

Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost

October 13, 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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Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost



Welcome and Announcements

Prelude.....Please Observe Silence For Meditation

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PRAISE

- * Opening Hymn**Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing****LBW 499**
- * The Kyrie page 57
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EQUIP

The First Lesson..... Amos 5:6-7,10-15

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

The Psalm 90:12-17 Bulletin pg. 4

The Second Lesson Hebrews 3:12-19

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

- * The Holy Gospel.....Mark 10:17-27
- Children's Sermon.....Pastor Doug
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- * **The Distribution of the Holy Sacrament**
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- * Post-Communion Prayer
- * The Benediction

SEND

- * The Sending Hymn**He Leadeth Me: Oh, Blessed Thought****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: In God's Word today we hear of an earthly rich young ruler who comes to Jesus, our heavenly Rich Young Ruler, earnestly seeking to know what he can **do** to inherit eternal life. Jesus looks upon the young man in love and knowing what is in his heart, reveals the young man's deception about his goodness and efforts to merit eternal life. He claims to have kept the commandments, but Jesus shows him that he has not kept the commandments, especially the first commandment: You shall have no other gods before Me (Exodus 20). Martin Luther, in his Small Catechism, writes of the First Commandment, **"What does this mean? We should fear, love, and trust God above all things."** The rich young ruler was putting his trust in earthly treasure instead receiving and trusting in the heavenly treasure of Jesus. In love, Jesus called him to let that go and take His hand, take up the cross, and follow Him. It certainly grieved Jesus to see this man walk away from His grace and love. This story reminds us of the true Gospel: We are saved by grace through faith (Ephesians 2). The disciples seeing this man walk away ask, "Who then can be saved? Jesus said, "With man it is impossible, but not with God. For all things are possible with God." There is nothing we can do to earn salvation; we are saved by what Jesus has done for us! In our sin, we are prone to wander and put our faith, love and trust in possessions, positions, power, people, and pleasure. And yet Jesus, our Heavenly Rich Young Ruler, from the cross and the empty grave extends His love and grace to us. "For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich."(2Corinthians8:9) Thanks be to God!

FIRST LESSON: Amos 5:6-7,10-15

⁶Seek the LORD and live, lest he break out like fire in the house of Joseph, and it devour, with none to quench it for Bethel, ⁷O you who turn justice to wormwood and cast down righteousness to the earth!

¹⁰They hate him who reproves in the gate, and they abhor him who speaks the truth.

¹¹Therefore because you trample on the poor and you exact taxes of grain from him, you have built houses of hewn stone, but you shall not dwell in them; you have planted pleasant vineyards, but you shall not drink their wine. ¹²For I know how many are your transgressions and how great are your sins — you who afflict the righteous, who take a bribe, and turn aside the needy in the gate. ¹³Therefore he who is prudent will keep silent in such a time, for it is an evil time. ¹⁴Seek good, and not evil, that you may live; and so the LORD, the God of hosts, will be with you, as you have said. ¹⁵Hate evil, and love good, and establish justice in the gate; it may be that the LORD, the God of hosts, will be gracious to the remnant of Joseph.

PSALM 90:12-17

¹²So teach us to number our days
that we may apply our hearts to wisdom.

¹³**Return, O LORD; how long will you tarry?
be gracious to your servants.**

¹⁴Satisfy us by your lovingkindness in the morning;
so shall we rejoice and be glad all the days of our life.

¹⁵**Make us glad by the measure of the days that you afflicted us
and the years in which we suffered adversity.**

¹⁶Show your servants your works
and your splendor to their children.

¹⁷**May the graciousness of the LORD our God be upon us;
prosper the work of our hands; prosper our handiwork.**

SECOND LESSON: Hebrews 3:12-19

¹²Take care, brothers, lest there be in any of you an evil, unbelieving heart, leading you to fall away from the living God. ¹³But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called “today,” that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin. ¹⁴For we have come to share in Christ, if indeed we hold our original confidence firm to the end. ¹⁵As it is said, “Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion.” ¹⁶For who were those who heard and yet rebelled? Was it not all those who left Egypt led by Moses? ¹⁷And with whom was he provoked for forty years? Was it not with those who sinned, whose bodies fell in the wilderness? ¹⁸And to whom did he swear that they would not enter his rest, but to those who were disobedient? ¹⁹So we see that they were unable to enter because of unbelief.

THE HOLY GOSPEL: Mark 10:17-27

¹⁷As {Jesus} was setting out on his journey, a man ran up and knelt before him and asked him, "Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" ¹⁸And Jesus said to him, "Why do you call me good? No one is good except God alone. ¹⁹You know the commandments: 'Do not murder, Do not commit adultery, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Do not defraud, Honor your father and mother.'" ²⁰And he said to him, "Teacher, all these I have kept from my youth." ²¹And Jesus, looking at him, loved him, and said to him, "You lack one thing: go, sell all that you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me." ²²Disheartened by the saying, he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions. ²³And Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, "How difficult it will be for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!" ²⁴And the disciples were amazed at his words. But Jesus said to them again, "Children, how difficult it is[a] to enter the kingdom of God! ²⁵It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the kingdom of God." ²⁶And they were exceedingly astonished, and said to him, "Then who can be saved?" ²⁷Jesus looked at them and said, "With man it is impossible, but not with God. For all things are possible with God."

Next Sunday's Readings: Ecclesiastes 5:10-20, Psalm 119:9-16; Hebrews 4:1-13 [14-16]; Mark 10:23-31. 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 memory of Tim Sherrill.
By: Alan and Stormy Shull

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, Harvey Leatherman, Phil & Malinda Leatherman, Betty Matheson, Joe Momier, 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, Jessica Cassels & Family, Evelyn Childers, Harold Crouse, Danny Cooper, Dee Dee Cooper, Dennis D'Alessio, Guy Franzen, Graybeal Family, Wendy Hannah, J.C., Michele Kirkland, Lily Rose, Paul and Jenny Mulcahy, Sgt. Ryan McMullen and shift, Angela Sanford, Anita Savino, 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.

