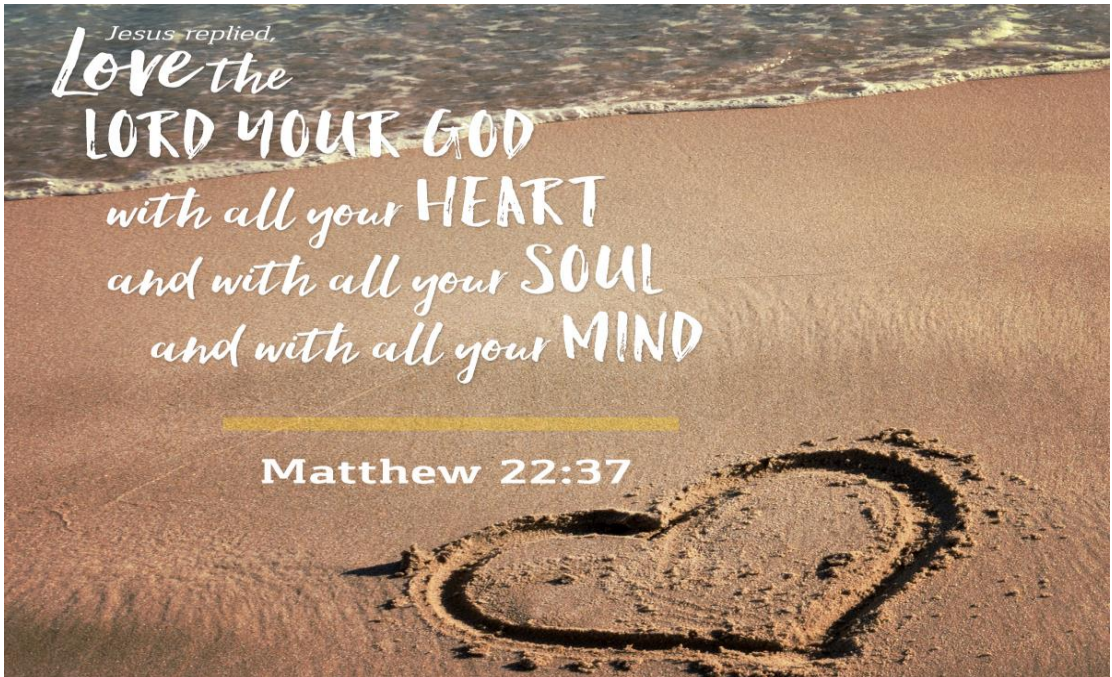


# Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 18, 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](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/Wednesday 9am to 1pm; Tuesday/Thursday 12 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**      *(All Hymns today are in our song sheet insert)*

**PRELUDE**    *Please observe silence for meditation and prayer.*

## **WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **\* 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:** Let us pray: 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:** In the presence of God, who sees our hearts and our minds, who forgives all our sins, whose mercy endures forever, 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.**

**P:** We are reconciled to God through Christ; for his sake, God does not count our trespasses against us. Once dead in sin, we are now alive to God. Once lost, we now are found. God clothes us in the finest robe of all, the righteous of Jesus Christ our Lord, so

that we can enjoy the joy of our salvation and with our lives proclaim the Gospel to the world. In the mercy of almighty God, Christ died for us and rose again, and by His authority I declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **C: Amen.**

\* **GATHERING HYMN**    **“Come We That Love the Lord (Marching to Zion)”**

\* **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**

P: God of truth and love, hear our prayer for those who do not know You. We ask that they may come to a saving knowledge of Your salvation in Christ Jesus and that Your Name may be praised among all peoples of the world. Sustain, inspire and enlighten Your servants who bring them the Gospel. Bring fresh vigor to wavering faith and continually renew missionary zeal in Your Church. Empower us to be witnesses of Your goodness, full of love, strength and faith – for Your glory and the salvation of the world. Grant this, we pray, through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **C: Amen.** *The congregation may be seated.*

**FIRST READING: Exodus 3:7-17**

<sup>7</sup> Then the Lord said, “I have surely seen the affliction of my people who are in Egypt and have heard their cry because of their taskmasters. I know their sufferings, <sup>8</sup> and I have come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey, to the place of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. <sup>9</sup> And now, behold, the cry of the people of Israel has come to me, and I have also seen the oppression with which the Egyptians oppress them. <sup>10</sup> Come, I will send you to Pharaoh that you may bring my people, the children of Israel, out of Egypt.” <sup>11</sup> But Moses said to God, “Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the children of Israel out of Egypt?” <sup>12</sup> He said, “But I will be with you, and this shall be the sign for you, that I have sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall serve God on this mountain.”

<sup>13</sup> Then Moses said to God, “If I come to the people of Israel and say to them, ‘The God of your fathers has sent me to you,’ and they ask me, ‘What is his name?’ what shall I say to them?” <sup>14</sup> God said to Moses, “I am who I am.” And he said, “Say this to the people of Israel: ‘I am has sent me to you.’” <sup>15</sup> God also said to Moses, “Say this to the people of Israel: ‘The Lord, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of

Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you.’ This is my name forever, and thus I am to be remembered throughout all generations. <sup>16</sup> Go and gather the elders of Israel together and say to them, ‘The Lord, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, of Isaac, and of Jacob, has appeared to me, saying, “I have observed you and what has been done to you in Egypt, <sup>17</sup> and I promise that I will bring you up out of the affliction of Egypt to the land of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites, a land flowing with milk and honey.”’

