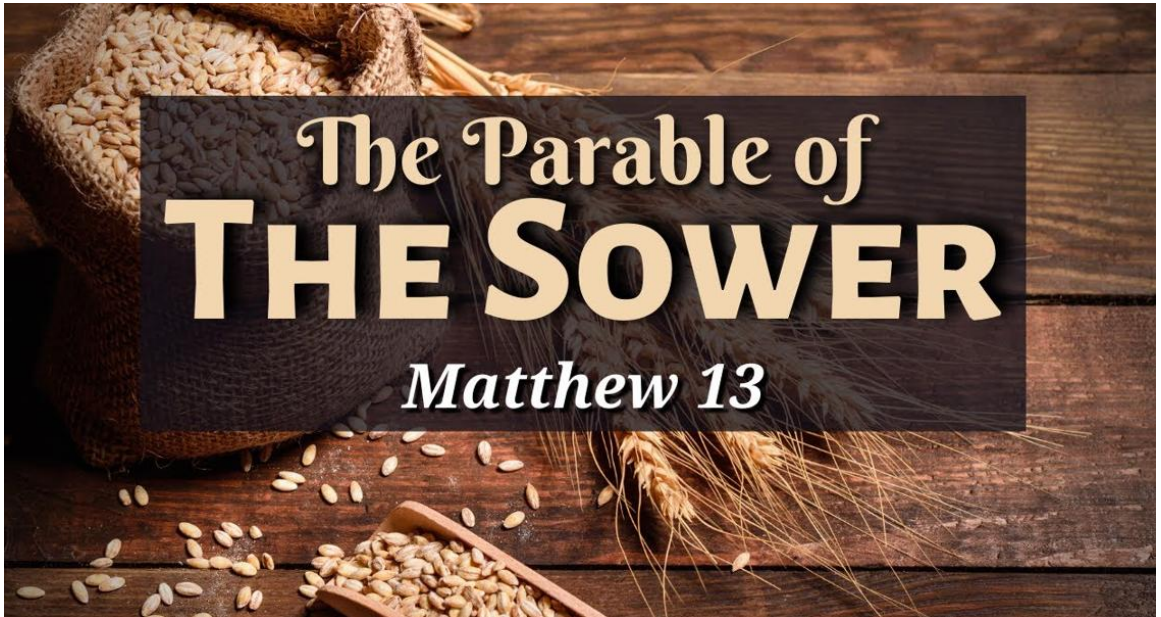


Seventh Sunday After Pentecost

July 12, 2026 10:30 AM



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 - 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**

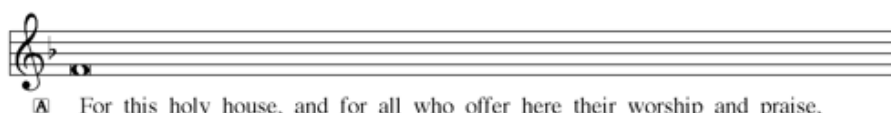
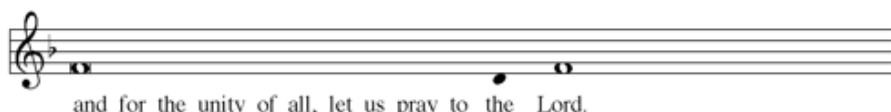
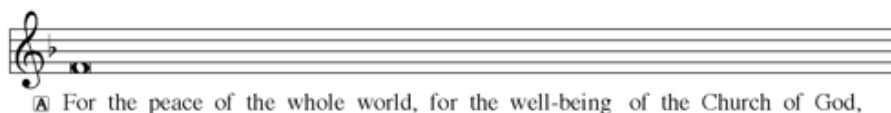
“Praise and Thanksgiving”

LBW 409

* **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**

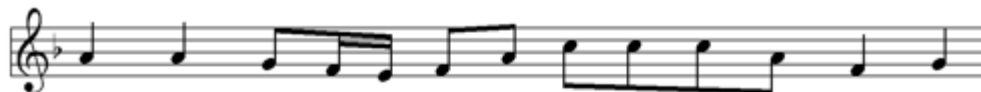


* HYMN OF PRAISE

“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: Richly inspire us, O Lord, to consider and accomplish what you see is good. For we know that we cannot live without you, but that with you, we shall prevail. And so, we pray through Jesus Christ, your Son, 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: Isaiah 55: 10-13

¹⁰“For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,
¹¹so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it.
¹²For you shall go out in joy and be led forth in peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall break forth into singing, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.
¹³Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress; instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle; and it shall make a name for the Lord, an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.”

