

All Saints Sunday



November 2, 2025 10:30 AM

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church



4536 Hickory Lincolnton Highway, Newton, North Carolina 28658

Church Office: (704) 462-1035 email: gracenalcnewton@aol.com

www.gracelutheran-newton.org

Rev. Doug Hefner cell: (980) 234-8848 email: pastorhefner@aol.com

Sandi Tallant – Organist Todd Childers – Administrative Assistant

Office Hours: Monday and Wednesday 9am to 1pm

Tuesday and Thursday 12pm to 4pm

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 Pastor Doug (980) 234-8848.

**Stand Hymnals in Pew Rack: LBW = Green WOV = Blue TCH = Burgundy*

PRELUDE *Please observe silence for meditation and prayer.*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*** BRIEF ORDER OF CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

P: In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: God of all mercy and consolation, come to the aid of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that, attentive to your Word, we may confess our sins, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

P: Trusting in God's steadfast love, grace and forgiveness in Christ, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection and confession of our sins before God and one another.

P: Merciful Father,

C: we have sinned against You and one another. We do not fully live as Your beloved daughters and sons. We use Your gifts to our own ends and neglect your call to bear fruit in Your world. Look upon us in mercy and forgive us all our offenses, and cleanse us from proud thoughts and empty desires. By your grace draw us near to you, our refuge and our strength; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The minister stands and addresses the congregation.

P: God hears the cries of all who call out in need, and through our Lord's death and resurrection, Christ has defeated death and sin, reconciled us to God and one another, and made us his own beloved sons and daughters. Led by the Holy Spirit, who grants freedom and newness of life, let us rejoice in the Good News that God has granted us the

entire forgiveness of all our sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **C: Amen.**

* **GATHERING HYMN** “Shall We Gather at the River”

WOV 690

* **GREETING**

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **C: And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Beloved God, in Christ you have drawn all your people into one, holy communion. Grant that as we remember the saints who have gone before us, we are strengthened for lives of faithful service to you so that the world will know your blessed presence. Bring us all at the last to the feast which has no end where all will be one; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

The congregation may be seated.

Litany of Remembrance and Thanksgiving for the Saints of God

On this All Saints Sunday we remember and give thanks for all the saints, on earth and in heaven. We give thanks to God who made us saints in Christ Jesus, the Light of the World, the Light that shines in the darkness and gives light and life to all people.

(We light the Paschal Candle)

Christ Jesus our Lord has delivered us from death and sin and brought us into His glorious light as His beloved saints. Called out of darkness into His glorious light, we are entrusted to be beacons of hope in the world. We give thanks for those precious ones who in their lives shined the light of God’s love into our lives.

We remember with thanksgiving those who ran the race of faith, who fought the good fight, who let their light shine before others, and who have inherited the crown of eternal life.

As we light a candle and toll the bell, we give God our thanksgiving and praise for the following saints who now rest from their labors and have joined the saints and hosts of heaven:

All Saints 2025

Irene Heavner 01/17/25

Herb Travis 03/18/25

Jack Hefner 08/08/25

Elizabeth Hefner 12/14/24

The congregation is invited to come forward to share the name of a loved one and to light a candle in thanksgiving to God for their life and eternal life.

We give thanks, O God, that you have surrounded us with so great a cloud of witnesses that encourage us on our journey. Comfort those who mourn the loss of their loved ones with the peace and strength of Your presence and the promise and hope of the resurrection in Jesus Christ our Lord.

God of life, grant that we, encouraged by the saints who have gone before us, may persevere in faith in the course that is set before us, to be living signs of the gospel of God's grace and love.

Gracious God, renew our calling and faith as the Saints of God still in our earthly journey.

Through Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit, help us to let our light shine before others so that all your children may grow in Your love and in the likeness of Jesus Christ.

May God grant you faith, hope and love as you run the race of faith and by the grace of God, may you, at the last, be reunited with all the saints of God and inherit the gift of eternal life.

Amen

FIRST READING: Revelation 7: 9-17

⁹ After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, ¹⁰ and crying out with a loud voice, "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!" ¹¹ And all the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, ¹² saying, "Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen."

¹³ Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, “Who are these, clothed in white robes, and from where have they come?” ¹⁴ I said to him, “Sir, you know.” And he said to me, “These are the ones coming out of the great tribulation. They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.” ¹⁵ “Therefore they are before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple; and he who sits on the throne will shelter them with his presence. ¹⁶ They shall hunger no more, neither thirst anymore; the sun shall not strike them, nor any scorching heat. ¹⁷ For the Lamb in the midst of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of living water, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.”

