

Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost

October 20, 2024 A.D.

10:30 AM



ALL THINGS

are possible

WITH GOD

Mark 10:27

GRACE

Evangelical Lutheran Church



NALC

North American Lutheran Church

Christ-Centered

Mission-Driven

Traditionally-Grounded

Congregationally-Focused

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Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost



Welcome and Announcements

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PRAISE

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

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The Second Lesson Hebrews 4:1-13[14-16]

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

- * The Holy Gospel..... Mark 10:23-31
- Children's Sermon..... Pastor East
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GIVE

The Offering The People of God

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RECEIVE

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- * Post-Communion Prayer
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SEND

- * The Sending Hymn ... **God, Who Stretched the Spangles Heavens**..... **LBW 463**

- * 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: Faith in Jesus is the only way into eternity with God. Unfortunately there are multiple things in this earthly life that entice us to put faith in them rather than in God. God's Word, which is God's good gift to us, teaches us about putting our faith in Him, and avoiding those other things that would get in the way of our eternal well-being with Him.

FIRST LESSON: Ecclesiastes 5:10-20

¹⁰He who loves money will not be satisfied with money, nor he who loves wealth with his income; this also is vanity. ¹¹When goods increase, they increase who eat them, and what advantage has their owner but to see them with his eyes? ¹²Sweet is the sleep of a laborer, whether he eats little or much, but the full stomach of the rich will not let him sleep. ¹³There is a grievous evil that I have seen under the sun: riches were kept by their owner to his hurt, ¹⁴and those riches were lost in a bad venture. And he is father of a son, but he has nothing in his hand. ¹⁵As he came from his mother's womb he shall go again, naked as he came, and shall take nothing for his toil that he may carry away in his hand. ¹⁶This also is a grievous evil: just as he came, so shall he go, and what gain is there to him who toils for the wind? ¹⁷Moreover, all his days he eats in darkness in much vexation and sickness and anger. ¹⁸Behold, what I have seen to be good and fitting is to eat and drink and find enjoyment in all the toil with which one toils under the sun the few days of his life that God has given him, for this is his lot. ¹⁹Everyone also to whom God has given wealth and possessions and power to enjoy them, and to accept his lot and rejoice in his toil — this is the gift of God. ²⁰For he will not much remember the days of his life because God keeps him occupied with joy in his heart.

PSALM 119:9-16

⁹How shall a young man cleanse his way?

By keeping to your words.

¹⁰**With my whole heart I seek you;**

let me not stray from your commandments.

¹¹I treasure your promise in my heart,
that I may not sin against you.

¹²**Blessed are you, O LORD;
instruct me in your statutes.**

¹³With my lips will I recite
all the judgments of your mouth.

¹⁴**I have taken greater delight in the way of your decrees
than in all manner of riches.**

¹⁵I will meditate on your commandments
and give attention to your ways.

¹⁶**My delight is in your statutes;***
I will not forget your word.

SECOND LESSON: Hebrews 4:1-13[14-16]

¹Therefore, while the promise of entering his rest still stands, let us fear lest any of you should seem to have failed to reach it. ²For good news came to us just as to them, but the message they heard did not benefit them, because they were not united by faith with those who listened. ³For we who have believed enter that rest, as he has said, "As I swore in my wrath, 'They shall not enter my rest,'" although his works were finished from the foundation of the world. ⁴For he has somewhere spoken of the seventh day in this way: "And God rested on the seventh day from all his works." ⁵And again in this passage he said, "They shall not enter my rest." ⁶Since therefore it remains for some to enter it, and those who formerly received the good news failed to enter because of disobedience, ⁷again he appoints a certain day, "Today," saying through David so long afterward, in the words already quoted, "Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts." ⁸For if Joshua had given them rest, God would not have spoken of another day later on. ⁹So then, there remains a Sabbath rest for the people of God, ¹⁰for whoever has entered God's rest has also rested from his works as God did from his. ¹¹Let us therefore strive to enter that rest, so that no one may fall by the same sort of disobedience. ¹²For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart. ¹³And no creature is hidden from his sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give account. [¹⁴Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. ¹⁵For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. ¹⁶Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.]

