

Grace Lutheran Church

3020 Grace Church Rd.
(704) 857-8641

Salisbury, NC 28147
www.grace-salisbury.com



17th Sunday after Pentecost **Homecoming Sunday** September 20, 2026

- + Ministers: The People of Grace +
- + Pastor: the Rev. Joshua Copeland +
gracepastor.salisbury@gmail.com (
- + Director of Youth & Family Ministries Sarah Stirewalt +
graceyouth.salisbury@gmail.com (
- + Bookkeeper/Treasurer Anita Miller +
gracebookkeeper.salisbury@gmail.com (
- + Secretary Terri Brown +
gracesecretary.salisbury@gmail.com (
- + 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

STEWARDSHIP MOMENT

PRELUDE

+ CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS-FALL

In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Most merciful God,

we confess that we are captive 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 squandered your bountiful gifts. We have considered the blessings of the harvest our due. We have been indifferent in planning and planting for the future needs of your church. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, cause gratitude to ripen in our hearts, and wisdom to mature in our minds, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of + Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

Amen.

+ GATHERING HYMN

“Amazing Grace”

LBW#448

+ GREETING

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

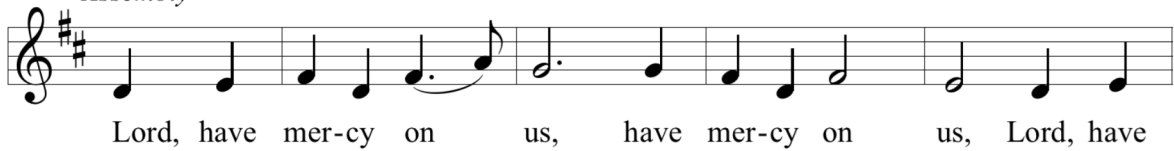
And also with you.

+ KYRIE

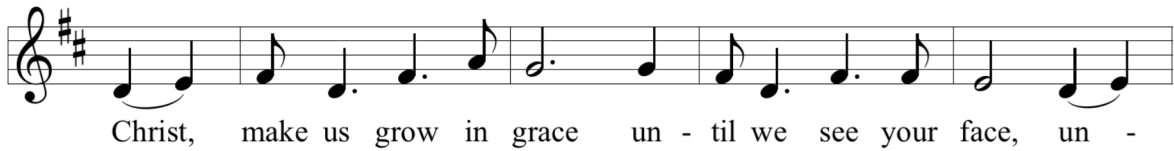
Cantor

We pray for peace, O Lord, make plow-shares of our swords, make
plow-shares of our swords: hear us when we cry to you.

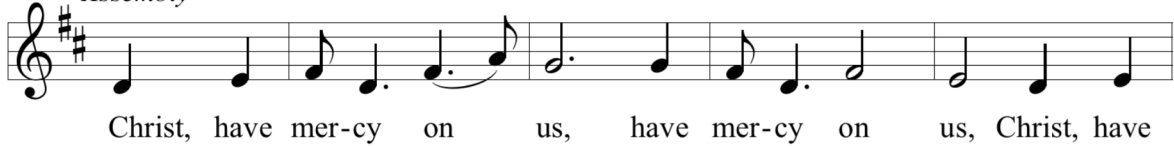
Assembly



Cantor



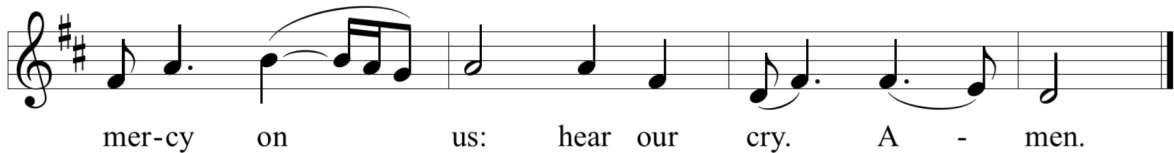
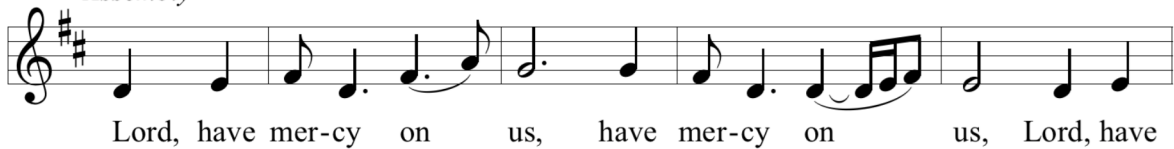
Assembly



