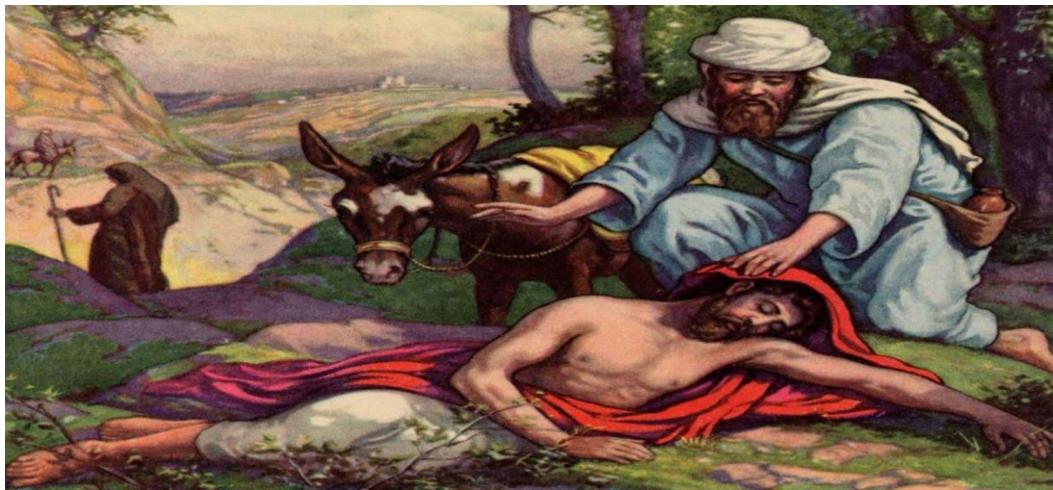


Sixth Sunday After Pentecost

July 20, 2025 10:30 AM



The Parable Of The Good Samaritan **Luke 10:30-37**

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church



4536 Hickory Lincolnton Highway, Newton, North Carolina 28658

Church Office: (704) 462-1035 email: gracenalcnewton@aol.com

www.gracelutheran-newton.org

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 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: Heavenly Father, merciful and holy, in you we live and move and have our being. Look upon us, your children, the work of your hands. 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.**

P: 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.

Silence is kept for reflection and confession of our sins before God and one another.

P: Holy and gracious God, **C: we confess that we have not led a life worthy of the calling to which we have been called. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not acted according to your will. We have grieved your Holy Spirit. Have mercy on us and forgive us according to the riches of your grace. In Christ make us holy and blameless before you in love, so that we might live to the praise of your glory. Amen**

The minister stands and addresses the congregation.

P: Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, 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** “Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service” **LBW 423**

* **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: God of mercy and tender compassion, through the life, death, and resurrection of your Son the depth and breadth of your mercy is profoundly revealed. By your Spirit empower us to lead lives that are faithful reflections of your own gracious mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever. **Amen.**

The congregation may be seated.

FIRST READING: Leviticus [18:1-5] 19:9-18

[¹The LORD spoke to Moses, saying, ²“Speak to the people of Israel and say to them, I am the LORD your God. ³You shall not do as they do in the land of Egypt, where you lived, and you shall not do as they do in the land of Canaan, to which I am bringing you. You shall not walk in their statutes. ⁴You shall follow my rules and keep my statutes and walk in them. I am the LORD your God. ⁵You shall therefore keep my statutes and my rules; if a person does them, he shall live by them: I am the LORD.]⁹“When you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not reap your field right up to its edge, neither shall you gather the gleanings after your harvest. ¹⁰And you shall not strip your vineyard bare, neither shall you gather the fallen grapes of your vineyard. You shall leave them for the poor and for the sojourner: I am the LORD your God. ¹¹You shall not steal; you shall not deal falsely; you shall not lie to one another. ¹²You shall not swear by my name falsely, and so profane the name of your God: I am the LORD. ¹³You shall not oppress your neighbor or rob him. The wages of a hired worker shall not remain with you all night until the morning. ¹⁴You shall not curse the deaf or put a stumbling block before the blind, but you shall fear your God: I am the LORD. ¹⁵You shall do no injustice in court. You shall not be partial to the poor or defer to the great, but in righteousness shall you judge your neighbor. ¹⁶You shall not go around as a slanderer among your people, and you shall not stand up against the life of your neighbor: I am the LORD. ¹⁷You shall not hate your brother in your heart, but you shall reason frankly with your neighbor, lest you incur sin because of him. ¹⁸You shall not take

vengeance or bear a grudge against the sons of your own people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the LORD.”

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

PSALM 41: 1-4, 11-13

¹Blessed is the one who considers the poor! In the day of trouble the Lord delivers him; ²the Lord protects him and keeps him alive; he is called blessed in the land; you do not give him up to the will of his enemies.

³The Lord sustains him on his sickbed; in his illness you restore him to full health.

⁴As for me, I said, “O Lord, be gracious to me; heal me, for I have sinned against you!”

