



**The Resurrection of our Lord**  
**April 20, 2025 • 10:30am**  
**Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church**



---

**4536 Hickory Lincolnton Highway, Newton, North Carolina 28658**

**Church Office: (704)462-1035 email: [gracenalcnewton@aol.com](mailto:gracenalcnewton@aol.com)**

**[www.gracelutheran-newton.org](http://www.gracelutheran-newton.org)**

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

**Sandi Tallant – Organist    Todd Childers – Administrative Assistant**

**Office Hours: Monday and Wednesday 9am to 1pm**

**Tuesday and Thursday 12pm to 4pm**

## **PRELUDE**

*The assembly stands.*

## **WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Alleluia! Christ is Risen! **Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

## **\*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

In the name of the Father and of the +Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Let us pray. Almighty God, in raising Jesus from the tomb you have given us the sure sign of your power to deliver us from sin and death and to renew our whole creation. We confess that we still fall into doubt and fear. We continue to cling to selfish ways and doubt your power to make all things new. Forgive our lack of faith. Have mercy on our weakness. Raise us from the death of sin that we may live with Christ in the joy of his resurrection, now and forever. **Amen**

Let us confess our sins before God and one another trusting that “if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”

Gracious Father, **You sent your Son to die and rise to new life in order that death might be brought to an end and that we might live a new life in Him. Yet we confess that we too often have chosen to remain captive to doubt and fear and ways that lead to death. By our thoughts, words, and actions, we have scorned your love, diminished the lives of others, and defaced your image in us. Father, forgive us for Jesus’ sake, and enable us by His resurrection power to live no longer for ourselves but for Him who died and rose again for us, in Jesus’ name. Amen.**

*Assurance of Forgiveness:*

Christ is Risen! He is risen indeed! The stone is rolled away, the tomb found empty. Mary Magdalene calls out, “I have seen the Lord!” We have seen Christ, too, in Word and Sacrament, in the body of Christ, the Church, in every helping hand, in every heartfelt gift, in every choice to restore life in this world. We are called to this new life, a life of forgiveness and love. You are forgiven in the name of the Father, Son + and Holy Spirit; accept your forgiveness and know that God loves you, grants you new life and fills you Christ’s resurrection power. **Amen**

**\*GATHERING HYMN: “CHRIST THE LORD IS RISEN TODAY” LBW128**

**\*GREETING**

Alleluia! Christ is Risen! **Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

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

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray. O God, you gave your only Son to suffer death on the cross for our redemption, and by his glorious resurrection you delivered us from the power of death. Make us die every day to sin, that we may live with him forever in the joy of the resurrection, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

*The assembly may be seated.*

**First Reading: Job 19:23-27**

<sup>23</sup>“Oh that my words were written! Oh that they were inscribed in a book! <sup>24</sup>Oh that with an iron pen and lead they were engraved in the rock forever! <sup>25</sup>For I know that my Redeemer lives, and at the last he will stand upon the earth. <sup>26</sup>And after my skin has been thus destroyed, yet in my flesh I shall see God, <sup>27</sup>whom I shall see for myself, and my eyes shall behold, and not another. My heart faints within me!”

The Word of the Lord **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 118:21-28 (Read responsively – Congregation bold verses)

<sup>21</sup>I will give thanks to you, for you answered me and have become my salvation.

<sup>22</sup>**The same stone which the builders rejected has become the chief | cornerstone.**

<sup>23</sup>This is | the LORD’s doing, and it is marvelous | in our eyes.

<sup>24</sup>**On this day the LORD has acted; we will rejoice and be glad in it.**

<sup>25</sup>Hosannah, LORD, hosannah! LORD, send us now success.

<sup>26</sup>**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the LORD; we bless you from the house | of the LORD.**

<sup>27</sup>God is the LORD; he has shined upon us; form a procession with branches up to the horns of the altar.

