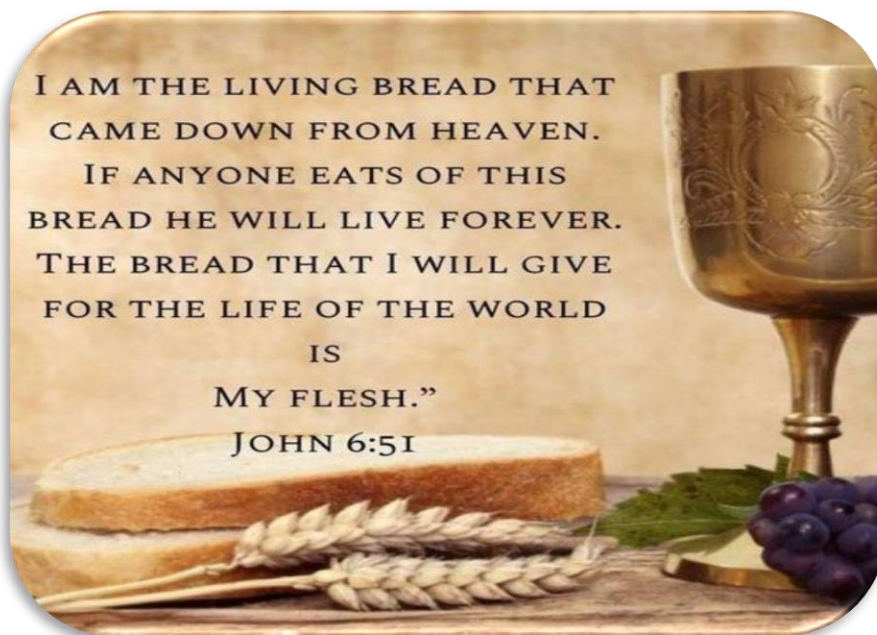


# Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

August 18, 2024 A.D.

10:30 A.M.



## GRACE

Evangelical Lutheran Church



*Christ-Centered  
Mission-Driven*

*Traditionally-Grounded  
Congregationally-Focused*

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# Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost



Welcome and Announcements

Prelude..... Please Observe Silence For Meditation

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

## PRAISE

\* Opening Hymn ..... **Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise** ..... **LBW 526**

\* 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..... Joshua 24:1-2a; 14-18

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

The Psalm 34:12-22 ..... Bulletin pg. 4

The Second Lesson ..... Ephesians 5:6-21

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

\* The Holy Gospel..... John 6:51-69

Children's Sermon..... Pastor East

The Message..... "God's Plan from the Beginning" ..... Pastor East

Hymn of the Day..... **Oh, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways** ..... **LBW 480**

\* 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**

Hymn During Communion..... **Come, Let Us Eat**..... **LBW 214**

\* Post-Communion Canticle..... *Thank the Lord*..... page 72

\* Post-Communion Prayer

\* The Benediction

## SEND

\* The Sending Hymn ..... **He Leadeth Me** ..... **LBW 501**

\* 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:** From the beginning, God has loved the humans He created, and He has desired them all to love, respect, and worship Him. But unfortunately, that's not how it worked out. His created people disobeyed him, and worshipped other gods--All the way back to Old Testament times. That's why God sent his Son Jesus and the Holy Spirit to restore people to His original plan. It's working for those who trust Jesus, and he's counting on them to spread His plan to many more.

**FIRST LESSON: Joshua 24:1-2a; 14-18**

<sup>1</sup>Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem and summoned the elders, the heads, the judges, and the officers of Israel. And they presented themselves before God. <sup>2a</sup>And Joshua said to all the people,

<sup>14</sup>“Now therefore fear the LORD and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness. Put away the gods that your fathers served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD. <sup>15</sup>And if it is evil in your eyes to serve the LORD, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your fathers served in the region beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.” <sup>16</sup>Then the people answered, “Far be it from us that we should forsake the LORD to serve other gods, <sup>17</sup>for it is the LORD our God who brought us and our fathers up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, and who did those great signs in our sight and preserved us in all the way that we went, and among all the peoples through whom we passed. <sup>18</sup>And the LORD drove out before us all the peoples, the Amorites who lived in the land. Therefore we also will serve the LORD, for he is our God.”

## **PSALM 34:12-22**

<sup>12</sup>Who among you loves life  
and desires long life to enjoy prosperity?

