

Christ the King Sunday

November 24, 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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Christ the King Sunday



Welcome and Announcements

Prelude..... Please Observe Silence For Meditation

- * Brief Order for Confession and Forgiveness page 56

PRAISE

- * Gathering Hymn ..**All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name! Verses 1,2,5-7**.....**LBW 328**
- * 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 51:4-6

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

The Psalm 93 Bulletin pg.

The Second Lesson Revelation 1:4b-8

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

- * The Holy Gospel..... Luke 23:32-43
- Children's Sermon..... Pastor Doug
- The Message.... "**Thank You Jesus For Your Gracious Reign of Love**" Pastor Doug
- Hymn of the Day.....**Crown Him with Many Crowns Verses 1-4** **LBW 170**
- * The Apostles' Creed..... page 65
- * The Prayers and the Peace..... page 65

GIVE

The Offering The People of God

- * 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.....**The King of Love My Shepherd Is**.....**LBW 456**
- * Post-Communion Canticle.....*Thank the Lord*.....page 72
- * Post-Communion Prayer
- * The Benediction

SEND

- * The Sending Hymn **Jesus Shall Reign** **LBW 530**
- * 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: Christ the King Sunday or the Reign of Christ Sunday, is the Last Sunday in the Church Liturgical Year. As it concludes the year, we are reminded that all of history is moving toward the fulfillment of Christ's reign over heaven and earth. Psalm 93 is one of the Enthronement Psalms (47,93, 96-99) and its theme is the gracious Kingship or Reign of God over us and all creation. Israel used these Psalms in worship at the beginning of a new year to celebrate God's reign and dedicate themselves anew to serving the Lord as sovereign over their lives. Revelation 1 reminds us that Jesus is the King of kings "who is, who was and is to come, the Alpha and Omega, the Almighty." He is not like earthly kings or rulers; Jesus' reign is one of love (Luke 23) for He gave up everything, including his life, to atone for our sins and win for us salvation. Let us rededicate our lives unto Christ our Lord and worship Him with all our heart, mind, soul, and strength: To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood and made us a kingdom, priests to his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

FIRST LESSON: Isaiah 51:4-6

⁴"Give attention to me, my people, and give ear to me, my nation; for a law will go out from me, and I will set my justice for a light to the peoples. ⁵My righteousness draws near, my salvation has gone out, and my arms will judge the peoples; the coastlands hope for me, and for my arm they wait. ⁶Lift up your eyes to the heavens, and look at the earth beneath; for the heavens vanish like smoke, the earth will wear out like a garment, and they who dwell in it will die in like manner; but my salvation will be forever, and my righteousness will never be dismayed."

PSALM 93

¹The LORD is King; he has put on splendid apparel;
the LORD has put on his apparel and girded himself with strength.

²**He has made the whole world so sure
that it cannot be moved;**

³Ever since the world began, your throne has been established;

you are from everlasting.

**⁴The waters have lifted up, O LORD, the waters have lifted up their voice;
the waters have lifted up their pounding waves.**

⁵Mightier than the sound of many waters, mightier than the breakers of the sea,
mightier is the LORD who dwells on high.

**⁶Your testimonies are very sure,
and holiness adorns your house, O LORD, forever and forevermore.**

SECOND LESSON: Revelation 1:4b-8

^{4b}Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, ⁵and from Jesus Christ the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of kings on earth. To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood ⁶and made us a kingdom, priests to his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen. ⁷Behold, he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, even those who pierced him, and all tribes of the earth will wail on account of him. Even so. Amen. ⁸"I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, "who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty."

THE HOLY GOSPEL: Luke 23:32-43

³²Two others also, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with him. ³³ When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. ³⁴Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing." And they cast lots to divide his clothing. ³⁵And the people stood by watching, but the leaders scoffed at him, saying, "He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God, his chosen one!" ³⁶ The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine ³⁷and saying, "If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!" ³⁸There was also an inscription over him, "This is the King of the Jews." ³⁹One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, "Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!" ⁴⁰But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? ⁴¹And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong." **42** Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come in your kingdom." **43** He replied, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise."

