

Day of Pentecost

June 8, 2025 10:30 AM



Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church



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Rev. Doug Hefner cell: (980) 234-8848 email: 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: In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **C: Amen.**

P: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **C: Amen.**

P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (*1John1:9*) 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: Most merciful God,

C: we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen

P: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God 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 “Come, Gracious Spirit, Heavenly Dove” LBW 475**

*** 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: O God, you taught the hearts of your faithful people by sending to them the light of your Holy Spirit. Grant us, by the same Spirit, to have a right judgment in all things, and evermore to rejoice in his holy comfort; 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: Ezekiel 37: 1-14

The hand of the Lord was upon me, and he brought me out in the Spirit of the Lord and set me down in the middle of the valley; it was full of bones. ² And he led me around among them, and behold, there were very many on the surface of the valley, and behold, they were very dry. ³ And he said to me, “Son of man, can these bones live?” And I answered, “O Lord God, you know.” ⁴ Then he said to me, “Prophecy over these bones, and say to them, O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. ⁵ Thus says the Lord God to these bones: Behold, I will cause breath^[b] to enter you, and you shall live. ⁶ And I will lay sinews upon you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live, and you shall know that I am the Lord.” ⁷ So I prophesied as I was commanded. And as I prophesied, there was a sound, and behold, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. ⁸ And I looked, and behold, there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them. But there was no breath in them. ⁹ Then he said to me, “Prophecy to the breath; prophesy, son of man, and say to the breath, Thus says the Lord God: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe on these slain, that they may live.” ¹⁰ So I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived and stood on their feet, an exceedingly great army.

¹¹ Then he said to me, “Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel. Behold, they say, ‘Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are indeed cut off.’ ¹² Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord God: Behold, I will open your graves and raise you from your graves, O my people. And I will bring you into the land of Israel. ¹³ And you shall know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves, and raise you from your graves, O my people. ¹⁴ And I will put my Spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you in your own land. Then you shall know that I am the Lord; I have spoken, and I will do it, declares the Lord.”

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

PSALM 143: 1-8

¹Hear my prayer, O Lord; give ear to my pleas for mercy! In your faithfulness answer me, in your righteousness!

²Enter not into judgment with your servant, for no one living is righteous before you.

³For the enemy has pursued my soul; he has crushed my life to the ground; he has made me sit in darkness like those long dead.

⁴Therefore my spirit faints within me; my heart within me is appalled.

⁵I remember the days of old; I meditate on all that you have done; I ponder the work of your hands.

⁶I stretch out my hands to you; my soul thirsts for you like a parched land.

⁷Answer me quickly, O Lord! My spirit fails! Hide not your face from me, lest I be like those who go down to the pit.

⁸Let me hear in the morning of your steadfast love, for in you I trust. Make me know the way I should go, for to you I lift up my soul.

SECOND READING: Acts: 2: 1-21

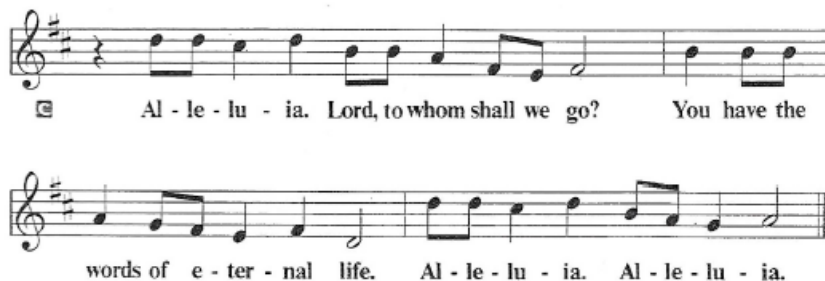
¹When the day of Pentecost arrived, {the apostles} were all together in one place. ²And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. ³And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them. ⁴And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance. ⁵Now there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men from every nation under heaven. ⁶And at this sound the multitude came together, and they were bewildered, because each one was hearing them speak in his own language. ⁷And they were amazed and astonished, saying, “Are not all these who are speaking Galileans?” ⁸And how is it that we hear, each of us in his own native language? ⁹Parthians and Medes and Elamites and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, ¹⁰Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya

belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, ¹¹both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabians — we hear them telling in our own tongues the mighty works of God.” ¹²And all were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, “What does this mean?” ¹³But others mocking said, “They are filled with new wine.” ¹⁴But Peter, standing with the eleven, lifted up his voice and addressed them: “Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and give ear to my words. ¹⁵For these people are not drunk, as you suppose, since it is only the third hour of the day. ¹⁶But this is what was uttered through the prophet Joel: ¹⁷‘And in the last days it shall be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams; ¹⁸even on my male servants and female servants in those days I will pour out my Spirit, and they shall prophesy. ¹⁹And I will show wonders in the heavens above and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and vapor of smoke; ²⁰the sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the day of the Lord comes, the great and magnificent day. ²¹And it shall come to pass that everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.’”

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”



***GOSPEL: John 14: 23-31**

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

²³Jesus answered {Judas, not Iscariot}, “If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him. ²⁴Whoever does not love me does not keep my words. And the word that you hear is not mine but the Father’s who sent me. ²⁵These things I have spoken to you while I am still with you. ²⁶But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you. ²⁷Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be

troubled, neither let them be afraid. ²⁸You heard me say to you, ‘I am going away, and I will come to you.’ If you loved me, you would have rejoiced, because I am going to the Father, for the Father is greater than I. ²⁹And now I have told you before it takes place, so that when it does take place you may believe. ³⁰I will no longer talk much with you, for the ruler of this world is coming. He has no claim on me, ³¹but I do as the Father has commanded me, so that the world may know that I love the Father. Rise, let us go from here.”

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

The congregation may be seated.

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE



SERMON

“The Powerful G.I.F.T. of the Holy Spirit: The Church, the Gospel Ship, Voyage Begins! Come On Board!”

Pastor Doug

***HYMN OF THE DAY** “Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness”

WOV 684

***THE APOSTLES’ CREED**

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended into hell.

On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again 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**

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

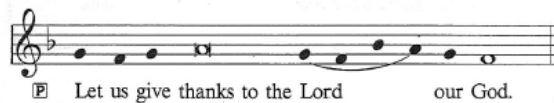
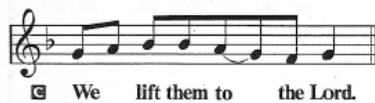
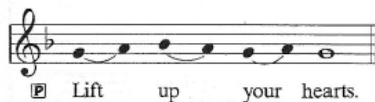
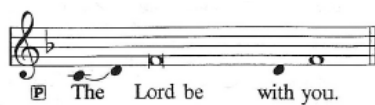


Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our
cup of bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were
sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath - er the
hopes and the dreams of all; u - nite them with the prayers we
of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your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

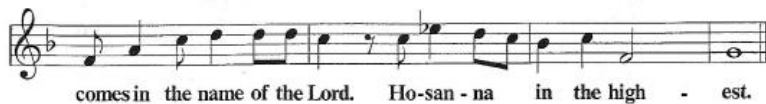
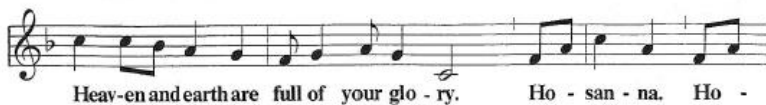
*** OFFERTORY PRAYER**

P: Merciful God, C: as grains of wheat scattered upon the hills were gathered together to become one bread, so let your church be gathered together in the power of the Holy Spirit from the ends of the earth into your kingdom, for yours is the glory through Jesus Christ, now and forever. Amen.

***DIALOGUE AND PREFACE**



*** HOLY, HOLY, HOLY**



* **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

The musical score is written on four staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The lyrics are: "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 melody is simple and hymn-like, with a final cadence on the last staff.

