

Grace Lutheran Church

3020 Grace Church Rd.
(704) 857-8641

Salisbury, NC 28147
www.grace-salisbury.com



21st Sunday after Pentecost

October 18, 2026

- + Ministers: The People of Grace +
- + Pastor: the Rev. Joshua Copeland +
gracepastor.salisbury@gmail.com (704) 245-2875
- + Director of Youth & Family Ministries Sarah Stirewalt +
graceyouth.salisbury@gmail.com (336) 250-1733
- + Bookkeeper/Treasurer Anita Miller +
gracebookkeeper.salisbury@gmail.com (704)857-8641
- + Secretary Terri Brown +
gracesecretary.salisbury@gmail.com (704) 213-4202
- + Director of Music Lynn Lippard +
- + Director of Children & Youth Choirs Angela Lippard +
- + Accompanist for Children & Youth Teresa Yost +
- + Accompanist for Chancel Choir Becky Lippard +
- + Pastor Emeritus Rev. Gene C. Bost +

+ Those who are able please stand.
(Congregation responses are printed in bold type)

LBW = Green book
WOV = Blue book

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

+ CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who pours love into our hearts and healing upon the earth.

Amen.

Confident that God justifies us by grace through faith, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Compassionate God,

we confess that we struggle to embody your goodness in the world and in our own hearts.

Creation groans from overuse. Jealousy and bitterness strain our relationships.

Indifference keeps us from seeking justice. Divisions disrupt your call to show genuine love to others. Turn our hearts back to you. Restore our world and reconcile us to one another. Renew us to live as your holy people, following the way of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Hear this good news: We have peace with God through ☩ Jesus Christ, in whom there is no condemnation, but only forgiveness and the promise of eternal life. Receive freely this healing gift of grace.

Amen.

+ GATHERING HYMN

“God is Here”

WOV#719



1 God is here! As we your peo - ple meet to of - fer
2 Here are sym - bols to re - mind us of our life - long
3 Here our chil - dren find a wel - come in the Shep - herd's
4 Lord of all, of church and king - dom, in an age of



praise and prayer, may we find in full - er mea - sure
need of grace; here are ta - ble, font, and pul - pit;
flock and fold; here as bread and wine are tak - en,
change and doubt, keep us faith - ful to the gos - pel;



what it is in Christ we share. Here, as in the
here the cross has cen - tral place. Here in hon - es -
Christ sus - tains us as of old. Here the ser - vants
help us work your pur - pose out. Here, in this day's



world a - round us, all our var - ied skills and arts
ty of preach-ing, here in si - lence, as in speech,
of the Ser - vant seek in wor - ship to ex - plore
ded - i - ca - tion, all we have to give, re - ceive;



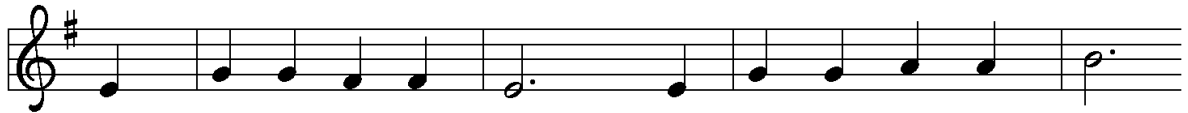
wait the com-ing of the Spir - it in - to o - pen minds and hearts.
here, in new-ness and re - new - al, God the Spir - it comes to each.
what it means in dai - ly liv - ing to be - lieve and to a - dore.
we, who can - not live with-out you, we a - dore you! We be - lieve!

+ GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

+ KYRIE



1 Have mer - cy on us, Lord, and hear our sol - emn prayer.
2 Have mer - cy on us, Christ, and wash a - way our sin.
3 Have mer - cy on us, Lord; make sin and shame de - part.



We come to hear your liv - ing word; it saves us from de - spair.
Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may be - gin.
Re - new us with your sav - ing pow'r; cre - ate in us new hearts!

