

Second Sunday of Easter

April 12, 2025 10:30 AM



Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church



NORTH AMERICAN
LUTHERAN
CHURCH

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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

The congregation is invited to stand.

* **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** “Christ Is Risen! Alleluia!”

LBW 131

* **HYMN OF PRAISE** “This is the Feast”

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia,
al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia. [1] Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was
slain, whose blood set us free to be peo-ple of God.
This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia,
al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia. [2] Pow-er, rich-es, wis-dom, and
strength, and hon-or, bless-ing, and glo-ry are his.
This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia,
al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia. [3] Sing with all the peo-ple of God, and
join in the hymn of all cre-a-tion: Bless-ing, hon-or, glo-ry, and
might be to God and the Lamb for-ev-er. A-men.

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia,
 al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia. For the Lamb who was
 slain has be-gun his reign. Al-le-lu-ia.
 This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.
 Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia.

* **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: Living God, in the midst of our doubts and fears you bring your peace and presence through the wounded hands of Christ. Breathe on us the power of your Spirit, increase our faith, and quell our doubts and fears; through 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: Acts 2: 14a, 36-41

^{14a}Peter, standing with the eleven, lifted up his voice and addressed them:

³⁶“Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified.” ³⁷Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?” ³⁸And Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ³⁹For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself.” ⁴⁰And with many other words he bore witness and

continued to exhort them, saying, “Save yourselves from this crooked generation.” ⁴¹So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls.

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

PSALM 116: 1-9

¹I love the Lord, because he has heard my voice and my pleas for mercy.

²**Because he inclined his ear to me, therefore I will call on him as long as I live.**

³The snares of death encompassed me; the pangs of Sheol laid hold on me; I suffered distress and anguish.

⁴**Then I called on the name of the Lord: “O Lord, I pray, deliver my soul!”**

⁵Gracious is the Lord, and righteous; our God is merciful.

⁶**The Lord preserves the simple; when I was brought low, he saved me.**

⁷Return, O my soul, to your rest; for the Lord has dealt bountifully with you.

⁸**For you have delivered my soul from death, my eyes from tears, my feet from stumbling;**

⁹I will walk before the Lord in the land of the living.

SECOND READING: 1 Peter 1: 3-9

“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, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who by God’s power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, 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. 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, 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”**

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 24: 13-35

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

¹³That very day two of {Jesus’ followers} were going to a village named Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, ¹⁴and they were talking with each other about all these things that had happened. ¹⁵While they were talking and discussing together, Jesus himself drew near and went with them. ¹⁶But their eyes were kept from recognizing him. ¹⁷And he said to them, “What is this conversation that you are holding with each other as you walk?” And they stood still, looking sad. ¹⁸Then one of them, named Cleopas, answered him, “Are you the only visitor to Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?” ¹⁹And he said to them, “What things?” And they said to him, “Concerning Jesus of Nazareth, a man who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, ²⁰and how our chief priests and rulers delivered him up to be condemned to death, and crucified him. ²¹But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things happened. ²²Moreover, some women of our company amazed us. They were at the tomb early in the morning, ²³and when they did not find his body, they came back saying that they had even seen a vision of angels, who said that he was alive. ²⁴Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but him they did not see.” ²⁵And he said to them, “O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! ²⁶Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?” ²⁷And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself. ²⁸So they drew near to the village to which they were going. He acted as if he were going farther, ²⁹but they urged him strongly, saying, “Stay with us, for it is toward evening and the day is now far spent.” So he went in to stay with them. ³⁰When he was at table with them, he took the bread and blessed and broke it and gave it to them. ³¹And their eyes were opened, and they recognized him. And he vanished from their sight. ³²They said to each other, “Did not our hearts burn within us while he talked to us on the

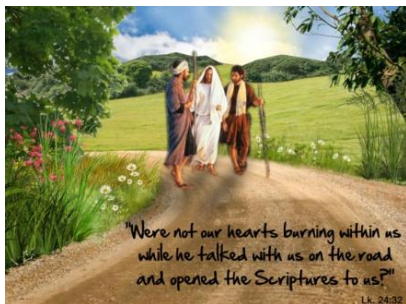
road, while he opened to us the Scriptures?”³³ And they rose that same hour and returned to Jerusalem. And they found the eleven and those who were with them gathered together,³⁴ saying, “The Lord has risen indeed, and has appeared to Simon!”³⁵ Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he was known to them in the breaking of the bread.

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

The congregation may be seated.

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

SERMON



“Journey of Hope and New Life in Christ: Walking Together, Word Centered, Welcoming Others, and Witnesses of the Gospel”

Pastor Doug

***HYMN OF THE DAY** “Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing” LBW 144

***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.**

Worshippers 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: 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

P: The Lord be with you. C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts. C: We lift them to the Lord our God.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is good and right to give God our thanks and praise.

* 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.

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 "Up From the Grave He Arose (Christ Arose)" TCH 357

LBW p. 70

LBW p. 71

* **DISMISSAL**

P: Let us go forth now in the peace of our risen Lord and love God and our neighbor in word and deed.

C: Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

ALTAR FLOWERS are given to the Glory of God and in honor of Shelly Scronce at her birthday by Alan and Stormy Shull.



