

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 8, 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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Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost



Welcome and Announcements

Prelude..... Please Observe Silence For Meditation

* Brief Order for Confession and Forgiveness page 56

PRAISE

* Opening Hymn **For the Beauty of the Earth** **TCH 793**

* 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 35:4-7a

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

The Psalm 146 Bulletin pg. 3

The Second Lesson James 2:1-10, 14-18

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

* The Holy Gospel..... Mark 7:[24-30]
31-37

Children's Sermon..... Pastor Coble

The Message..... "Be Strong, Fear Not" Pastor Coble

Hymn of the Day..... **Open My Eyes That I May See** **TCH 563**

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GIVE

The Offering The People of God

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RECEIVE

* The Great Thanksgiving..... page 68

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* **The Distribution of the Holy Sacrament**

Hymn During Communion..... **Cleanse Me**..... **TCH 657**

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

* Post-Communion Prayer

* The Benediction

SEND

* The Sending Hymn **I Love Your Kingdom, Lord** **LBW 368**

* 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: Isaiah the prophet lived in a troubled time. We can relate to this, right? There is sickness and death and terrorism and crime and... I don't need to keep going, right? You know the evil world in which we live. Isaiah will challenge us today to trust God.

FIRST LESSON: Isaiah 35:4-7a

⁴Say to those who have an anxious heart, "Be strong; fear not! Behold, your God will come with vengeance, with the recompense of God. He will come and save you." ⁵Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; ⁶then shall the lame man leap like a deer, and the tongue of the mute sing for joy. For waters break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; ^{7a}the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water

PSALM 146

¹Hallelujah! Praise the LORD, O my soul!

I will praise the LORD as long as I live; I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.

**²Put not your trust in rulers, nor in any child of earth,
for there is no help in them.**

³When they breathe their last, they return to earth,
and in that day their thoughts perish.

**⁴Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help!
whose hope is in the LORD their God;**

⁵Who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them;

who keeps his promise forever;

**⁶Who gives justice to those who are oppressed,
and food to those who hunger.**

⁷The LORD sets the prisoners free; the LORD opens the eyes of the blind;
the LORD lifts up those who are bowed down;

**⁸The LORD loves the righteous; the LORD cares for the stranger;
he sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way of the wicked.**

⁹The LORD shall reign forever,
your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. Hallelujah!

SECOND LESSON: James 2:1-10, 14-18

¹My brothers, show no partiality as you hold the faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory. ²For if a man wearing a gold ring and fine clothing comes into your assembly, and a poor man in shabby clothing also comes in, ³and if you pay attention to the one who wears the fine clothing and say, "You sit here in a good place," while you say to the poor man, "You stand over there," or, "Sit down at my feet," ⁴have you not then made distinctions among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts? ⁵Listen, my beloved brothers, has not God chosen those who are poor in the world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom, which he has promised to those who love him? ⁶But you have dishonored the poor man. Are not the rich the ones who oppress you, and the ones who drag you into court? ⁷Are they not the ones who blaspheme the honorable name by which you were called? ⁸If you really fulfill the royal law according to the Scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself," you are doing well. ⁹But if you show partiality, you are committing sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. ¹⁰For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become guilty of all of it.

¹⁴What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him? ¹⁵If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, ¹⁶and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, be warmed and filled," without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that? ¹⁷So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead. ¹⁸But someone will say, "You have faith and I have works." Show me your faith apart from your works, and I will show you my faith by my works.

THE HOLY GOSPEL: Mark 7:[24-30] 31-37

[²⁴{Jesus} arose and went away to the region of Tyre and Sidon. And he entered a house and did not want anyone to know, yet he could not be hidden. ²⁵But immediately a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit heard of him and came and fell down at his feet. ²⁶Now the woman was a Gentile, a Syrophenician by birth. And she begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter. ²⁷And he said to her, "Let the children be fed first, for it is not right to take the children's bread and throw it to the dogs." ²⁸But she answered him, "Yes, Lord; yet even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs." ²⁹And he said to her, "For this statement you may go your way; the demon has left your daughter." ³⁰And she went home and found the child lying in bed and the demon gone.] ³¹Then he returned from the region of Tyre and went through Sidon to the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis. ³²And they brought to him a man who was deaf and had a speech impediment, and they begged him to lay his hand on him. ³³And taking him aside from the crowd privately, he put his fingers into his ears, and after spitting touched his tongue. ³⁴And looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, "Ephphatha," that is, "Be opened." ³⁵And his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. ³⁶And Jesus charged them to tell no one. But the more he charged them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. ³⁷And they were astonished beyond measure, saying, "He has done all things well. He even makes the deaf hear and the mute speak."

