

Tenth Sunday After Pentecost

August 17, 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 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** "This is the Feast"

LBW 60-61

*** 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: Bountiful and loving God, you set a table before us and nourish us with the bread of life, your Son, Jesus. Send us out with joyful thanksgiving to share this bread of life with others and invite them to table of Your presence and provision. Keep us in your grace until we feast at last at the great wedding banquet that is to come; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

The congregation may be seated.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 25: 6-9

⁶On this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wine, of rich food full of marrow, of aged wine well refined. ⁷And he will swallow up on this mountain the covering that is cast over all peoples, the veil that is spread over all nations. ⁸He will swallow up death forever; and the LORD God will wipe away tears from all faces, and the reproach of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the LORD has spoken. ⁹It will be said on that day, “Behold, this is our God; we have waited for him, that he might save us. This is the LORD; we have waited for him; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.”

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

PSALM 23

¹The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not be in want.

²**He makes me lie down in green pastures and leads me beside still waters.**

³He revives my soul

and guides me along right pathways | for his name’s sake.

⁴**Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil;
for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.**

⁵You spread a table before me in the presence of those who trouble me;
you have anointed my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

⁶**Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.**

SECOND READING: Revelation 19: 1-9

After this I heard what seemed to be the loud voice of a great multitude in heaven, crying out,

“Hallelujah! Salvation and glory and power belong to our God, ² for his judgments are true and just; for he has judged the great prostitute who corrupted the earth with her immorality, and has avenged on her the blood of his servants.”

³ Once more they cried out, *“Hallelujah! The smoke from her goes up forever and ever.”*

⁴ And the twenty-four elders and the four living creatures fell down and worshiped God who was seated on the throne, saying, *“Amen. Hallelujah!”* ⁵ And from the throne came a voice saying,

“Praise our God, all you his servants, you who fear him, small and great.”

⁶ Then I heard what seemed to be the voice of a great multitude, like the roar of many waters and like the sound of mighty peals of thunder, crying out,

“Hallelujah! For the Lord our God the Almighty reigns. ⁷ Let us rejoice and exult and give him the glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and his Bride has made herself ready;

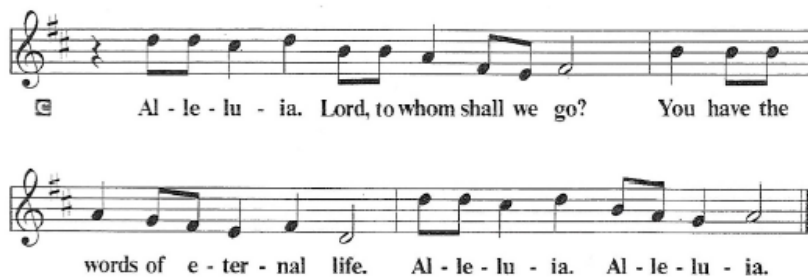
⁸ it was granted her to clothe herself with fine linen, bright and pure”—for the fine linen is the righteous deeds of the saints.

⁹ And the angel said to me, *“Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb.”* And he said to me, *“These are the true words of God.”*

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: Luke 14: 12-24**

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

¹² He (Jesus) said also to the man who had invited him, “When you give a dinner or a banquet, do not invite your friends or your brothers and sisters or your relatives or rich neighbors, lest they also invite you in return and you be repaid. ¹³ But when you give a feast, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, ¹⁴ and you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you. For you will be repaid at the resurrection of the just.”

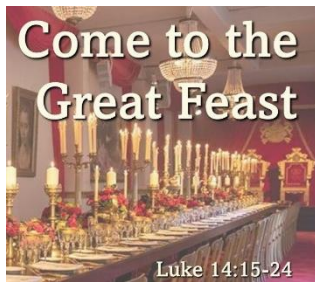
¹⁵ When one of those who reclined at table with him heard these things, he said to him, “Blessed is everyone who will eat bread in the kingdom of God!” ¹⁶ But he said to him, “A man once gave a great banquet and invited many. ¹⁷ And at the time for the banquet he sent his servant to say to those who had been invited, ‘Come, for everything is now ready.’ ¹⁸ But they all alike began to make excuses. The first said to him, ‘I have bought a field, and I must go out and see it. Please have me excused.’ ¹⁹ And another said, ‘I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I go to examine them. Please have me excused.’ ²⁰ And another said, ‘I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.’ ²¹ So the servant came and reported these things to his master. Then the master of the house became angry and said to his servant, ‘Go out quickly to the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in the poor and crippled and blind and lame.’ ²² And the servant said, ‘Sir, what you commanded has been done, and still there is room.’ ²³ And the master said to the servant, ‘Go out to the highways and hedges and compel people to come in, that my house may be filled. ²⁴ For I tell you, none of those men who were invited shall taste my banquet.’”

