

# Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 22, 2024 A.D.

10:30 AM



## GRACE

Evangelical Lutheran Church



### NALC

North American Lutheran Church

*Christ-Centered*

*Mission-Driven*

*Traditionally-Grounded*

*Congregationally-Focused*

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4536 Hickory Lincolnton Highway  
Newton, North Carolina 28658  
Church Office: 704-462-1035  
email: [gracenalcnewton@aol.com](mailto:gracenalcnewton@aol.com)  
[www.gracelutheran-newton.org](http://www.gracelutheran-newton.org)

# Eighteenth 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
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## EQUIP

The First Lesson..... Jeremiah 11:18-20

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

The Psalm 54 ..... Bulletin pg. 3

The Second Lesson .....James 3:13-4:10

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

- \* The Holy Gospel.....Mark 9:30-37
- Children's Sermon.....Pastor East
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- Hymn of the Day.....**Jesus, Still Lead On** .....**LBW 341**
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- \* **The Distribution of the Holy Sacrament**
- Hymn During Communion.....**Jesus Paid It All**.....**TCH 305**
- \* Post-Communion Canticle.....*Thank the Lord*.....page 72
- \* Post-Communion Prayer
- \* The Benediction

## SEND

- \* The Sending Hymn .....**God of Grace and God of Glory**.....**LBW 415**

- \* 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** The world around us encourages us, and even pressures us, to seek to rise above others in status, wealth, and social acceptance. But this is not God's plan for us. God's Word teaches us that God is opposed to us excessively seeking these values, and that instead He gives grace to those who are humble servants of Jesus, rather than giving grace to the proud.

### **FIRST LESSON: Jeremiah 11:18-20**

<sup>18</sup>The LORD made it known to me and I knew; then you showed me their deeds.

<sup>19</sup>But I was like a gentle lamb led to the slaughter. I did not know it was against me they devised schemes, saying, "Let us destroy the tree with its fruit, let us cut him off from the land of the living, that his name be remembered no more." <sup>20</sup>But, O LORD of hosts, who judges righteously, who tests the heart and the mind, let me see your vengeance upon them, for to you have I committed my cause.

### **PSALM 54**

<sup>1</sup>Save me, O God, by your Name;  
in your might, defend my cause.

<sup>2</sup>**Hear my prayer, O God;**  
**give ear to the words of my mouth.**

<sup>3</sup>For the arrogant have risen up against me, and the ruthless have sought my life,  
those who have no regard for God.

<sup>4</sup>**Behold, God is my helper;**  
**it is the LORD who sustains my life.**

<sup>5</sup>Render evil to those who spy on me;  
in your faithfulness, destroy them.

**<sup>6</sup>I will offer you a freewill sacrifice  
and praise your name, O LORD, for it is good.**

<sup>7</sup>For you have rescued me from every trouble,  
and my eye has seen the ruin of my foes.

## **SECOND LESSON: James 3:13-4:10**

<sup>13</sup>Who is wise and understanding among you? By his good conduct let him show his works in the meekness of wisdom. <sup>14</sup>But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast and be false to the truth. <sup>15</sup>This is not the wisdom that comes down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic. <sup>16</sup>For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there will be disorder and every vile practice. <sup>17</sup>But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere. <sup>18</sup>And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.

<sup>1</sup>What causes quarrels and what causes fights among you? Is it not this, that your passions are at war within you? <sup>2</sup>You desire and do not have, so you murder. You covet and cannot obtain, so you fight and quarrel. You do not have, because you do not ask. <sup>3</sup>You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions. <sup>4</sup>You adulterous people! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God. <sup>5</sup>Or do you suppose it is to no purpose that the Scripture says, "He yearns jealously over the spirit that he has made to dwell in us"? <sup>6</sup>But he gives more grace. Therefore it says, "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble." <sup>7</sup>Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. <sup>8</sup>Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. <sup>9</sup>Be wretched and mourn and weep. Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom. <sup>10</sup>Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you.

## **THE HOLY GOSPEL: Mark 9:30-37**

<sup>30</sup>{Jesus and his disciples} went on from there and passed through Galilee. And he did not want anyone to know, <sup>31</sup>for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, "The Son of Man is going to be delivered into the hands of men, and they will kill him. And when he is killed, after three days he will rise." <sup>32</sup>But they did not understand the saying, and were afraid to ask him. <sup>33</sup>And they came to Capernaum. And when he was in the house he asked them, "What were you discussing on the

way?" <sup>34</sup>But they kept silent, for on the way they had argued with one another about who was the greatest. <sup>35</sup>And he sat down and called the twelve. And he said to them, "If anyone would be first, he must be last of all and servant of all." <sup>36</sup>And he took a child and put him in the midst of them, and taking him in his arms, he said to them, <sup>37</sup>"Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me, and whoever receives me, receives not me but him who sent me."