Next Sunday's Readings: Isaiah 50:4-10, Psalm 116:1-9; James 3:1-12; Mark 9:14-29. 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: 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 & Danelle Bumgardner, Jessica Cassels & Family, Dennis & Evelyn Childers, Harold Crouse, Guy Franzen, Wendy Hannah, 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, 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.

HAPPY GRANDPARENT'S DAY! A grandparent is a little bit parent, a little bit teacher and a little bit best friend. We hope that all the grandparents among us know they are loved and appreciated. May you all have a blessed day!

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 tomorrow, **Monday, September 9th at 6:00pm.** If you have any questions, please reach out to Herb Travis.

THE GRACE PRAYER BREAKFAST will be held this Saturday, **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.

"Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord, O my soul!"

Psalm 145:1

HAPPY SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAY TO:

- 9 – Harper Burris
- 12 – Jeffery Scronce
- 13 – Debi Pisko
Makayla Hall
- 15 - Kathy Leatherman

THIS WEEK AT GRACE

Today: **SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

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

Monday: 6:00 PM – Stephen Ministry Supervision

Saturday: 9:00 AM – Grace Prayer Breakfast @
Four Peas in a Pod

Next Sunday: **SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

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

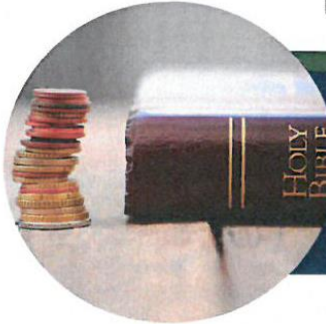
The Ministers.....The People of Grace Lutheran Church
Pastor
Organist Sandi Tallant
Administrative Assistant Kristi Tucker
Leadership Board President Tim Eckard
Youth LeaderStormy Shull
LectorStormy Shull
Communion Assistants.....Herb & Libby Travis
Ushers Jeff Scronce & Jack Wilfong
Altar Preparation.....Herb & Libby Travis
Offering Tabulators Todd Childers & Jason Yoder
Custodian Chris Abernethy



Table Talk II

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

Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity | September 8, 2024



MATTHEW 6:24-34

"No one can serve two masters..." (Vs. 24)

The truth of Jesus' declaration opens Luther's words on the bondage of the will to greater importance. Luther famously argues that the human being is like a beast of burden. Either God is in the saddle or Satan is in the saddle but one or the other is going to ride the beast. God and Satan contend for the saddle seat, but they do not share the seat. The human... the sinner... the person... you... you and I cannot have two masters. With Satan in the saddle, our love and devotion are directed toward him and his lies. The things of God are hated and despised. With God in the saddle, however, our love and devotion are directed toward him, and the lies of Satan are despised and hated.

In the text before us today, money—or the love of money—is named by Jesus as the presenting symptom of Satan in the saddle. The resulting lie is revealed by the presence of anxiety... anxiety about your life. The superficial appearances of life, things such as food, drink, and clothing should not bring anxiety. God cares for the birds of the air... God cares for the lilies and the grass of the field... why should you—the capstone work of God's sixth day labors—doubt that God would care for you? Indeed, Christ has come to be the Lord of your conscience and, as long as

he rules there, you have the kingdom of God and his righteousness. With God and Christ seated on the throne of your conscience, they are in the saddle. Satan and all his lies, including those regarding the love of money and anxiety over life, are dethroned, put under the Lord's feet.

While we are still in the flesh... while we live out the days of our baptism... the throne of our conscience remains under contention. The appropriate use of money, the lack of anxiety, and spontaneous works of love useful to our neighbors are all helpful symptoms that Jesus is Lord of our conscience. However, when our conscience begins to say, "I should... I must... I ought to... I have to..." when we begin to gather money for its own sake... when anxiety over the things of life comes over us... well, then we have lost being "content in all things" (Ph. 4:12). Jesus is no longer Lord of our conscience or in the saddle of our life. Go! Hear the gospel! Listen to your preacher and have the Word of God rule over you once again.

Table Talk: Discuss the contention of God and Satan for the throne of your conscience.

Pray: Father, let me hear your Word that I would be content. Amen

