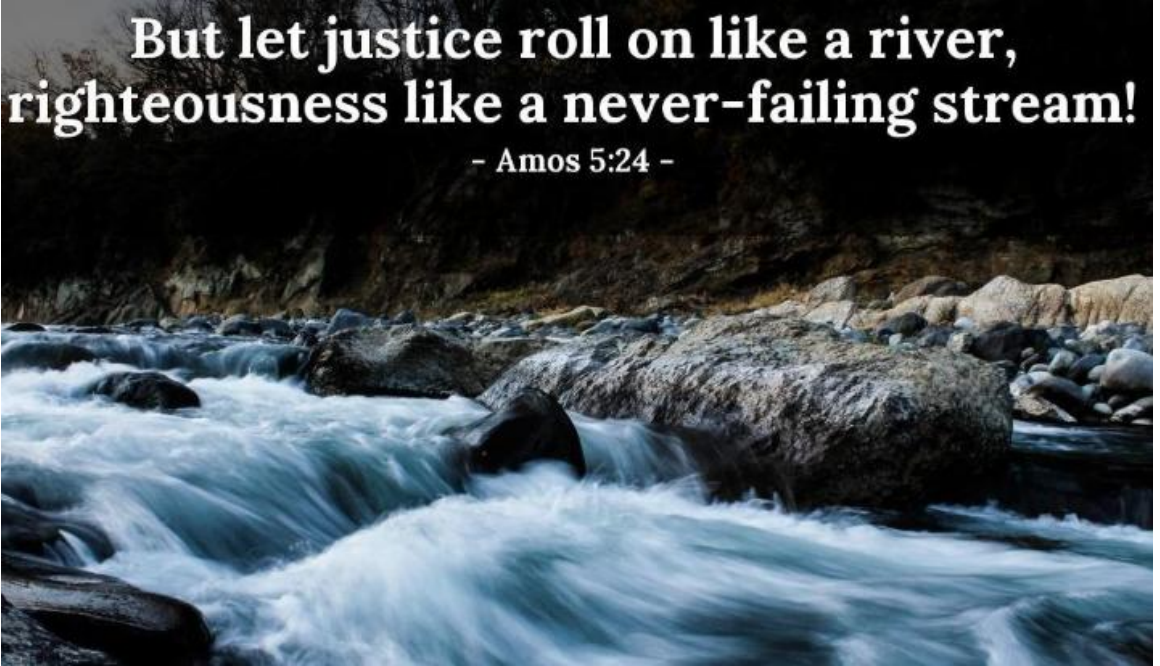


Eleventh Sunday After Pentecost

August 9, 2026 10:30 AM

**But let justice roll on like a river,
righteousness like a never-failing stream!**

- Amos 5:24 -



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 - 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

*** 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**

“God of Grace and God of Glory”

LBW 415

*** 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: Almighty and merciful God, only by your gift of grace can the faithful offer service that is worthy of you and deserving of praise. Keep us from stumbling as we run to receive your promises; 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: Amos 1, 5, and 7

Amos 1: The words of Amos, who was among the shepherds of Tekoa, which he saw concerning Israel in the days of Uzziah king of Judah and in the days of Jeroboam the son of Joash, king of Israel, two years before the earthquake. ² And he said: “The Lord roars from Zion and utters his voice from Jerusalem; the pastures of the shepherds mourn, and the top of Carmel withers.”

Amos 5 Hear this word that I take up over you in lamentation, O house of Israel:

² “Fallen, no more to rise, is the virgin Israel; forsaken on her land, with none to raise her up.” ³ For thus says the Lord God: “The city that went out a thousand shall have a hundred left, and that which went out a hundred shall have ten left to the house of Israel.” ⁴ For thus says the Lord to the house of Israel: “Seek me and live; ⁵ but do not seek Bethel, and do not enter into Gilgal or cross over to Beersheba; for Gilgal shall surely go into exile, and Bethel shall come to nothing.” ⁶ Seek the Lord and live, lest he break out like fire in the house of Joseph, and it devour, with none to quench it for Bethel, ⁷ O you who turn justice to wormwood and cast down righteousness to the earth! ⁸ He who made the Pleiades and Orion, and turns deep darkness into the morning and darkens the day into night, who calls for the waters of the sea and pours them out on the surface of the earth, the Lord is his name; ⁹ who makes destruction flash forth against the strong, so that destruction comes upon the fortress. ¹⁰ They hate him who reproves in the gate, and they abhor him who speaks the truth. ¹¹ Therefore because you trample on^[b] the poor

and you exact taxes of grain from him, you have built houses of hewn stone, but you shall not dwell in them; you have planted pleasant vineyards, but you shall not drink their wine.¹² For I know how many are your transgressions and how great are your sins—you who afflict the righteous, who take a bribe, and turn aside the needy in the gate.¹³ Therefore he who is prudent will keep silent in such a time, for it is an evil time.

¹⁴Seek good, and not evil, that you may live; and so the Lord, the God of hosts, will be with you, as you have said. ¹⁵Hate evil, and love good, and establish justice in the gate; it may be that the Lord, the God of hosts, will be gracious to the remnant of Joseph.

