

# Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

October 6, 2024 A.D.

10:30 AM



“they are no longer two,  
but one flesh”

## GRACE

Evangelical Lutheran Church



## NALC

North American Lutheran Church

*Christ-Centered*

*Mission-Driven*

*Traditionally-Grounded*

*Congregationally-Focused*

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# Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost



Welcome and Announcements

Prelude..... Please Observe Silence For Meditation

- \* Brief Order for Confession and Forgiveness ..... page 56

## PRAISE

- \* Opening Hymn ..... **Jesus, Still Lead On** ..... **WOV 341**
- \* 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..... Genesis 2:18-25

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

The Psalm 128 ..... Bulletin pg. 3

The Second Lesson ..... Hebrews 2:1-13 [14-18]

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

- \* The Holy Gospel..... Mark 10:2-16
- Children's Sermon..... Pastor East
- The Message..... "Receiving God's Truth and Life" ..... Pastor East
- Hymn of the Day..... **Bind Us Together** ..... **WOV 748**
- \* The Apostles' Creed..... page 65
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## GIVE

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- \* 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 Living Bread from Heaven**..... **LBW 197**
- \* Post-Communion Canticle..... *Thank the Lord*..... page 72
- \* Post-Communion Prayer
- \* The Benediction

## SEND

- \* The Sending Hymn ..... **O Jesus, Joy of Loving Hearts** ..... **LBW 356**

- \* 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:** God's eternal Word teaches us about God, ourselves, sin, and salvation. Belief in Jesus opens our hearts and minds to salvation and God's truth, and to receive God's best – especially salvation, and also guidance through this earthly life.

### **FIRST LESSON: Genesis 2:18-25**

<sup>18</sup>The LORD God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him." <sup>19</sup>Now out of the ground the LORD God had formed every beast of the field and every bird of the heavens and brought them to the man to see what he would call them. And whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name. <sup>20</sup>The man gave names to all livestock and to the birds of the heavens and to every beast of the field. But for Adam there was not found a helper fit for him. <sup>21</sup>So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and while he slept took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. <sup>22</sup>And the rib that the LORD God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. <sup>23</sup>Then the man said, "This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man." <sup>24</sup>Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. <sup>25</sup>And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed.

### **PSALM 128**

<sup>1</sup>Happy are they all who fear the LORD,  
and who follow in his ways!

**<sup>2</sup>You shall eat the fruit of your labor;  
happiness and prosperity shall be yours.**

<sup>3</sup>Your wife shall be like a fruitful vine within your house,

your children like olive shoots round about your table.

**<sup>4</sup>The man who fears the LORD  
shall thus indeed be blessed.**

<sup>5</sup>The LORD bless you from Zion,  
and may you see the prosperity of Jerusalem all the days of your life.

**<sup>6</sup>May you live to see your children's children;  
may peace be upon Israel.**

## **SECOND LESSON: Hebrews 2:1-13 [14-18]**

<sup>1</sup>Therefore we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, lest we drift away from it. <sup>2</sup>For since the message declared by angels proved to be reliable, and every transgression or disobedience received a just retribution, <sup>3</sup>how shall we escape if we neglect such a great salvation? It was declared at first by the Lord, and it was attested to us by those who heard, <sup>4</sup>while God also bore witness by signs and wonders and various miracles and by gifts of the Holy Spirit distributed according to his will. <sup>5</sup>For it was not to angels that God subjected the world to come, of which we are speaking. <sup>6</sup>It has been testified somewhere, "What is man, that you are mindful of him, or the son of man, that you care for him? <sup>7</sup>You made him for a little while lower than the angels; you have crowned him with glory and honor, <sup>8</sup>putting everything in subjection under his feet." Now in putting everything in subjection to him, he left nothing outside his control. At present, we do not yet see everything in subjection to him. <sup>9</sup>But we see him who for a little while was made lower than the angels, namely Jesus, crowned with glory and honor because of the suffering of death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone. <sup>10</sup>For it was fitting that he, for whom and by whom all things exist, in bringing many sons to glory, should make the founder of their salvation perfect through suffering. <sup>11</sup>For he who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one source. That is why he is not ashamed to call them brothers, <sup>12</sup>saying, "I will tell of your name to my brothers; in the midst of the congregation I will sing your praise." <sup>13</sup>And again, "I will put my trust in him." And again, "Behold, I and the children God has given me." [<sup>14</sup>Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, <sup>15</sup>and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery. <sup>16</sup>For surely it is not angels that he helps, but he helps the offspring of Abraham. <sup>17</sup>Therefore he had to be made like his brothers in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service

of God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. <sup>18</sup>For because he himself has suffered when tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.]

### **THE HOLY GOSPEL: Mark 10:2-16**

<sup>2</sup>Pharisees came up and in order to test {Jesus} asked, “Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife?” <sup>3</sup>He answered them, “What did Moses command you?” <sup>4</sup>They said, “Moses allowed a man to write a certificate of divorce and to send her away.” <sup>5</sup>And Jesus said to them, “Because of your hardness of heart he wrote you this commandment. <sup>6</sup>But from the beginning of creation, ‘God made them male and female.’ <sup>7</sup>Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, <sup>8</sup>and the two shall become one flesh.’ So they are no longer two but one flesh. <sup>9</sup>What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate.” <sup>10</sup>And in the house the disciples asked him again about this matter. <sup>11</sup>And he said to them, “Whoever divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery against her, <sup>12</sup>and if she divorces her husband and marries another, she commits adultery.” <sup>13</sup>And they were bringing children to him that he might touch them, and the disciples rebuked them. <sup>14</sup>But when Jesus saw it, he was indignant and said to them, “Let the children come to me; do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God. <sup>15</sup>Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it.” <sup>16</sup>And he took them in his arms and blessed them, laying his hands on them.

