

# Grace Church in the Mountains

July 26, 2026 | 8:00 am



## Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

WELCOME! / ¡BIENVENIDOS!

We are honored by your presence as we gather as God's people to worship in the "beauty of holiness" through our ancient liturgy, contemporary prayers, and vibrant community.

Audio and visual aids are available. Ask an usher for assistance.

Following the service, please join us in Thatcher Hall for our Sunday Forum and coffee hour.

**Celebrating that Christ is all and in all**

by  
Seeking      Inviting

Belonging      Serving

Reverencing God's Creation

# THE WORD OF GOD

*The people standing, the Presider says*

*Presider:* Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

*People:* **And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

## THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

*Presider:* The Lord be with you.

*People:* **And also with you.**

*Presider:* Let us pray.

**All: O God, the protector of all who trust in you, without whom nothing is strong, nothing is holy: Increase and multiply upon us your mercy; that, with you as our ruler and guide, we may so pass through things temporal, that we lose not the things eternal; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.**

## FIRST READING: Genesis 29:15-28 *(please be seated)*

*A Reading from the Book of Genesis*

Laban said to Jacob, "Because you are my kinsman, should you therefore serve me for nothing? Tell me, what shall your wages be?" Now Laban had two daughters; the name of the elder was Leah, and the name of the younger was Rachel. Leah's eyes were lovely, and Rachel was graceful and beautiful. Jacob loved Rachel; so he said, "I will serve you seven years for your younger daughter Rachel." Laban said, "It is better that I give her to you than that I should give her to any other man; stay with me." So Jacob served seven years for Rachel, and they seemed to him but a few days because of the love he had for her.

Then Jacob said to Laban, "Give me my wife that I may go in to her, for my time is completed." So Laban gathered together all the people of the place, and made a feast. But in the evening he took his daughter Leah and brought her to Jacob; and he went in to her. (Laban gave his maid Zilpah to his daughter Leah to be her maid.) When morning came, it was Leah! And Jacob said to Laban, "What is this you have done to me? Did I not serve with you for Rachel? Why then have you deceived me?" Laban said, "This is not done in our country—giving the younger before the firstborn. Complete the week of this one, and we will give you the other also in return for serving me another seven years." Jacob did so, and completed her week; then Laban gave him his daughter Rachel as a wife.

## PSALM 128 *(read responsively)*

<sup>1</sup> Happy are they all who fear the Lord, \*  
**and who follow in his ways!**

<sup>2</sup> You shall eat the fruit of your labor; \*  
**happiness and prosperity shall be yours.**

<sup>3</sup> Your wife shall be like a fruitful vine within your house, \*  
**your children like olive shoots round about your table.**

<sup>4</sup> The man who fears the Lord \*  
**shall thus indeed be blessed.**

<sup>5</sup> The Lord bless you from Zion, \*  
**and may you see the prosperity of Jerusalem all the days of your life.**

<sup>6</sup> May you live to see your children's children; \*  
**may peace be upon Israel.**

## SECOND READING: Romans 8:26-39

*A reading from Paul's Epistle to the Romans*

The Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified.

What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written,

“For your sake we are being killed all day long;  
we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered.”

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

*Lector:* The Word of the Lord.                      *People:*                      **Thanks be to God.** (*please stand*)

## GOSPEL: Matthew 13:31-33,44-52

*Deacon:* The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

*People:* **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Jesus put before the crowds another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.”

He told them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened.”

“The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

“Have you understood all this?” They answered, “Yes.” And he said to them, “Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.”

Deacon: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise be to you, Lord Christ.

## THE SERMON

THE NICENE CREED p.358 *(please stand)*

## THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*The Deacon bids the prayers of the people.*

Please respond to "Let us pray to the Lord," with "**Lord, have mercy.**"

*The Presider concludes with a Collect.*

## CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION OF SIN

Deacon: Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

All: Most merciful God, we confess that 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. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.

*The Presider offers the absolution.*

## THE PEACE

Presider: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: **And also with you.**

*Then the Ministers and the People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

## THE HOLY COMMUNION

## OFFERTORY

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING *(From Enriching our Worship, Prayer 3)*

Presider: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Presider: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them to the Lord.**

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

People: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

*The Presider continues until...* And so as the morning stars sing your praises we join the heavenly beings and all creation as we shout with joy:

Holy, holy, holy Lord,  
God of power and might,  
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is the one  
who comes in the  
name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.