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

PSALM 65: 1-13

¹Praise is due to you, O God, in Zion, and to you shall vows be performed.

²O you who hear prayer, to you shall all flesh come.

³When iniquities prevail against me, you atone for our transgressions.

⁴Blessed is the one you choose and bring near, to dwell in your courts! We shall be satisfied with the goodness of your house, the holiness of your temple!

⁵By awesome deeds you answer us with righteousness, O God of our salvation, the hope of all the ends of the earth and of the farthest seas;

⁶the one who by his strength established the mountains, being girded with might;

⁷who stills the roaring of the seas, the roaring of their waves, the tumult of the peoples,

⁸so that those who dwell at the ends of the earth are in awe at your signs. You make the going out of the morning and the evening to shout for joy.

⁹You visit the earth and water it; you greatly enrich it; the river of God is full of water; you provide their grain, for so you have prepared it.

¹⁰You water its furrows abundantly, settling its ridges, softening it with showers, and blessing its growth.

¹¹You crown the year with your bounty; your wagon tracks overflow with abundance.

¹²The pastures of the wilderness overflow, the hills gird themselves with joy,

¹³the meadows clothe themselves with flocks, the valleys deck themselves with grain, they shout and sing together for joy.

SECOND READING: Romans 8: 12-17

¹²So then, brothers, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. ¹³For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. ¹⁴For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. ¹⁵For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, “Abba! Father!” ¹⁶The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷and if children, then heirs — heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.

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: Matthew 13: 1-9, 18-23**

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

¹That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. ²And great crowds gathered about him, so that he got into a boat and sat down. And the whole crowd stood on the beach. ³And he told them many things in parables, saying: “A sower went out to sow. ⁴And as he sowed, some seeds fell along the path, and the birds came and devoured them.

⁵Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and immediately they sprang up, since they had no depth of soil, ⁶but when the sun rose they were scorched. And since they had no root, they withered away. ⁷Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. ⁸Other seeds fell on good soil and produced grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. ⁹He who has ears, let him hear.”

¹⁸{Jesus said to the disciples,} “Hear then the parable of the sower: ¹⁹When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what has been sown in his heart. This is what was sown along the path. ²⁰As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy, ²¹yet he has no root in himself, but endures for a while, and when tribulation or persecution arises on account of the word, immediately he falls away. ²²As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and it proves unfruitful. ²³As for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it. He indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty.”

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

The congregation may be seated.

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

SERMON



“The Power of the Word”

Pastor Gary Coble

***HYMN OF THE DAY**

“Word of God, Come Down on Earth”

WOV 716

***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: 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**



*** WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

LBW p. 70

*** LORD'S PRAYER**

LBW p. 71

*** INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

P: The Gifts of God for the People of God.

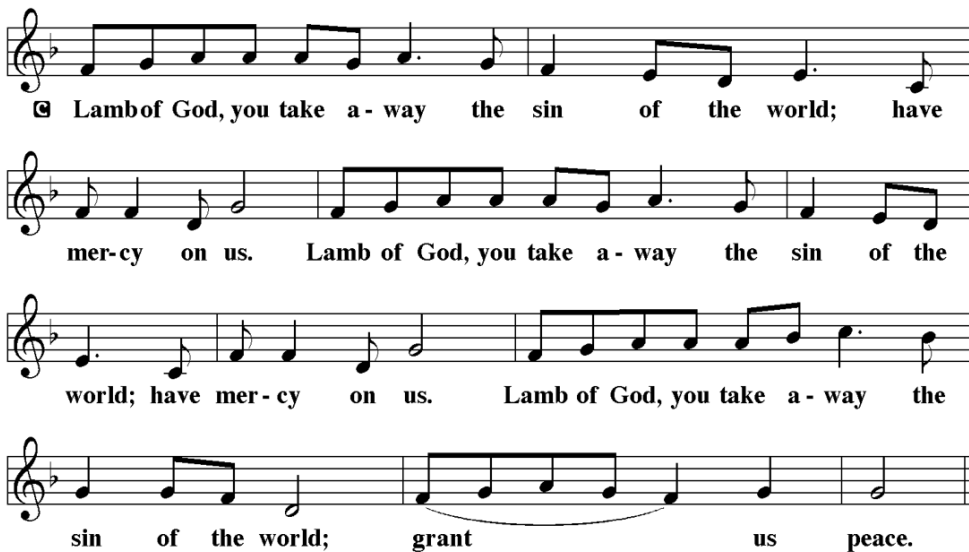
C: Thanks be to God!

