

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

August 25, 2024 A.D.

10:30 A.M.



GRACE

Evangelical Lutheran Church



NALC

North American 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

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost



Welcome and Announcements

Prelude..... Please Observe Silence For Meditation

- * Brief Order for Confession and Forgiveness page 56

PRAISE

- * Opening Hymn **God's Word Is Our Great Heritage** **LBW 239**
- * 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..... Isaiah 29:11-19

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

The Psalm 14 Bulletin pg. 4

The Second Lesson Ephesians 5:22-33

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

- * The Holy Gospel..... Mark 7:1-13
- Children's Sermon..... Pastor Yoder
- The Message..... "Unless I wash you..." Pastor Yoder
- Hymn of the Day..... **Children of the Heavenly Father** **LBW 474**
- * 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, Gracious Spirit, Heavenly Dove**..... **LBW 475**
- * Post-Communion Canticle..... *Thank the Lord*..... page 72
- * Post-Communion Prayer
- * The Benediction

SEND

- * The Sending Hymn **O Jesus, Joy of Loving Hearts** **LBW 356**

- * 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: Hand-washing is very important. Clean hands and clean water are the difference between life and death. Hospitals, nursing homes, restaurants, even gas stations—all have signs posted that employees need to *wash their hands*. But we cannot wash our *hearts* clean of sin. The Holy Spirit does this in our Baptism, and ever again through God's Word: the cleanliness and righteousness of Christ, Himself.

FIRST LESSON: Isaiah 29:11-19

¹¹The vision of all this has become to you like the words of a book that is sealed. When men give it to one who can read, saying, "Read this," he says, "I cannot, for it is sealed." ¹²And when they give the book to one who cannot read, saying, "Read this," he says, "I cannot read." ¹³And the LORD said: "Because this people draw near with their mouth and honor me with their lips, while their hearts are far from me, and their fear of me is a commandment taught by men, ¹⁴therefore, behold, I will again do wonderful things with this people, with wonder upon wonder; and the wisdom of their wise men shall perish, and the discernment of their discerning men shall be hidden." ¹⁵Ah, you who hide deep from the LORD your counsel, whose deeds are in the dark, and who say, "Who sees us? Who knows us?" ¹⁶You turn things upside down! Shall the potter be regarded as the clay, that the thing made should say of its maker, "He did not make me"; or the thing formed say of him who formed it, "He has no understanding"? ¹⁷Is it not yet a very little while until Lebanon shall be turned into a fruitful field, and the fruitful field shall be regarded as a forest? ¹⁸In that day the deaf shall hear the words of a book, and out of their gloom and darkness the eyes of the blind shall see. ¹⁹The meek shall obtain fresh joy in the LORD, and the poor among mankind shall exult in the Holy One of Israel.

PSALM 14

¹The fool has said in his heart, "There is no God."

All are corrupt and commit abominable acts; there is none who does any good.

²**The LORD looks down from heaven upon us all,**

to see if there is any who is wise, if there is one who seeks after God.

³Everyone has proved faithless; all alike have turned bad;

there is none who does good; no, not one.

⁴**Have they no knowledge, all those evildoers**

who eat up my people like bread and do not call upon the LORD?

⁵See how they tremble with fear,

because God is in the company of the righteous.

⁶**Their aim is to confound the plans of the afflicted,**

but the LORD is their refuge.

⁷Oh, that Israel's deliverance would come out of Zion!

when the LORD restores the fortunes of his people, Jacob will rejoice and Israel be glad.

SECOND LESSON: Ephesians 5:22-33

²²Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. ²³For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior. ²⁴Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands. ²⁵Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, ²⁶that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, ²⁷so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish. ²⁸In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. ²⁹For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church, ³⁰because we are members of his body. ³¹"Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh." ³²This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church. ³³However, let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.

THE HOLY GOSPEL: Mark 7:1-13

¹When the Pharisees gathered to {Jesus}, with some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem, ²they saw that some of his disciples ate with hands that were defiled, that is, unwashed. ³(For the Pharisees and all the Jews do not eat unless they wash their hands properly, holding to the tradition of the elders, ⁴and when they come from the marketplace, they do not eat unless they wash. And there are many other traditions that they observe, such as the washing of cups and pots and copper vessels and dining couches.) ⁵And the Pharisees and the scribes asked him, “Why do your disciples not walk according to the tradition of the elders, but eat with defiled hands?” ⁶And he said to them, “Well did Isaiah prophesy of you hypocrites, as it is written, ‘This people honors me with their lips, but their heart is far from me; ⁷in vain do they worship me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.’ ⁸You leave the commandment of God and hold to the tradition of men.” ⁹And he said to them, “You have a fine way of rejecting the commandment of God in order to establish your tradition! ¹⁰For Moses said, ‘Honor your father and your mother’; and, ‘Whoever reviles father or mother must surely die.’ ¹¹But you say, ‘If a man tells his father or his mother, “Whatever you would have gained from me is Corban”’ (that is, given to God) — ¹²then you no longer permit him to do anything for his father or mother, ¹³thus making void the word of God by your tradition that you have handed down. And many such things you do.”