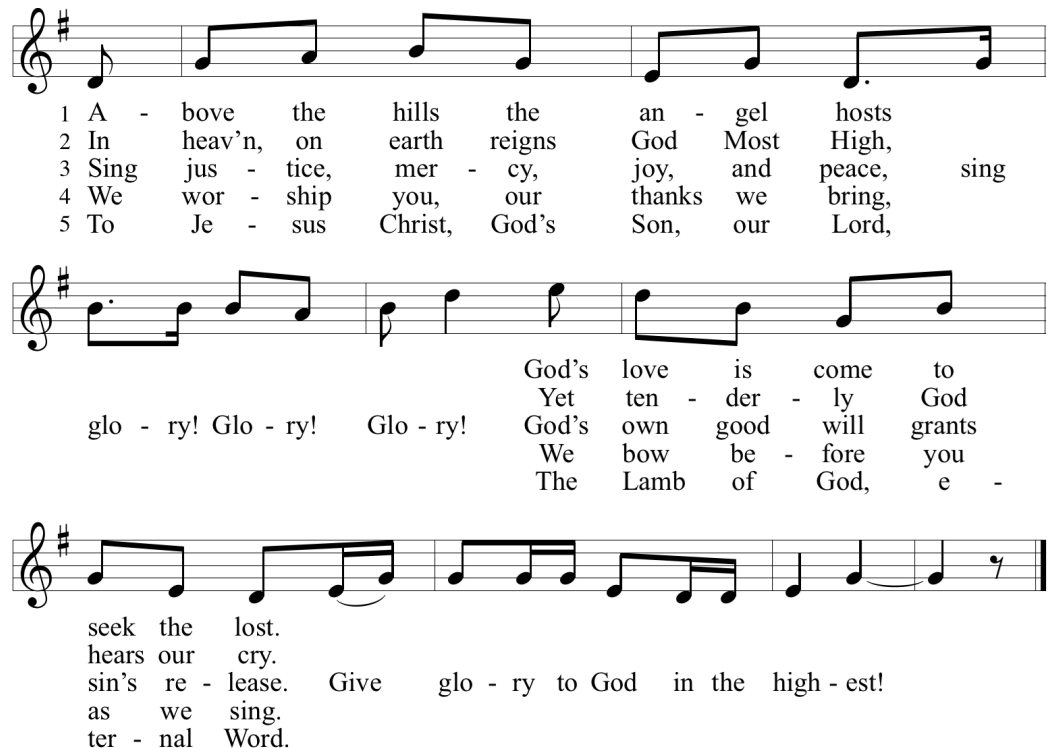
Cantor



Assembly



+ CANTICLE OF PRAISE



1 A - bove the hills the an - gel hosts
2 In heav'n, on earth reigns God Most High,
3 Sing jus - tice, mer - cy, joy, and peace, sing
4 We wor - ship you, our thanks we bring,
5 To Je - sus Christ, God's Son, our Lord,

glo - ry! Glo - ry! Glo - ry! God's love is come to
Yet ten - der - ly God
God's own good will grants
We bow be - fore you
The Lamb of God, e -

seek the lost.
hears our cry.
sin's re - lease. Give glo - ry to God in the high - est!
as we sing.
ter - nal Word.

+ SALUTATION

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

+ PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray together ...

God, our provider, you grant us an abundant harvest so that your children throughout the world may be fed. Establish in us thankfulness and faithful stewardship, that we may return the first fruits of praise and use your gifts of field and livestock, tree and vine to fulfill the needs of the hungry and the sojourner; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

EAGLE SCOUT PRESENTATION

ANTHEM

"God is So Good"

Children's Choir

CHILDREN'S SERMON

FIRST READING: JONAH 3:10-4:11

¹⁰ When God saw what the people of Ninevah did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them, and he did not do it. ^{4:1} But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. ² He prayed to the LORD and said, "O LORD! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning, for I knew that you are a gracious and merciful God, slow to anger, abounding in steadfast love, and relenting from punishment. ³ And now, O LORD, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live." ⁴ And the LORD said, "Is it right for you to be angry?" ⁵ Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of the city.

⁶ The LORD God appointed a bush and made it come up over Jonah, to give shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort, so Jonah was very happy about the bush. ⁷ But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. ⁸ When the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that he might die. He said, “It is better for me to die than to live.”