Next Sunday's Readings: Jeremiah 33:14-16; Psalm 25:1-10; 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13; Luke 21:25-36. 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, Tim Eckard, Allen and Kay Hatchett, Irene Heavner, Larry Heavner, Lorene Heavner, Larry & Brenda Jarrett, Martha Johnson, Faye Lane, Harvey Leatherman, Phil & Malinda Leatherman, Betty Matheson, Jane Moss, Christine Norman, Tricia and Dan Panek, Michael, Debi & Stephen Pisko, Helen Smith, Ethan Starnes, Sandi Tallant, Libby Travis, Shirley Warlick, Scott & Carolyn 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, Becky Cartee, Jessica Cassels & Family, Evelyn Childers, Dennis D’Alessio, Guy Franzen, Stormy Geter, Wendy Hannah, John Harwell, J.C., Michele Kirkland, Ray Porter, Lily Rose, Alyssa McCary, Paul and Jenny Mulcahy, Sgt. Ryan McMullen and shift, Angela Sanford, Anita Sabino, Marc Sigmon, 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: Rachel Heavner, Richard Tallant, Danny Cooper and Randy Sipe (Names are left on the prayer list for 30 days unless the office is notified otherwise.)

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PLEASE WELCOME PASTOR DOUG HEFNER! We are thrilled that Pastor Doug has been called to serve as our pastor at Grace. He is excited to be with us and is looking forward to getting to know everyone soon. It is his goal to visit everyone within the first couple months of being at Grace. If there is a need that arises and you need to reach him, you may call his cell phone (980)234-8848.

PLEASE ADORN THE CHANCEL ON CHRISTMAS by giving the gift of a poinsettia. This is a great way to honor or make a memorial to someone or some event. The order form and special envelope for poinsettia orders are in your bulletin each week. The cost is \$10.00 per plant. **Please have all forms in TODAY!**

HANGING OF THE GREENS! On Saturday, November 30th at 10:00am, the faithful will gather to participate in the Hanging of the Greens as we prepare the Sanctuary for the Advent/Christmas Seasons. The tree will be placed, as well as all of the banners and

decorations needed to get us into the spirit of the season. We will need some strong hands to put up the tree, so please plan to join us.

ASHURE ask for the month of November is flour, cornmeal and sugar. 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 **1301 lbs.** of food during 2024 at ASHURE! **Let's see if we can get that donation up to 1500 lbs. by the end of the year, only 199 pounds to go!**

COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING SERVICE - Grace is invited to the Community Thanksgiving Service on Thanksgiving Eve, Wednesday, November 27th at 7pm at Ebenezer UMC, 8840 Cookville Road, Vale, NC. Pastor Doug will be providing the welcome and opening prayer for the service. The service will be led by 5 pastors from the area. Grace is now in the rotation to host this service - We will host it in 2029!!

ADVENT BIBLE STUDY – LED BY PASTOR DOUG - **“The Journey: Walking the Road to Bethlehem”** - Sunday mornings, December 1st, 8th, 15th, and 22nd at 9:15am. We will journey with Adam Hamilton in the Holy Lands as he travels from Nazareth to Bethlehem in this inspiring look at the birth of Jesus Christ. We will follow the footsteps of Mary, Joseph, the shepherds, and others, gaining insight into our own journey of faith with Christ. Each study will include a 10-minute video clip of Pastor Hamilton teaching on location in the Holy Lands. All you need is your Bible and a desire to grow in God's Word as you follow Jesus! Our Bible Study will include Bible readings, discussion and sharing, and prayer.

FRED T. FOARD SENIOR LUNCHEON will be held at Sardis Lutheran Church on Wednesday, December 4th at 12:00pm. All are invited! Pastor Doug will be leading the singing of Christmas Carols.