+ CANTICLE OF PRAISE



1 Glo-ry be to God in heav-en; peace, good-will to all the earth.
2 Glo-ry be to Christ for - ev - er, Lamb of God and Lord of love.
3 Ho - ly One we now ac-claim you; Lord a - lone, to you we call;



Might-y God of all cre - a - tion, Fa - ther of sur - pass - ing worth:
Son of God and gra - cious Sav - ior, you have come from heav'n a - bove;
Ho - ly One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to all:



we ex - alt you, we a - dore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.
on the cross you died to save us; now you reign at God's right hand.
Je - sus Christ, with God the Spir - it, in the Fa - ther's splen - dor bright.



Saints and an - gels bow be - fore you; here on earth our songs we raise.
Hear our prayer; re - store, for - give us; in your prom - ise firm we stand.
For the peace that we in - her - it, glo - ry be to God on high!

+ SALUTATION

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

+ PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray together ...

Sovereign God, raise your throne in our hearts. Created by you, let us live in your image; created for you, let us act for your glory; redeemed by you, let us give you what is yours, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

FIRST READING: ISAIAH 45:1-7

¹ Thus says the LORD to his anointed, to Cyrus, whose right hand I have grasped to subdue nations before him and to strip kings of their robes, to open doors before him—and the gates shall not be closed: ² I will go before you and level the mountains; I will break in pieces the doors of bronze and cut through the bars of iron; ³ I will give you the treasures of darkness and riches hidden in secret places, so that you may know that it is I, the LORD, the God of Israel, who call you by your name.

⁴ For the sake of my servant Jacob and Israel my chosen, I call you by your name; I give you a title, though you do not know me. ⁵ I am the LORD, and there is no other; besides me there is no god. I arm you, though you do not know me, ⁶ so that they may know, from the rising of the sun and from the west, that there is no one besides me; I am the LORD, and there is no other.

⁷ I form light and create darkness, I make weal and create woe; I the LORD do all these things.
The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 96:1-9

¹ Sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the LORD, all the earth.

² **Sing to the LORD, bless the name of the LORD; proclaim God's salvation from day to day.**

³ Declare God's glory among the nations and God's wonders among all peoples.

⁴ **For great is the LORD and greatly to be praised, more to be feared than all gods.**

⁵ As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols; but you, O LORD, have made the heavens.

⁶ **Majesty and magnificence are in your presence; power and splendor are in your sanctuary.**

⁷ Ascribe to the LORD, you families of the peoples, ascribe to the LORD honor and power.

⁸ **Ascribe to the LORD the honor due the holy name; bring offerings and enter the courts of the LORD.**

⁹ Worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness; tremble before the LORD, all the earth.

SECOND READING: 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

¹ Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy,

To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:

Grace to you and peace.

² We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly ³ remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁴ For we know, brothers and sisters beloved by God, that he has chosen you, ⁵ because our message of the gospel came to you not in word only but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction; just as you know what kind of persons we proved to be among you for your sake. ⁶ And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for in spite of persecution you received the word with joy from the Holy Spirit, ⁷ so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. ⁸ For the word of the Lord has sounded forth from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia but in every place your faith in God has become known, so that we have no need to speak about it. ⁹ For they report about us what kind of welcome we had among you and how you turned to God from idols to serve a living and true God ¹⁰ and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead—Jesus, who rescues us from the coming wrath.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

+ GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



+ GOSPEL: MATTHEW 22:15-22

The holy gospel according to St. Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹⁵ The Pharisees went and plotted to entrap [Jesus] in what he said. ¹⁶ So they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, “Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one, for you do not regard people with partiality. ¹⁷ Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar or not?”

¹⁸ But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, “Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites?

¹⁹ Show me the coin used for the tax.” And they brought him a denarius. ²⁰ Then he said to them, “Whose head is this and whose title?” ²¹ They answered, “Caesar’s.” Then he said to them, “Give therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s and to God the things that are God’s.”