*The Presider continues until...and presenting to you these gifts your earth has formed and human hands have made, we acclaim you, O Christ:*

**All: Dying you destroyed our death. Rising, you restored our life. Christ Jesus, come in glory!**

*The Presider continues until...Through Christ and with Christ, and in Christ, by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, we worship you our God and Creator in voices of unending praise.*

**All: Blessed are you now and forever. AMEN.**

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

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.

## THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD & INVITATION

*Presider: Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;*

**All: Therefore let us keep the feast.**

## COMMUNION

**A Note About Communion:** *All are welcome at God's table! You may receive the bread and sip from the cup or just receive the bread, which is considered a full communion. If you prefer intinction, that is the bread dipped in the wine, the clergy will be happy to do that for you. Please do not dip the bread yourself. If you only wish to receive a blessing, cross your arms over your chest. Ushers will direct you forward. Gluten-free wafers are available.*

## SENDING FORTH OF THE EUCHARISTIC VISITOR *(When scheduled)*

**Deacon:** In the name of our parish family, I send you forth bearing these holy gifts, that {N.} to whom you go, may share with us in the communion of Christ's body and blood.

**People:** We who are many are truly one body, because we all share one bread and one cup. Amen.

## POST-COMMUNION PRAYER *(please stand)*

*Presider: Let us pray.*

**All: Loving God, we give you thanks for restoring us in your image and nourishing us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood. Now send us forth a people, forgiven, healed, renewed; that we may proclaim your love to the world and continue in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.**

## BLESSING

## DISMISSAL

*The Deacon dismisses the people.*

*All: Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!*

*PLEASE JOIN US FOR SUNDAY FORM & FELLOWSHIP IN THATCHER HALL*

## SERVING TODAY

|                       | 8:00                                                      | 10:30                           |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Lectors               | Linda Miville                                             | Karen Morris<br>Susan Clarke    |
| Eucharistic Ministers | Pat Robinson<br>Lorelei Yerse                             | Susan Williams<br>Elissa Shults |
| Coffee Hour           | Dan Linker, Diana Bahm, Violet Bloom                      |                                 |
| Ushers                | Jim Dohms, Peter Nurse, & Daniel Atterholt                |                                 |
| Eucharistic Visitors  |                                                           |                                 |
| Acolytes/Crucifer     |                                                           |                                 |
| Children's Chapel     | Amy Swanger                                               |                                 |
| Altar Guild           | Margaret Fite, Chris Smith, Sheila Staiger, & Kim Kranker |                                 |
| Counters              | Clyde Austin & Natalie Bayless                            |                                 |

## IN OUR PRAYERS

|                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|-------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Members of Grace:       | Sue Volgas, Carol Deezer, All those on the mission trip to Guatemala, Kevin Riley, Lynda Self, John Edwards, Jack Leatherwood, Mike Kranker, Frank Blevins, Britton Jordan, Jeff Askins, Tom Daily, Dave Bullard, Judy Geist, Vickie Pope, Bob & Joyce Willgoos, and our Homebound Members: Gloria Moe, Barbara Leach, & Katherine Calhoun                                                                                                                           |
| Ministries of Grace:    | Christian Formation Ministries at Grace                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| Friends of Grace:       | Sylvia Natale, sister of Sylvia Leeb; Theresa White, sister of Tom Steffel; Carol Thorp, mother-in-law of Sean Coughlin; Caleb Leeb, son of Amoz & Sylvia Leeb; Carol Rowan, friend of Kelly McCarter, Schorsch & Erika Koller, family of Fritz & Diane Czypull; Katie Seymore & family, friends of Betty Harrison; Wayne Mosher, friend of Dn. Carter & Chris Smith; Judah Traylor, grand-nephew of Kathryn Church; Fr. Matthew Venuti, son-in-law of Paula Welling |
| Rest in Peace:          | Warren Westcott, step-father of Lauri SoJourney; Sylvia Harvey, mother of Joni McLeod; Patrick Davis, friend of Wendy Moorhead; Rosa Koller, aunt of Fritz Czypull                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| In Our Cycle of Prayer: | The Anglican Church of Tanzania   St. James of Black Mountain, Hendersonville, & Lenoir                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |

## HAPPENING TODAY

**Sunday Forum at 9:15:** Known as the “apostle to the apostles,” Mary Magdalene was a faithful follower of Jesus, present at his crucifixion and the first to see the resurrected Christ. While only fragments of the Gospel of Mary exist today, what remains is a rich invitation to grow spiritually into the authentic people we are intended to be. Join us as we examine the context of the Gospel of Mary, read excerpts, and listen to what God may be saying to us through this ancient text that was lost to us until 1896. Presented by Arika Morrison, Tracy Bahm, Emily Chatfield-Lusto, & Mary Lockey.

**Vespers:** Evening Prayer with Holy Communion, 5:30pm

## LOOKING AHEAD

**Men’s Breakfast:** Saturday, August 1<sup>st</sup> at 9am. Program – Power, Fear, & Anger: Motivators of Human Behavior

**Sunday Forum, August 2 at 9:15:** Explore Francis Wellers’ book, *The Wild Edge of Sorrow*. Coming to understand how at the heart of grief is the longing for belonging ~ within community, with the earth, and with the sacred.

**Coffee Hour, August 2:** We give thanks for the ministry of Will Arledge.

**Men's Retreat Sign-up:** Join the men at a local, beautiful retreat center Friday afternoon August 29 - Sunday August 31. You can commute or stay. Sign-up is in eNews or contact the church office [admin@gracewaynesville.com](mailto:admin@gracewaynesville.com). Questions: Contact Deacon Carter. Confidential scholarships are available.

**Save the Date - August 16:** We'll bless back-packs to kick-off the school year...and then head to the Pigeon River for a tubing expedition and retire along its banks in Canton for refreshment afterward. Registration details can be found in eNews. The deadline to register is Sunday, 8/9.

**Tablescapes Luncheon:** August 22<sup>nd</sup>. Reception & Table Viewing at 11:30am | Luncheon & Program at noon. Tickets are \$30/each and benefit Haywood Pathways Center. To purchase tickets, please text Donna Buckner (828) 421-2484 or see her during coffee hour between the 8am & 10:30 services.

## HAPPENING THIS WEEK

|                 |                              |                                                                                     |
|-----------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Mon   July 27   | 6:00                         | Education for Ministry                                                              |
| Tues   July 28  | 8:00<br>6:00                 | Lectionary Bible Study in the Library and on Google Meet<br>Vestry Meeting          |
| Wed   July 29   | Noon                         | Holy Eucharist                                                                      |
| Thurs   July 30 | 8:30<br>10:00                | Chime Choir Rehearsal<br>Marthas                                                    |
| Fri   July 31   | 9:00<br>11:00                | Giving Garden Maintenance – all are welcome<br>Caregivers Support Group             |
| Sat   Aug 1     | 9:00                         | Men’s Breakfast – Power, Fear, & Anger: Motivators of Human Behavior                |
| Sun   Aug 2     | 9:15<br>Coffee Hours<br>5:30 | Forum: At the Heart of Grief<br>Celebrating the Ministry of Will Arledge<br>Vespers |

# GRACE CHURCH IN THE MOUNTAINS, EPISCOPAL

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*The Rt. Rev. José A. McLoughlin, Bishop of Western North Carolina*

*The Rev. Joslyn Ogden Schaefer, Rector*

*The Revs. Orion Davis & Earle Pratt, Priest Associates*

*The Rev. Carter A. Smith, Deacon*

*Sean Coughlin, Director of Music/Parish Administrator*

*Mike Fleming, Coordinator for Finance & Stewardship*

*Emma Thomas, Nursery Supervisor*



## MEMBERS OF THE VESTRY

|                                  |                                 |                     |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------|
| Betty Bradley, Sr. Warden (2026) | Joyce Brooks (2027)             | Clyde Austin (2028) |
| Jesse Nelson (2026)              | Alex Coímbre (2027)             | Sue Hilson (2028)   |
| Georgia Raines (2026)            | Blake Hadley, Jr. Warden (2027) | Gene Sloan (2028)   |

Michael Boss, Treasurer

Marion Klingler, Clerk

One License 00049, 53033, 82852, 05176, 864445