

Twentieth Sunday After Pentecost



October 11, 2026 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 - 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. (*1John1:9*) 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: 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: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God 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**

“Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus”

LBW 389

* **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: Heavenly Father, You are the one true God, the Maker of heaven and earth. Just as You revealed Your power on Mount Carmel, showing that You alone are Lord, reveal Yourself in Your Church today. Burn away every false hope, every idol, and every distraction that keeps my heart from You. Give me the courage of Elijah — to stand firm in truth, even when I feel outnumbered. Let my words and actions point others to Your greatness. Send Your fire into my spirit, igniting faith, passion, and obedience. May my life be an altar, ready for Your presence, and may all who see Your work in me declare, “The Lord — He is God!” In Jesus’ name we pray. **C: Amen.**

The congregation may be seated.

FIRST READING: 1 Kings 18: 17-40

¹⁷ When Ahab saw Elijah, Ahab said to him, “Is it you, you troubler of Israel?” ¹⁸ He answered, “I have not troubled Israel, but you have, and your father’s house, because you have forsaken the commandments of the Lord and followed the Baals. ¹⁹ Now therefore have all Israel assemble for me at Mount Carmel, with the four hundred fifty prophets of Baal and the four hundred prophets of Asherah who eat at Jezebel’s table.”

²⁰ So Ahab sent to all the Israelites and assembled the prophets at Mount Carmel. ²¹ Elijah then came near to all the people and said, “How long will you go limping with two different opinions? If the Lord is God, follow him, but if Baal, then follow him.” The people did not answer him a word. ²² Then Elijah said to the people, “I, even I only, am left a prophet of the Lord, but Baal’s prophets number four hundred fifty. ²³ Let two bulls be given to us; let them choose one bull for themselves, cut it in pieces, and lay it on the wood but put no fire to it; I will prepare the other bull and lay it on the wood but put no fire to it. ²⁴ Then you call on the name of your god, and I will call on the name of the Lord; the god who answers by fire is indeed God.” All the people answered, “Well spoken!” ²⁵ Then Elijah said to the

prophets of Baal, "Choose for yourselves one bull and prepare it first, for you are many; then call on the name of your god, but put no fire to it." ²⁶ So they took the bull that was given them, prepared it, and called on the name of Baal from morning until noon, crying, "O Baal, answer us!" But there was no voice and no answer. They limped about the altar that they had made. ²⁷ At noon Elijah mocked them, saying, "Cry aloud! Surely he is a god; either he is meditating, or he has wandered away, or he is on a journey, or perhaps he is asleep and must be awakened." ²⁸ Then they cried aloud, and, as was their custom, they cut themselves with swords and lances until the blood gushed out over them. ²⁹ As midday passed, they raved on until the time of the offering of the oblation, but there was no voice, no answer, and no response.

³⁰ Then Elijah said to all the people, "Come closer to me," and all the people came closer to him. First he repaired the altar of the Lord that had been thrown down; ³¹ Elijah took twelve stones, according to the number of the tribes of the sons of Jacob, to whom the word of the Lord came, saying, "Israel shall be your name"; ³² with the stones he built an altar in the name of the Lord. Then he made a trench around the altar, large enough to contain two measures of seed. ³³ Next he put the wood in order, cut the bull in pieces, and laid it on the wood. He said, "Fill four jars with water and pour it on the burnt offering and on the wood." ³⁴ Then he said, "Do it a second time," and they did it a second time. Again he said, "Do it a third time," and they did it a third time, ³⁵ so that the water ran all around the altar and filled the trench also with water.