²² When they heard this, they were amazed, and they left him and went away.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Rev. Ed Harper

+ HYMN OF THE DAY

“We Give Thee But Thine Own”

LBW#410



2 May we thy boun - ties thus as stew - ards true re - ceive,

3 Hearts still are bruised and dead, and homes are bare and cold,

4 To com - fort and to bless, to find a balm for woe,



and glad - ly, as thou bless - est us, to thee our first - fruits give.

and lambs for whom the Shep - herd bled are stray - ing from the fold.

to tend those lost in lone - li - ness, is an - gels' work be - low.

5 The captive to release,
the lost to God to bring,
to teach the way of life and peace—
it is a Christlike thing.

6 And we believe thy word,
though dim our faith may be:
whate'er we do for thine, O Lord,
we do it unto thee.

+APOSTLE'S CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come 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 THE PEOPLE

**Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.**

+ SHARING THE PEACE

**The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.**

OFFERING

+ OFFERTORY SONG



Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right
spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your pres - ence, and take
not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re - store to me the joy of
your sal - va - tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

+ OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray together ...

God of creation, you send rain and the earth springs forth abundantly. All blessings are from you; make us generous with what we have. Use our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts in service to you and in love to our neighbors, today and always. Amen.

+ GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

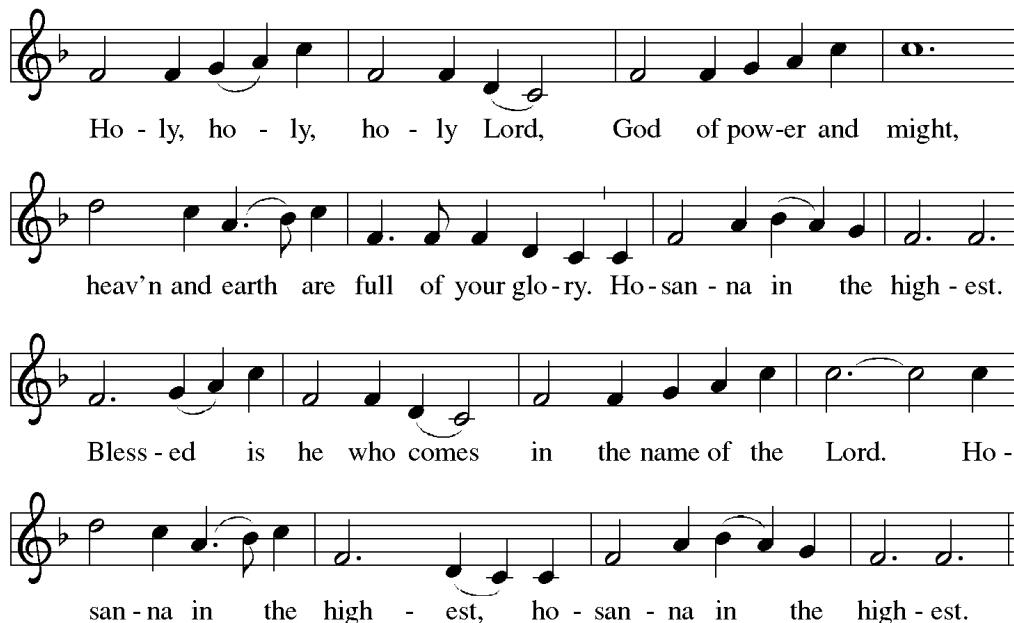
We lift them to the lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

+ PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. 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, ho - san - na in the high - est.

