

# Second Sunday After Pentecost

June 22, 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**

**\* 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** Gracious God,

**C have mercy on us. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and left undone. Uphold us by your Spirit so that we may live and serve you in newness of life, to the honor and glory of your holy name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

**P** Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life in the name of the Father, +Son and Holy Spirit.

**C Amen.**

\* **GATHERING HYMN**    “O Christ, the Healer, We Have Come”  
(Tune: Duke St. – I Know that My Redeemer Lives)

1. Christ, the healer, we have come to pray for health, to plead for friends.  
How can we fail to be restored when reached by love that never ends?
2. From every ailment flesh endures our bodies clamor to be freed;  
yet in our hearts we would confess that wholeness is our deepest need.
3. How strong, O Lord, are our desires, how weak our knowledge of ourselves!  
Release in us those healing truths unconscious pride resists or shelves.
4. In conflicts that destroy our health we recognize the world's disease;  
our common life declares our ills. Is there no cure, O Christ, for these?
5. Grant that we all, made one in faith, in your community may find  
the wholeness that, enriching us, shall reach the whole of humankind.

\* **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: For those who love you, O God, you have chosen and prepared what no eye has seen nor ear heard. Pour into our hearts a loving affection for you, that we may choose you in and above all things. For only then shall we have what you promise, which far exceeds all we can desire; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord. He lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **C: Amen.**

*The congregation may be seated.*

**FIRST READING: Isaiah 58: 6-12**

<sup>6</sup> “Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of wickedness, to undo the straps of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? <sup>7</sup> Is it not to share your bread with the hungry and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover him, and not to hide yourself from your own flesh? <sup>8</sup> Then shall your light break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up speedily; your

righteousness shall go before you; the glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard. <sup>9</sup> Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer; you shall cry, and he will say, 'Here I am.' If you take away the yoke from your midst, the pointing of the finger, and speaking wickedness, <sup>10</sup> if you pour yourself out for the hungry and satisfy the desire of the afflicted, then shall your light rise in the darkness and your gloom be as the noonday. <sup>11</sup> And the Lord will guide you continually and satisfy your desire in scorched places and make your bones strong; and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water, whose waters do not fail. <sup>12</sup> And your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt; you shall raise up the foundations of many generations; you shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to dwell in.

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

### **PSALM 103**

**<sup>1</sup>Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me,  
    bless his holy name!**

**<sup>2</sup>Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits,**

**<sup>3</sup>who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases,**

**<sup>4</sup>who redeems your life from the pit,**

**who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy,**

**<sup>5</sup>who satisfies you with good**

**so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.**

**<sup>6</sup>The Lord works righteousness**

**and justice for all who are oppressed.**

**<sup>7</sup>He made known his ways to Moses,**

**his acts to the people of Israel.**

**<sup>8</sup>The Lord is merciful and gracious,**

**slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.**

### **SECOND READING: James 5: 13-20**

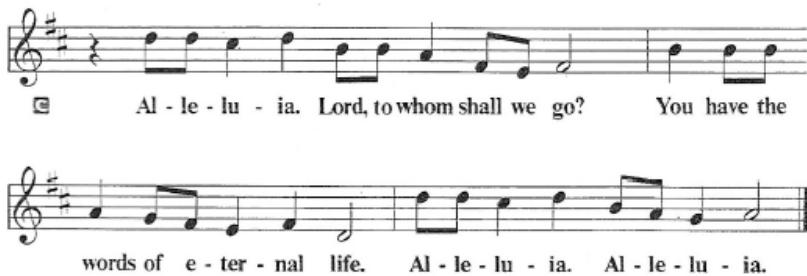
**<sup>13</sup>Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing praise. <sup>14</sup>Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. <sup>15</sup>And the prayer of faith will save the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven. <sup>16</sup>Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working.<sup>[b]</sup> <sup>17</sup>Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed fervently that it might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the earth. <sup>18</sup>Then he prayed**

again, and heaven gave rain, and the earth bore its fruit. <sup>19</sup> My brothers, if anyone among you wanders from the truth and someone brings him back, <sup>20</sup> let him know that whoever brings back a sinner from his wandering will save his soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.