¹¹By this I know that you delight in me: my enemy will not shout in triumph over me.

¹²But you have upheld me because of my integrity, and set me in your presence forever.

¹³Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, from everlasting to everlasting! Amen and Amen.

SECOND READING: I John 3: 11-18

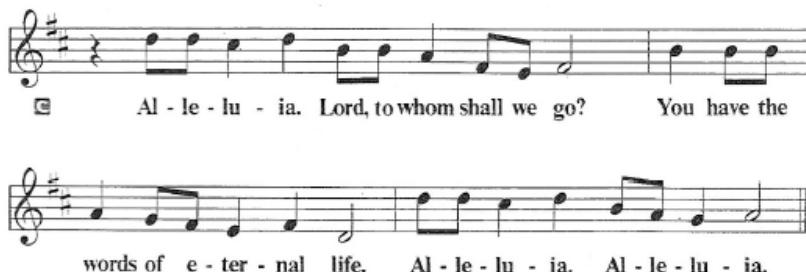
¹¹For this is the message that you have heard from the beginning, that we should love one another. ¹²We should not be like Cain, who was of the evil one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his own deeds were evil and his brother's righteous. ¹³Do not be surprised, brothers, [c] that the world hates you. ¹⁴We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love the brothers. Whoever does not love abides in death. ¹⁵Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him. ¹⁶By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers. ¹⁷But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him? ¹⁸Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth.

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 10: 25-37

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

²⁵Behold, a lawyer stood up to put {Jesus} to the test, saying, “Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?” ²⁶He said to him, “What is written in the Law? How do you read it?”

²⁷And he answered, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself.”

²⁸And he said to him, “You have answered correctly; do this, and you will live.” ²⁹But he, desiring to justify himself, said to Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?” ³⁰Jesus replied, “A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and he fell among robbers, who stripped him and beat him and departed, leaving him half dead. ³¹Now by chance a priest was going down that road, and when he saw him he passed by on the other side. ³²So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. ³³But a Samaritan, as he journeyed, came to where he was, and when he saw him, he had compassion. ³⁴He went to him and bound up his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he set him on his own animal and brought him to an inn and took care of him. ³⁵And the next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper, saying, ‘Take care of him, and whatever more you spend, I will repay you when I come back.’ ³⁶Which of these three, do you think, proved to be a neighbor to the man who fell among the robbers?” ³⁷He said, “The one who showed him mercy.” And Jesus said to him, “You go, and do likewise.”

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

The congregation may be seated.

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE



SERMON

*“Parable of the Good Samaritan: Redeemed by the Ultimate Good Samaritan So That Like a Good Neighbor, God’s People Are There for One Another”
Pastor Doug*

***HYMN OF THE DAY** “Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us With Your Love” **WOV 765**

*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

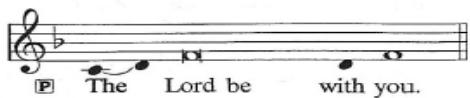


Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our
cup of bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were
sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath - er the
hopes and the dreams of all; u - nite them with the prayers we
of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your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

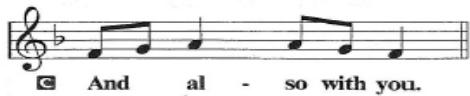
* **OFFERTORY PRAYER**

P: Generous God, you feed us with the harvest of the land and you provide for our every need., C: *Receive our gifts of money, imagination, talent, passion, and labor, and transform them into a feast of love and grace that welcomes all people, in the name of Jesus Christ, who welcomes us to the feast of Holy Communion. Amen*

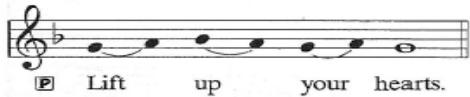
*DIALOGUE AND PREFACE



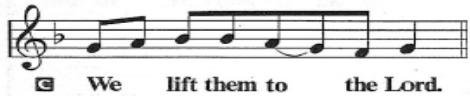
The Lord be with you.



And also with you.



Lift up your hearts.



We lift them to the Lord.



Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

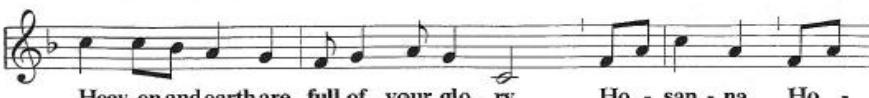


It is right to give him thanks and praise.

*HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



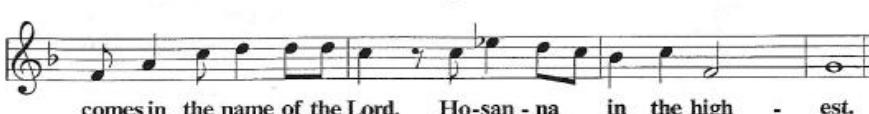
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:



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 mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mercy 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: Tender and merciful God, at your feast, you fed us who brought nothing, turning our emptiness to joy. C: **Tender and merciful God, at your feast, you fed us who brought nothing, turning our emptiness to joy.**

- * **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.