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: 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

“For the Fruit of All Creation”

WOV 760

* 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 honor of Emily Sipe’s birthday by Gene and Frankie Crouse.



In the Grace Church Family:

Jeffrey 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, Harvey Leatherman, 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)

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 JULY BIRTHDAY TO:

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

COMING UP AT GRACE THIS WEEK

Today: Seventh Sunday After Pentecost

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

GIVING AND ATTENDANCE FOR LAST SUNDAY

Date	Offering		Attendance	
	Total Receipts	General Fund	Worship	Sunday School
7/5/2026	\$ 1,932	\$ 1,510	36	8

UPCOMING DATES

Please review these dates and provide feedback or additional dates to Pastor Doug and the Board. Once the dates are finalized, we will share this information with the community in a postcard mailing.

- +Sun, Aug. 2: Wilfong Family Reunion – Fellowship Hall – 1:00pm*
- +Sun, Aug. 16: Leonard Family Reunion – Fellowship Hall – 1:00pm*
- +Sun., Aug. 23: Back to School Service 10:30am, Blessing of Backpacks, Birthday Luncheon for Betty Wilfong's 80th! The Congregation is invited – bring a dish to share.*
- +Sun., Sept. 13: Grandparents Sunday, 10:30am – Gift/Prayers/Blessing for Grandparents*
- +Wed., Sept. 16: Grace Senior Luncheon – 12:00pm*
- +Sun, Sept 20: Homecoming Worship Service followed by Covered Dish Luncheon in Shelter*
- +Sat., Oct. 3: Blessing of the Animals Service at Grace Outdoor Shelter 5:00pm*
- +Sun., Oct. 4: Food for the Poor Sunday 10:30am; Catawba Co. Walk for Hunger 3:00pm*
- +October Possible Bazaar (Yard sale) with Octoberfest foods as a fundraiser for hunger.*
- +Wed., Oct. 21: Grace Senior Luncheon – 12:00pm*
- +Sun, Oct. 25: Reformation Sunday Service at 10:30am*
- +Sat., Oct. 31: Grace Fall Festival and Trunk or Treat 5pm-7pm*
- +Sunday, Nov. 1: 10:30am All Saints' Day Service, Worshippers light a candle in remembrance of a loved one in heaven.*
- +Sun, Nov. 15: Whisnant Family Reunion – Fellowship Hall – 1:00pm*
- +Wed., Nov. 18: Grace Senior Luncheon – 12:00pm*
- +Nov. 22 : Christ the King Sunday 10:30am, Last Sunday in Church Year*
- +Wed, Nov. 25 : Community Thanksgiving Service 6pm Dinner, 7pm Worship*
- +Sat., Nov. 28: Hanging of the Greens, 10:00 am*
- +Nov. 29: Advent Season 11/29:12/24 begins with First Sunday of Advent.*
- +Wed., Dec. 2: Fred T. Foard Seniors Luncheon – 12:00pm at Grace*
- +Sat., Dec. 6: Breakfast with Santa, Pancakes with fixings, Crafts, Music, Storytime*
- +Wed., Dec. 16: Grace Senior Luncheon – 12:00pm*
- +Thur., Dec. 24: Christmas Eve Candlelight and Holy Communion Service 5pm*
- +Sun., Jan. 3, 2027: New Year's Sunday Service - 10:30am*

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 – Betty Wilfong

Communion Assistants – Sheila Drum & Betty Wilfong

Ushers – Jeff Scronce & Jack Wilfong

Offering Counters – Todd Childers & Jason Yoder