<sup>13</sup>**Keep your tongue from evil speaking  
and your lips from lying words.**

<sup>14</sup>Turn from evil and do good;  
seek peace and pursue it.

<sup>15</sup>**The eyes of the LORD are upon the righteous,  
and his ears are open to their cry.**

<sup>16</sup>The face of the LORD is against those who do evil,  
to root out the remembrance of them from the earth.

<sup>17</sup>**The righteous cry, and the LORD hears them  
and delivers them from all their troubles.**

<sup>18</sup>The LORD is near to the brokenhearted  
and will save those whose spirits are crushed.

<sup>19</sup>**Many are the troubles of the righteous,  
but the LORD will deliver him out of them all.**

<sup>20</sup>He will keep safe all his bones;  
not one of them shall be broken.

<sup>21</sup>**Evil shall slay the wicked,  
and those who hate the righteous will be punished.**

## **SECOND LESSON: Ephesians 5:6-21**

<sup>6</sup>Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. <sup>7</sup>Therefore do not become partners with them; <sup>8</sup>for at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light <sup>9</sup>(for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), <sup>10</sup>and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord. <sup>11</sup>Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. <sup>12</sup>For it is shameful even to speak of the things that they do in secret. <sup>13</sup>But when anything is exposed by the light, it becomes visible, <sup>14</sup>for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, "Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you." <sup>15</sup>Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, <sup>16</sup>making the best use of the time, because the days are evil. <sup>17</sup>Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. <sup>18</sup>And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit, <sup>19</sup>addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart, <sup>20</sup>giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>21</sup>submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.

## **THE HOLY GOSPEL: John 6:51-69**

<sup>51</sup>{Jesus said to the Jews grumbling about him,} “I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever. And the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh.” <sup>52</sup>The Jews then disputed among themselves, saying, “How can this man give us his flesh to eat?” <sup>53</sup>So Jesus said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. <sup>54</sup>Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day. <sup>55</sup>For my flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink. <sup>56</sup>Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood abides in me, and I in him. <sup>57</sup>As the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever feeds on me, he also will live because of me. <sup>58</sup>This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like the bread the fathers ate, and died. Whoever feeds on this bread will live forever.” <sup>59</sup>Jesus said these things in the synagogue, as he taught at Capernaum. <sup>60</sup>When many of his disciples heard it, they said, “This is a hard saying; who can listen to it?” <sup>61</sup>But Jesus, knowing in himself that his disciples were grumbling about this, said to them, “Do you take offense at this? <sup>62</sup>Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? <sup>63</sup>It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh is no help at all. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. <sup>64</sup>But there are some of you who do not believe.” (For Jesus knew from the beginning who those were who did not believe, and who it was who would betray him.) <sup>65</sup>And he said, “This is why I told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted him by the Father.” <sup>66</sup>After this many of his disciples turned back and no longer walked with him. <sup>67</sup>So Jesus said to the twelve, “Do you want to go away as well?” <sup>68</sup>Simon Peter answered him, “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life, <sup>69</sup>and we have believed, and have come to know, that you are the Holy One of God.”

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**Next Sunday's Readings:** Isaiah 29:11-19, Psalm 14; Ephesians 5:22-33; Mark 7:1-13. 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,  
and in honor of Irene Heavner's 91<sup>st</sup> Birthday.

By: Herb and Libby Travis

### **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, Larry Heavner, Lorene Heavner, Rachel Heavner, Larry & Brenda Jarrett, Martha Johnson, Faye Lane, Cole 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

**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, Danielle Bumgardner, Travis Bumgardner, Becky Cartee, Jessica Cassels & Family, Dennis & Evelyn Childers, Harold Crouse, Dennis Di'Alessio, Guy Franzen, Wendy Hannah, Family of Rev. Doug Howell, J.C., Michelle Kirkland, Sgt. Ryan McMullen and shift, Robyn Reynolds, Lily Rose, Angela Sanford, Scott Speagle, Zachary Speagle and Amber, Rodney Stallings, Monica Thomas, United States of America; Faye White, Todd Wright 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.

**LEONARD FAMILY REUNION** is today with a covered dish lunch beginning at 1:00pm in the Fellowship Hall here at Grace Church.

**THE LEADERSHIP MINISTRY BOARD** will hold its regular monthly meeting **tomorrow evening, August 19<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm.** All Board Members are urged to attend.

**MARTHA JOHNSON is 90!** Please join Martha in celebrating her 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday, this Saturday, August 24<sup>th</sup> at 1:00pm in the Fellowship Hall.

