

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 1, 2024 A.D.

10:30 A.M.



GRACE

Evangelical Lutheran Church



NALC

North American Lutheran Church

Christ-Centered

Mission-Driven

Traditionally-Grounded

Congregationally-Focused

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Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost



Welcome and Announcements

Prelude..... Please Observe Silence For Meditation

- * Brief Order for Confession and Forgiveness page 56

PRAISE

- * Opening Hymn **I'm So Glad, Jesus Lifted Me** **TCH 522**
- * 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..... Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9

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

The Psalm 119:12-136..... Bulletin pg. 4

The Second Lesson Ephesians 6:10-20

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

- * The Holy Gospel.....Mark 7:14-23
- Children's Sermon.....Pastor Coble
- The Message....."Why Can't I..."Pastor Coble
- Hymn of the Day.....**When Peace, Like a River**.....**LBW 349**
- * 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.....**O Bread of Life from Heaven**.....**LBW 222**
- * Post-Communion Canticle.....*Thank the Lord*.....page 72
- * Post-Communion Prayer
- * The Benediction

SEND

- * The Sending Hymn **Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus****LBW 389**

- * 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: How many of you think that I could go to the President of France and speak to him about my concerns for the world today? There would be a lot of things stopping me, right? First, he would have no idea who I am. Second, I don't speak French. I took French in High School and could ask him if he spoke French, but that's about the limit of my French. Today is going to ask us a bigger question: Why don't you keep God's Law? God's law is perfect, so why don't we keep it?

FIRST LESSON: Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9

¹{Moses said,} "Now, O Israel, listen to the statutes and the rules that I am teaching you, and do them, that you may live, and go in and take possession of the land that the LORD, the God of your fathers, is giving you. ²You shall not add to the word that I command you, nor take from it, that you may keep the commandments of the LORD your God that I command you.

⁶Keep them and do them, for that will be your wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the peoples, who, when they hear all these statutes, will say, 'Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people.' ⁷For what great nation is there that has a god so near to it as the LORD our God is to us, whenever we call upon him?

⁸And what great nation is there, that has statutes and rules so righteous as all this law that I set before you today? ⁹Only take care, and keep your soul diligently, lest you forget the things that your eyes have seen, and lest they depart from your heart all the days of your life. Make them known to your children and your children's children ...".

PSALM 119:129-136

¹²⁹Your decrees are wonderful;
therefore I obey them with all my heart.

¹³⁰**When your word goes forth it gives light;
it gives understanding to the simple.**

¹³¹I open my mouth and pant;
I long for your commandments.

¹³²**Turn to me in mercy,
as you always do to those who love your name.**

¹³³Steady my footsteps in your word;
let no iniquity have dominion over me.

¹³⁴**Rescue me from those who oppress me,
and I will keep your commandments.**

¹³⁵Let your countenance shine upon your servant
and teach me your statutes.

¹³⁶**My eyes shed streams of tears,
because people do not keep your law.**

SECOND LESSON: Ephesians 6:10-20

¹⁰Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. ¹¹Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. ¹²For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. ¹³Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm. ¹⁴Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, ¹⁵and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace. ¹⁶In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; ¹⁷and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, ¹⁸praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints, ¹⁹and also for me, that words may be given to me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel, ²⁰for which I am an ambassador in chains, that I may declare it boldly, as I ought to speak.

THE HOLY GOSPEL: Mark 7:14-23

¹⁴{Jesus} called the people to him again and said to them, “Hear me, all of you, and understand: ¹⁵There is nothing outside a person that by going into him can defile him, but the things that come out of a person are what defile him.” ¹⁷And when he had entered the house and left the people, his disciples asked him about the parable. ¹⁸And he said to them, “Then are you also without understanding? Do you not see that whatever goes into a person from outside cannot defile him, ¹⁹since it enters not his heart but his stomach, and is expelled?” (Thus he declared all foods clean.) ²⁰And he said, “What comes out of a person is what defiles him. ²¹For from within, out of the heart of man, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, ²²coveting, wickedness, deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride, foolishness. ²³All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person.”

Next Sunday’s Readings: Isaiah 35:4-7a, Psalm 146; James 2:1-10; Mark 7:24-37. 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 Glenda Childers.

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, Terry Barnett, 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, 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.

Prayers for the friends and family of: Rev. Doug Howell and Michelle McCreary

(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.

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

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 BREAKFAST will be held on **September 14th at 9:00 am** at Four Peas in a Pod Restaurant in Conover. Come join us and bring a friend!

THE LEADERSHIP MINISTRY BOARD will hold its regular monthly meeting **September 16th at 6:00pm.** All board members are urged to attend.

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.

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.

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.

*“Turn to me in mercy,
as you always do to those who love your name.”*
Psalm 119:132

HAPPY SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAY TO:

- 1 – Larry Jarrett
- 2 – Glenda Childers
- 4 – Brenda Jarrett
 - Gene Crouse
 - Michael Pisko
 - Ted Whisnant

THIS WEEK AT GRACE

Today:

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

9:30 AM - Sunday School

10:30 AM – Worship Celebration

Monday:

Church Office Closed for Labor Day

Next Sunday:

SIXTEENTH 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 Stormy Shull
Communion Assistants..... Herb & Libby Travis
Ushers Jeff Scronce & Jack Wilfong
Altar Preparation..... Herb & Libby Travis
Offering Tabulators Todd Childers & Jason Yoder
Custodian Chris Abernethy



Table Talk II

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

Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity | September 1, 2024



LUKE 17:11-19

“Jesus, Master, have mercy on us.” (Vs. 13)

In light of the Good Samaritan parable (the gospel reading for the 13th Sunday after Trinity), these lepers pleaded for Jesus to be a neighbor to them... to be someone who showed them mercy (Lk. 10:36-37). These lepers are law-abiding. They stand at a distance, respecting the law forbidding them from having contact with non-leprous folk. By banding together, these ten lepers respected the law commanding them to leave home and family, gathering only with one another. We are not told whether they were ringing the required bell and shouting “unclean” to announce their presence. By being encountered at the edge of the village, we know they live on the outskirts of town and most likely had to scavenge for food or depend upon the charity of others. These ten knew the law but, in encountering Jesus, they anticipate someone who will have mercy upon them... someone who will be a neighbor to them even as they are outcasts. And so, Jesus becomes their neighbor.

Jesus delivers mercy upon these ten who are cast out. First, he commands them to obey the law. The law to which he is referring is the law that demanded lepers who were healed receive a certificate of cleanliness from a priest prior to resuming contact with any non-leprous person.

Again, these ten obey Jesus’ command and head out to visit the priest. As they go on their way, Jesus provides them with the great mercy: he heals them of their leprosy; they are cleansed. Jesus is indeed a marvelous neighbor!

The Samaritan, in returning to immediately give thanks to Jesus... in falling on his face at Jesus’ feet... in this act of violating social distance... the Samaritan becomes a lawbreaker. What’s more, Jesus questions why the others haven’t become lawbreakers as well. Jesus concludes by praising the Samaritan’s faith (vs. 19) rather than praising his obedience to the law. Mercy, not obedience, once again conditions neighborliness.

So, you, as you go on your way, Jesus has mercy on you. Healed of your sin-sickness by the mighty mercy of your Savior, you can continue to be ruled by the law (like the other nine) or you can spontaneously thank and praise the agent of your healing, living out of faith rather than obedience.

Table Talk: Discuss the priority of mercy over obedience.

Pray: Father, grant me such faith that I, too, trust the mercy of my good neighbor, Jesus Christ. Amen