³⁶ At the time of the offering of the oblation, the prophet Elijah came near and said, "O Lord, God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, let it be known this day that you are God in Israel, that I am your servant, and that I have done all these things at your bidding. ³⁷ Answer me, O Lord, answer me, so that this people may know that you, O Lord, are God and that you have turned their hearts back." ³⁸ Then the fire of the Lord fell and consumed the burnt offering, the wood, the stones, and the dust and even licked up the water that was in the trench. ³⁹ When all the people saw it, they fell on their faces and said, "The Lord indeed is God; the Lord indeed is God." ⁴⁰ Elijah said to them, "Seize the prophets of Baal; do not let one of them escape." Then they seized them, and Elijah brought them down to the Wadi Kishon and killed them there.

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

SECOND READING: Ephesians 6: 10-20

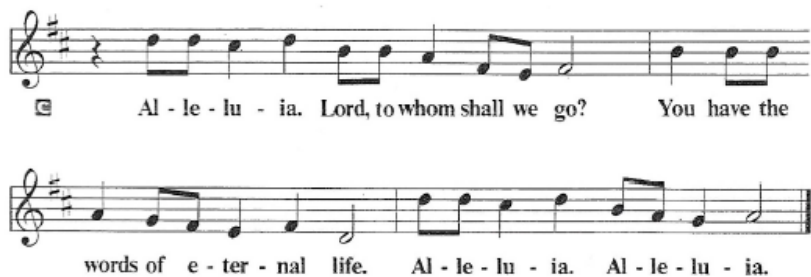
¹⁰ Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power; ¹¹ put on the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil, ¹² for our struggle is not against blood and flesh but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic

powers of this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. ¹³ Therefore take up the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to withstand on the evil day and, having prevailed against everything, to stand firm. ¹⁴ Stand, therefore, and belt your waist with truth and put on the breastplate of righteousness ¹⁵ and lace up your sandals in preparation for the gospel of peace. ¹⁶ With all of these, take the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench all the flaming arrows of the evil one. ¹⁷ Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. ¹⁸ Pray in the Spirit at all times in every prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert and always persevere in supplication for all the saints. ¹⁹ Pray also for me, so that when I speak a message may be given to me to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel, ²⁰ for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it boldly, as I must speak.

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 12: 22-31**

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

²² Then they brought to him a demon-possessed man who was blind and mute, and he (Jesus) cured him, so that the one who had been mute could speak and see. ²³ All the crowds were amazed and were saying, “Can this be the Son of David?” ²⁴ But when the Pharisees heard it, they said, “It is only by Beelzebul, the ruler of the demons, that this man casts out the demons.” ²⁵ He knew what they were thinking and said to them, “Every kingdom divided against itself is laid waste, and no city or house divided against itself will stand. ²⁶ If Satan casts out Satan, he is divided against himself; how, then, will his kingdom stand? ²⁷ If I cast out demons by Beelzebul, by whom do your own exorcists cast them out? Therefore, they will be your judges. ²⁸ But if it is by the Spirit of God that I cast out demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you. ²⁹ Or how can one enter a strong man’s house

and plunder his property without first tying up the strong man? Then indeed the house can be plundered. ³⁰ Whoever is not with me is against me, and whoever does not gather with me scatters. ³¹ Therefore I tell you, people will be forgiven for every sin and blasphemy, but blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven.

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

The congregation may be seated.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON



“The Lord is Indeed God, So Let Us Stand Strong in the Lord and in the Strength of His Power”

Pastor Doug

***HYMN OF THE DAY**

“Days of Elijah”

1. These are the days of Elijah Declaring the Word of the Lord
And these are the days Of Your servant Moses Righteousness being restored
And though these are days Of great trials Of famine and darkness and sword
Still we are the voice In the desert crying Prepare ye the way of the Lord

***Chorus: Behold He comes Riding on the clouds Shining like the sun
At the trumpet call So lift your voice It's the year of Jubilee And out of Zion's hill
Salvation comes***

2. And these are the days of Ezekiel The dry bones becoming as flesh
And these are the days Of Your servant David Rebuilding a temple of praise
And these are the days of the harvest The fields are as white in the world
And we are the laborers In Your vineyard Declaring the Word of the Lord