+ WORDS OF INSTITUTION

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

+ LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

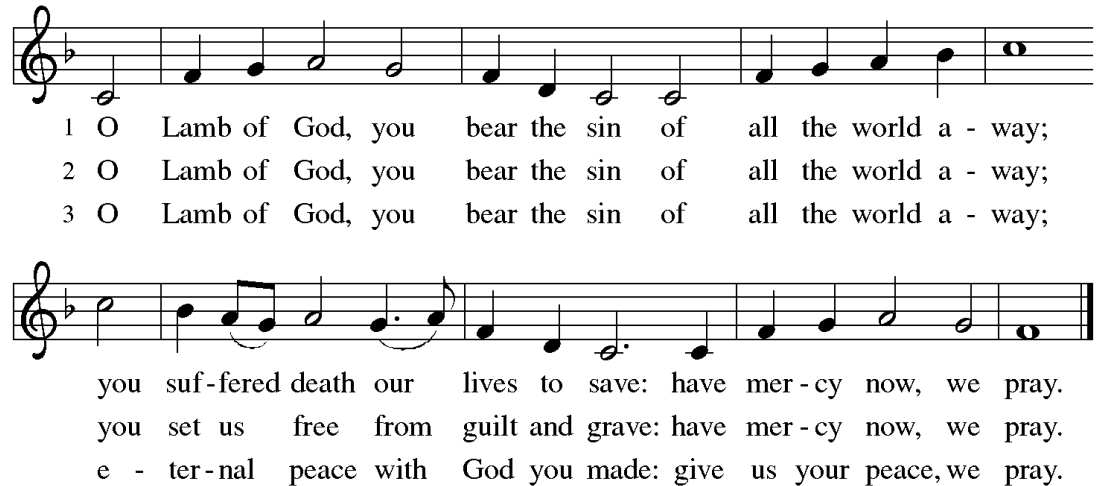
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

+ INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

Thanks be to God.

LAMB OF GOD



1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.
e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

DISTRIBUTION – All of God’s children are welcome at the table for communion. Come forward in two lines to receive the bread from the pastor and wine/grape juice from a communion assistant.

+ TABLE BLESSING

The body and blood of our LORD and Savior Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you always in his grace.

Amen.

+ PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray together....

Sustaining God, with this bread and cup, you nourish us with mercy and abundant life. By your Spirit, send us from this table to serve a needy world. Make us living signs of your liberation, healing, and love, following the way of Jesus, in whose name we pray. Amen.

+ BENEDICTION

May the God of love draw you into the body of Christ and grant you strength and joy in all circumstances and may God ☩ bless you now and forever.

Amen.



1 God of grace and God of glo - ry, on your peo - ple
 2 Lo! The hosts of e - vil round us scorn the Christ, as -
 3 Cure your chil - dren's war - ring mad - ness; bend our pride to
 4 Save us from weak res - ig - na - tion to the e - vils



pour your pow'r; crown your an - cient chur - ch's sto - ry;
 sail his ways! From the fears that long have bound us
 your con - trol; shame our wan - ton, self - ish glad - ness,
 we de - plore; let the gift of your sal - va - tion



bring its bud to glo - rious flow'r. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age
 free our hearts to faith and praise. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age
 rich in things and poor in soul. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,
 be our glo - ry ev - er - more. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,



for the fac - ing of this hour, for the fac - ing of this hour.
 for the liv - ing of these days, for the liv - ing of these days.
 lest we miss your king - dom's goal, lest we miss your king - dom's goal.
 serv - ing you whom we a - dore, serv - ing you whom we a - dore.

+ DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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Setting 10 ELW

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<u>Serving 10/18/2026</u>		<u>Serving 10/25/2026</u>	
Organist	Becky Lippard	Organist	Teresa Yost
Children's Sermon	Debbie Parris	Children's Sermon	Monica Basinger
Lector	Greta Elmore	Lector	Heather Basinger
Communion Assistant	Michael Miller, Gary Elmore	Communion Assistant	Michael Miller, Shelly Hunter
Acolyte	Kelsey Sloop	Acolyte	Hunter Ritchie
Security Team	Michael Miller Matt Sechler	Crucifer	Cruz Beers
Sound System	Chad Rivers	Torchbearers	Clara Linker Maggie Stirewalt
Teller Team	Marcus Reynolds, Helen Correll, Gene Stirewalt	Security Team	Travis Nolan, Monty Brown
Ushers	Gary Elmore, Lindsay Elmore, Myra Sechler, Danny Benfield	Sound System	Hudson Sechler
		Teller Team	Marcus Reynolds, Helen Correll, Gene Stirewalt
		Ushers	Gary Elmore, Lindsay Elmore, Myra Sechler, Danny Benfield

