

# Fifth Sunday After Pentecost

June 28, 2026 10:30 AM



## Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church



NORTH AMERICAN  
LUTHERAN  
CHURCH

---

4536 Hickory Lincolnton Highway, Newton, North Carolina 28658

Church Office: (704) 462-1035 email: [gracenalcnwton@aol.com](mailto:gracenalcnwton@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 - Thursday 8am to 12pm

**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 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:** 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.

*Silence for reflection and self-examination.*

**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:** 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**

“When Morning Gilds the Skies”

LBW 545

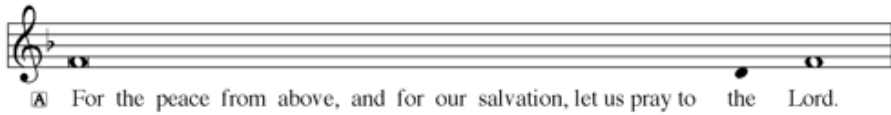
\* **GREETING**

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.**

\* **KYRIE**



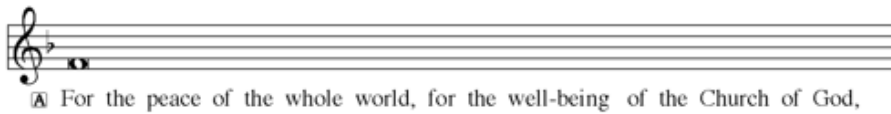
Ⓐ In peace, let us pray to the Lord. ☩ Lord, have mer - cy.



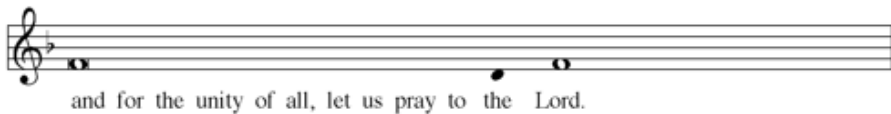
Ⓐ For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



☩ Lord, have mer - cy.



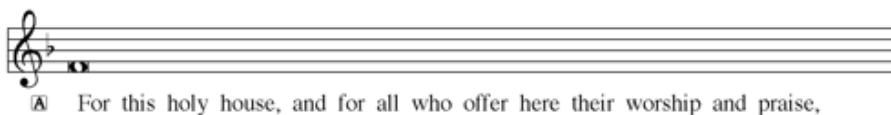
Ⓐ For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



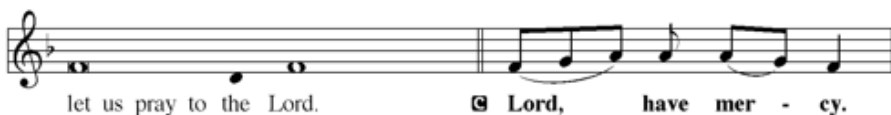
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



☩ Lord, have mer - cy.



Ⓐ For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. ☩ Lord, have mer - cy.



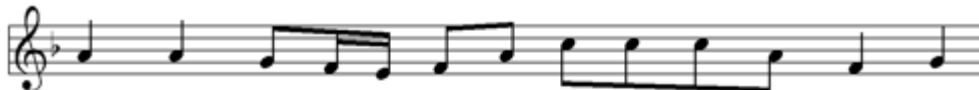
Ⓐ Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. ☩ A - men

\* HYMN OF PRAISE

“Glory to God”



♩ Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his peo - ple on earth.



♩ Lord God, heav - en - ly king, al - might - y God and Fa - ther:



We wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.



Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God:



You take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.



You are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther; re - ceive our prayer.



For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,



you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,



in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - - men

\* **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P: Lord of all power and might, you are the author and giver of all good things. Graft into our hearts a love of your name. Increase in us true faith, nourish us with what is good, and watch over all who are in your care. Grant this, we pray, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**     *The congregation may be seated.*

**FIRST READING: Jeremiah 28: 5-9**

<sup>5</sup>The prophet Jeremiah spoke to Hananiah the prophet in the presence of the priests and all the people who were standing in the house of the LORD, <sup>6</sup>and the prophet Jeremiah said, “Amen! May the LORD do so; may the LORD make the words that you have prophesied come true, and bring back to this place from Babylon the vessels of the house of the LORD, and all the exiles. <sup>7</sup>Yet hear now this word that I speak in your hearing and in the hearing of all the people. <sup>8</sup>The prophets who preceded you and me from ancient times prophesied war, famine, and pestilence against many countries and great kingdoms. <sup>9</sup>As for the prophet who prophesies peace, when the word of that prophet comes to pass, then it will be known that the LORD has truly sent the prophet.”

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

**PSALM 119: 153-160**

<sup>153</sup>Behold my affliction and deliver me,  
for I do not forget your law.

<sup>154</sup>**Plead my cause and redeem me;  
according to your promise, give me life.**

<sup>155</sup>Deliverance is far from the wicked,  
for they do not study your statutes.

<sup>156</sup>**Great is your compassion, O LORD;  
preserve my life, according to your judgments.**

<sup>157</sup>There are many who persecute and oppress me,  
yet I have not swerved from your decrees.

<sup>158</sup>**I look with loathing at the faithless,  
for they have not kept your word.**

<sup>159</sup>See how I love your commandments!  
O LORD, in your mercy, preserve me.

