

Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

July 7, 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

Seventh Sunday after Pentecost



Welcome and Announcements

Prelude.....Please Observe Silence For Meditation

- * Brief Order for Confession and Forgiveness page 56

PRAISE

- * Opening Hymn **We Have Come to Join in Worship**..... **TCH 207**
- * 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.....Ezekiel 2:1-5

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

The Psalm 123 Bulletin pg. 3

The Second Lesson2 Corinthians 12:1-10

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

- * The Holy Gospel.....Mark 6:1-13
- Children's Sermon Pastor East
- The Message....."Two Directions in Response to Jesus"..... Pastor East
- Hymn of the Day.....**God Loved the World**.....**LBW 292**
- * The Apostles' Creed.....page 65
- * The Prayers and the Peace..... page 65

GIVE

The Offering The People of God

- * The Offertory and Prayerpages 66, 67

RECEIVE

- * The Great Thanksgiving..... page 68
- * The Eucharistic Prayer & The Lord's Prayerpages 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**How Firm a Foundation**.....**LBW 507**

- * The Dismissal: P: Go in peace. Be the Church! **All: Thanks be to God!**

Postlude

* = Stand Hymnals in Pew Rack: LBW = Green WOVS = 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: Jesus is God in the flesh, who has come to this world to bring salvation to all people. But salvation is not automatic. Each person is faced with a choice of two directions: Faith in Jesus or unbelief. Each direction has dramatic differences—Not only in eternity but even now in this earthly life. What is your response to Jesus?

FIRST LESSON: Ezekiel 2:1-5

¹{The Lord GOD} said to me, "Son of man, stand on your feet, and I will speak with you." ²And as he spoke to me, the Spirit entered into me and set me on my feet, and I heard him speaking to me. ³And he said to me, "Son of man, I send you to the people of Israel, to nations of rebels, who have rebelled against me. They and their fathers have transgressed against me to this very day. ⁴The descendants also are impudent and stubborn: I send you to them, and you shall say to them, 'Thus says the Lord GOD.' ⁵And whether they hear or refuse to hear (for they are a rebellious house) they will know that a prophet has been among them."

PSALM 123

¹To you I lift up my eyes,
to you enthroned in the heavens.
²**As the eyes of servants look to the hand of their masters,
and the eyes of a maid to the hand of her mistress,**
³So our eyes look to the LORD our God,
until he show us his mercy.
⁴**Have mercy upon us, O LORD, have mercy,
for we have had more than enough of contempt,**
⁵Too much of the scorn of the indolent rich,
and of the derision of the proud.

SECOND LESSON: 2 Corinthians 12:1-10

¹I must go on boasting. Though there is nothing to be gained by it, I will go on to visions and revelations of the Lord. ²I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven — whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows. ³And I know that this man was caught up into paradise — whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows — ⁴and he heard things that cannot be told, which man may not utter. ⁵On behalf of this man I will boast, but on my own behalf I will not boast, except of my weaknesses — ⁶though if I should wish to boast, I would not be a fool, for I would be speaking the truth; but I refrain from it, so that no one may think more of me than he sees in me or hears from me. ⁷So to keep me from becoming conceited because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to harass me, to keep me from becoming conceited. ⁸Three times I pleaded with the Lord about this, that it should leave me. ⁹But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. ¹⁰For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

THE HOLY GOSPEL: Mark 6:1-13

¹{Jesus} went away from there and came to his hometown, and his disciples followed him. ²And on the Sabbath he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were astonished, saying, “Where did this man get these things? What is the wisdom given to him? How are such mighty works done by his hands? ³Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary and brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon? And are not his sisters here with us?” And they took offense at him. ⁴And Jesus said to them, “A prophet is not without honor, except in his hometown and among his relatives and in his own household.” ⁵And he could do no mighty work there, except that he laid his hands on a few sick people and healed them. ⁶And he marveled because of their unbelief. And he went about among the villages teaching. ⁷And he called the twelve and began to send them out two by two, and gave them authority over the unclean spirits. ⁸He charged them to take nothing for their journey except a staff — no bread, no bag, no money in their belts — ⁹but to wear sandals and not put on two tunics. ¹⁰And he said to them, “Whenever you enter a house, stay there until you depart from there. ¹¹And if any place will not receive you and they will not listen to you, when you leave, shake off the dust that

is on your feet as a testimony against them.”¹² So they went out and proclaimed that people should repent.¹³ And they cast out many demons and anointed with oil many who were sick and healed them.