Prayer List

Immediate needs:

Janis Eury, Maribeth Baker, Kelly Shores, Mel & Faye Heilig

Community Concerns:

Lily Gariepy (*Fish Fry Recipient*), David Stirewalt (*Gene Stirewalt*), Jerry Hurlbut (*Jackie Hurlbut*), Brian Collins (*Barbara Collins*), Patsy Myers (*Patty Linker*), Georgia Flanagan (*Tara Mills*), Bobby Barringer (*Tara Mills*), Ruby Faith Tyer (*Shelly Hunter*), Tommy Sloop (*Barbara Schenk*), Frances Yost Basinger (*Cassandra Kluttz*)

Comfort:

Ongoing Needs:

John Miller, Bobby & Barbara Sloop, Mary Miller, Kari Overcash, Janice Gray, Janis Eury, Allen & Lynn Sloop, Sophie Hooks, Louise Vaughn, Judy Copeland, Diane Bouk, Arlene Wise, Hazel Miller, Ronnie Gorman, Earl Thomas, Joe Miller, Jesse Martin, Alice & Michael Baglio, Laura Reynolds, Emily Weddington, Monica Crossen, Mike Stout, Nancy Shue, Roy Morris, Rebekah Safriet, Kelly Shores, Mary Gentry, Gail Srednicki

Those who serve others

Active Duty Military personnel and families; First Responders and families; our school teachers, staff and administrators

This Week's Giving 10/11/2026		Needed Weekly	
Category	Amount	Per Spending Plan	Difference
Attendance 146			
Current	\$ 2,900.00		
Sunday School (Attendance 59)	\$ 41.00		
Property Fund	\$ 50.00		
Benevolence	\$ 465.00		
World Hunger	\$ 50.00		
Total Current:	\$ 3,506.00	\$ 8,251.00	\$ (4,745.00)
Basement Flooring	\$ 40.00		
Social Ministries	\$ 20.00		
Sophie Miller Altar Fund	\$ 20.00		
Clean Water 5K	\$ 1,125.00		
Fish Fry	\$ 204.00		
Facility Rental (Capital Improvement Fund)	\$ 70.00		
Cemetery	\$ 62.00		
Youth of Grace	\$ 2,050.00		
Total Deposit:	\$ 7,097.00		

Scan here for
online giving.



THE FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR TODAY are given to the glory of God.

PRAYERS & PRAISES baskets are located in the Narthex and at the front of the Sanctuary for anyone who would like to submit a Praise or Prayer to be read during the Prayers of the People. They will be taken to Pastor Josh at the Children's Sermon.

TRUNK OR TREAT will be held Sunday, October 25 from 5-7pm. Please support this by coming with a decorated trunk and LOTS of candy to hand out. We will also have a hayride and a cake walk. Donations for the cake walk can be dropped off in the FLC by 2:00pm on the 25th. Hot Dogs will be served. Thank you for your support!

LUNCH & LEARN BIBLE STUDY will meet on Wednesday at Noon in the Parish Hall. Bring your lunch or email Pastor Josh for the link. Readings for next week are Jeremiah 31:31-34, Psalm 46, Romans 3:19-28, and John 8:31-36

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING will be held on Sunday, November 1 for the purpose of nominating council persons for 2027.

2027 USHERS NEEDED. Help us extend a warm welcome at Grace Lutheran Church! We need four ushers for each month of 2027 to serve on all Sundays during their selected month. New and returning volunteers are welcome! To sign up for one or more months, see Head Usher Gary Elmore or scan the QR code. Thank you for sharing your time and serving our church family!

Usher



Week at a Glance

Tuesday	Quilting	10:00am
	Christian Education Committee	6:30pm
Wednesday	Children's Choir	6:00pm
	Chancel Choir	7:00pm