

First Sunday in Lent

March 9, 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

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

The congregation is invited to stand.

*** BRIEF ORDER OF CONFSSION AND FORGIVENESS**

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

P Blessed be the name of the Holy Trinity: the Father, the + Son, and the Holy Spirit.

C Amen

P Heavenly Father, merciful and holy, in you we live and move and have our being. Look upon us, your children, the work of your hands. 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 and renew us in the power of your Holy Spirit; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen

P Sisters and brothers, bear with one another in love, maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace, and take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them in the light of Christ.(2 Corinthians 13:11) Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and one another trusting in the grace, mercy and forgiveness of Christ our Lord.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

P Holy and gracious God,

C We confess that we have not led a life worthy of the calling to which we have been called. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our

neighbors as ourselves. We have not acted according to you will. We have grieved your Holy Spirit. Have mercy on us and forgive us according to the riches of your grace. In Christ make us holy and blameless before you in love, so that we might live to the praise of your glory. Amen

P Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore 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** “Beneath the Cross of Jesus”

LBW 107

*** 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: Holy God, you journey with your people through the wilderness days of our lives. Guide us by your Spirit that we might repent and return to you; believe with our hearts and confess with our mouths that Jesus Christ is Lord. We ask this through Jesus Christ, 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: Deuteronomy 8:1-8

“The whole commandment that I command you today you shall be careful to do, that you may live and multiply, and go in and possess the land that the Lord swore to give to your fathers. ² And you shall remember the whole way that the Lord your God has led you these forty years in the wilderness, that he might humble you, testing you to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep his commandments or not. ³ And he humbled you and let you hunger and fed you with manna, which you did not know, nor did your fathers know, that he might make you know that man does not live by bread alone, but man lives by every word^[a] that comes from the mouth of the Lord. ⁴ Your clothing did not wear out on you and your foot did not swell these forty years. ⁵ Know then in your heart that, as a man disciplines his son, the Lord your God disciplines you. ⁶ So you shall keep the commandments of the Lord your God by walking in his ways and by fearing him. ⁷ For the Lord your God is bringing you into a good land, a land of brooks of water, of fountains

and springs, flowing out in the valleys and hills, ⁸a land of wheat and barley, of vines and fig trees and pomegranates, a land of olive trees and honey, ⁹a land in which you will eat bread without scarcity, in which you will lack nothing, a land whose stones are iron, and out of whose hills you can dig copper. ¹⁰And you shall eat and be full, and you shall bless the Lord your God for the good land he has given you.

¹¹“Take care lest you forget the Lord your God by not keeping his commandments and his rules and his statutes, which I command you today, ¹²lest, when you have eaten and are full and have built good houses and live in them, ¹³and when your herds and flocks multiply and your silver and gold is multiplied and all that you have is multiplied, ¹⁴then your heart be lifted up, and you forget the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, ¹⁵who led you through the great and terrifying wilderness, with its fiery serpents and scorpions and thirsty ground where there was no water, who brought you water out of the flinty rock, ¹⁶who fed you in the wilderness with manna that your fathers did not know, that he might humble you and test you, to do you good in the end. ¹⁷Beware lest you say in your heart, ‘My power and the might of my hand have gotten me this wealth.’ ¹⁸You shall remember the Lord your God, for it is he who gives you power to get wealth, that he may confirm his covenant that he swore to your fathers, as it is this day.

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

Psalm 6: 1-9 One of the Penitential Psalms

Lord, do not rebuke me in your anger or discipline me in your wrath.

**²Have mercy on me, Lord, for I am faint;
heal me, Lord, for my bones are in agony.**

³My soul is in deep anguish. How long, Lord, how long?

⁴Turn, Lord, and deliver me; save me because of your unfailing love.

⁵Among the dead no one proclaims your name. Who praises you from the grave?

⁶I am worn out from my groaning. All night long I flood my bed with weeping and drench my couch with tears.

⁷My eyes grow weak with sorrow; they fail because of all my foes.

⁸Away from me, all you who do evil, for the Lord has heard my weeping.

⁹The Lord has heard my cry for mercy; the Lord accepts my prayer.

Second Reading: Romans 10: 8b-13

^{8b}“The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart” (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); ⁹because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved. ¹¹For the Scripture says, “Everyone who believes in him will not be put to shame.” ¹²For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same Lord is Lord of all, bestowing his riches on all who call on him. ¹³For “everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”

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

The congregation is invited to stand.

* **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION “Return to the Lord”**

LBW p. 63

Gospel: Luke 4:1-13

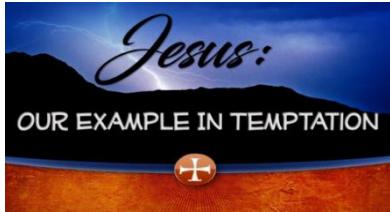
P: The holy gospel according to St. Luke. C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness ²for forty days, being tempted by the devil. And he ate nothing during those days. And when they were ended, he was hungry. ³The devil said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become bread.” ⁴And Jesus answered him, “It is written, ‘Man shall not live by bread alone.’” ⁵And the devil took him up and showed him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time, ⁶and said to him, “To you I will give all this authority and their glory, for it has been delivered to me, and I give it to whom I will. ⁷If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours.” ⁸And Jesus answered him, “It is written, “You shall worship the Lord your God, and him only shall you serve.”” ⁹And he took him to Jerusalem and set him on the pinnacle of the temple and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, ¹⁰for it is written, “He will command his angels concerning you, to guard you,’ ¹¹and “On their hands they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone.”” ¹²And Jesus answered him, “It is said, ‘You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.’” ¹³And when the devil had ended every temptation, he departed from him until an opportune time.