***DISMISSAL**

P: Our Lord and Savior moved in our neighborhood to save us! In joy and peace, let us go in the name of Christ to be a merciful and loving neighbor to all we meet.

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, Cole Leatherman, Phil & Malinda Leatherman, Tim Leatherman, Betty Matheson, Joe

Momier, Jane Moss, Christine Norman, Michael Norman, Tricia and Dan Panek, Mike, 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), Dan Panek (Trinity Ridge)

Friends and Relatives in our Prayers: Pray for Peace in Israel and the World, New Covenant Lutheran Mission Church, Bobby Aderholdt, Clinton Childers, Evelyn Childers, Harrison Hefner, Lisa Honeycutt, Dean Hudson, Thurman McCaslin, Randy & Rita Neill, Mel Raybourne, Anita Sabino, Jeffrey Smith, Karlee Speagle, Scott Speagle, Monica Thomas, flood victims in Western North Carolina and Texas, 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: Sixth Sunday After Pentecost

9:30am – Sunday School

10:30am - Worship Celebration

Monday:

6:00pm – Leadership Ministry Board meeting.

HAPPY JULY BIRTHDAY TO:

July 13 – Frankie Crouse, Lorene Heavner	July 18 – Emily Sipe
July 20 – Michael Scronce	July 22 – Nicky Jarrett, Scott Whisnant
July 24 – Sherry Biggerstaff	July 27 – Jack Wilfong
July 28 – Harvey Leatherman	July 30 – Shirley Warlick

ANNOUNCEMENT: 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.

Summer Sermon Series on the Parables of Jesus:

July 27 - Parable of the Rich Fool (Luke 12)/Parable the Rich Man and Lazarus (Luke 16) “Bigger Barns or Bigger Hearts?

August 3 – Parables of Persistent Widow, Friend in Need at Midnight “Living on a Prayer!”

August 10 – Parables of the Lowest Seat, Pharisee and Publican “O Lord it’s Hard to be Humble”

August 17 – Parable of the Great Dinner, Invitation, Luke 14:15-24, Wedding Feast Matthew 22:2-14

August 24 - Back to School Blessing of the Bookbags, Parables about wise living: The Parable of the Ten Bridesmaids Matthew 25:1-13 and the Parable of the Talents (Matthew 25:14-30)

August 31 – Parables about the Coming of Christ – Parable of The Faithful and Unfaithful Servants as They Await The Masters Return (Matthew 24:45-51) and the Parable of the Sheep and Goats (Matthew 25:31-46)

Ministers of Grace – All the People of Grace

Pastor – Reverend Doug Hefner Board President – Tim Eckard

Lector – Tim Eckard Youth Leader – Stormy Shull

Altar Preparation – Cindy Bivens

Communion Assistants – Cindy Bivens & Sheila Drum

Ushers – Tim Leatherman and Chris Jarrett

Offering Counters – Todd Childers & Jason Yoder

Listening for the Promise

WEEKLY DEVOTIONAL

Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

“²⁵And behold, a lawyer stood up to put him to the test, saying, “Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?” ²⁶He said to him, “What is written in the Law? How do you read it?” ²⁷And he answered, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself.” ²⁸And he said to him, “You have answered correctly; do this, and you will live.”

- Luke 10:25-28 -

One of the uses of God's Law is to show us our sinfulness and our consequent need for a savior. By giving us a perfect standard of good and evil, God's Law is like a mirror in which we see the true state of our hearts. When we measure our actions, intentions, and motives against the plumb line of God's Law, we see that we are deficient at best and rebellious at worst. So, in his earthly ministry, Jesus sometimes preached the Law to show people their inability to save themselves. He did this in the Sermon on the Mount, and he did it to the lawyer in our text.

A lawyer stood up to test Jesus by asking him what he had to do to inherit eternal life. Rather than challenging the lawyer's reliance on God's Law, Jesus asked him to clarify what the Law says. The lawyer responded by summarizing the Law, saying that one must perfectly love God and neighbor. But once again, rather than challenging the lawyer's reliance on God's Law, Jesus said, “You have answered correctly; do this and you will live.”

Of course, Jesus knew that it is impossible for sinful human beings to fulfill the Law. Indeed, it is for precisely this reason that Jesus came into the world to die on a cross. Why then did Jesus respond in this way? Perhaps he wanted the lawyer to sharpen the Law's demand for moral perfection and to state this demand with his own mouth. Perhaps he also wanted the lawyer to try living up to the Law's all-encompassing demands. And perhaps finally, he wanted the lawyer to come to the end of his own resources in a complete moral failure as a prelude to throwing himself upon the grace and mercy of God.

The lawyer had tried to test Jesus only to be tested by Jesus in turn. Yet, through this very test, lay the possibility that his heart would be opened to the gospel.