<sup>28</sup>**“You are my God, and I will thank you; you are my God, and I will exalt you.”**

## **SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 15:20-26, 50-58**

<sup>50</sup>What I am saying, brothers and sisters, is this: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. <sup>51</sup>Listen, I will tell you a mystery! We will not all die, but we will all be changed, <sup>52</sup>in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. <sup>53</sup>For this perishable body must put on imperishability, and this mortal body must put on immortality. <sup>54</sup>When this perishable body puts on imperishability, and this mortal body puts on immortality, then the saying that is written will be fulfilled: "Death has been swallowed up in victory."<sup>55</sup>"Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?"<sup>56</sup>The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. <sup>57</sup>But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>58</sup>Therefore, my beloved, be steadfast, immovable, always excelling in the work of the Lord, because you know that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.  
The Word of the Lord   **Thanks be to God.**

*The assembly stands to welcome the gospel.*

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: "Jesus Christ Is Risen Today" LBW 151 (verse 1 & 3)**

*1 Jesus Christ is ris'n today, Alleluia! our triumphant holy day, Alleluia!  
who did once upon the cross, Alleluia! Suffer to redeem our loss. Alleluia!*

*3 But the pains which he endured, Alleluia! our salvation have procured; Alleluia!  
now above the sky he's king, Alleluia! Where the angels ever sing. Alleluia!*

## **GOSPEL: LUKE 24:13-35**

The holy gospel according to St. Luke.   **Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>13</sup>That very day two of them were going to a village named Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, <sup>14</sup>and they were talking with each other about all these things that had happened. <sup>15</sup>While they were talking and discussing together, Jesus himself drew near and went with them. <sup>16</sup>But their eyes were kept from recognizing him. <sup>17</sup>And he said to them, "What is this conversation that you are holding with each other as you walk?" And they stood still, looking sad. <sup>18</sup>Then one of them, named Cleopas, answered him, "Are you the only visitor to Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?" <sup>19</sup>And he said to them, "What things?" And they said to him, "Concerning Jesus of Nazareth, a man who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, <sup>20</sup>and how our chief priests and rulers delivered him up to be condemned to death, and crucified him. <sup>21</sup>But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things happened. <sup>22</sup>Moreover, some women of our company amazed us. They were at the tomb

early in the morning, <sup>23</sup> and when they did not find his body, they came back saying that they had even seen a vision of angels, who said that he was alive. <sup>24</sup> Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but him they did not see.” <sup>25</sup> And he said to them, “O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! <sup>26</sup> Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?” <sup>27</sup> And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself.

<sup>28</sup> So they drew near to the village to which they were going. He acted as if he were going farther, <sup>29</sup> but they urged him strongly, saying, “Stay with us, for it is toward evening and the day is now far spent.” So he went in to stay with them. <sup>30</sup> When he was at table with them, he took the bread and blessed and broke it and gave it to them. <sup>31</sup> And their eyes were opened, and they recognized him. And he vanished from their sight. <sup>32</sup> They said to each other, “Did not our hearts burn within us while he talked to us on the road, while he opened to us the Scriptures?” <sup>33</sup> And they rose that same hour and returned to Jerusalem. And they found the eleven and those who were with them gathered together, <sup>34</sup> saying, “The Lord has risen indeed, and has appeared to Simon!” <sup>35</sup> Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he was known to them in the breaking of the bread.

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ**

*The assembly is seated.*

## **CHILDREN’S/YOUTH MESSAGE**

**SERMON “Because He Lives We Have New Hope and Resurrected Life!”**

**Pastor Doug Hefner**

*The assembly stands.*

**HYMN OF THE DAY: “Because He Lives, I Can Face Tomorrow”**

**TCH 358**

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

*Worshippers may kneel (or sit).*

## **SHARING OF THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

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

*The assembly stands.*

*Worshippers may greet one another with “the Peace of Christ” or similar words.*

*The assembly is seated.*

**OFFERING In response to God’s blessings, we offer our tithes to the Lord.**

## **HOLY COMMUNION – MEAL OF GRACE**

### **\* OFFERTORY**

**Let the Vineyards**

**LBW p. 66**

### **\*OFFERTORY PRAYER**

Let us pray. Blessed are you, O God, ruler of heaven and earth. On this glorious day we give thanks for the victory that our Lord has won over sin and death. C: **As you have raised us to new life in Christ, give us glad and generous hearts, ready to praise you and share your blessings with those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

### **\* DIALOGUE AND PREFACE**

**LBW p. 68**

### **\* HOLY, HOLY, HOLY**

**LBW p. 69**

### **\* WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

**LBW p. 70**

### **\* THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**LBW p. 71**

### **\* 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 as we sing Lamb of God LBW p. 72**

**HYMN DURING COMMUNION: “I Know That My Redeemer Lives” LBW 352**

1. I know that my Redeemer lives! What comfort this sweet sentence gives!

He lives, he lives, who once was dead; he lives, my ever-living head!