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; and we pray that in your mercy you would 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**

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope” (Romans 15:13) in the name of the Father, and of the Son+, and of the Holy Spirit. C: **Amen**

* **SENDING HYMN** “Holy Spirit, Ever Dwelling”

LBW 523

*** DISMISSAL**

P: Filled with the power and promise of the Holy Spirit, let us go in joy and peace to proclaim the Gospel in word and deed! **C: Thanks be to God!**

POSTLUDE

ALTAR FLOWERS are given to the Glory of God by Todd and Susan Setzer.



In the Grace Church Family:

Jeffrey 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, Alexis McCrary, Joe

Momier, Jane Moss, Christine Norman, Tricia and Dan Panek, Michael, 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, Betty Cansler D'Amico, Reggie Harvell, Lisa Honeycutt, Trey McCrary, Randy & Rita Neill, Scott Owens, Jon Pilkenton, Karlee Speagle, Christian Thomas, Greyson Weaver, 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: Day of Pentecost

9:15am – Sunday School

10:30am - Worship Celebration

Saturday:

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

HAPPY JUNE BIRTHDAY TO:

June 2 – Helen Smith

June 11 – Cindy Bivens, Alicia Wilfong

June 14 – Emiley Robertson, Penny Miller

June 19 – Allen Biggerstaff

SOLID ROCK NALC DAY CAMP

Calling all children grades K- 5th... Day Camp is coming your way! Hosted by: Grace Lutheran Church and the Carolinas Mission Region Day Camp Team and Counselors
When: The week of Monday, June 16 – Friday, June 20.

9 am - 4 pm Monday-Thursday, 9 am- 12 noon Friday

Bible study, singing, games, crafts, skits, and lots of fun! Friends welcome!

Cost is only \$100 for a full week of growing in the faith, childcare and lots of fun! Ask your home church to help sponsor you! Don't let cost get in the way. We can find scholarships somewhere if you are interested! Contact Pastor Doug Hefner at Grace for more information and to register!

We now have 9 campers signed up already! The theme of the week is **People of Promise**. Day 1: Abraham, Genesis 15:1-6. Day 2: Jacob Genesis 28:10-22. Day 3: David 1 Samuel 16:1-13, 2 Samuel 7. Day 4: Mary and Joseph, Luke 1:26-38, Matthew 1:16-17. Day 5: Jesus, promised Messiah. Matthew 3:13-17. Grace will join the other churches involved with providing meals for the counselors during the week. The counselors will be staying at the parsonage. As we get closer to the week we will seek volunteers for the needs of the camp.

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 – 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

Day of Pentecost – June 8, 2025

²³Jesus answered him, 'If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him. ²⁴Whoever does not love me does not keep my words. And the word that you hear is not mine but the Father's who sent me. ²⁵These things I have spoken to you while I am still with you. ²⁶But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.'

- John 14:23-26 -

In this passage Jesus is going away, but the Holy Spirit is coming in His place. So, when Jesus says that He and the Father will come to those who keep His word and will make their home with them, how will this happen? The passage implies that it will happen through the presence of the Holy Spirit. Through the Holy Spirit, and together with Him, the Father and the Son will make their home within the hearts of Christian believers. This means that believers today have communion with each person of the Trinity. Moreover, they not only live and move and have their being in the triune God (Acts 17:28), but the triune God also indwells them.

On a deeper level, however, the basis for this communion with God is the fact that the triune God has an eternal communion with Himself. Because the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit are each fully God, they are each infinite in their being, knowledge, and power. And for this reason, they exhaustively interpenetrate each other. This means that each person hosts the other two, and each person enters the others as guest. By His very nature, therefore, God is a hospitable and home-making God, having a communion of being, love, and knowledge within Himself. God is therefore a home for Himself and is eternally at home with Himself.

However, to say that God is a home for Himself is to say two seemingly opposite things. First it is to say that God is self-sufficient and therefore needs nothing beyond Himself. Second, it is also to say that since God is self-sufficient, He is capable of creating the world outside Himself. In other words, it is to say that God is both capable of creating the world and also has no need to do so. And yet, God chose to create the world; God chose to create us, and He wants to have a relationship with us. By His very nature, therefore, and also by His choice; God is a home for us and is at home with us. And this is so precisely because, first and foremost, God is a home for Himself and is eternally at home with Himself.

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