Grace Church in the Mountains

November 8, 2026 | 8:00 am

GRACE
WAYNESVILLE

Twenty-Fourth 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.

We'd love to get to know you: to learn more about Grace and our ministries, scan the QR code below:

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.**

HYMN OF PRAISE

All: **Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth. Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory. Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Presider: The Lord be with you.
People: **And also with you.**
Presider: Let us pray.
All: **O God, whose blessed Son came into the world that he might destroy the works of the devil and make us children of God and heirs of eternal life: Grant that, having this hope, we may purify ourselves as he is pure; that, when he comes again with power and great glory, we may be made like him in his eternal and glorious kingdom; where he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.**

FIRST READING: Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25 *(please be seated)*

A reading from the prophet Joshua

Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem, and summoned the elders, the heads, the judges, and the officers of Israel; and they presented themselves before God. And Joshua said to all the people, "Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel: Long ago your ancestors—Terah and his sons Abraham and Nahor—lived beyond the Euphrates and served other gods. Then I took your father Abraham from beyond the River and led him through all the land of Canaan and made his offspring many.

"Now therefore revere the Lord, and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness; put away the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the Lord. Now if you are unwilling to serve the Lord, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served in the region beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord."

Then the people answered, "Far be it from us that we should forsake the Lord to serve other gods; for it is the Lord our God who brought us and our ancestors up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, and who did those great signs in our sight. He protected us along all the way that we went, and among all the peoples through whom we passed; and the Lord drove out before us all the peoples, the Amorites who lived in the land. Therefore we also will serve the Lord, for he is our God."

But Joshua said to the people, "You cannot serve the Lord, for he is a holy God. He is a jealous God; he will not forgive your transgressions or your sins. If you forsake the Lord and serve foreign gods, then he will turn and do you harm, and consume you, after having done you good." And the people said to Joshua, "No, we will serve the Lord!" Then Joshua said to the people, "You are witnesses against yourselves that you have chosen the Lord, to serve him." And they said, "We are witnesses." He said, "Then put away the foreign gods that are among you, and

incline your hearts to the Lord, the God of Israel." The people said to Joshua, "The Lord our God we will serve, and him we will obey." So Joshua made a covenant with the people that day, and made statutes and ordinances for them at Shechem.

Lector: The Word of the Lord. *People:* **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 78:1-7 *(read responsively)*

[1] Hear my teaching, O my people; *
incline your ears to the words of my mouth.

[2] I will open my mouth in a parable; *
I will declare the mysteries of ancient times.

[3] That which we have heard and known,
and what our forefathers have told us, *
we will not hide from their children.

[4] We will recount to generations to come
the praiseworthy deeds and the power of the Lord, *
and the wonderful works he has done.

[5] He gave his decrees to Jacob
and established a law for Israel, *
which he commanded them to teach their children;

[6] That the generations to come might know,
and the children yet unborn; *
that they in their turn might tell it to their children;

[7] So that they might put their trust in God, *
and not forget the deeds of God,
but keep his commandments;

SECOND READING: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

A Reading from the First Epistle to the Church in Thessalonica

We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air; and so we will be with the Lord forever. Therefore encourage one another with these words.

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

GOSPEL: Matthew 25:1-13

Deacon: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.
People: **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Jesus said, "Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. But at midnight there was a shout, 'Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' But the wise replied, 'No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you

had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.' And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.' But he replied, 'Truly I tell you, I do not know you.' Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour."

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

Deacon: Let us pray for the needs of the church and the world.

In peace, let us pray to the Lord, saying, "Lord, have mercy".

For the holy Church of God, that it may be filled with trust and love, and be found without fault at the day of your coming, we pray to you, O Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For Sean, our Presiding Bishop, for all bishops and other ministers, and for all the holy people of God, we pray to you, O Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For all who fear God and believe in you, Lord Christ, that our divisions may cease, and that all may be one as you and the Father are one, we pray to you, O Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For the mission of the Church, that in faithful witness it may preach the Gospel to the ends of the earth, we pray to you, O Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace of the word, that a spirit of respect and forbearance may grow among nations and peoples, we pray to you, O Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For those in positions of public trust, especially Donald, Josh, Gary and all our elected officials, that they may serve justice, and promote the dignity and freedom of every person, we pray to you, O Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For the poor, the persecuted, the sick, and all who suffer; for refugees, prisoners, and all who are in danger; that they may be relieved and protected, we pray to you, O Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For Grace Church in the Mountains, that we may be delivered from hardness of heart, and show forth your glory in all that we do, we pray to you, O Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For all who have commended themselves to our prayers, especially (insert names from prayer list) and any other names you say aloud or silently. For our families, friends, and neighbors; that being freed from anxiety, they may live in joy, peace, and health, we pray to you, O Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For all who have died in the communion of your Church, especially (insert names from prayer list) and any other names you say aloud or silently. And those whose faith is known to you alone, that, with all the saints, they may

have rest in that place where there is no pain or grief, but life eternal, we pray to you, O Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**
Rejoicing in the fellowship of the ever-blessed Virgin Mary and all the saints, let us commend ourselves, and one another, and all our life to Christ our God. **To you, O Lord our God.**
The Presider adds a concluding 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.

NEWCOMER'S WELCOME *(see insert)*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE HOLY COMMUNION

OFFERTORY SENTENCE

Give to Grace via the QR code

OFFERTORY PRAYER
Presider: All things come of thee, O Lord.
People: **And of thine own have we given thee.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING *(Eucharistic Prayer C, BCP p. 369)*

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: **God of abundance, you have fed us with the bread of life and cup of salvation; you have united us with Christ and one another; and you have made us one with all your people in heaven and on earth. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue for ever in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.**

BLESSING

DISMISSAL

The Deacon dismisses the people.