¹⁸Woe to you who desire the day of the Lord! Why would you have the day of the Lord? It is darkness, and not light, ¹⁹as if a man fled from a lion, and a bear met him, or went into the house and leaned his hand against the wall, and a serpent bit him.

²⁰Is not the day of the Lord darkness, and not light, and gloom with no brightness in it?

²¹“I hate, I despise your feasts, and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies.

²²Even though you offer me your burnt offerings and grain offerings, I will not accept them, and the peace offerings of your fattened animals, I will not look upon them.

²³Take away from me the noise of your songs; to the melody of your harps I will not listen.

²⁴***But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.***

Amos 7: ⁷This is what he showed me: behold, the Lord was standing beside a wall built with a plumb line, with a plumb line in his hand. ⁸And the Lord said to me, “Amos, what do you see?” And I said, “A plumb line.” Then the Lord said, “Behold, I am setting a plumb line in the midst of my people Israel; I will never again pass by them; ⁹the high places of Isaac shall be made desolate, and the sanctuaries of Israel shall be laid waste, and I will rise against the house of Jeroboam with the sword.”

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

PSALM 18: 1-6

¹I love you, O Lord, my strength.

²**The Lord is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer, my God, my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.**

³I call upon the Lord, who is worthy to be praised, and I am saved from my enemies.

⁴**The cords of death encompassed me; the torrents of destruction assailed me;**

⁵the cords of Sheol entangled me; the snares of death confronted me.

⁶**In my distress I called upon the Lord; to my God I cried for help. From his temple he heard my voice, and my cry to him reached his ears.**

SECOND READING: Romans 10: 5-17

“The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart” (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); ⁹because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved. ¹¹For the Scripture says, “Everyone who believes in him will not be put to shame.” ¹²For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same Lord is Lord of all, bestowing his riches on all who call on him. ¹³For “everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.” ¹⁴How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? ¹⁵And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!” ¹⁶But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Isaiah says, “LORD, who has believed what he has heard from us?” ¹⁷So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.

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 25: 34-40**

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

³⁴Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. ³⁵For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, ³⁶I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.’ ³⁷Then the righteous will answer him, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? ³⁸And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? ³⁹And when did we see you

sick or in prison and visit you?’ ⁴⁰ And the King will answer them, ‘Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers you did it to me.’

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

The congregation may be seated.

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

SERMON



**"See, I am setting
a plumb line in
the midst of
my people
Israel..." Amos 7:8**

*"Shalom in the Home and World:
Seeking God by Striving for Justice
(Mishpat) and Righteousness
(Tzedekah)"*

Pastor Doug

***HYMN OF THE DAY**

"Let Justice Flow Like Streams"

WOV 763

1 Let justice flow like streams Of sparkling water pure,
Enabling growth refreshing life Abundant cleansing sure.

2 Let righteousness roll on As others' cares we heed,
An ever flowing stream of faith Translated into deed.

3 So may God's plumb line straight Define our measures true,
And justice right and peace pervade This world our whole life through.

Aaron Williams, Jane Parker Huber CCLI Song #591745
CCLI License #220202

***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: Gracious God, as we bring our gifts to You, may we remember those who are marginalized and oppressed. Let our offerings be a source of justice and hope for those in need. Help us to use these resources to build a world where all are treated with dignity and respect. As we are lovingly invited to the table of grace today, nourish us once again with the Bride of Life so that we may live our calling as Your beloved people in the name of 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.**

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

C: It is right to give him 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

The musical score is written on four staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like. The lyrics are: "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 first staff ends with a repeat sign. The second staff ends with a repeat sign. The third staff ends with a repeat sign. The fourth staff ends with a double bar line.

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: Loving Lord, you have fed us with the True Bread from Heaven so that we may be filled with your love and grace. In this meal we remember the sacrifice of Jesus, who called us to love our neighbors as ourselves. May this communion strengthen our commitment to justice and peace. Let us be nourished by Your grace to advocate for the voiceless and to work towards a world where justice flows like a river, in the name of Jesus. **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.

***SENDING HYMN**

"We Are Called to be God's People"

TCH 415

***DISMISSAL**

P: Let us now go in the peace of Christ who in love dwells in us so that we can live in His Shalom so that justice rolls through us like a mighty river, and righteousness like a never-failing stream.

C: Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

ALTAR FLOWERS are given to the Glory of God and in memory of Tim Sherrill at his birthday by Alan and Stormy Shull.



In the Grace Church Family:

Jeffry Bivens, Rick & Cindy Bivens, Pat Dietz, 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, Todd Setzer, 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, Larry Buff, Ashlee Bumgardner, Clinton Childers, Evelyn Childers, Marilyn Childers, family of Robin Doyle, Alan Fulbright, Randy & Rita Neill, Jolene Heavner Shuford, Scott Speagle, and Dale Smith. 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 AUGUST BIRTHDAY TO:

August 1 Gary Leatherman	August 1 James Hall	August 7 Martha Johnson
August 12 Jane Moss	August 23 Betty Wilfong	August 30 Pat Dietz

COMING UP AT GRACE THIS WEEK:

Today: Eleventh Sunday After Pentecost

9:30am – **Visioneering** meeting in Sanctuary. What is God’s vision for Grace Church?