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

## **SECOND READING: Romans 12:1-8**

I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. <sup>2</sup> Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

<sup>3</sup> For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. <sup>4</sup> For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, <sup>5</sup> so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. <sup>6</sup> Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; <sup>7</sup> if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; <sup>8</sup> the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness.

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

## **\* GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

***Chorus: Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet And a light unto my path Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet And a light unto my path***

Verse: When I feel afraid    And I think I've lost my way Still You're there right beside me  
Nothing will I fear As long as You are near Please be near me to the end (***Chorus***)

## **\*GOSPEL: Matthew 22 and Matthew 28**

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

### **The Great Commandment: Matthew 22:34-40**

<sup>34</sup> But when the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together. <sup>35</sup> And one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. <sup>36</sup> “Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?” <sup>37</sup> And he said to him, ***“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.”*** <sup>38</sup> ***This is the great and first commandment.*** <sup>39</sup> ***And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself.*** <sup>40</sup> On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.”

### **The Great Commission: Matthew 28:16-20**

<sup>16</sup> Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. <sup>17</sup> And when they saw him they worshiped him, but some doubted. <sup>18</sup> And Jesus came and said to them, ***“All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.”*** <sup>19</sup> ***Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,*** <sup>20</sup> ***teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”***

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

*The congregation may be seated.*

## **CHILDREN’S MESSAGE**



**SERMON** ***“The Risen Lord Sends Us Out in Mission to Love and Proclaim the Good News!”***

***Pastor Doug***

**\*HYMN OF THE DAY** ***“The Lord of the Dance”*** (See song sheet)

## **\*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

**ANTHEM**

## **HOLY COMMUNION – MEAL OF GRACE**

### **\*OFFERTORY PRAYER**

P: God of abundance, *C: we bring before you the precious fruits of your creation, and with them the offering of our very lives. Teach us patience and hope as we care for all those in need and nourish us in Your with your love and presence in this meal of grace until the coming of your Son, our Savior and Lord, in whose name we pray. Amen.*

## **DIALOGUE**

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

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

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C: It is good and right to give God our thanks and praise.**

**\*WORDS OF INSTITUTION** "In the night in which our Lord..."

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

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

### **\* 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**

*The congregation is invited to stand.*

\* **COMMUNION BLESSING AND PRAYER**

P: Tender and merciful God, at your feast, you fed us who brought nothing, turning our emptiness to joy. ***C: Filled with your abundant grace, send us now to be ministers of reconciliation, mending broken hearts, working for justice, and striving for peace among all people, in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen***

**\*BLESSING** The Lord bless you..... **C: Amen.**

\* **SENDING HYMN** “When the Roll is Called Up Yonder”

\* **DISMISSAL**

P: In Your love for us, O God, you have given us the Great Commandment and Commission to guide our life of discipleship. Fill us with Christ’s resurrection power and the Holy Spirit that we might go in peace and joy into all the world, baptizing and teaching and loving in the name of Jesus! **C: Thanks be to God!**

**POSTLUDE**

**ALTAR FLOWERS** are given to the Glory of God and in memory of Hazel Medlin by Todd Childers.



**In the Grace Church Family:**

Jeffrey 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, Candace Brown, Caleb Bumgardner & family, Jessica Cassels & family, Clinton Childers, Evelyn Childers, Trey McCrary, Ryan McMullen, Randy Neill, Scott Owens, Katie Patton, Jon Pilkenton, Mel Raybourne, Kathy Rihani, Keith Steinback, Cheryl Thomas, Monica Thomas, Greyson Weaver, the family of Kelly Wesson, 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: Fifth Sunday of Easter** 9:15am – Sunday School 10:30am - Worship

**Monday:** 6:00pm – Leadership Ministry Board Meeting

**Wednesday:** 6:30pm – Evening Vespers Service at Union Church *(We will review Chapters 4 and 5 to complete 1 Peter on May 21. We will not meet May 28 and will be take a break over the summer and reassess if Grace wants this to continue.)*

**GRACE PRAYER LUNCHEON** – Wednesday, May 21<sup>st</sup> at 12 noon in Fellowship Hall.  
Please add this to your calendars!

**CHANGE TO WORSHIP ASSISTANTS SIGN UP PROCESS** Previously, we have asked worship assistants to commit to serving for an entire month. Now, to be more flexible and give more people an opportunity to participate, worship assistants can serve for an entire month if they like or just a single Sunday (or 2 or 3). A sign-up sheet for all dates from June to September will be available today. Please let us know when you can serve in any role. Thank you in advance for your willingness to serve!

**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. Please reach out to the VBS team if you would like to participate.

## **SOLID ROCK NALC DAY CAMP**

Calling all children grades K- 5th... Day Camp is coming your way! Hosted by: Grace Lutheran Church and the Carolinas Mission Region Day Camp Team and Counselors. On Sunday June 15, 5 college age camp counselors will worship with us and then oversee the camp for the week ahead. **When: The week of Monday, June 16 – Friday, June 20. Monday – Thursday 9 am - 4 pm, and on Friday only 9 am- 12pm** Bible study, singing, games, crafts, skits, and lots of fun! Friends welcome! Cost is only \$100 for a full week of growing in the faith, childcare and lots of fun! Ask your home church to help sponsor you! Don't let cost get in the way. We can find scholarships somewhere if you are interested! Contact Pastor Doug Hefner.

*Ministers of Grace – All the People of Grace Pastor – Reverend Doug Hefner  
Board President – Tim Eckard Lector – Stormy Shull Youth Leader – Stormy Shull  
Altar Prep – Rick & Cindy Bivens Communion Assistants – Cindy Bivens & Sheila Drum  
Ushers – Wayne Powell & Jason Yoder Offering Counters – Todd Childers & Jason Yoder*