon Pastor East
- The Message....."Saved by Faith in Jesus" Pastor East
- Hymn of the Day.....**Sweet Hour of Prayer** **TCH 640**
- * 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 **Savior, Again to your Dear Name**.....**LBW 262**

- * 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: Even though God does tremendous miracles in and around us, not everyone believes. Even Jesus' twelve disciples who saw his miracles didn't immediately believe in him. But God's love for us exceeds all other love, and God promises forever to give eternal life—the greatest miracle—to all who believe and trust in Jesus, as long as a person doesn't die before coming to this saving faith.

FIRST LESSON: Genesis 9:8-17

⁸God said to Noah and to his sons with him, ⁹“Behold, I establish my covenant with you and your offspring after you, ¹⁰and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the livestock, and every beast of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark; it is for every beast of the earth. ¹¹I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of the flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.” ¹²And God said, “This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: ¹³I have set my bow in the cloud, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. ¹⁴When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, ¹⁵I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh. And the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. ¹⁶When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.” ¹⁷God said to Noah, “This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth.”

PSALM 136:1-9

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

²Give thanks to the God of gods,
for his mercy endures forever.

³Give thanks to the LORD of lords,
for his mercy endures forever.

**⁴Who only does great wonders,
for his mercy endures forever;**

⁵Who by wisdom made the heavens,
for his mercy endures forever;

**⁶Who spread out the earth upon the waters,
for his mercy endures forever;**

⁷Who created great lights,
for his mercy endures forever;

**⁸The sun to rule the day,
for his mercy endures forever;**

⁹The moon and the stars to govern the night,
for his mercy endures forever.

SECOND LESSON: Ephesians 3:14-21

¹⁴For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, ¹⁵from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, ¹⁶that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, ¹⁷so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith — that you, being rooted and grounded in love, ¹⁸may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, ¹⁹and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. ²⁰Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, ²¹to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

THE HOLY GOSPEL: Mark 6:45-56

⁴⁵Immediately {Jesus} made his disciples get into the boat and go before him to the other side, to Bethsaida, while he dismissed the crowd. ⁴⁶And after he had taken leave of them, he went up on the mountain to pray. ⁴⁷And when evening came, the boat was out on the sea, and he was alone on the land. ⁴⁸And he saw that they were making headway painfully, for the wind was against them. And about the fourth watch of the night he came to them, walking on the sea. He meant to pass by them, ⁴⁹but when they saw him walking on the sea they thought it was a ghost, and cried out, ⁵⁰for they all saw him and were terrified. But immediately he spoke to them

and said, "Take heart; it is I. Do not be afraid."⁵¹ And he got into the boat with them, and the wind ceased. And they were utterly astounded,⁵² for they did not understand about the loaves, but their hearts were hardened.⁵³ When they had crossed over, they came to land at Gennesaret and moored to the shore.⁵⁴ And when they got out of the boat, the people immediately recognized him⁵⁵ and ran about the whole region and began to bring the sick people on their beds to wherever they heard he was.⁵⁶ And wherever he came, in villages, cities, or countryside, they laid the sick in the marketplaces and implored him that they might touch even the fringe of his garment. And as many as touched it were made well.

Next Sunday's Readings: Exodus 16:2-15; Psalm 145:10-21; Ephesians 4:1-16; John 6:22-35. 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,
and in memory of Tommy and Faye Childers.

By: Todd Childers

GRACE PRAYER LIST

In the Grace Church Family: Jeffrey Bivens, Rick & Cindy Bivens, Glenda Childers, Pat Dietz, Sheila Drum, Allen and Kay Hatchett, Irene Heavner, Larry Heavner, Lorene Heavner, Rachel Heavner, Larry & Brenda Jarrett, Martha Johnson, Faye Lane, Gary Leatherman, Phil & 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, Betty Wilfong

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 Di'Alessio, Guy Franzen, Wendy Hannah, J.C., Michelle Kirkland, Sgt. Ryan McMullen and shift, Family of Julie Norris, Robin Reynolds, Lily Rose, Angela Sanford, Jimmy Smith, Donald Smith, Scott Speagle, Zachary Speagle and Amber, Rodney Stallings, 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.

ASHURE (FORMERLY ECCCM) food ask for the month of July is snacks. Your donations make a real difference right here in Catawba County! Thank you for helping to keep the food pantry stocked!

WILFONG FAMILY REUNION will be held next Sunday, August 4th at 1:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall here at Grace.

YODER FAMILY REUNION will be held Sunday, August 11th with a covered dish lunch beginning at 1:00pm in the Fellowship Hall of St. Martin's Lutheran Church in Maiden. RSVP to Rachael Kennedy (704)467-2272 or rachaelkenedy466@gmail.com.

