

# Second Sunday of Easter

April 27, 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 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**

*The congregation is invited to stand.*

\* **BRIEF ORDER OF CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

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

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who gives us a new birth into a living hope by raising us with Christ from death, and fills us with the power of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

P: Heavenly Father, merciful and holy, while we were still sinners your Son our Lord Jesus died for us and rose again to give us victory over sin and death. 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**

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.

Living God,

**C: we confess before you and one another our futile ways, our pursuit of perishable things, our own part in crucifying the Lord Jesus. Forgive us, O God; renew your**

**people and all creation; and give us the assurance that you have rescued us from the power of sin and made us alive in the Spirit forever. Amen.**

Christ suffered for sins once for all in order to bring you to God. Now you are God's people; now you have received mercy. In the name of the risen + Lord Jesus, and by his authority, I declare to you that your sins are forgiven. Lay aside guilt, put away shame, for you are chosen and precious in God's sight. Live in the marvelous light of Christ.

**C: Amen.**

**\* GATHERING HYMN    “Christ Is Risen! Alleluia!”**

**LBW 131**

**\* GREETING**

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen. **C: Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

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: Living God, in the midst of our doubts and fears you bring your peace and presence through the wounded hands of Christ. Breathe on us the power of your Spirit, increase our faith, and quell our doubts and fears; 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: Acts 5:12-20**

<sup>12</sup>Now many signs and wonders were regularly done among the people by the hands of the apostles. And they were all together in Solomon's Portico. <sup>13</sup>None of the rest dared join them, but the people held them in high esteem. <sup>14</sup>And more than ever believers were added to the Lord, multitudes of both men and women, <sup>15</sup>so that they even carried out the sick into the streets and laid them on cots and mats, that as Peter came by at least his shadow might fall on some of them. <sup>16</sup>The people also gathered from the towns around Jerusalem, bringing the sick and those afflicted with unclean spirits, and they were all healed. <sup>17</sup>But the high priest rose up, and all who were with him (that is, the party of the Sadducees), and filled with jealousy <sup>18</sup>they arrested the apostles and put them in the public prison. <sup>19</sup>But during the night an angel of the Lord opened the prison doors and brought them out, and said, <sup>20</sup>“Go and stand in the temple and speak to the people all the words of this Life.”

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

## **PSALM 148**

<sup>1</sup>Praise the LORD! Praise the LORD from the heavens; praise him in the heights!

**<sup>2</sup>Praise him, all his angels; praise him, all his hosts!**

<sup>3</sup>Praise him, sun and moon, praise him, all you shining stars!

**<sup>4</sup>Praise him, you highest heavens, and you waters above the heavens!**

<sup>5</sup>Let them praise the name of the LORD! For he commanded and they were created.

**<sup>6</sup>And he established them forever and ever; he gave a decree, and it shall not pass away.**

<sup>7</sup>Praise the LORD from the earth, you great sea creatures and all deeps,

**<sup>8</sup>fire and hail, snow and mist, stormy wind fulfilling his word!**

<sup>9</sup>Mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars!

**<sup>10</sup>Beasts and all livestock, creeping things and flying birds!**

<sup>11</sup>Kings of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the earth!

**<sup>12</sup>Young men and maidens together, old men and children!**

<sup>13</sup>Let them praise the name of the LORD, for his name alone is exalted; his majesty is above earth and heaven.

**<sup>14</sup>He has raised up a horn for his people, praise for all his saints, for the people of Israel who are near to him. Praise the LORD!**