THE HOLY GOSPEL: Mark 10:23-31

²³Jesus 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 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." ²⁸Peter began to say to him, "See, we have left everything and followed you." ²⁹Jesus said, "Truly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or lands, for my sake and for the gospel, ³⁰who will not receive a hundredfold now in this time, houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and lands, with persecutions, and in the age to come eternal life. ³¹But many who are first will be last, and the last first."

Next Sunday's Readings: Revelation 14:6-7, Psalm 46; Romans 3:19-28; John 8:31-36. 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, 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, Stormy Geter, Graybeal Family, Wendy Hannah, J.C., Michele Kirkland, Ray Porter, Lily Rose, Paul and Jenny Mulcahy, Sgt. Ryan McMullen and shift, Angela Sanford, Anita Sabino, Scott Speagle, Zachary Speagle and Amber, Nathan Starnes, 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 BRACK EAST who is leading worship this morning.

THE LEADERSHIP MINISTRY BOARD will hold its regular monthly meeting tomorrow, 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 to ASHURE! Let's see if we can get that donation up to 1500 lbs. by the end of the year!

TRUNK OR TREAT will be held on **Saturday, October 26th from 4-6pm** on the front lawn. Make sure to bring your candy as we welcome kids from the community to get some treats. Decorated trunks are not required. Just bring a chair and some candy to join the fun!

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.

THANK YOU! The Friends of Rowan would like to thank Grace Lutheran Church for your donation to the Lutheran Studies Program at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary. The gift will be matched by The Friends of Rowan Matching Gifts Program.

*“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:

24 – Madison Speagle

THIS WEEK AT GRACE

Today: **TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**
9:30am - Sunday School
10:30am - Worship Celebration w/ Congregational Meeting

Monday: 6:00pm - Ministry Leadership Board Meeting

Thursday and Friday: Church Office Closed

Saturday: 4:00pm - Trunk or Treat

Next Sunday: **REFORMATION SUNDAY**
9:30am – Sunday School
10:30am - 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
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

Twenty-First Sunday after Trinity | October 20, 2024



JOHN 4:46–54

"Unless you people see signs and wonders you will never believe!" (Vs. 48)

Jesus spoke harshly to that royal official. The man had traveled quite a distance; one, maybe two days on the road walking. We don't know many things about this royal official: We don't know whether he's in the Roman or Jewish royal hierarchy. We don't know if he had heard of Jesus' miracle. We don't know if it was faith or desperation which drove him to seek out Jesus' presence and help in saving his son's life. We do know that this occasion presented Jesus with the opportunity to disparage the people's trust in signs and wonders. And we do know that Jesus' word of promise ("Go home, your son will live.") was sufficient for the working of faith in the official (The man believed the word that Jesus spoke...).

Jesus often disparages the peoples' trust in signs and wonders. Their need for a visible display of the miraculous or of the wondrous runs contrary to a faith delivered by the mere Word of God. The Apostle Paul later put it succinctly, "We walk by faith and not by sight" (2 Cor. 5:7).

Jesus did deliver a promise to this royal official. Jesus promised the man healing and life for his son. The man received this promise and "believed the word that Jesus spoke" (vs. 50).

The man had no idea whether Jesus' word was effective. He had no way of knowing whether his son would live. Nonetheless, the man believed and set off for home. We receive a second testimony of the official's faith when he receives the news of his son's healing. That miracle... that sign... confirmed his faith and delivered his entire household into faith (vs. 53).

Jesus has promised you, too. He has promised you the forgiveness of sins; he has promised you life, life eternal; he has promised you salvation from the powers that beset you: sin, death, and the power of the devil. All these promises you grasp in faith for Jesus has told you, an evil and adulterous generation, that you will receive no sign but the sign of Jonah (Mt. 16:4 & Lk. 11:29). The promises Jesus makes to you deliver you out of this sinful world with its need for signs and into the household of God (Ro. 8:29). Believe it! You have his word on it!

Table Talk: Discuss the difficulties of holding only to a promise and not to a sign.

Pray: Father, Grant me trust in Jesus' word.
Amen

