

# Fifth Sunday in Lent

April 6, 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:** 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:** 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:** Eternal God, merciful and holy,

**C: with repentant hearts we come to you for healing and forgiveness. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed. Our sins hurt others and diminish us. Look upon us, your children, and show us your mercy. Bind up our wounds, forgive us all our sins, and cleanse us from proud thoughts and empty desires. Create in us a new heart and restore the joy of our salvation through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

*The minister stands and addresses the congregation.*

**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. Christ died for us while we were sinners and through Christ, 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    “Praise to the Lord, the Almighty”**

**LBW 543**

**\* 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:** Eternal Lord, your kingdom has broken into our troubled world through the life, death, and resurrection of your Son. Help us to hear your Word and obey it, so that we become instruments of your redeeming love; through your Son, 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: Isaiah 43: 16-21**

<sup>16</sup>Thus says the Lord, who makes a way in the sea, a path in the mighty waters, <sup>17</sup>who brings forth chariot and horse, army and warrior; they lie down, they cannot rise, they are extinguished, quenched like a wick: <sup>18</sup>“Remember not the former things, nor consider the things of old. <sup>19</sup>Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert. <sup>20</sup>The wild beasts will honor me, the jackals and the ostriches, for I give water in the wilderness, rivers in the desert, to give drink to my chosen people, <sup>21</sup>the people whom I formed for myself that they might declare my praise.”

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

**PSALM 126**

<sup>1</sup>When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion,  
then were we like those who dream.

<sup>2</sup>**Then was our mouth filled with laughter,  
and our tongue with shouts of joy.**

<sup>3</sup>Then they said among the nations,

“The LORD has done great things for them.”

<sup>4</sup>**The LORD has done great things for us, and we are glad indeed.**

<sup>5</sup>Restore our fortunes, O LORD, like the watercourses of the Negev.

<sup>6</sup>**Those who sowed with tears will reap with songs of joy.**

<sup>7</sup>Those who go out weeping, carrying the seed,

will come again with joy, shouldering their sheaves.

## **SECOND READING: Philippians 3: 4b-14**

<sup>4b</sup>If anyone else thinks he has reason for confidence in the flesh, I have more:

<sup>5</sup>circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; <sup>6</sup>as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless. <sup>7</sup>But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ.]

<sup>8</sup>Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ <sup>9</sup>and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith— <sup>10</sup>that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, <sup>11</sup>that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead. <sup>12</sup>Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. <sup>13</sup>Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, <sup>14</sup>I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

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: John 2: 13-25**

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

<sup>13</sup>The Passover of the Jews was at hand, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. <sup>14</sup>In the temple he found those who were selling oxen and sheep and pigeons, and the money-changers sitting there. <sup>15</sup>And making a whip of cords, he drove them all out of the temple, with the

sheep and oxen. And he poured out the coins of the money-changers and overturned their tables. <sup>16</sup> And he told those who sold the pigeons, “Take these things away; do not make my Father's house a house of trade.” <sup>17</sup> His disciples remembered that it was written, “Zeal for your house will consume me.”

<sup>18</sup> So the Jews said to him, “What sign do you show us for doing these things?” <sup>19</sup> Jesus answered them, “Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.” <sup>20</sup> The Jews then said, “It has taken forty-six years to build this temple,<sup>[c]</sup> and will you raise it up in three days?” <sup>21</sup> But he was speaking about the temple of his body. <sup>22</sup> When therefore he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this, and they believed the Scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

<sup>23</sup> Now when he was in Jerusalem at the Passover Feast, many believed in his name when they saw the signs that he was doing. <sup>24</sup> But Jesus on his part did not entrust himself to them, because he knew all people <sup>25</sup> and needed no one to bear witness about man, for he himself knew what was in man.

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

*The congregation may be seated.*

## **CHILDREN’S MESSAGE**

## **SERMON**



*“Jesus’ Zeal (Passion) for God’s House and God’s People”*

*Pastor Doug*

**\*HYMN OF THE DAY** “When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”

**LBW 482**

**\*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: 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**

**"Come, Let Us Eat"**

**LBW 214**

*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.**

\* **BLESSING**

\* **SENDING HYMN** “Savior, Again to Your Dear Name”

**LBW 262**

\* **DISMISSAL**

P: Bought with a great price, in Christ we are now temples of the Holy Spirit. May God give us zeal and passion for God’s Kingdom mission as we go in peace and joy to love and serve the Lord!

**C: Thanks be to God!**

**POSTLUDE**

### **Grace Prayer List**

#### **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, Randy Neill (Shelia Drum’s brother), Evelyn Childers, Family of Adam Fortner, Billy Fortner, Family of Celia Hollar, Hammad Khan, Kathy Rihani, Kelly Wesson, the daughters of Libby and Herb Travis, 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: Sunday in Lent**

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

***\*\*Reservations due for Christian Passover Meal on Wednesday, April 9***

**Wednesday:**

6:30pm – Christian Passover Meal

**Saturday:**

9:00am – Grace Prayer Breakfast at Four Peas in a Pod in Conover

### **Special Dates and Events Coming Soon**

**Wed., April 9** – Celebrating a Christian Seder or Passover Meal with all the traditional foods at 6:30pm at Fellowship Hall (Reservations are due today!). Please let Pastor Doug know today if you would like to attend or if you can assist with the meal.

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

**4:00 to 6:00 pm – Resurrection Celebration w/ Egg Hunt, Games, & Dinner**

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

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

**Sunday, April 20 Resurrection of our Lord! Sunrise Service at 7:00 am followed by Easter Breakfast. Sunday School at 9:15am, and Easter Service at 10:30am.**



Pastor Doug would like to get a group of 10+ to go to the rock musical drama **“Jesus Christ Superstar”** which will be presented by the Hickory Community Theater April 4 – 19. This musical by Tim Rice and Andrew Lloyd Weber have wowed audiences now for 50 years! With the group rate, adult tickets are \$15 and youth and students \$9. Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30pm and Sundays at 2:30pm. Please let Pastor Doug know if you are interested.

**SAMARITAN'S PURSE UPDATE:** Due to increased regulations in many countries, beginning this year all types of soap will no longer be allowed in Operation Christmas Child shoebox gifts. Any soap received in shoebox gifts will have to be removed at our Samaritan's Purse Processing Centers to help ensure the safe delivery of every gift and to avoid any complications with customs. ***Soap has been removed from boxes already returned to Grace and placed in the donation bags for Ashure Ministry.***

*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*