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**Next Sunday's Readings:** Numbers 11:4-6, 10-16, 24-29, Psalm 104:27-35; James 5:[1-12] 13-20; Mark 9:38-50. 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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## **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, Alan Shull, 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 & Danelle Bumgardner, Jessica Cassels & Family, Dennis & Evelyn Childers, Harold Crouse, Guy Franzen, Wendy Hannah, Denver Hensly, J.C., Lily Rose, Sgt. Ryan McMullen and shift, Katie Patton, 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.

**Prayers for the friends and family of:** Michelle McCreary

(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 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!

**HAPPY FIRST DAY OF FALL!** O God of Creation, you have blessed us with the changing of the seasons. As we welcome the autumn months, may the earlier setting of the sun remind us to take time to rest. May the brilliant colors of the leaves remind us of the wonder of your creation. May the steam of our breath in the cool air remind us that it is you who gives us the breath of life. May the harvest from the fields remind us of the abundance we have been given and bounty we are to share with others. May the dying of summer's spirit remind us of your great promise that death is temporary and life is eternal. We praise you got your goodness forever and ever.

**NEWSLETTER DEADLINE** is tomorrow. If you would like to submit an article or information for the October Newsletter, please have it to the church office by noon tomorrow.

**CALL COMMITTEE UPDATE:** The Call Committee recently met with a potential pastoral candidate for our vacancy. Please pray for guidance as we discern if this pastor is whom God is calling to serve as our next pastor at Grace. We also ask that you pray for the candidate, as they seek God's direction for their future in ministry.

**OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD** is just around the corner with the annual November collection of shoeboxes. Take advantage of the end-of-summer and back-to-school sales to begin gathering items now to fill as many shoeboxes as we can. We have boxes and labels available in the Children's Choir area for your use.

**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.

**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.

*“Hear my prayer, O God;  
give ear to the words of my mouth.”*  
Psalm 54:2

**HAPPY SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAY TO:**

- 22 – Chris Jarrett
- 24 – David Wilfong
- 25 – Joe Momier
- 26 – Kristina Powell  
    Lisa Fox
- 27 – Amy East  
    Kandra Johnson

**THIS WEEK AT GRACE**

**Today:**

**EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

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

**Thursday & Friday:**

Church Office Closed

**Next Sunday:**

**NINETEENTH 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

Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity | September 22, 2024



## LUKE 14:1-11

*"[The Pharisees] were watching [Jesus] carefully."*

*(Vs. 1)*

The Pharisees, those pious and religious practitioners of the law, were keeping a wary eye on Jesus. They had heard, perhaps, that he and his disciples did not obey the letter of the law as fastidiously as did the Pharisees. Maybe they had been told by some of their colleagues that Jesus and his crowd gleaned grain and ate it on the Sabbath (Lk. 6:1). Maybe they had witnessed Jesus violating the Sabbath by healing a man with a withered hand (Lk. 6:9-11). However those Pharisees might have come to that Sabbath dinner with Jesus as the invited guest, they certainly did come to catch out Jesus in a Sabbath violation.

We are not told of how the man with dropsy came to be there or how he was presented to Jesus. We can, though, be pretty certain that the man would not have been in the house had not the ruler of the Pharisees permitted it. Jesus is presented with a dilemma: he can obey the law, do no healing, and let the man remain in his affliction... or he can act lovingly, break the law, heal the man, and free him of his affliction. Obedience or love, Jesus turns the dilemma back upon the lawyers and Pharisees (Lk. 14:3 & 5). Jesus receives only silence; they will not answer whether they will follow the letter of the law or the spirit of the law.

We are told by Jesus that the two greatest commandments are these: love your God with all you've got and love your neighbor as you would love yourself (Mt. 22:36-40). Jesus holds these commands to love both God and neighbor as the fountainhead of all the law and the prophets. Love is the spirit of the law. Simple obedience to the letter of the law... merely following the rules... will not prove you to be consistently loving. Obedience may allow you to justify yourself by saying, "I followed the law! I did not sin!" Such supposed obedience of yours fails to love your neighbor and convicts you of a deeper sin. The juxtaposition of the righteousness of obedience versus the righteousness of love is the context for Luther's well-known declaration, "Sin boldly! But believe in the grace of God even more boldly." God graciously forgives sin so that the supposed righteousness of your obedience will not prevent you from acting in love.

**Table Talk:** Discuss instances when you or others may have followed the letter of the law but proved unloving.

**Pray:** Father, hold me in the forgiveness of sins so that I dare to love even if it breaks the law. Amen