<sup>160</sup>**The heart of your word is truth;  
all your righteous judgments endure forevermore.**

## **SECOND READING: Romans 7: 1-13**

<sup>1</sup>Do you not know, brothers — for I am speaking to those who know the law — that the law is binding on a person only as long as he lives? <sup>2</sup>For a married woman is bound by law to her husband while he lives, but if her husband dies she is released from the law of marriage. <sup>3</sup>Accordingly, she will be called an adulteress if she lives with another man while her husband is alive. But if her husband dies, she is free from that law, and if she marries another man she is not an adulteress. <sup>4</sup>Likewise, my brothers, you also have died to the law through the body of Christ, so that you may belong to another, to him who has been raised from the dead, in order that we may bear fruit for God. <sup>5</sup>For while we were living in the flesh, our sinful passions, aroused by the law, were at work in our members to bear fruit for death. <sup>6</sup>But now we are released from the law, having died to that which held us captive, so that we serve in the new way of the Spirit and not in the old way of the written code. <sup>7</sup>What then shall we say? That the law is sin? By no means! Yet if it had not been for the law, I would not have known sin. For I would not have known what it is to covet if the law had not said, “You shall not covet.” <sup>8</sup>But sin, seizing an opportunity through the commandment, produced in me all kinds of covetousness. For apart from the law, sin lies dead. <sup>9</sup>I was once alive apart from the law, but when the commandment came, sin came alive and I died. <sup>10</sup>The very commandment that promised life proved to be death to me. <sup>11</sup>For sin, seizing an opportunity through the commandment, deceived me and through it killed me. <sup>12</sup>So the law is holy, and the commandment is holy and righteous and good. <sup>13</sup>Did that which is good, then, bring death to me? By no means! It was sin, producing death in me through what is good, in order that sin might be shown to be sin, and through the commandment might become sinful beyond measure.

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: Matthew 10: 34-42**

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

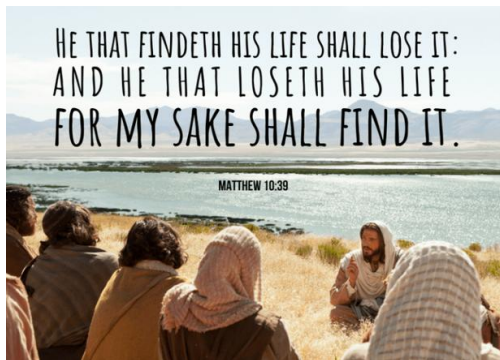
<sup>34</sup>{Jesus said to the disciples,} “Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I have not come to bring peace, but a sword. <sup>35</sup>For I have come to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law. <sup>36</sup>And a person’s enemies will be those of his own household. <sup>37</sup>Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. <sup>38</sup>And whoever does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me. <sup>39</sup>Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. <sup>40</sup>Whoever receives you receives me, and whoever receives me receives him who sent me. <sup>41</sup>The one who receives a prophet because he is a prophet will receive a prophet’s reward, and the one who receives a righteous person because he is a righteous person will receive a righteous person’s reward. <sup>42</sup>And whoever gives one of these little ones even a cup of cold water because he is a disciple, truly, I say to you, he will by no means lose his reward.”

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

*The congregation may be seated.*

**CHILDREN’S MESSAGE**

**SERMON**



*“Decisions”*

*Pastor Gary Coble*

**\*HYMN OF THE DAY**

**“Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus”**

**LBW 389**

## \*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



\* **OFFERTORY PRAYER**

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

\***PREFACE PRAYER** “It is indeed right and salutary . . . “

LBW p. 68

**\*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**

LBW p. 70

LBW p. 71

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: 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**

\* **SENDING HYMN**

“God of Grace, God of Glory”

**LBW 415**

\* **DISMISSAL**

P: Go in peace and love to serve the Lord and our neighbor!

**C: Thanks be to God!**

**POSTLUDE**

**ALTAR FLOWERS** are given to the Glory of God and in memory of Franklin and Libby Jarrett by Gene and Frankie Crouse.



### **In the Grace Church Family:**

Jeffry Bivens, Rick & Cindy Bivens, the family of Glenda Childers, Pat Dietz, Nelson & Sue Fulbright, Allen and Kay Hatchett, Lorene Heavner, Larry & Brenda Jarrett, Martha Johnson, Faye Lane, Phil & Malinda 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 Welch, Scott & Carolyn Whisnant, and Nancy Willis.

**Nursing Home:** Juanita Haas (Trinity Village), Ted Whisnant (Trinity Village), Harvey Leatherman (Trinity Ridge, Room 100)

**Friends and Relatives in our Prayers:** Pray for Peace in Israel and the World, New Covenant Lutheran Mission Church, John Barnett, Ashlee Bumgardner, Clinton Childers, Evelyn Childers, family of Mike Cline, Ann & Jim Harrelson, the family of Flossie Hatley, Chris Keiper, family of Lynette Momier, Dennis Morgan, Randy & Rita Neill, Jolene Heavner Shuford, the family of Richard Ramsey, and Scott Speagle. 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 JUNE BIRTHDAY TO:**

June 2 Helen Smith      June 11 Cindy Bivens      June 11 Alicia Wilfong  
June 14 Emiley Robertson      June 19 Allen Biggerstaff      June 26 Jeff Hefner

## **COMING UP AT GRACE THIS WEEK**

**Today: Fifth Sunday After Pentecost**

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

**Wednesday:**

12:00pm – Fred T. Foard Seniors Luncheon at Wesley Chapel UMC

## **UPCOMING DATES**

*See bulletin insert for upcoming dates.*

## **GIVING AND ATTENDANCE FOR LAST SUNDAY**

Date	Offering		Attendance	
	Total Receipts	General Fund	Worship	Sunday School
6/21/2026	\$ 3,673	\$ 3,551	44	9

*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 & Susan Setzer*  
*Communion Assistants – Cindy Bivens & Sheila Drum*  
*Ushers – Jack Parris & David Wilfong*  
*Offering Counters – Todd Childers & Kim Parker*