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

SECOND READING: Colossians 1: 1-14

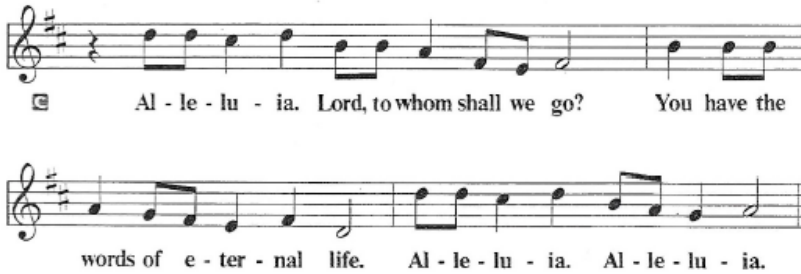
Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother,
²To the saints and faithful brothers and sisters in Christ in Colossae: Grace to you and peace from God our Father. ³In our prayers for you we always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, ⁴for we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love that you have for all the saints, ⁵because of the hope laid up for you in heaven. You have heard of this hope before in the word of the truth, the gospel ⁶that has come to you. Just as it is bearing fruit and growing in the whole world, so it has been bearing fruit among yourselves from the day you heard it and truly comprehended the grace of God. ⁷This you learned from Epaphras, our beloved fellow servant. He is a faithful minister of Christ on your behalf, ⁸and he has made known to us your love in the Spirit.
⁹For this reason, since the day we heard it, we have not ceased praying for you and asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of God's will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, ¹⁰so that you may lead lives worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, as you bear fruit in every good work and as you grow in the knowledge of God. ¹¹May you be made strong with all the strength that comes from his glorious power, and may you be prepared to endure everything with patience, while joyfully ¹²giving thanks to the Father, who has enabled you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the light. ¹³He has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved Son, ¹⁴in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

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

The congregation is invited to stand.

*** GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

“Alleluia, Lord to Whom Shall We Go”



***GOSPEL: Matthew 5: 1-14**

P: The holy gospel according to St. Matthew. **C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. ²Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

³Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

⁴Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

⁵Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

⁶Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

⁷Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

⁸Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

⁹Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

¹⁰Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

¹¹Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account ¹²Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

¹³You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under foot.

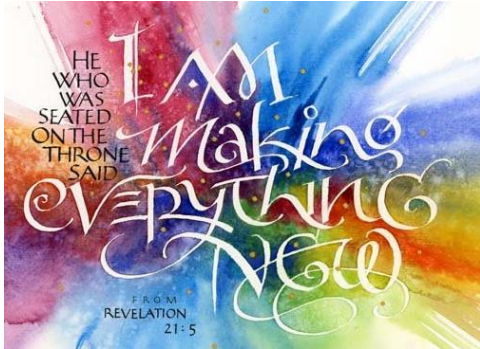
¹⁴You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid.

L: The Gospel of the Lord. **C: Praise to You O Christ!**

The congregation may be seated.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON



***“Celebrating the Eternal Love of God in Christ:
Thanks Be to God Who Makes Saints Out of
Sinners!” Pastor Doug Hefner***

***“God creates out of nothing. Wonderful you say.
Yes, to be sure, but He does what is still more
wonderful: He makes saints out of sinners!”
Soren Kierkegaard, Danish Theologian,
Philosopher, and Poet***

***HYMN OF THE DAY** **“Jerusalem My Happy Home”**

LBW 331

***THE APOSTLES’ CREED**

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended into hell.
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the
forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

***PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Response at the end of each petition. P: Lord in your mercy, **C: Hear our prayer.**

***SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

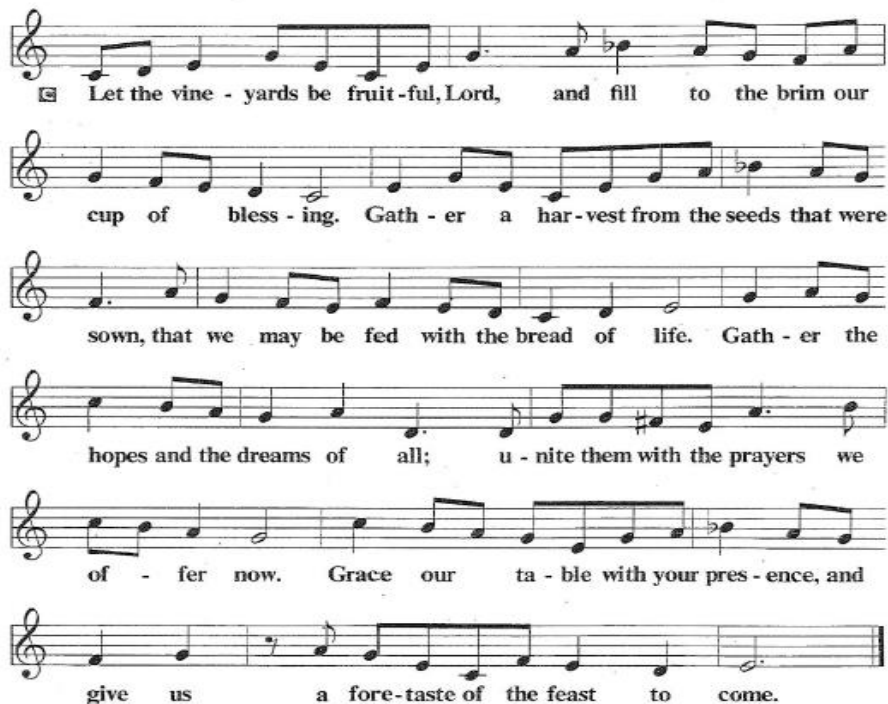
P: The peace of Christ be with you always. **C: And also with you.**

Worshippers may greet one another with “the Peace of Christ.”

The assembly may be seated.

* **OFFERING** In response to God's blessings, we offer our tithes to the Lord
HOLY COMMUNION – MEAL OF GRACE

* **OFFERTORY** Let the Vineyards



* **OFFERTORY PRAYER**

P: Abundant God, in Christ Jesus our Lord we are blessed in many ways. We are your people, the saints of God, who share in the glorious inheritance of new and eternal life in Christ. In thanksgiving we present our first fruits offering and ourselves as we come to your table of grace today. Fill us again with the gifts of your love, the body and blood of our Lord Jesus, so that we many live as a blessing for others for Your glory, in the name of Christ we pray.

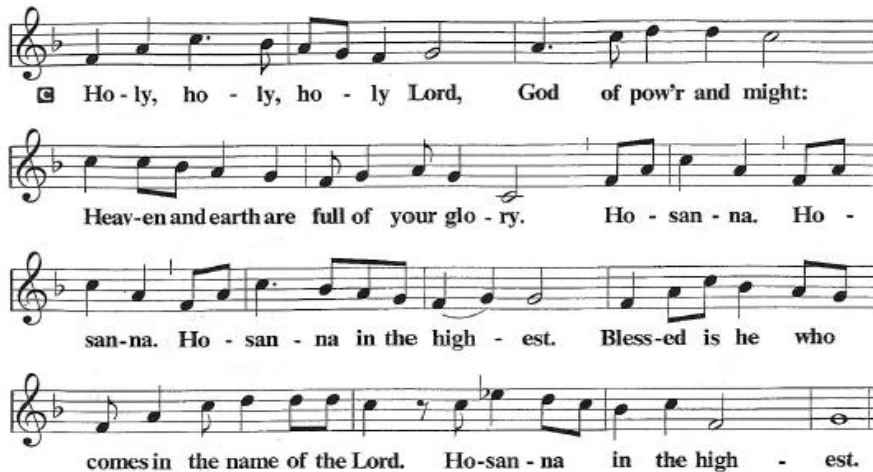
* **DIALOGUE AND PREFACE**

P: The Lord be with you. C: **And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts. C: **We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. C: **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

***HOLY, HOLY, HOLY**



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:
Heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -
san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

*** WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

*** LORD'S PRAYER**

*** INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

P: The Gifts of God for the People of God. C: **Thanks be to God!**

The assembly may be seated.

All are invited to receive Holy Communion.

COMMUNION SONG **Lamb of God**



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace.

The congregation is invited to stand.

*** COMMUNION BLESSING AND PRAYER**

P: God our Shepherd, you have gathered us again from scattered places and nourished us with rich food in word and sacrament. Go with us now, that we may seek the lost, bind up the injured, and strengthen the weak, until you gather us and all the saints into your eternal feast with Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

*** BLESSING**

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine upon you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace. Amen.