⁹ But God said to Jonah, “Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?” And he said, “Yes, angry enough to die.” ¹⁰ Then the LORD said, “You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labor and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night. ¹¹ And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand persons who do not know their right hand from their left and also many animals?”

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 145:1-8

¹ I will exalt you, my God and king, and bless your name forever and ever.

² **Every day will I bless you and praise your name forever and ever.**

³ Great is the LORD and greatly to be praised! There is no end to your greatness.

⁴ **One generation shall praise your works to another and shall declare your power.**

⁵ I will speak of the glorious splendor of your majesty and all your marvelous works.

⁶ **They shall tell of the might of your wondrous acts, and I will recount your greatness.**

⁷ They shall publish the remembrance of your great goodness; they shall sing joyfully of your righteousness.

⁸ **The LORD is gracious and full of compassion, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.**

SECOND READING: PHILIPPIANS 1:21-30

²¹ For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. ²² If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me, yet I cannot say which I will choose. ²³ I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better, ²⁴ but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. ²⁵ Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, ²⁶ so that, by my presence again with you, your boast might abound in Christ Jesus because of me.

²⁷ Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel ²⁸ and in no way frightened by those opposing you. For them, this is evidence of their destruction but of your salvation. And this is God’s doing. ²⁹ For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ but of suffering for him as well, ³⁰ since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

+ GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

“O God, Whose Word Well-planted”



1 O God, whose word well-plant - ed yields fruit a hun-dred - fold,
2 O God of seed and har - vest, of sun and soil and rain,
3 O God, your fi - nal har - vest of his - t'ry's an - cient field



we praise your grac - es grant - ed to those who sowed of old,
at - tend the word we sow, lest its plant - ing be in vain.
will test with truth the proud - est that hu - man work can yield.



who by their wit - ness scat - tered good seed up - on the soil
Send show - ers of your Spir - it, bright sun - shine of your grace,
Op - pres - sion's blight will van - ish, fair free - dom's fruits in - crease;



where oth - ers, reap - ing, gath - ered the har - vest of their toil.
that mul - ti - tudes who hear it your gos - pel may em - brace.
and love and joy will flour - ish to clothe the earth with peace.

+ GOSPEL: MATTHEW 20:1-16

The holy gospel according to St. Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus said to the disciples: ¹ “The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. ² After agreeing with the laborers for a denarius for the day, he sent them into his vineyard. ³ When he went out about nine o’clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace, ⁴ and he said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.’ So they went. ⁵ When he went out again about noon and about three o’clock, he did the same. ⁶ And about five o’clock he went out and found others standing around, and he said to them, ‘Why are you standing here idle all day?’ ⁷ They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard.’ ⁸ When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, ‘Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.’ ⁹ When those hired about five o’clock came, each of them received a denarius. ¹⁰ Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received a denarius. ¹¹ And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, ¹² saying, ‘These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.’ ¹³ But he replied to one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for a denarius? ¹⁴ Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. ¹⁵ Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?’ ¹⁶ So the last will be first, and the first will be last.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

+ HYMN OF THE DAY

“I Love to Tell the Story”

LBW#390

+ 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 ANTHEM

“Order My Steps”

Chancel Choir

+ OFFERTORY SONG

“Accept, O Lord, the Gifts We Bring”

1 Ac - cept, O Lord, the gifts we bring to
2 The vines were plant - ed, seeds were sown. They
3 Our hopes and dreams, our toils and cares we
place up - on your ta - ble. We do not wor - ship
grew in your good plea - sure. What once was com - mon,
lift in prayer be - fore you. Lord, by your grace now
as we ought but on - ly as we're a - ble.
dai - ly food be - comes a ho - ly trea - sure.
come to us, as hum - bly we a - dore you.

+ OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray together ...

Gracious God, you bless us with gifts of guidance, new life, growth in grace, and fruitful labor. Accept the first fruits of time and toil, field and orchard we offer here. Bless and multiply these gifts to our nurture and the care of your creation; for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. 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. Through your Son, you taught us that true riches are to be found in loving you rather than earthly treasure. For your glory, and to give us the fullness of life and salvation, Christ emptied himself upon the cross and was raised in power to sit at your right hand. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join in adoring song.

Pastor sings 3 verses and congregation sings the refrain

Refrain: Assembly

Ho-ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might, God's

glo - ry fills all heav'n and earth, God of pow-er and might.

+ EUCHARISTIC PRAYER: FALL

+ 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, to earth you came to
2 O Lamb of God, the on - ly Son, to

save us all from grief and shame. Shorn of your life, up -
us show mer - cy, Ho - ly One. You save the world from

on the tree you hung in deep hu - mil - i - ty.
all its sin. Lord, give to us your peace. A - men.