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

SERVING TODAY

	8:00	10:30
Lectors	Mary Beth Dorgan	Marion Klingler David Mehrling
Eucharistic Ministers	Pat Robinson Donna Culp	Kelly McCarter Joyce Brooks
Eucharistic Visitor	Pamela Waldron visiting Marie Shaginaw	
Children's Chapel	Julie Taylor	
Acolytes	David Mehrling & John Raines	
Coffee Hour	Barbara Jo White, Lori Stephens, & Brian Gass	
Ushers	Walt Austin, Blake Hadley, & Daniel Atterholt	
Altar Guild	Marcia & Dale McDonald, Carol Feichter, Kelly McCarter, & Jan Thielen	
Counters	Michael Lodico & Gene Sloan	

IN OUR PRAYERS

Members of Grace:	**Claudia Ogden, John Raines, Michael McNeill, Edwina Costley, Karen Kosec, Dan Linker, John Klingler, Cindy Leatherwood, Melanie & Larry Walt, Mike Kranker, Britton Jordan, Jeff Askins, Dave Bullard, Judy Geist, Vickie Pope, and our Homebound Members: Gloria Moe & Barbara Leach**
Ministries of Grace:	**Congregational Care**
Friends of Grace:	**Kim Tate, friend of Sue & Doyle Hilson; Matthew Pcenicni, brother of Trent Pcenicni; Taylor Joyce, son of Debbie & Alan Joyce; Madison Gardner, granddaughter of Jackie & Frank Blevins; Marcy Sinnett, friend of Clyde & Walt Austin; Lisa Miller, family of Betty Harrison; Mike Wenger, friend of Clyde & Walt Austin; Artie Karagiosiz, brother-in-law of Andrea Salib; Meredith Harper, daughter-in-law of Keith Harper; Fr. Matthew Venuti, son-in-law of Paula Welling; Paul Holden, family of Sarah Fulton; Stella Natale, sister of Sylvia Leeb; Brenda, niece of Dale & Lorelei Yerse; Janet Griffin, friend of Ingrid Burton; Paul & Carol Viau, family of Rob Viau; Iris Durell, former member of Grace; Geoff Smith, son of Betty Smith; Jeff Dalton, cousin of Joslyn Schaefer; Caleb Leeb, son of Amoz & Sylvia Leeb; Judah Traylor, grand nephew of Kathryn Church**
Rest in Peace:	**Gretchen Albrecht, friend of Diana & Tracy Bahm**
In Our Cycle of Prayer:	**Province of the Anglican Church of the Congo | Diocese of WNC Convention & all delegates**

HAPPENING TODAY

Godly Play: Sunday School for K – 5th grade at 9:15

Sunday Forum: Join Tim Hussey for a 50-minute presentation exploring the journey from the conquering "Hero" to the receiving "Pilgrim." Set against the backdrop of an 80-mile trek to Mt. Everest Base Camp, this presentation weaves live music, personal storytelling, and Jungian psychology to illuminate how the Sacred Feminine (*Eros*) heals our drive for control and awakens a grounded, authentic presence.

Episcopal 101 – Worship: downstairs in the community room at noon

Matthew: The Gospel of Promised Blessings - 6-week Bible Study, Sundays at 5:30 pm. Join us online or in-person. The online meeting link was in Thursday's eNews.

LOOKING AHEAD

Leaf Clean Up Day: Join us on Saturday, November 14th from 9am – noon. Gloves, rakes, & blowers are encouraged!

Sunday Forum Next Week: In the Way of Love, to "Go" is about more than doing something for others. It means to "cross boundaries, listen deeply, act like Jesus." It's about building relationships. Please join us at the November 15th forum when a panel of Grace parishioners will talk about living out this command in their ministries in Guatemala, at Pathways, with the Cofán people, and at Bethel House.

Christmas Cookie Sale-ebration! The joy of Christmas is sweeter when we come together! Join us on Saturday, December 12th, from 10am – noon in Thatcher Hall for delicious homemade cookies, festive activities for children, and a special visit with Santa and Mrs. Claus!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED! We need your help to make this cherished tradition a success! Please consider baking cookies, helping with setup, serving, or cleanup. Every helping hand makes a difference! Sign-up sheets are in Thatcher Hall. All proceeds benefit Mountain Projects, supporting families in our community. Thank you for helping us spread Christmas joy! Questions? Contact Diana Bahm or Violet Bloom

Join Joslyn+ for an occasional series "Episcopal Church 101. Next Sunday 11/8, our topic is worship. We will meet downstairs in the community room at Noon. Bring snacks from coffee hour downstairs! We'll conclude by or before 1:15 pm.

Women of Grace Brunch: All women of Grace Church are invited to come to our evolving women's group. Come connect with women in faith, build lasting friendships, and grow stronger together in Christ.
For our November 21st brunch, we will have Hannah Miller King as our speaker. Hannah is a priest, writer, and mother of 3 here in WNC. She writes and speaks on topics related to Christian hope, grief, loss and biblical joy.

HAPPENING THIS WEEK

Mon | Nov 9	**6:00**	**Education for Ministry**
Tues | Nov 10	**8:00**	**Lectionary Bible Study in the Library and on Google Meet**
Wed | Nov 11	**Noon** **6:30**	**Holy Eucharist** **Choir Rehearsal**
Thurs | Nov 12	**8:30** **10:00**	**Chime Choir Rehearsal** **Marthas Knitting; Sew Graceful Quilting**
Sat | Nov 14	**9:00**	**Leaf Clean Up**
Sun | Nov 15	**9:15** **9:15** **9:15** **5:30**	**Godly Play for K – 5th grade** **Journey to Adulthood for Youth** **Forum – The Way of Love Series: Go** **Matthew Bible Study**