**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”**



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the  
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

**\*GOSPEL: Luke 8: 26-39**

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

<sup>26</sup> {Jesus and his disciples} sailed to the country of the Gerasenes, which is opposite Galilee. <sup>27</sup> When Jesus had stepped out on land, there met him a man from the city who had demons. For a long time he had worn no clothes, and he had not lived in a house but among the tombs. <sup>28</sup> When he saw Jesus, he cried out and fell down before him and said with a loud voice, “What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg you, do not torment me.” <sup>29</sup> For he had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. (For many a time it had seized him. He was kept under guard and bound with chains and shackles, but he would break the bonds and be driven by the demon into the desert.) <sup>30</sup> Jesus then asked him, “What is your name?” And he said, “Legion,” for many demons had entered him. <sup>31</sup> And they begged him not to command them to depart into the abyss. <sup>32</sup> Now a large herd of pigs was feeding there on the hillside, and they begged him to let them enter these. So he gave them permission. <sup>33</sup> Then the demons came out of the man and entered the pigs, and the herd rushed down the steep bank into the lake and drowned. <sup>34</sup> When the herdsmen saw what had happened, they fled and told it in the city and in the country. <sup>35</sup> Then people went out to see what had happened, and they came to Jesus and found the man from whom the demons had gone, sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed and in his right mind, and they were afraid. <sup>36</sup> And those who had seen it told them how the demon-possessed man

had been healed.<sup>37</sup> Then all the people of the surrounding country of the Gerasenes asked him to depart from them, for they were seized with great fear. So he got into the boat and returned. <sup>38</sup>The man from whom the demons had gone begged that he might be with him, but Jesus sent him away, saying, <sup>39</sup>“Return to your home, and declare how much God has done for you.” And he went away, proclaiming throughout the whole city how much Jesus had done for him.

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

*The congregation may be seated.*

### **CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**



### **SERMON**

***“Jesus Delivers Us from Storms Around Us and In Us – So Let Us Go and Declare What God Has Done For Us!”***

***Pastor Doug***

**\*HYMN OF THE DAY** “There Is a Balm in Gilead ”

**WOV 737**

### **Service of Anointing and Prayer for Healing**

*You are invited to come forward for anointing and the laying on of hands as we pray for Christ's gift of healing and wholeness. Pastor Doug and our prayer volunteers will anoint your forehead with oil in the sign of the cross and share these words:*

\_\_\_\_\_ (name), May this anointing remind you that you belong to Christ who is the Great Physician. May His love for you give you healing, strength, comfort, and joy and be a sign that you are filled with the power of His Holy Spirit. Receive this anointing oil as a sign of forgiveness and healing in Jesus Christ, in the name of the Father, +Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

The pastor and prayer volunteers will place both hands on your head as they pray the following prayer. You may ask for specific needs or name others that you are praying for.

Father in heaven, for Jesus' sake, send your Holy Spirit upon your servant, \_\_\_\_\_ name; drive away all sickness of body and spirit; make whole that which is broken; deliver her/him from the power of evil; and preserve her/him in true faith, to share in the power of Christ's resurrection and to serve you with all the saints now and evermore. Amen.

## **\*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**



Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our  
cup of bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were  
sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath - er the  
hopes and the dreams of all; u - nite them with the prayers we  
of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your pres - ence, and  
give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

#### **\* OFFERTORY PRAYER**

P: Merciful Father, C: we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us – ourselves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of Him who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

## \*DIALOGUE AND PREFACE

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

## \* HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:

Heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -

san - na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who

comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

\* **WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

\* **LORD'S PRAYER**

\* **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**



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have  
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the  
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the  
sin of the world; grant us peace.

*The congregation is invited to stand.*

\* **COMMUNION BLESSING AND PRAYER**

P: We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life. In your mercy, strengthen us through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. C:  
**Amen.**

\* **BLESSING**

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine upon you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.

**\*SENDING HYMN "Oh, For a Thousand Tongues to Sing"**

**LBW 559**

**\*DISMISSAL**

P: Christ Jesus loves you and grants you healing, wholeness, and salvation. Let us go now in peace and joy to declare what God has done for us in Christ! **C: Thanks be to God!**

## POSTLUDE

**ALTAR FLOWERS** are given to the Glory of God and in honor of Allen Biggerstaff on his birthday and in honor of all the fathers of Grace Church by Sherry Biggerstaff.



## **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, Michael Norman, Tricia and Dan Panek, Debi & Stephen Pisko, Helen Smith, Ethan Starnes, Sandi Tallant, Libby Travis, Shirley Warlick, Ken & Tirzah Welch, 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, Clinton Childers, Evelyn Childers, the family of Katie Crawley, Reggie Harvell, Lisa Honeycutt, Anita Sabino, Karlee Speagle, Scott Speagle, Christian Thomas, 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: Second Sunday After Pentecost

## HAPPY JUNE BIRTHDAY TO:

June 14 – Emiley Robertson, Penny Miller

June 19 – Allen Biggerstaff

**ANNOUNCEMENT:** We had a wonderful week at Solid Rock Day Camp. We had great counselors and the 27 wonderful children that came everyday to learn about Jesus and have fun! Thanks to all of you who gave gifts, lunches, and snacks. Thanks to all of the parents who brought their children to learn about and experience Jesus and His love! It was such a joy to see so many children and families at Grace! Thank you Grace for hosting day camp this year. To God be the glory! -Pastor Dou

We now have Facebook! Look for **Grace Lutheran Newton NC** and become our friend. Please like us and share us with your other friends. Please send pictures or messages. This is your Facebook page.