Next Sunday's Readings: Deuteronomy 4:1-2;6-9, Psalm 119:129-136; Ephesians 6:10-20; Mark 7:14-23. 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 honor of the Disciples of Grace Lutheran Church.

By: Todd Childers

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, 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, 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, Lily Rose, Sgt. Ryan McMullen and shift, Angela Sanford, Scott Speagle, Zachary Speagle and Amber, 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 NATHAN YODER who is leading worship and celebrating Homecoming with us this morning.

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!

CALL COMMITTEE UPDATE - The Call Committee met on Monday, August 19th at 6:30pm to discuss the prospect of a new pastor. There is someone with interest in filling our pastoral vacancy at Grace. The next step will be to contact this pastor and the Call Committee will move forward from there. Your continued prayers are greatly appreciated. Please pray for patience, discernment, and clarity in the plans the Lord has established.

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

THE GRACE PRAYER LUNCHEON Will resume on **Wednesday, September 18th 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.

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.

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 9:00am to 1:00pm, leave a note in the Church Office mailbox downstairs, or send an email to let us know the occasion or memoriam for this wonderful gift of beatification of the worship.

*“The LORD looks down from heaven upon us all,
to see if there is any who is wise, if there is one who seeks after God.”*
Psalm 14:2

HAPPY AUGUST BIRTHDAY TO:

30 – Pat Dietz

HAPPY SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAY TO:

1 – Larry Jarrett

THIS WEEK AT GRACE

Today:

FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

9:30 AM - Sunday School

10:30 AM – Grace Church Homecoming Celebration

12:00 PM – Grace Church Homecoming Lunch - FH

Next Sunday:

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

9:30 AM – Sunday School

10:30 AM – 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 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

Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity | August 25, 2024



LUKE 10:23-37

"And behold, a lawyer stood up to put him to the test..." (Vs. 25)

Understanding the dramatic impact of this "good" Samaritan response to the lawyer's challenge escapes us who do not live under an oppressive caste system. The peasants, those usual members of the crowd surrounding Jesus, had little or no social status and were considered deplorables by the members of the religious establishment, the political establishment, and the Roman occupiers. This lawyer, as an expert in the Torah, challenging Jesus would have been a member of the privileged religious caste. Jesus' responses to the challenge turned it back upon the challenger, no doubt, delighting the crowd.

Jesus' first response tests the lawyer's knowledge regarding the letter of the law. The lawyer's answer receives commendation from Jesus, "You have answered correctly..." (vs. 28). But the lawyer, who just has to justify himself (as do all those who are under the law), continues to test Jesus, "Who is my neighbor" (vs. 29)? Jesus sets forth a situation that absolutely mocks the members of the religious establishment. They, who would have been the cleanest of the clean, the most pious of all the pious, are exposed as unmerciful. The priest and the Levite would not give up their piety to help the "untouchable"

naked and perhaps dead man. They, like the lawyer, may have known and followed the letter of the law but there was no mercy in them. In contrast, the Samaritan (most likely a trader of sorts) was not even on the map of social status, no better than a dog. This one, who would have had little knowledge of the law's content, certainly knew the spirit of the law: have mercy. Jesus forces the lawyer to acknowledge that practicing the spirit of the law means more than merely knowing the content of the law. Who was the victim's neighbor? "The one who showed him mercy..." (vs. 37).

You, who have been the lowest of the low, sinners all... you have been delivered into the hands of a good neighbor... a neighbor who shows you mercy, Jesus Christ who binds up your wounds, forgives your sins, and puts you into the care of the metaphorical equivalent of the innkeeper... he sets you under the care of your preacher.

Table Talk: Discuss mercy as the spirit of the law and why simply obeying the law's content is insufficient.

Pray: Heavenly Father, keep me merciful toward my neighbors even if it proves me impious under the content of the law. Amen