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, Harvey Leatherman, Phil & Malinda Leatherman, Tim Leatherman, Betty Matheson, Joe Momier, Jane Moss, Christine Norman, Michael Norman, Tricia and Dan Panek, Mike, Debi & Stephen Pisko, Alice Parris, Helen Smith, Ethan Starnes, Sandi Tallant, Libby Travis, Shirley Warlick, Ken & Tirzah Welch, Scott & Carolyn Whisnant, and Nancy Willis.

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, Terry & John Barnett, Ashlee Bumgardner, Travis Bumgardner, Clinton Childers, Evelyn Childers, Anne Poovey, Randy & Rita Neill, Donald Smith, Scott Speagle, and the family of Martha Young. Prayers for world peace and for our church, 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.

HAPPY MARCH BIRTHDAY TO:

Andrew Crouse – April 8 Jennifer Scott – April 11
April 13 – Rick Bivens Shelly Scronce – April 16
April 18 – Cole Leatherman Libby Travis – April 22
Tim Leatherman – April 29

COMING UP AT GRACE THIS WEEK

Today: Second Sunday of Easter

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

Wednesday:

12:00pm – Grace Prayer Luncheon at Fellowship Hall

6:30pm – Evening Vespers Service

SAVE THE DATES

Grace is part of a community VBS with 5 other churches. This year's VBS is *Illumination Station: Shining a Light On Who Jesus Really Is!* The date is Sunday, 5/31 to Thursday

6/4 from 5:30-8pm. Dinner is served each night followed by Bible stories, music, crafts, and games! Children, youth and adults may register at <https://www.zionhickory.org/vbs-2026>. Volunteers are needed.

Grace will be hosting the *Carolina’s Mission District Solid Rock Day Camp* again this year. The dates are **Monday, June 15 – Friday, June 19**. The camp is for children/youth 4K- 5th grade. We will have college age counselors and a seminarian to lead the camp. The hours are 9 am - 4 pm Monday-Thursday, 9 am- 12 noon on Friday. The week will include Bible study, singing, games, crafts, skits, and lots of fun!

Upcoming Dates:

- Fri/Sat May 1&2: Carolina’s Mission District Convocation in Salisbury, NC.
- Sunday, May 3 Fifth Sunday of Easter
- Sunday, May 10, Sixth Sunday of Easter, Mother’s Day, Gifts for Mothers
- Sunday, May 18, Seventh Sunday of Easter / Celebration of the Ascension of Our Lord
- Sunday, May 24, The Day of Pentecost, we will honor our veterans who have died in serving our nation (Memorial Day is Monday, May 25)
- Sunday, May 31 Holy Trinity Sunday
- Sunday, May 31 – Thursday, June 4 Illumination Station VBS (see announcement)
- Sunday, June 7 2nd Sun aft Pentecost
- Sunday, June 14, 3rd Sun aft Pentecost (evening social to welcome Day Campers)
- Mon-Friday, June 15-19, Solid Rock Day Camp Hosted by Grace, 9am-4pm
- Sunday, June 21, 4th Sun aft Pentecost, Father’s Day, Gifts for Fathers

GIVING AND ATTENDANCE FOR LAST SUNDAY

Date	Offering		Attendance	
	Total Receipts	General Fund	Worship	Sunday School
4/5/2026	\$ 3,987.00	\$ 3,570.00	81	12

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 – Cindy Bivens & Nicky Jarrett
Communion Assistants – Tina Hefner & Nicky Jarrett
Ushers – Jack Wilfong & Allen Biggerstaff
Offering Counters – Todd Childers & Jeff Scronce

Listening for the Promise

WEEKLY DEVOTIONAL

Second Sunday of Easter – April 12, 2026

“And their eyes were opened, and they recognized him.”

- Luke 24:31a -

Putting the Pieces Together

There is a story about a father that wanted to give his child something to do. He took a map of the U.S. out of the newspaper and tore it into pieces to see if his child could put the map back together. A few minutes later the child returned with it all taped back together. The father was amazed. “How did you do that so fast?” The child turned the page over. One the back was a picture of Jesus. “I just put Jesus together and everything fit into place.”

Ask any youth minister and they will tell you that Jesus is always the answer. It doesn't matter what question you ask, the kids will always say “Jesus.” And they are right. Jesus is the answer. The problem is that sometimes we don't know how to put all the pieces together. We don't always recognize the presence of God in our ordinary circumstances.

Two disciples were walking to Emmaus on the evening after the Resurrection, discussing the events surrounding Jesus' death when a stranger joined them. They did not recognize that it was Jesus, and they were shocked to hear that He hadn't heard what happened in Jerusalem. When they told him, Jesus put all the pieces of the puzzle together as He showed them the truth from the Bible. They wanted to know more, so invited Him to stay with them. Jesus broke the bread and then they saw Him.

This is the pattern of worship that Jesus established for our lives of faith. It was not until Jesus put the pieces together that they could see Him clearly. Jesus commanded us to “Do this in remembrance of me,” because in the Word and Sacraments He reveals Himself to us again and again. We learn about how Jesus came to do so much for us as we hear the scriptures read and preached, and we experience the fulfillment of His promises in the water, bread, and wine of the Sacraments. Just like the two disciples from Emmaus, we are called to take what we have seen and experienced so that Jesus can put the pieces together for them, too.