Chorus

Bridge 2x There is no god like Jehovah There is no god like Jehovah
There is no god like Jehovah There is no god like Jehovah

Final Chorus

***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 and Almighty God, You are the Lord who answers by fire, the One who turns hearts back to Yourself. As Elijah called Your people to choose whom they would serve, so You call us today to trust in You alone. Receive these gifts we bring—not as a payment, but as a joyful response to Your mercy. Just as You consumed the sacrifice on Mount Carmel to show that You alone are God, use these offerings to ignite faith, bring light to the nations, and draw wandering hearts back to You. We give them in the name of Jesus Christ, the greater sacrifice, whose cross and resurrection have secured our salvation. **C: Amen.**

***DIALOGUE AND PREFACE**

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 Communion Song is presented in four staves of musical notation. Each staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff includes a square icon with a cross inside, likely a logo. The lyrics are: "Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have". The second staff continues: "mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the". The third staff continues: "world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the". The fourth staff concludes: "sin of the world; grant us peace." The word "grant" is underlined with a curved 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.

*** COMMUNION BLESSING AND PRAYER**

P: Lord of the Covenant, On Mount Carmel, You revealed Your power and faithfulness, turning the hearts of Your people back to You. Here at Your Table, You reveal an even greater wonder: that the true and perfect sacrifice has been offered once for all in Jesus Christ. Fed and nourished at your table, kindle in us the fire of Your Spirit. Burn away our idols, strengthen our trust in Your promises, and unite us with all who call on Your name; we pray in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. **C: 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**

“O Jesus, I Have Promised ”

LBW 503

***DISMISSAL**

P: Beloved of God, put on the whole armor of God, pray boldly, and proclaim the Gospel in word and deed as we go forth in the joy, peace and strength of our Lord Jesus.

C: Thanks be to God!

ALTAR FLOWERS are given to the Glory of God and in memory of Jimmy and Geraldine Jarrett by Don and Nicky Jarrett.



In the Grace Church Family:

Jeffry Bivens, Rick & Cindy Bivens, Pat Dietz, family of 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, Todd Setzer, Ethan Starnes, Sandi Tallant, Libby Travis, Shirley Warlick, Ken Welch, Scott & Carolyn Whisnant, Jack Wilfong, and Nancy Willis.

Nursing Home: Juanita Haas (Trinity Village), Ted Whisnant (Trinity Village), Helen Smith is at Frye Hospital and will be returning Trinity Ridge.

Friends and Relatives in our Prayers: Pray for Peace in Israel and the World, New Covenant Lutheran Mission Church, Ashlee Bumgardner, Danelle Bumgardner, Travis Bumgardner, Helen Candea, Jessica Cassels, Clinton Childers, Evelyn Childers, Tucker Duncan, Alan Fulbright, Charlene Kistler, family of James McDaniel, Ryan McMullen & family & shift, Randy & Rita Neill, Anita Sabino, Scott Speagle, and Kaylee & Graham Stauffer. 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.

COMING UP AT GRACE THIS WEEK

Today: Twentieth Sunday After Pentecost

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

5:00pm-7:00pm The Four Walls Bluegrass Band Concert - BBQ dinner to follow

Wednesday

6:00pm – Evening Vespers Service

Saturday

8:30am - Carolinas Lutheran Women Convocation - Faith Lutheran Church - Salisbury

HAPPY OCTOBER BIRTHDAY TO:

10/1	Pastor Doug Hefner	10/3	Juanita Haas	10/7	Debra Hefner
10/9	Don Jarrett	10/9	Jason Yoder	10/10	Joy Heavner
10/13	Todd Childers	10/25	Matt Speagle	10/28	Todd Setzer

UPCOMING EVENTS

+Sat., Oct. 17: Carolinas Lutheran Women 16th Annual Convocation at Faith Lutheran Church - Salisbury. Registration at 8:30am. Program from 9:00am to 2:00pm.