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

The congregation may be seated.

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

SERMON



“Come to the Great Banquet of Grace – Everything is Now Ready – You Don’t Want to Miss This Party!”
Pastor Doug

***HYMN OF THE DAY** “Come Sinners to the Gospel Feast”

Tune: Grosser Gott, LM, see LBW270

1 Come, sinners, to the gospel feast;
 let ev'ry soul be Jesus' guest.
 Ye need not one be left behind,
 for God hath bid all human-kind.

2 Sent by my Lord, on you I call;
 the invitation is to all.

Come, all the world! Come, sinner, thou!
All things in Christ are ready now.

3 Come, all ye souls by sin oppressed,
ye restless wand'ers after rest;
ye poor, and maimed, disabled, and blind,
in Christ a hearty welcome find.

4 Come and partake the gospel feast,
be saved from sin, in Jesus rest;
O taste the goodness of our God,
and eat His flesh and drink His blood.

5 This is the time, no more delay!
This is the Lord's accepted day.
Come thou, this moment, at His call,
and live for Him who died for all.

***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

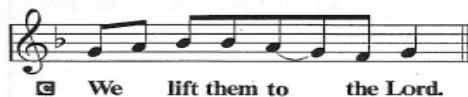
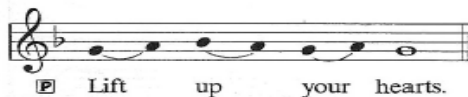
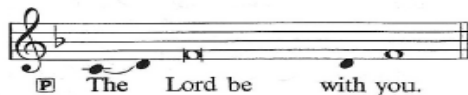
* **OFFERTORY** What Feast of Love WOV 701 (verses 1 & 3)

* **OFFERTORY PRAYER**

P: God of grace and mercy C: you graciously invite us to your banquet of grace and provide us with all we need in this life and the next. Accept the gifts you have first given us, which we bring to your table, and with them the offering of our lives.

Nourish our faith with the life and love of Christ our Lord as we receive His presence in the feast of Holy Communion; in the name of Jesus, the Bread of Life.

***DIALOGUE AND PREFACE**



*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.

* 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: God of blessing, at this table of grace we have seen you face to face, and in the gift of Christ's body and blood, our hearts have been refreshed. **C: Send us now to shine with your goodness and bear witness to the One we have received by inviting and welcoming others to come to you we pray in the name of Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. 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. Amen.

***SENDING HYMN "Blessed Assurance "**

WOV 699

***DISMISSAL**

P: In Jesus' love and mercy, we know all are welcome at the gospel banquet. Filled with Jesus' love and presence at the foretaste of the Marriage Feast of the Lamb today, we are sent out in joy and peace to compel others in word and deed to come to Jesus. **C: Thanks be to God!**

We invite Grace members to stay for a brief meeting to approve a motion by the Carolina's Mission Region. Pastor Doug will greet guests and others who can't stay at the door. Here is the new paragraph that we are voting on addressing the number of voting lay delegates for convocation and other regional meetings.

Proposed change to Article 7.02 Those with voting responsibilities at a Convocation of the Carolinas Mission Region, or any Convocation of a member Mission District, shall be the ordained ministers of the Mission Districts that comprise the Carolinas Mission Region of the NALC and the official lay delegates of the congregations of the Mission Region and Mission Districts. Each congregation may send up to two lay delegates to the annual CMR Convocation and Mission District Convocations. Lay persons chosen by their congregations to represent them at the Convocation are delegates. Clergy and delegates have voice and vote.