### **The Story Bible Study: Finding Your Story in God's Love Story!**

Join us for a new Bible Study that we will be using during our Sunday School time (9:30-10:15). The Bible is central to our faith but many people are intimidated by its scope and size. The Story gives us a way to journey from Genesis to Revelation together in 31 Bible Studies so everyone understands God's story and how their story intersects with it. It is true that God's Word, the Bible, is "The Greatest Story Ever Told" and it is an amazing story of God's love for us! Consisting of 31 chapters of carefully-selected Scriptures sequenced in chronological order, *The Story* presents the Word of God in an engaging format, reading like a novel. After all, it is the greatest story ever told! **Here are the 31 Chapters that help us to understand the overall story of God's Word: Old Testament:** **1** Creation: The Beginning of Life as We Know It; **2** God Builds a Nation **3** Joseph: From Slave to Deputy Pharaoh; **4** Deliverance; **5** New Commands and a New Covenant, **6** Wandering; **7** The Battle Begins; **8** A Few Good Men and Women; **9** The Faith of a Foreign Woman; **10** Standing Tall, Falling Hard; **11** From Shepherd to King; **12** The Trials of a King; **13** The King Who Had It All; **14** A Kingdom Torn in Two; **15** God's Messengers; **16** The Beginning of the End (of the Kingdom of Israel); **17** The Kingdoms' Fall; **18** Daniel in Exile; **19** The Return Home; **20** The Queen of Beauty and Courage; **21** Rebuilding the Walls; **New Testament:** **22** The Birth of the King; **23** Jesus' Ministry Begins; **24** No Ordinary Man **25** Jesus, the Son of God; **26** The Hour of Darkness; **27** The Resurrection; **28** New Beginnings **29** Paul's Mission; **30** Paul's Final Days; **31** The End of Time.

The participant's guide will be printed out each week for those attending. Pastor Doug will also send out the pdf of the whole guide to the congregation.

*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 – Tricia Panek*

*Communion Assistants – Cindy Bivens & Sheila Drum*

*Ushers – Jeff Scronce & James Hall*

*Offering Counters – Todd Childers & Sheila Drum*

# *Listening for the Promise*

## WEEKLY DEVOTIONAL

### Second Sunday after Pentecost – June 22, 2025

<sup>36</sup> And those who had seen it told them how the demon-possessed man had been healed. <sup>37</sup> Then all the people of the surrounding country of the Gerasenes asked him to depart from them, for they were seized with great fear.

So he got into the boat and returned. <sup>38</sup> The man from whom the demons had gone begged that he might be with him, but Jesus sent him away, saying, <sup>39</sup> “Return to your home, and declare how much God has done for you.” And he went away, proclaiming throughout the whole city how much Jesus had done for him.

– Luke 8:36–39 –

Jesus casts “a legion” of demons out of a man who had become a social menace. Under demonic possession, the man had worn no clothes and had lived among the tombs. He had been guarded and bound with chains and shackles. But whenever the demons seized him, he broke these chains and shackles and was driven into the desert. Finally, when Jesus cast the demons out of him, they entered a herd of pigs and drove this herd into the sea. The presence of these pigs tells us that Jesus was in Gentile territory among a people who did not know the God of Israel.

When the people of the city and the surrounding countryside heard what Jesus had done, they came out to see it for themselves. When they arrived, they saw this formerly crazy man sitting calmly at Jesus feet, clothed, and in a sound mind. But rather than thanking Jesus for what he had done, they were seized with fear and asked Jesus to leave. Why did they react this way?

As mentioned above, these people were Gentiles who did not know the God of Israel. In Jesus’ action they clearly saw an act of divine power, but they did not know the character of the God who had wielded this power. In the Christian understanding, God’s power is constrained by his wisdom, knowledge, goodness, and holiness. Thus, God’s acts of power are always good and wise, not arbitrary. However, since these Gentiles were likely polytheists, they probably viewed Jesus’ act as an event of raw divine power devoid of any moral constraint. As far as they knew, Jesus was just a powerful magician who had overcome the demons. So they asked him to leave.

Until God opens our eyes to see Jesus and opens our hearts to receive him, you and I are in the same boat. We may even acknowledge Jesus’ divinity but be terrified of it. However, God has his ways of breaking through. In this case, Jesus told the man to return home and tell everyone what God had done for him. Through his witness people would not only see the undeniable work of grace in his life, but over time would also come to see the gracious character of the miracle-working God who had done it. And maybe then, they could receive Jesus into their hearts after having once sent him away.