+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

GIVING AND ATTENDANCE FOR LAST SUNDAY

	Offering		Attendance	
Date	Total Receipts	General Fund	Worship	Sunday School
10/04/2026	\$1,581	\$1,360	37	10

KNOW YOUR CHURCH SURVEY

Know Your Church Survey Link <https://churchhealthreport.com/survey/?s=YQ3U7AB>

GRACE HOSTS BLUEGRASS BAND



Grace will be hosting "The Four Walls Bluegrass Gospel Band" today, Sunday, Oct 11 at 5pm. If weather permits, the concert will be in the outdoor shelter. We will have a BBQ Dinner afterwards. Please bring a side dish to share or a dessert. BBQ, Buns, Sauce, Slaw, Cups, Plates, Drinks and Ice will be provided. Please invite your friends and family!

TRUNK OR TREAT ON OCTOBER 31, 5-7pm



This is a Church-wide event; in other words, we need you to be a part of this. We need as many people as possible to open their car trunk or truck bed to decorate and hand out candy. Some decorate their trunks or have little games for the kids to play to get candy. After Trunk or Treat, we will have hot dogs, chips, and drinks. We may also have the fire pit ready to do smores. We will see if we can get an inflatable to have fun with as well. If you would like to help with this event, please see the Youth and Family Ministry Team. We will have flyers made so that you can invite the community.

CHRISTMAS SHOEBOXES - DEADLINE NOVEMBER 15TH



The deadline for Operation Christmas Child is fast approaching. Filled shoeboxes must be turned in by Sunday, November 15th. Shoeboxes are now available in the choir pews on the right. A label is inside each shoebox. Thanks for helping with this important ministry. Also, special offering envelopes are now available in the Narthex for your gifts for this important ministry.

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
Communion Assistants – Tim Eckard & Nicky Jarrett
Ushers – Chris Jarrett & Gary Leatherman
Offering Counters – Todd Childers & Alan Shull

Going Deeper in 1 Kings 18: Faith and Courage in the Midst of Opposition

Elijah's confrontation with 450 prophets of Baal and 400 prophets of Asherah demonstrates unwavering faith and courage. Despite being vastly outnumbered, he trusted in God's power rather than his own strength, reminding us that standing firm in our beliefs requires reliance on God, not human might (1 Corinthians 16:13) This encourages believers to remain steadfast in faith, even when surrounded by doubt or opposition.

The Power of Prayer

Elijah's prayer on Mount Carmel, where he called upon God to send fire from heaven, illustrates that **prayer is a powerful tool to invite God's presence and intervention** (James 5:16) His example shows that persistent, faith-filled prayer can bring about miraculous outcomes and demonstrates God's responsiveness to those who seek Him earnestly.

God's Sovereignty and Authority

The dramatic display of fire consuming Elijah's sacrifice underscores God's sovereignty over nature and all creation (Psalm 24:1) This reminds us that no situation is beyond God's control, and we can trust Him to act on our behalf, even in circumstances that seem impossible.

The Futility of Idolatry

The silence of Baal in response to the prophets' cries highlights the emptiness of placing trust in anything other than God (Psalm 115:4) This calls us to examine our own hearts for modern "idols" and to ensure that our devotion is fully directed toward the Lord.

Obedience and God's Timing

Elijah's obedience to God's command to present himself to Ahab after three years of drought demonstrates the importance of following God's timing and direction (1 Kings 18:1-2). God ordains both the ends and the means, and our faithful obedience is part of His plan to bring about His purposes.

Practical Takeaways

- Stand firm in faith, even when you feel alone or outnumbered.
- Engage in fervent, persistent prayer, trusting God to act.
- Recognize God's sovereignty over all circumstances.
- Examine your life for anything that competes with God for your devotion.
- Obey God's guidance, trusting His timing and plan. 1 Kings 18 is a powerful reminder that **faith, prayer, and obedience invite God's miraculous intervention**, and that trusting Him fully leads to spiritual victory and renewal in our lives