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, Cole 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, Ashlee Bumgardner, Clinton Childers, Evelyn Childers, David King, Randy & Rita Neill, Anita Sabino, Karlee Speagle, Scott Speagle, Zach Speagle, flood victims in Western North Carolina and Texas, Teachers, Staff & Students for the Upcoming Year, 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: Tenth Sunday After Pentecost

9:30am – Sunday School

10:30am - Worship Celebration

****Congregational Meeting Prior to Worship**

HAPPY AUGUST BIRTHDAY TO:

August 1 – James Hall, Gary Leatherman

August 3 – Sandra Powell

August 7 – Martha Johnson

August 12 – Jane Moss

August 23 – Lynette Momier, Betty Wilfong

August 30 – Pat Dietz

PRAY & GO 30 DAY DISCIPLESHIP PRAYER JOURNEY



Everyone is encouraged to continue praying and reading daily as part of our Pray & Go journey. With your faithfulness the month of August will be remembered as a time of tremendous spiritual growth at Grace.

In Christ's love, Pastor Doug Hefner

“THE STORY” BIBLE STUDY FOR SUNDAY SCHOOL: Thanks to Tim Eckard who led SS last week on the Book of Ruth - I hear that he did a great job. This week we continue our overview of the Bible with the next book, 1 and 2 Samuel. We will begin with the miraculously birth of Samuel and his faithful mother Hannah. In thanksgiving for Samuel's birth, Hannah dedicated Samuel to the priesthood. God called the boy Samuel to be a prophet and to replace Eli as priest. Samuel would be called upon to

anoint Israel's first king, Saul. We will also look at the rise and fall of King Saul, who would be replaced by a shepherd boy named David. We have all of the handouts going back to week 1 so that you can catch up on what you have missed. Please join us for this inspirational overview of the God's Word!

Summer Sermon Series on the Parables of Jesus:

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)

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. Please share this information with family, friends, neighbors, or anybody that you want to share the Gospel with and invite to Grace. This is our gift to all we meet.

HOMEcoming CELEBRATION ON SUNDAY SEPT. 21! **Listen God is Calling! Theme for Homecoming Sunday, Sept. 21** **Celebrating God's Love and Faithfulness for 228 Years!**

“Listen God is Calling” is a hymn (WOV712) that was written at the Lutheran Theological College in Tanzania in 1968 and has been translated into English for American congregations to sing in worship. The words are beautiful and powerful as they remind us of God's call to experience God's gifts of forgiveness, comfort, and joy and to also share the good news of God's love with others. *I chose this hymn for our worship together when I was installed as your pastor on December 7, 2024.* Here are the words:

Refrain: (Listen), Listen God is calling, through the Word inviting, offering forgiveness, comfort and joy.

- 1 (Jesus gave his mandate:) share the good news (that he came to save us) and set us free. *Refrain*
- 2 (Let none be forgotten) throughout the world. (In the triune name of God) go and baptize. *Refrain*
- 3 (Help us to be faithful,) standing steadfast, (walking in your precepts,) led by your Word. *Refrain*

Verse 1 reminds us that this Good News comes to us in Jesus, God's Son, who came to save us and set us free through his life, ministry, death and resurrection. Verse 2 reminds us of our calling, that none would be forgotten as we minister in Jesus' name and go and baptize in Jesus' name. Verse 3 is a prayer for the Church "the called out ones": Help us to be faithful, standing steadfast, walking in Your Precepts, let by your Word. The song reminds us of the very heart of who and whose we are and what our calling and mission is as the people of God. That is the reason I chose this song to begin our journey together as pastor and congregation.

"*Listen God is Calling*" will be our theme as we celebrate 228 years of God's blessing and calling as God's people on our Homecoming, September 21, 2025. Worship will be at 10:30am and a covered dish meal will follow in the fellowship hall and shelter. Please invite your family, neighbors, former members, friends, and coworkers! We are preparing in the office a card that can be mailed or handed out.

WORSHIP ASSISTANT VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED! - Please offer your services as a Lector, Usher, or Communion Assistant for the upcoming months. Worship Assistants help to make our worship experience more meaningful. If you would like to serve during a particular month, please notify Todd Childers.

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 – Cindy Bivens
Communion Assistants – Cindy Bivens & Shelly Scronce
Ushers – David Wilfong & Jack Parris
Offering Counters – Todd Childers & Tim Eckard