Family and Friends of: Harold Gene Crouse Sr. and Dennis Childers

All that have been affected by Hurricane Helene and Hurricane Milton.

(Names are left on the prayer list for 30 days unless the office is notified otherwise.)

PLEASE WELCOME PASTOR DOUG HEFNER who is leading worship this morning. He led a Meet and Greet during the Sunday School hour and will be available after worship for anyone who would like to have a conversation with him then. **Next Sunday, October 20th, we will have congregational meeting** with the opportunity to vote on calling Pastor Doug as the next pastor at Grace.

PASTOR APPRECIATION DAY! We would like to take the time to thank the pastors that have been supplying for us during our pastoral vacancy. We also want to thank Pastor Doug for being with us today as we discern if God is calling him to be our next pastor!

THE GRACE PRAYER LUNCHEON is this **Wednesday, October 16th from 12-2pm** in the Grace Fellowship Hall. **ALL ARE WELCOME!** The menu for lunch is Sloppy Joes with French Fries and a Dessert. Make sure to plan to play Betty's famous BINGO after enjoying your lunch!

THE LEADERSHIP MINISTRY BOARD will hold its regular monthly meeting next Monday, October 21st **at 6:00pm**. All board members are urged to attend.

ASHURE ask for the month of October is Personal Hygiene Items. Your donations make a real difference right here in Catawba County! Thank you for helping to keep the food pantry stocked! Servants of Grace have donated **1214 lbs.** of food during 2024 as ASHURE! Let's see if we can get that donation up to 1500 lbs. by the end of the year!

TRUNK OR TREAT – Make sure to mark your calendars for our annual Trunk or Treat event at Grace. It will be on Saturday, October 26th. More information will be provided soon!

ANNUAL CONGEGATIONAL MEETING - We ask that everyone please plan to attend worship on **Sunday, November 3rd** for our annual Congregational Meeting prior to worship. This meeting is an important part of planning for the year ahead. We will be electing new Leadership Ministry Board members, approving the 2025 spending plan and conducting any other business of the church during this time. The meeting should be brief and will be held prior to worship. **Please plan to arrive for the meeting to begin promptly at 10:25am.**

NEEDING A VISIT? Our Stephen Ministers are trained and ready to make visits when requested. They can come to your home, hospital or a long-term care facility to visit. Please contact Stephen Ministry Leader, Herb Travis (704-240-7359) to request a visit. We are thankful that these servants of Grace have taken this training to help care for our church family, especially during the transitional time between pastors.

*“Satisfy us by your lovingkindness in the morning;
so shall we rejoice and be glad all the days of our life.”*

Psalm 90:14

HAPPY OCTOBER BIRTHDAY TO:

13 – Allen Hatchett

Todd Childers

19 – Riley Leatherman

THIS WEEK AT GRACE

Today:

TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

9:30am - Sunday School

10:30am - Worship Celebration

Wednesday:

2:00pm – Grace Prayer Luncheon

Thursday & Friday:

Church Office Closed

Next Sunday:

TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

9:30am – Sunday School

10:30am - Worship Celebration w/ Congregational Meeting

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	Alan Shull
Communion Assistants.....	Herb & Libby Travis
Ushers	James Hall & Jack Wilfong
Altar Preparation.....	Herb & Libby Travis
Offering Tabulators	Todd Childers & Rick Bivens
Custodian	Chris Abernethy



Table Talk II

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

Twentieth Sunday after Trinity | October 13, 2024



MATTHEW 22:1-14

"...they put those murderers to death and set their city on fire." (Vs. 7)

Jesus tells this parable twice. The first time he tells it, he's enjoying a Sabbath meal as a guest in the house of a leader of the Pharisees (Lk. 14:15-24). There, despite their watching him closely, Jesus heals on the Sabbath and acknowledges the reality of immediate need. He gives advice on how to choose your seating arrangements at banquets. And he tells this parable on feasting in the kingdom of God—that is, the great eschatological feast. The second time Jesus tells this parable is in the aftermath of his triumphal entry into Jerusalem. Jesus enters the Temple and endures the testing that comes from religious rulers who attempt to find fault with him just as if he is the Passover Lamb being examined for fault and blemish. This second telling of the parable sets a harsher tone. The king is not only furious enough to invite other guests, but he is furious enough and murderous enough to send soldiers out to deliver his vengeance upon those invitees who had spurned his invitation and killed his messengers.

The king had started out with joy and delight in his son's marriage. He wanted to not only celebrate it but to publish it far and wide. He prepared a banquet. Judging by the menu (oxen and fattened cattle), a multitude must have been

invited. The king intended to have the wedding hall full. When those initial invitees spurned the king's feast, his vengeance was kindled, and those unworthy invitees died. But the king would not have the wedding hall remain empty. He would have it filled. So, out went the slaves, gathering in all they found with no thought to the good or to the bad but only that the hall would be filled and the occasion celebrated.

An obvious division here would associate the unworthy invitees with the religious leaders of Jesus' day and the ultimate crowd gathered with no respect to the good or the bad to be those folk who hung out with Jesus, even the tax collectors and sinners. For you who think you hang out with Jesus, that you walk with him, and that you confess him as Lord, only do not claim these activities make you righteous in yourselves. Such a claim will just get you ejected from the feast (Mt. 22:12-13.)

Table Talk: Discuss the distinction between being clothed in Jesus' righteousness versus being righteous in yourself.

Pray: Father, grant me a seat at your table for Christ alone is my righteousness. Amen

