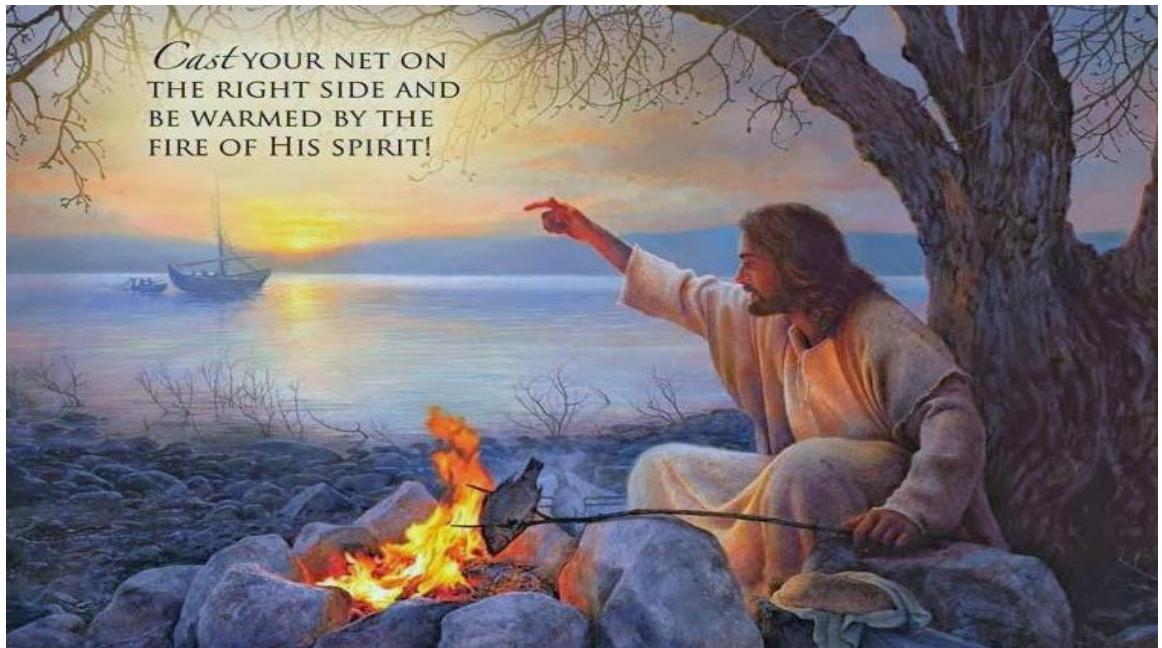


# Third Sunday of Easter

May 4, 2025      10:30 AM



## Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church



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

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

**\* 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 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 “The Day of Resurrection”**

**LBW 141**

(Sung to the tune of Aurelia “The Church’s One Foundation”)

**\* 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: Loving God of restoration and new life, fed and nourished by your Word and at your table of grace, strengthen us to serve as your Son’s body in the world. Grant that we, like Peter, may follow your Son’s command to feed and to tend his sheep; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen. C: Amen.** *The congregation may be seated.*

**FIRST READING: Acts 4: 17-32<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.” <sup>21</sup> And when they heard this, they entered the temple at daybreak and began to teach.

Now when the high priest came, and those who were with him, they called together the council, all the senate of the people of Israel, and sent to the prison to have them brought. <sup>22</sup> But when the officers came, they did not find them in the prison, so they returned and reported, <sup>23</sup>“We found the prison securely locked and the guards standing at the doors, but when we opened them we found no one inside.” <sup>24</sup> Now when the captain of the temple and the chief priests heard these words, they were greatly perplexed about them, wondering what this would come to. <sup>25</sup> And someone came and told them, “Look! The men whom you put in prison are standing in the temple and teaching the people.” <sup>26</sup> Then the captain with the officers went and brought them, but not by force, for they were afraid of being stoned by the people.

<sup>27</sup> And when they had brought them, they set them before the council. And the high priest

questioned them,<sup>28</sup> saying, “We strictly charged you not to teach in this name, yet here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching, and you intend to bring this man's blood upon us.”<sup>29</sup> But Peter and the apostles answered, “We must obey God rather than men.<sup>30</sup> The God of our fathers raised Jesus, whom you killed by hanging him on a tree.<sup>31</sup> God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins.<sup>32</sup> And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him.”

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

## **PSALM 30**

<sup>1</sup>I will extol you, O LORD, for you have drawn me up and have not let my foes rejoice over me.

**<sup>2</sup>O LORD my God, I cried to you for help, and you have healed me.**

<sup>3</sup>O LORD, you have brought up my soul from Sheol; you restored me to life from among those who go down to the pit.