**HOMECOMING AT GRACE** will be held next Sunday, August 25<sup>th</sup> 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!

**TODAY IS IRENE HEAVNER'S 91<sup>st</sup> BIRTHDAY!** She's sharing this day with her Grace Church Family, whom she loves and adores. Let's help her celebrate this milestone as we also love and appreciate having her here with us.

**ASHURE (FORMERLY ECCCM)** food ask for the month of August is pop-top canned goods. Your donations make a real difference right here in Catawba County! Thank you for helping to keep the food pantry stocked! Grace Church has donated **887 pounds** in 2024. Great Job, Church Family. Keep up the great work of helping those who suffer from hunger in our community.

**STEPHEN MINISTRY SUPERVISION** will resume on Monday, September 9<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm. If you have any questions, please reach out to Herb Travis.

**THE GRACE PRAYER LUNCHEON** Will resume on Wednesday, September 18<sup>th</sup> from 12-2pm in the Grace Fellowship Hall. Betty Wilfong looks forward to seeing you all again! If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to Betty.

*“Keep your tongue from evil speaking  
and your lips from lying words.”*

Psalm 34:13

**HAPPY AUGUST BIRTHDAY TO:**

- 18 – Irene Heavner
- 22 – Corbin Moss
- 23 – Betty Wilfong
- Codey Parker
- Lynette Momier

**THIS WEEK AT GRACE**

**Today:**

**THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

- 9:30 AM - Sunday School
- 10:30 AM - Worship Celebration
- 1:00 PM – Leonard Family Reunion - FH

**Monday:**

6:00 – Leadership Ministry Board Meeting

**Saturday:**

1:00 – 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration for Martha Johnson

**Next Sunday:**

**FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

- 9:30 AM – Sunday School
- 10:30 AM – Grace Church Homecoming Celebration
- 12:00 PM – Grace Church Homecoming Lunch – FH

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 ..... Todd Childers  
 Communion Assistants.....Rick & Cindy Bivens  
 Ushers ..... Jeff Scronce & James Hall  
 Altar Preparation.....Herb & Libby Travis  
 Offering Tabulators .....Todd Childers & Tim Eckard  
 Custodian ..... Chris Abernethy



# Table Talk II

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

Twelfth Sunday after Trinity | August 18, 2024



## MARK 7:31-37

*"Be opened." (Vs. 34)*

This opening of the deaf man's ears presents many similarities with the opening of sight to the blind man (Mk. 8:22-26): an unnamed group brings a deaf (or blind) man to Jesus for healing; Jesus leads the person away from the crowd; Jesus applies his saliva; and there is success— hearing and seeing are restored. The similarities of these two accounts calls our attention to the place of hearing and seeing in the bible. The inability to hear and the inability to see are often used as metaphors for the unfaithfulness of the people of God. "Hear this, O foolish and senseless people, who have eyes, but see not, who have ears, but hear not" (Jer. 5:21). The source of this senselessness is ambiguous: sometimes it seems to rest innately within the people themselves (Jer. 5:21); sometimes it seems an affliction visited upon the people by God (Ro. 8:11).

Isaiah's prophecy of that mighty and glorious day when the Lord comes bringing his salvation features the opening of eyes previously blind and the unstopping of ears previously deaf (Is 35:5). You might recall that when visiting Nazareth, Jesus read from the scroll of the prophet Isaiah. The text included "proclaim the restoration of sight to the blind" (Lk. 4:18). In Matthew's gospel,

Jesus laments the people's lack of hearing and their inability to see (Mt. 13:15). The Apostle Paul breaks into celebratory language to rejoice at what opened eyes will see and what opened ears will hear (1Co. 2:9).

And so, to you, my brothers and sisters, you whose hearing is opened and unstopped... you whose seeing is unfettered in its vision of Christ alone. In such hearing, your tongue is loosened... released to "proclaim the mighty deeds of the one who called you out of darkness and into his marvelous light" (1Pe 2:9). The mighty and glorious day of the Lord comes upon you in faith, providing you both hearing and speaking. While you wait upon that day becoming sight, "Two things belong to a Christian, that his ears be opened, and his tongue loosened" (Martin Luther).

**Table Talk:** Discuss the necessity of ears to hear the good news of Jesus Christ and what that hearing means for your speaking.

**Pray:** Father, grant me ears to hear the good news of Jesus Christ that I might declare those deeds that have brought me into his light. Amen