2. He lives triumphant from the grave; he lives eternally to save;  
he lives exalted, throned above; he lives to rule his church in love.

3. He lives to grant me rich supply; he lives to guide me with his eye;  
he lives to comfort me when faint; he lives to hear my soul's complaint.

4. He lives to silence all my fears; he lives to wipe away my tears;  
he lives to calm my troubled heart; he lives all blessings to impart.

8. He lives, all glory to his name! He lives, my Savior, still the same.

what joy this blest assurance gives: I know that my Redeemer lives!

*(assembly stands)*

### **\*BLESSING AND CANTICLE**

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ bless you and keep you in His grace now and always. C: **Amen**

**We sing: Thank the Lord and sing his praise; tell everyone what he has done. Let all who seek the Lord rejoice and proudly bear his name. He recalls his promises and leads his people forth in joy with shouts of thanksgiving. Alleluia. Alleluia.**

## **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION:**

Let us pray. Lord Jesus, in this wonderful sacrament you strengthen us with the saving power of your suffering, death, and resurrection. May this sacrament of your body and blood so work in us that the fruits of your redemption will show forth in the way we live, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

**PASTORAL BLESSING** The Lord bless you and keep you.... **C: Amen**

**SENDING SONG: “Thine is The Glory!” .....LBW#145**

## **DISMISSAL**

Christ is risen and that changes everything! Renewed in Christ’s victory over sin and death, let us go in peace and share the good news of God’s love in word and deed!

**Thanks be to God.**

## **POSTLUDE:**



### **In the Grace Church Family:**

Jeffry Bivens, Rick & Cindy Bivens, Glenda Childers, Pat Dietz, Allen and Kay Hatchett, Larry Heavner, Lorene Heavner, Larry & Brenda Jarrett, Martha Johnson, Faye Lane, Phil & Malinda Leatherman, Tim Leatherman, Betty Matheson, Joe Momier, 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, Nancy Willis, and Jack Wilfong.

**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, Keith Bumgardner, Evelyn Childers, Phillip Pringle, Missy Robinette, Kelly Wesson, the daughters of Libby and Herb Travis, the family of Joab Cotton, the family of Dusty Ferrell, 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.

**ALTAR FLOWERS** for Sunday, April 13<sup>th</sup>, were given by Lula Ingle. Thank you, Lula, for your kind donation and we regret the omission in last week’s bulletin.

## **CAROLINAS MISSION REGION CONVOCATION**

The annual Carolinas Mission Region Convocation will take place on May 2nd and May 3<sup>rd</sup> at Christ's Lutheran Church in Stanley, NC. Grace will be represented by Rick Bivens (Lay Delegate), Cindy Bivens (Lay Visitor), and Todd Childers.

## **RIGHTNOW MEDIA**

Don't forget to activate your free membership to RightNow Media, the world's largest streaming library of video Bible study resources. You should have received an email invitation for FREE access – if you haven't received it yet, be sure to check your spam or promotions folder. To get started, simply click the link in the email, create your free account, and start browsing more than 20,000 inspiring videos. We pray that RightNow Media will be a blessing to you and your family!

Visit <https://app.rightnowmedia.org/join/glcnc> OR text the code GLCNC to 49775.

## **VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL**

Vacation Bible School will take place at Grace from June 1<sup>st</sup> to June 5<sup>th</sup>. Other participating churches are Sardis Lutheran, Zion Lutheran, Old St. Paul's Lutheran, Wesley Chapel Methodist, and Plateau Community Church. A team meeting will be held on Monday, April 28<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm in Fellowship Hall.

## **COMING UP AT GRACE THIS WEEK**

### **Today: Resurrection of Our Lord**

7:00 am – Sunrise Service in Union Church – Easter Breakfast to follow in Fellowship Hall

9:15 am – Sunday School

10:30am - Worship Celebration in Main Sanctuary

**Tuesday:** Deadline for newsletter submissions.

**Wednesday:**

*There will be no Wednesday Service this week. We will resume Wednesday services on April 30<sup>th</sup>.*

*Ministers of Grace – All the People of Grace*

*Pastor – Reverend Doug Hefner      Board President – Tim Eckard*

*Lector – Todd Childers      Youth Leader – Stormy Shull*

*Altar Preparation & Communion Assistants – Rick & Cindy Bivens*

*Ushers – Jason Yoder & Jeff Scronce*

*Offering Counters – Todd Childers & Gary Leatherman*