**<sup>4</sup>Sing praises to the LORD, O you his saints, and give thanks to his holy name.**

<sup>5</sup>For his anger is but for a moment, and his favor is for a lifetime. Weeping may tarry for the night, but joy comes with the morning.

**<sup>6</sup>As for me, I said in my prosperity, “I shall never be moved.”**

<sup>7</sup>By your favor, O LORD, you made my mountain stand strong; you hid your face; I was dismayed.

**<sup>8</sup>To you, O LORD, I cry, and to the LORD I plead for mercy:**

<sup>9</sup>“What profit is there in my death, if I go down to the pit? Will the dust praise you? Will it tell of your faithfulness?

**<sup>10</sup>Hear, O LORD, and be merciful to me! O LORD, be my helper!”**

<sup>11</sup>You have turned for me my mourning into dancing; you have loosed my sackcloth and clothed me with gladness,

**<sup>12</sup>that my glory may sing your praise and not be silent. O LORD my God, I will give thanks to you forever!**

## **SECOND READING: 1 Peter 1: 3-9**

<sup>3</sup>Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,<sup>4</sup> to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you,<sup>5</sup> who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.<sup>6</sup> In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials,<sup>7</sup> so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to

result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.<sup>8</sup> Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory,<sup>9</sup> obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

**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 21: 1-19**

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

<sup>1</sup>After this Jesus revealed himself again to the disciples by the Sea of Tiberias, and he revealed himself in this way. <sup>2</sup>Simon Peter, Thomas (called the Twin), Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others of his disciples were together. <sup>3</sup>Simon Peter said to them, “I am going fishing.” They said to him, “We will go with you.” They went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing. <sup>4</sup>Just as day was breaking, Jesus stood on the shore; yet the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. <sup>5</sup>Jesus said to them, “Children, do you have any fish?” They answered him, “No.” <sup>6</sup>He said to them, “Cast the net on the right side of the boat, and you will find some.” So they cast it, and now they were not able to haul it in, because of the quantity of fish. <sup>7</sup>That disciple whom Jesus loved therefore said to Peter, “It is the Lord!” When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on his outer garment, for he was stripped for work, and threw himself into the sea. <sup>8</sup>The other disciples came in the boat, dragging the net full of fish, for they were not far from the land, but about a hundred yards off. <sup>9</sup>When they got out on land, they saw a charcoal fire in place, with fish laid out on it, and bread. <sup>10</sup>Jesus said to them, “Bring some of the fish that you have just caught.” <sup>11</sup>So Simon Peter went aboard and hauled the net ashore, full of large fish, 153 of them. And although there were so many, the net was not torn. <sup>12</sup>Jesus said to them, “Come and have breakfast.” Now none of the disciples dared ask him, “Who are you?” They knew it was the Lord. <sup>13</sup>Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them, and so with the fish. <sup>14</sup>This was now the third time that Jesus was revealed to the disciples after he was raised from the dead. <sup>15</sup>When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?” He said to him, “Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.” He said to him, “Feed my lambs.” <sup>16</sup>He said to him a second time, “Simon, son of John, do you love me?” He said to him, “Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.” He said to him, “Tend my sheep.” <sup>17</sup>He said to him the third time, “Simon, son of John, do you love me?” Peter was grieved because he said to him the third time, “Do you love me?” and he said to him, “Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you.”

Jesus said to him, “Feed my sheep. <sup>18</sup>Truly, truly, I say to you, when you were young, you used to dress yourself and walk wherever you wanted, but when you are old, you will stretch out your hands, and another will dress you and carry you where you do not want to go.” <sup>19</sup>(This he said to show by what kind of death he was to glorify God.) And after saying this he said to him, “Follow me.”

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

*The congregation may be seated.*

## **CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

## **SERMON**



***“Because He Lives I am Fed, Forgiven, and Faithfully Following Jesus”***

**Pastor Doug**

**\*HYMN OF THE DAY “O How I Love Jesus”**

**TCH 92**

**\*THE APOSTLES' CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

**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: 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** “Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus” TCH 581

*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** “Victory in Jesus” TCH 353

\* **DISMISSAL**

P: Fed by God’s Word and in the meal of grace, Forgiven of our failures in Jesus’ love, and Called to Follow Jesus by sharing the Gospel in word and deed, let us go in peace and joy to serve the risen Lord and our neighbors!

**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, Candace Brown, Caleb Bumgardner & family, Jessica Cassels & family, Clinton Childers, Evelyn Childers, Ryan McMullen, Randy Neill, Katie Patton, Phillip Pringle, Missy Robinette, Keith Steinback, Monica Thomas, the family of Kelly Wesson, 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:** Third Sunday of Easter

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

**Wednesday:**

12:00pm – Fred T. Foard Senior Luncheon at Blackburn Baptist Church

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.

*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 & Jason Yoder*

*Offering Counters – Todd Childers & Jason Yoder*