Next Sunday's Readings: Amos 7:7-15; Psalm 85(1-7)8-13; Ephesians 1:3-14; Mark 6:14-29. 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: 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, Phil Leatherman, Betty Matheson, Jane Moss, Christine Norman, Tricia and Dan Panek, Debi Pisko, Michael Pisko, Stephen Pisko, Donald Smith, 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, Jessica Cassels & Family, Dennis & Evelyn Childers, Harold Crouse, Guy Franzen, Wendy Hannah, J.C., Lily Rose, Sgt. Ryan McMullen and shift, Angela Sanford, Scott Speagle, Zachary Speagle and Amber, 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.

A HEARTFELT THANK YOU FROM PAM TALLENT - Thursday, June 27th - my last day as administrative assistant at Grace - was a bittersweet day for me. I was sad to leave my job at Grace, but at this point in my life, I felt like it was the right move. I am very excited about the future! I was absolutely speechless when I received the monetary gift, which is very much appreciated! I thank all of you for your kind words. Enjoy your summer!

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!

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

STEPHEN MINISTRY SUPERVISION is canceled until August 2024.

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 Monday through Thursday from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm, 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.

*“Have mercy upon us, O LORD, have mercy,
for we have had more than enough of contempt”*
Psalm 123:4

HAPPY JULY BIRTHDAY TO:

13 – Frankie Crouse
13 – Lorene Heavner

THIS WEEK AT GRACE

Today:

SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

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

Next Sunday:

EIGHTH 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 Kristi Tucker
Leadership Board President Tim Eckard
Youth Leader Stormy Shull
Lector Herb Travis
Communion Assistants..... Cindy Bivens and Libby Travis
Ushers Jeff Scronce and Dabid Wilfong
Altar Preparation..... Herb and Libby Travis
Offering Tabulators Todd Childers and Jason Yoder
Custodian Chris Abernethy



Table Talk II

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

Sixth Sunday after Trinity | July 7, 2024



MATTHEW 5:(17-19) 20-26

"...you will never get out until you have paid the last penny." (Vs. 26)

In delivering what has come to be called The Sermon on the Mount, Jesus delivers the Law as absolute. He has not come to abolish the Law but to fulfill it (vs. 17). In Jesus' fulfillment of the Law, he formulates it in such a way as to eliminate the mere outward performance of its statutes and drive the keeping of the Law all the way into the human heart. Jesus makes fulfilling the Law a matter of the heart's affections—that is, you must want... desire... love... to fulfill the Law (vs. 22). Fulfilling the Law for your own sake out of fear for punishment or for the coveting of reward is simply not good enough (cf. Job 1:9-10). An outward keeping of the Law may be sufficient for establishing order in the community, but the Law cannot deliver mercy. As Jesus indicates, "Truly, I say to you, you will never get out until you have paid the last penny" (vs. 26), justice demands that the entire requirements of the law be met (Ja. 2:10).

The demands of the commandments must not be relaxed (vs. 19). Systems of justice... institutions of the Law... do not deliver mercy. We sinners are prone to mistake the relaxation of the Law's demands for mercy. A charge of murder will be reduced to manslaughter... a charge of armed robbery will be reduced to

illegal possession of a firearm... a charge, obvious and egregious, will not be brought by a prosecutor... these are simply relaxations and manipulations of the Law accomplished under the guise of mercy. Eventually, such relaxations and manipulations of the Law result in sinners considering the Law disrespectfully... considering the Law as some sort of tool of their own... considering their manipulation of the Law as the deliverance of mercy.

And just so, the Gospel is lost. The Gospel does not manipulate the Law's demands. It does not let sinners "off the hook." It does not tolerate sin but instead names the sin and its wages: death (Ro. 6:23). Sinners must pay the last penny which means they will die under the Law's condemnation. The Gospel, however, delivers the free gift of God which is true mercy. Even though sinners die beneath the judgment of the Law, nonetheless they shall live (Jn. 11:25): the mercy of the Gospel.

Table Talk: Discuss examples or experiences of relaxing the Law.

Pray: Father, grant me to know the Gospel as true mercy. Amen