PASTOR DOUG'S INSTALLATION SERVICE will be hosted held here at Grace on Saturday, December 7th at 2:00pm. Our area Dean, Rev. Steve Johnson will preach and preside over the installation. Our neighbors and community churches will be invited. Reception to follow in the Fellowship Hall.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD – Our boxes were delivered to the drop-off location this past week. They are now in the process of getting to their destinations to help those in other countries experience the love of Christ through these gifts. We collected and sent a total of **72 boxes** in 2024. Thank you all for your contributions to this ministry.

THANK YOU FROM HABITAT FOR HUMANITY – Many thanks for your help! Your gift will help our on-going work with the Cottages at Ridgeview – 9 homes built, 6 more to go!

*“The waters have lifted up, O LORD,
the waters have lifted up their voice;
the waters have lifted up their pounding waves”*
Psalm 93:4

HAPPY NOVEMBER BIRTHDAY TO:
29 – Jonathan Moss

THIS WEEK AT GRACE

- Today:** **CHRIST THE KING SUNDAY**
9:30am - Sunday School
10:30am - Worship Celebration
- Wednesday:** 7:00pm – Community Thanksgiving Service
@ Ebenezer UMC, Vale
- Thursday & Friday:** Church Office Closed for Thanksgiving
- Next Sunday:** **FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT**
9:30am – Advent Bible Study
10:30am - Worship Celebration

The Ministers..... The People of Grace Lutheran Church
Pastor Doug Hefner
Organist..... Sandi Tallant
Administrative Assistant Kristi Tucker
Leadership Board President Tim Eckard
Youth Leader Stormy Shull
Lector Herb Travis
Communion Assistants..... Sheila Drum & Cindy Bivens
Ushers David Wilfong & Jack Wilfong
Altar Preparation..... Herb & Libby Travis
Offering Tabulators Todd Childers & Libby Travis
Custodian Chris Abernethy

Listening for the Promise

Weekly Devotional

Christ the King (Proper 29) – November 24, 2024

“Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come...” -Revelation 1:4a

When Luther writes his first introduction to the book of Revelation in 1522, he is apprehensive to consider it among as an apostolic book. Indeed, most Christians who read the book approach it with trepidation and regularly come away from it perplexed. However, several years later (1530), his tune had changed and with a lengthier preface asserts that Christians can profit from it in terms of comfort and warning, law and gospel (Luther’s Works 35, 407). In Revelation we are shown how, in the midst of monstrous attacks of the evil one in the world, Christ is not only with us in the battle against the tyrants of sin, death, the devil, wrath, and the law, but that he has the final victory. The author seems to want, from the outset of the greeting of his letter, to demonstrate that this is ultimately a book about Christ and his cross. Specifically, in what way a crucified God does what no temporary earthly ruler ever has: he establishes a new kingdom of grace and peace. Christ establishes this new kingdom, not through earthly politics, a voting populous, military might, or even the spread of democracy in the world. Rather Christ establishes his kingdom, the new Jerusalem, heaven itself, in that he has “freed us from our sins by his blood” (verse 5). While earthly freedom paves the way for human progress, leading more and more into the arena where we engage in activities our hearts desire, Christ arrives to snatch us out of our idolatry and bring us into true freedom: freedom from sin and death that follows. “Grace to you and peace,” is a new, apostolic greeting among the New Testament letters. Grace and peace are like Siamese twins: grace is the forgiveness of sins on account of Christ’s blood and peace is the joy of the quieted conscience that follows. There is no forgiveness apart from grace and without grace there is no peace for the troubled conscience. Because Christ alone issues this grace that brings the peace which passes understanding, he is the ruler over all kings of earth. From time to time, the world can bring peace in a limited fashion: peace to property and community, to lands, and to the body. In this way there is an outward appearance of peace. But when terror strikes the depths of the soul and we forget or even despair of the promises of God to us, the limited peace the world brings is not enough. The peace of the land still does not forgive and release us from our sins. Only the blood of Christ can accomplish that sort of peace. When the word of grace comes to you, “I love you. You are forgiven on account of Christ’s cross,” then we are at peace, faith is strong, and we shall bear both suffering and the cross for Christ has overcome them for your sake.

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