***SENDING HYMN “Oh, Happy Day When We Shall Stand”**

LBW 351

***DISMISSAL**

P: Saints of God, washed in the blood of the Lamb, remember that in Christ you are salt and light! Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify the Father as we go in peace and serve the Lord and our neighbor. **C: Thanks be to God!**

ALTAR FLOWERS are given to the Glory of God and in memory of Pate and Bobbie Brendle by Belinda Wilfong.

CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY. love and prayers are extended by the People of God at Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church to the family and loved ones of Brenda Cazire (Libby Travis’ mother) in their hour of bereavement. May God comfort all who mourn.



In the Grace Church Family:

Jeffry Bivens, Rick & Cindy Bivens, Glenda Childers, Pat Dietz, Lisa Childers Fox, Allen and Kay Hatchett, Larry Heavner, Lorene Heavner, Larry & Brenda Jarrett, Martha Johnson, Faye Lane, Harvey Leatherman, Phil &

Malinda Leatherman, Tim Leatherman, Betty Matheson, Joe Momier, Jane Moss, Christine Norman, Michael Norman, Tricia and Dan Panek, Mike, Debi & Stephen Pisko, Jennifer Bivens Skott, Helen Smith, Ethan Starnes, Sandi Tallant, Libby Travis, Shirley Warlick, Ken & Tirzah Welch, Scott & Carolyn Whisnant, and Nancy Willis.

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, David Baucom, Ashlee Bumgardner, Clinton Childers, Evelyn Childers, William Lynch, Randy & Rita Neill, Anita Sabino, and Scott Speagle. Prayers for world peace and for our church, the United States of America, 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

COMING UP AT GRACE THIS WEEK

Today: All Saints Sunday

9:30am – Sunday School

10:30am - Worship Celebration

After Worship: Annual Congregational Meeting

Wednesday

12:00pm – Fred T. Foard Seniors Luncheon at Plateau Community Church

6:30pm – Vespers with Bible Study – Reflection on the Psalms

HAPPY NOVEMBER BIRTHDAY TO:

November 7 – Stephanie Ratts

November 9 – Betty Matheson

November 9 – Wayne Powell

November 9 – Steven Mullins

November 23 – Alan Shull

UPCOMING EVENTS

November 16 –Deadline for Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes

November 23 Deadline to order Christmas Poinsettias.

November 26 Community Thanksgiving Service at Plateau, Dinner at 6:00 pm; Worship at 7:00 pm. Grace will be providing desserts.

November 29 Hanging of the Greens 10:00 am

November 30 First Sunday of Advent

December 3, 10, 17 Midweek Advent Services 6:30 pm

December 13 Wreaths Across America at 11:00 am at Union Church

December 24 (Wed.) Christmas Eve – Candlelight & Holy Communion 7:00 pm



CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS:

Order forms for Christmas poinsettias and a special offering envelope are available today.

Please place your order form along with payment inside the special envelope and give it to the ushers. Use the special envelope for the date that you place your poinsettia order and designate how much of

your offering is for poinsettias, the general fund, the building fund, etc. If you are not ordering poinsettias please just use your regular offering envelopes. The cost for each plant is \$12.00 and the deadline for ordering is Sunday, November 23.



WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA

Please join us on Saturday, December 13th at 11:00am to honor our veterans in the Grace Cemetery where their bodies have been laid to rest. No matter where they served or how, Wreaths Across America strives to ensure that no one is forgotten. The cost is \$20.00 per wreath. The deadline to order wreaths is Sunday, November 9th. Please ask one of the

ushers for an order form.



ASHURE MINISTRY FOOD ASK for the month of November is flour, cornmeal, or sugar. We are doing great things at Grace in helping feed the hungry in our own community. Let's try to donate 2,000 pounds in 2025! That would be around 170 pounds per month.

We can do it! Let's come together to help reach this goal! Year-to-date the disciples at Grace have donated 1,192 pounds of food.



THE HANGING OF THE GREENS is scheduled for Saturday, November 29th at 10:00 am. Please join us to decorate Grace Church for the celebration of the coming of our Lord.

Ministers of Grace – All the People of Grace
Pastor – Reverend Doug Hefner Board President – Tim Eckard
Lector – Stormy Shull Youth Leader – Stormy Shull
Altar Preparation – Cindy Bivens
Communion Assistants – Cindy Bivens & Shelly Scronce
Ushers – James Hall & Jack Wilfong
Offering Counters – Todd Childers & Sheila Drum