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**Next Sunday’s Readings:** Amos 5:6-7, 10-15, Psalm 90:12-17; Hebrews 3:12-19; Mark 10:17-22. 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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**THE ALTAR FLOWERS** are given to the Glory of God,  
and in memory of Pate and Bobbie Brendle  
By: David and Belinda Wilfong

### **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, LeAnn Buckwell, Caleb Bumgarner & Family, Jessica Cassels & Family, Evelyn Childers, Harold Crouse, Guy Franzen, Wendy Hannah, Denver Hensly, J.C., Lily Rose, 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**

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

**PLEASE WELCOME PASTOR EAST** who is leading worship this morning.

**THE PEOPLE OF GOD AT GRACE** extend our Christian sympathy, love and prayers to the family of Harold Gene Crouse Sr., who entered the Church Triumphant on Friday, September 20, 2024. Harold was the father of Gene Crouse. May God comfort all who mourn. Services to celebrate and remember Harold were held on September 24<sup>th</sup> at Living Word Church in Maiden.

**THE PEOPLE OF GOD AT GRACE** extend our Christian sympathy, love and prayers to the family of Dennis Childers, who entered the Church Triumphant on Sunday, September 22, 2024. Dennis was the uncle of Todd Childers. May God comfort all who mourn. A graveside service to celebrate and remember Dennis was held on September 25<sup>th</sup> at Grace Church.

**TODAY AT GRACE** you may see more of your church family wearing pink than normal. We are wearing pink today to honor those that have been affected by Breast Cancer.

**Call Committee Update** - Pastor Doug Hefner will be joining us next Sunday, October 13<sup>th</sup> for a Meet and Greet at 9am to allow church members the opportunity to meet him, as well as having an opportunity to ask any questions that you may have. Following the Meet and Greet, Pastor Hefner will preach and preside during worship. He will also be available after worship for anyone who would like to have a conversation with him then. The following Sunday, October 20<sup>th</sup>, we will have congregational meeting to vote on Pastor Doug.

**THE GRACE PRAYER BREAKFAST** will be held this **Saturday, October 12<sup>th</sup> at 9:00am** at Four Peas in a Pod Restaurant on Highway 70 in Conover. Great food and great fellowship! Please come and bring a friend!

**ASHURE (FORMERLY ECCCM) food 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!

**HAPPY OCTOBER BIRTHDAY TO:**

- 7 – Debra Hefner  
Stephen Pisko
- 9 – Don Jarrett  
Jason Yoder  
Emilee Bumgardner
- 10 – Cooper Johnson  
Joy Heavner
- 13 – Allen Hatchett  
Todd Childers

**THIS WEEK AT GRACE**

**Today:** **TWENTIETH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

- 9:30am - Sunday School
- 10:30am - Worship Celebration

**Friday:** Church Office Closed

**Saturday:** 9:00am - Grace Prayer Breakfast @ Four Peas in a Pod

**Next Sunday:** **TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**  
9:00am – Meet and Greet with Pastor Doug Hefner  
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 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

Nineteenth Sunday after Trinity | October 6, 2024



## MATTHEW 9:1-8

*"They glorified God, who had given such authority to men." (Vs. 8)*

These scribes and other religious leaders will have long memories. They will recall this incident and many others when they have Jesus on trial before them. The charge will be blasphemy. The blasphemy is forgiving sins. "No one," they will say "can forgive sins except God" (Mk. 2:7 & Lk. 5:21). Here in his own city, Jesus is charged with blasphemy seemingly in anticipation of his future trial. Jesus is charged with blasphemy because he said to the paralytic, "Your sins are forgiven." (vs 2). The crowds, though, they had a different reaction than the scribes. Even in their fear, the crowd realized the glory of their God who had given the authority to forgive sins to men... mere men... mere women. The authority to forgive sins which, according to the religious leaders, belonged to God alone was dispensed among men.

You may recall the conversation had by the serpent and Adam's wife Eve. In that conversation, the serpent enticed Eve with a promise that, after eating of the fruit from the forbidden tree, she and her husband Adam would be like gods. Well, they did eat and the two of them gained the knowledge of good and evil. With that knowledge came the realization that lives of constant judgment would have no peace

and no harmony. "Their eyes were opened, and they knew they were naked" (Ge.3:7). Something like forgiveness would be necessary to break the constant spiral of judgment and counter-judgment.

The forgiveness of sins, though, is a costly affair. We are told in the book of Hebrews that without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness (He. 9:22). The first shedding of blood took place right there in the Garden. God made garments of skin and clothed Adam and his wife Eve (Ge. 3:20). Animals were killed and the sinners were wrapped in their bloody hides. The forgiveness of sins is a costly affair. It cost Jesus his life. He shed blood: his bloody brow, bleeding back, pierced and dripping hands and feet, and spear thrust into his side. His blood shed, your sin forgiven. But, what's more, is that he comes to his people hiding there in fear behind locked doors like Adam and Eve cowered behind the bush. Jesus comes, dispenses the Holy Spirit, and conveys the authority to forgive sins (Jn. 20:23).

**Table Talk:** Why is forgiveness necessary?

**Pray:** Heavenly Father, forgive my sins as I forgive others their sins. Amen