HOMECOMING AT GRACE will be held on Sunday, August 25th with Guest Pastor, Nathan Yoder and a Covered Dish Lunch to follow. Make sure to mark your calendars and invite your family and friends to join us as we celebrate!

2024 NALC ONLINE MISSION COVOCATION - Join us online Friday, August 9, from 6-9 p.m. ET to hear from Bishop Dan Selbo, participate in elections and voting, and hear updates from across the NALC. It is easier than ever to attend the NALC Mission Convocation. With no need to travel, and minimal registration costs, we encourage all pastors and delegates to attend. Invite members of your congregation to join in on the livestream as well!

STEPHEN MINISTRY SUPERVISION is canceled through August 2024 and will resume on September 9th.

THE 2024 FLOWER CHART is posted in the Narthex. If you wish to give the flowers for a given Sunday, please list your name on the chart in the narthex. *You are responsible for ordering the flowers from a florist of your choice; we do not have a standing order with any florist.* Please notify the Church Office the Tuesday prior to your selected Sunday so that the correct information is placed in the bulletin. You can call the Church Office between 8:00 am and Noon on Monday through Thursday, leave a note in the Church Office mailbox downstairs, or send an email to let us know the occasion or memorial for this wonderful gift of beatification of the worship.

WORSHIP ASSISTANT VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED! - Please offer your services as a Lector, Usher, or Communion Assistant for the upcoming months. Worship Assistants help to make our worship experience more meaningful. If you would like to serve during a particular month, please notify Tim Eckard.

*“Give thanks to the LORD of lords,
for his mercy endures forever.”*

Psalm 136:3

HAPPY JULY BIRTHDAY TO:

28 – Harvey Leatherman

HAPPY AUGUST BIRTHDAY TO:

1 – Gary Leatherman

1 – James Hall

3 – Sandra Powell

4 – Bill Heavner

THIS WEEK AT GRACE

Today:

TENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

9:30 AM - Sunday School

10:30 AM - Worship Celebration

Next Sunday:

ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

9:30 AM - Sunday School

10:30 AM - Worship Celebration

1:00 PM - Wilfong Family Reunion

The Ministers.....The People of Grace Lutheran Church
Pastor
Organist..... Sandi Tallant
Administrative Assistant Kristi Tucker
Leadership Board President Tim Eckard
Youth LeaderStormy Shull
LectorHerb Travis
Communion Assistants..... Cindy Bivens and Libby Travis
UshersJeff Scronce and Dabid Wilfong
Altar Preparation..... Herb and Libby Travis
Offering TabulatorsTodd Childers and Jason Yoder
Custodian Chris Abernethy



Table Talk II

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

Ninth Sunday after Trinity | July 28, 2024



LUKE 16:1-9 (10-13)

"The master commended the dishonest manager for his shrewdness." (Vs. 8)

Israelite law at that time provided for three arrangements in the rental of farmland. One arrangement, that has come to be known as the sharecropper method, had the tenant paying the owner a fixed percentage of the crop produced. This method protected the tenant from outsized debt in years of poor production but permitted the owner to benefit from years of abundant production. A second arrangement required the tenant to pay the owner a fixed amount of the crop produced. In years of poor production, the tenant could be required to pay up to one hundred percent of the production, a boon to the owner but a boondoggle to the tenant. In the third arrangement, the tenant paid the owner a specified amount of cash. It has come to be known as cash rent. It provides both tenant and owner with a known cost regardless of what the land produces. The master's debtors summoned by the dishonest manager fit the second category. Whether of oil or of wheat, the amount of indebtedness forgiven came to about five hundred denarii—nearly a year and a half of living expenses.

These are large debts and the forgiveness granted would have resulted in much rejoicing in the families and villages of the debtors. The

master of this dishonest manager finds himself between a rock and a hard place regarding his honor. If he reneges on the forgiveness arranged by his manager, he alienates those celebratory families and villagers but protects his honor. If he lets the forgiveness stand, then he receives praise and notoriety far and wide, and receives honor of a different sort.

Jesus "writes down" the debt of your sin to zero by paying it all on the cross, a forgiveness certainly worthy of your personal and familial celebration. God the Father lets Jesus' forgiveness stand by remaining faithful to Jesus, faithful to the writing down of your debt, and faithful to you and your forgiveness, even when you are unfaithful (cf. 2 Ti. 2:13). What appears as an affront to the master's honor, the master (the Father) turns into a celebration of his magnanimity and mercy.

Table Talk: Discuss the parable as a metaphor for Jesus' forgiving our debt of sin.

Pray: Father, grant me to trust in your faithfulness even when I am contradictorily faithlessness. Amen