## **SECOND READING: Revelation 1:4-18**

<sup>4</sup>John to the seven churches that are in Asia: 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, <sup>5</sup>and 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 <sup>6</sup>and made us a kingdom, priests to his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen. <sup>7</sup>Behold, 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. <sup>8</sup>“I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God, “who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.” <sup>9</sup>I, John, your brother and partner in the tribulation and the kingdom and the patient endurance that are in Jesus, was on the island called Patmos on account of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus. <sup>10</sup>I was in the Spirit on the Lord’s day, and I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet <sup>11</sup>saying, “Write what you see in a book and send it to the seven churches, to Ephesus and to Smyrna and to Pergamum and to Thyatira and to Sardis and to Philadelphia and to Laodicea.” <sup>12</sup>Then I turned to see the voice that was speaking to me, and on turning I saw seven golden lampstands, <sup>13</sup>and in the midst of the lampstands one like a son of man, clothed with a long robe and with a golden sash around his chest. <sup>14</sup>The hairs of his head were white, like white wool, like snow. His eyes were like a flame of fire, <sup>15</sup>his feet were like burnished bronze, refined in a furnace, and his voice

was like the roar of many waters. <sup>16</sup>In his right hand he held seven stars, from his mouth came a sharp two-edged sword, and his face was like the sun shining in full strength. <sup>17</sup>When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. But he laid his right hand on me, saying, “Fear not, I am the first and the last, <sup>18</sup>and the living one. I died, and behold I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of Death and Hades.”

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” LBW p. 62**

**GOSPEL: John 20:19-31**

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

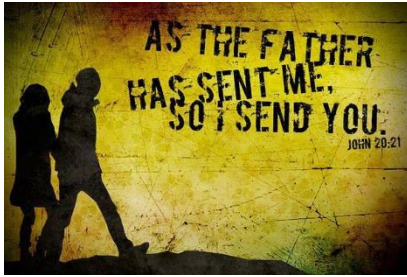
<sup>19</sup>On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being locked where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, “Peace be with you.” <sup>20</sup>When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. <sup>21</sup>Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you.” <sup>22</sup>And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. <sup>23</sup>If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you withhold forgiveness from any, it is withheld.” <sup>24</sup>Now Thomas, one of the twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. <sup>25</sup>So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord.” But he said to them, “Unless I see in his hands the mark of the nails, and place my finger into the mark of the nails, and place my hand into his side, I will never believe.” <sup>26</sup>Eight days later, his disciples were inside again, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” <sup>27</sup>Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side. Do not disbelieve, but believe.” <sup>28</sup>Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!” <sup>29</sup>Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.” <sup>30</sup>Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; <sup>31</sup>but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

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

*The congregation may be seated.*

**CHILDREN’S MESSAGE**

## **SERMON**



*“Because He Lives We Have Christ’s Peace, Pardon, Power, and Purpose”*

*Pastor Doug*

**\*HYMN OF THE DAY** “Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing” LBW 144

**\*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.**

*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 LBW p. 66

**\* OFFERTORY PRAYER**

P: Blessed are you, **C: O God, ruler of heaven and earth. Day by day you shower us with blessings. As you have raised us to new life in Christ, give us glad and generous hearts, ready to praise you and to respond to 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

**\* 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**

**“Children of the Heavenly Father”**

**LBW 474**

*The congregation is invited to stand.*

\* **COMMUNION BLESSING AND PRAYER**

P: Life-giving God, in the mystery of Christ's resurrection you send light to conquer darkness, water to give new life, and the bread of life to nourish your people. Send us forth as witnesses to your Son's resurrection, that we may show your glory to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord.

**C: Amen.**

\* **BLESSING**

\* **SENDING HYMN** **“Up From the Grave He Arose (Christ Arose)”** **TCH 357**

\* **DISMISSAL**

P: The risen Lord has breathed new life into us and send us out to proclaim the Good News of His love to all the world. Let us go forth now in the peace of our risen Lord and love God and our neighbor in word and deed.

**C: 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, Candace Brown, Caleb Bumgardner & family, Jessica Cassels & family, Clinton Childers, Evelyn Childers, Ryan

McMullen, Katie Patton, 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.

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

**Today: Second Sunday of Easter**

9:15am – Sunday School 10:30am - Worship Celebration

**Monday:**

6:30 pm Vacation Bible School team meeting at Fellowship Hall

**Wednesday:**

6:30pm – Evening Vespers Service at Union Church

### **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.

### **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.

*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 – Rick & Cindy Bivens*

*Communion Assistants – Cindy Bivens & Sheila Drum*

*Ushers – Wayne Powell & Todd Setzer*

*Offering Counters – Todd Childers & Jason Yoder*