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....

Gracious God, we give thanks for your pruning, planting, and nurture. We rejoice that you have used the harvest of field and vineyard to renew and sustain us. Lead us as we go from this life-giving meal into lives of grateful service to you and your cherished creation; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord. Amen.

+ BENEDICTION

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord’s face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.

Amen.



1 What a fel - low-ship, what a joy di - vine, lean - ing on the ev - er -
 2 Oh, how sweet to walk in this pil - grim way, lean - ing on the ev - er -
 3 What have I to dread, what have I to fear, lean - ing on the ev - er -



last - ing arms; what a bless - ed - ness, what a peace is mine,
 last - ing arms; oh, how bright the path grows from day to day,
 last - ing arms? I have bless - ed peace with my Lord so near,



lean - ing on the ev - er - last - ing arms.
 lean - ing on the ev - er - last - ing arms.
 lean - ing on the ev - er - last - ing arms.

Refrain



Lean - ing, lean - ing, safe and se - cure from all a - larms;



lean - ing, lean - ing, lean - ing on the ev - er - last - ing arms.

+ DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Liturgical dialogue from Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2026 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #39847

Setting Of the Land and Seasons

Music: All rights reserved. Reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-723066

<u>Serving 9/20/2026</u>		<u>Serving 9/27/2026</u>	
Organist	Becky Lippard	Organist	Teresa Yost
Children's Sermon	Patsy Parnell	Children's Sermon	Randy Basinger
Lector	Alex Storey	Lector	Chris Sloop
Communion Assistant	Brent Yost, Sheila Basinger	Communion Assistant	Brent Yost, Pam Roseman
Acolyte	Coy Weddington	Acolyte	Coy Weddington
Security Team	Bobby Roberson, Ted Lotti	Security Team	Randall Miller Chris Kluttz
Sound System	Keaton Sloop	Sound System	Eric Storey
Teller Team	Michael Miller, Aaron Linker, Mike Stout	Teller Team	Michael Miller, Aaron Linker, Mike Stout
Ushers	Aaron, Patty, Brody and Clara Linker	Ushers	Aaron, Patty, Brody and Clara Linker

Prayer List

Immediate needs:

Janis Eury, Maribeth Baker, Joe Miller, Gene Bost, Kelly Shores, Gail Srednicki, Robert & Cathy Meacham

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*)

Comfort:

Family and friends of Richard York

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, Jesse Martin, Alice & Michael Baglio, Laura Reynolds, Emily Weddington, Monica Crossen, Mike Stout, Nancy Shue, Roy Morris, Rebekah Safriet, Kelly Shores, Mary Gentry

Those who serve others

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

This Week's Giving 09/13/2026		Needed Weekly	
Category	Amount	Per Spending Plan	Difference
Attendance 130			
Current	\$ 4,290.00		
Sunday School (Attendance 54)	\$ 151.00		
God's Work Our Hands T Shirts	\$ 30.00		
Property Fund	\$ 50.00		
Cemetery	\$ 42.00		
Benevolence	\$ 135.00		
World Hunger	\$ 50.00		
Total Current:	\$ 4,748.00	\$ 8,251.00	\$ (3,503.00)
Clean Water 5K	\$ 300.00		
Basket for Fish Fry	\$ 225.00		
Facility Rental (Capital Improvement Fund)	\$ 100.00		
Total Deposit:	\$ 5,373.00		

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.

DONATIONS will be taken during the month of September for the fish fry start up cost.

Raffle baskets or items to make a basket are needed for the fish fry. You can help by either doing a basket, buying an item that's on the board in the narthex or donating money so we can put a basket together. You can place items in the tote in the narthex or place your money in the offering and designate it "raffle baskets". All baskets and donations are needed by Sunday, October 4th. Contact Teresa Yost if you have any questions.

CONSECRATION SUNDAY will be on Sunday, September 27 with a catered lunch in the FLC to follow worship.

FISH FRY COMMITTEE will meet on Tuesday at 7:00pm. If you can help with the fish fry and have not signed up, there are forms in the back of the church. Also, we still need about 25 cakes.

Week at a Glance

Tuesday	Quilting	10:00am
	Fish Fry Committee	7:00pm
Wednesday	Children's Choir	6:00pm
	Chancel Choir	7:00pm
Thursday	Communications Committee	6:30pm