10:30am - Worship Celebration

GIVING AND ATTENDANCE FOR LAST SUNDAY

Date	Offering		Attendance	
	Total Receipts	General Fund	Worship	Sunday School
8/2/2026	\$2,753	\$2,445	38	9

UPCOMING DATES:

- +*Sun, Aug. 16: Leonard Family Reunion – Fellowship Hall – 1:00pm*
- +*Sun., Aug. 23: Back to School Service 10:30am, 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 Jarrett Family Reunion - Fellowship Hall - 1:00pm*
- +*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*
- +*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

PICTORIAL DIRECTORY

We would like to create a new updated pictorial directory for our congregation. Rather than going to the expense of hiring an outside company to do this we would like to complete this project in-house. But we will need your help. Please email to us a digital photo of your choosing of you and your family members who worship at Grace. It does not have to be a formal portrait but should clearly show everyone's faces. If you do not have one we can help you take one. We would like to put this together as soon as possible so please start sending in your photos now. If you would like someone to take a picture for you please see Todd Childers immediately after worship.

SAFETY UPDATE

In order to maintain a safe environment for all who worship at Grace, the Board has decided that beginning on Sunday, August 2nd, the ushers will lock the front doors at 10:45am. Please share any other ideas you have that might enhance the safety and security of our Congregation by jotting them down and placing them in the suggestion box found in the Narthex.

CONGREGATIONAL DISCUSSION

Starting on Sunday, August 9, at 9:30am in the Sanctuary, all of Grace Church is invited to an experience of **Visioneering**: Prayerfully Seeking God's Vision for Grace Through His Word and Conversation Together. Pastor Doug will lead this time together and will be providing surveys and other tools for us to discover God's glorious vision for His Church here at Grace! Let us pray that in these gatherings God will renew us and bring revival for the proclamation of the Gospel, the Good news of God's love for us in Christ!

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 – Frankie Crouse
Communion Assistants – Nicky Jarrett & Shelly Scronce
Ushers – Jacob Jarrett & Tim Leatherman
Offering Counters – Todd Childers & Gary Leatherman

The Book of Amos, a prophetic text in the Old Testament and one of the 12 minor prophets, is structured around several key themes and messages delivered by the prophet Amos. Most of Amos' messages are announcements of God's anger with and impending judgment on Israel, the Northern Kingdom. Amos also announces God's judgment on Israel's neighbors, including Judah, the Southern Kingdom. Amos' messages focus on Israel's oppression of the poor and lack of justice. Amos consistently criticizes Israel's worship life, which has deteriorated to rote ritual observance disconnected from daily life. The prophet draws on both Israel's history and its moral/legal tradition to support his condemnations of the people's actions.

The messages of Amos insist that God's relationship with people includes all of their lives. Amos insists that because of injustice and oppression, God's anger has been provoked and judgment will come. The judgment that Amos announced was not a final judgment, but a part of God's relationship with the people. This message of God's anger and judgment remains relevant for people of faith today. Because God still loves people, God still is provoked to anger when people cause others to suffer. Here's a concise outline:

1. Introduction (Amos 1:1-2)

- Background of Amos as a shepherd and a dresser of sycamore trees from Tekoa.
- Announcement of God's judgment against Israel.

2. Judgment Against the Nations (Amos 1:3-2:5)

*Damascus (1:3-5): Judgment for violence. *Gaza (1:6-8): Judgment for exile.

*Tyre (1:9-10): Judgment for betrayal. *Edom (1:11-12): Judgment for violence against Israel.

*Ammon (1:13-15): Judgment for cruelty. *Moab (2:1-3): Judgment for desecration.

*Judah (2:4-5): Judgment for rejecting God's law.

3. Judgment Against Israel (Amos 2:6-16)

- Specific sins of Israel leading to judgment.
- Call for accountability and justice.

4. The Three Sermons (Amos 3:1-6:14)

- 1st Sermon (3:1-15): Israel's unique relationship with God and impending judgment.
- 2nd Sermon (4:1-13): Warnings of judgment through past events.
- 3rd Sermon (5:1-27): A call to seek God and live, emphasizing justice and righteousness.

5. Five Visions of Judgment (Amos 7:1-9:10)

1. Vision of Locusts (7:1-3): God's mercy after judgment.

2. Vision of Fire (7:4-6): Another warning of destruction.

3. Vision of the Plumb Line (7:7-9): Standard of justice.

4. Vision of Summer Fruit (8:1-3): The end has come for Israel.

5. Vision of the Lord Standing by the Altar (9:1-10): Final judgment and hope for restoration.

6. Restoration of Israel (Amos 9:11-15)

- Promise of future restoration and blessing for Israel after judgment.

This outline highlights the major themes of judgment, accountability, and hope for restoration found in the Book of Amos.