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

The congregation may be seated.

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE



SERMON

“Through Christ and His Word We Can Overcome Temptation” Pastor Doug

***HYMN OF THE DAY** “O Lord, throughout These Forty Days”
Alt. tune: St. Anne (O God Our Help In Ages Past)

LBW 99

***THE APOSTLES’ CREED**

LBW p. 65

***PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

LBW p. 65

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.

Worshipers 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 LBW p. 66

* **OFFERTORY PRAYER**

P: Let us pray. God of glory, you have not fed us with bread alone, but with Words of grace and life. Filled with Your blessings, receive these gifts and the offering of our lives. As Jesus was lifted up from the earth, draw us to your heart in the midst of this world, that all creation may be brought from bondage to freedom, from darkness to light, and from death to life; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

* **DIALOGUE AND PREFACE** LBW p. 68

* **HOLY, HOLY, HOLY** LBW p. 69

* **WORDS OF INSTITUTION** LBW p. 70

* **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

COMMUNION SONG

Lamb of God

LBW p. 72

COMMUNION HYMN

“When Peace, Like a River”

LBW 346

The congregation is invited to stand.

*** COMMUNION BLESSING AND PRAYER**

P: Merciful God, we give thanks for the meal of grace that has nourished our faith. As we continue our Lenten journey through these forty days, we ask that You would renew us in the gift of baptism, that we may provide for those who are poor, pray for those in need, fast from self-indulgence, and above all that we may find our treasure in the life of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

*** SENDING HYMN “Jesus, Still Lead On”**

LBW 341

*** DISMISSAL**

P: Walking in the victory of Christ over sin, death and the devil, let us go in peace and joy to serve the Lord and our neighbor.

C: Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

Grace Prayer List

In the Grace Church Family: Herb Travis is at April's home with palliative care- please keep Herb and Libby and family in your prayers.

Jeffry Bivens, Rick & Cindy Bivens, Glenda Childers, Pat Dietz, Allen and Kay Hatchett, Larry Heavner, Lorene Heavner, Larry & Brenda Jarrett, Martha Johnson, Faye Lane, Cole Leatherman, Phil & Malinda Leatherman, Tim Leatherman, Betty Matheson, Joe Momier, Jane Moss, Christine Norman, Tricia and Dan Panek, Michael, Debi & Stephen Pisko, Ethan Starnes, Sandi Tallant, Shirley Warlick, Scott, Carolyn Whisnant, Nancy Willis, and Jack Wilfong who is home from the hospital.

Nursing Home: Juanita Haas (Trinity Village), Ted Whisnant (Trinity Village), Helen Smith (Cardinal Health)

Friends and Relatives in our Prayers: Pray for Peace in Israel and the World, New Covenant Lutheran Mission Church, Randy Neill (Shelia Drum's brother), Bobby Aderholdt, Jimmy Aderholdt, LeAnn Buckwell, Caleb Bumgarner & Family, Jessica Cassels & Family, Evelyn Childers, Guy Franzen, Wendy Hannah, J.C., Lily Rose, Randy Neill, Mel Raybourne, Angela Sanford, Jeffry Smith, Scott Speagle, Zachary Speagle and Amber, Nathan Starnes, Ed Tanzman, Monica Thomas, 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.

ADDRESS FOR HERB & LIBBY TRAVIS:

If you would like to send a card of encouragement to Herb and Libby they are staying with Libby's daughter at 1926 45th Ave. Place NE Hickory, NC 28601

COMING UP AT GRACE THIS WEEK

Today: First Sunday in Lent

9:15am – Sunday School

10:30am - Worship Celebration

Wednesday:

6:30pm – Lenten Vespers Service at Grace Union Church

Special Dates and Events Coming Soon

Sunday March 16, 3:00pm – LR A Cappella Choir at Daniels Lutheran Church

Wednesday Vespers Service During Lent: March 12, 19, 26, April 2 & 9

We will have a short worship service with first person monologues presented by Pastor Doug. The theme will be “Friend of Sinners – Dinner with Jesus!”

Sun, April 13, Palm/Passion Sunday Procession of Palms /Reading of Luke's Passion

Thurs., April 17, 6:30pm Maundy Thursday Service

Fri., April 18, 6:30pm Good Friday Service

Sunday, April 20 Resurrection of our Lord! Sunrise Service at 6:45am followed by Easter Breakfast. Sunday School at 9:15am, and Easter Service at 10:30am.

Ministers of Grace

All the People of Grace

Pastor

Reverend Doug Hefner

Board President

Tim Eckard

Organist

Sandi Tallant

Lector

Todd Childers

Youth Leader

Stormy Shull

Ushers

Jason Yoder, Jeff Scronce

Altar Preparation

Rick & Cindy Bivens

Communion Assistants

Rick & Cindy Bivens

Offering Counters

Todd Childers & Gary Leatherman

Administrative Assistant

Todd Childers