

Grace Devotion

Week of October 26, 2025

¹³ But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven but was beating his breast and saying, ‘God, be merciful to me, a sinner!’ ¹⁴ I tell you, this man went down to his home justified rather than the other, for all who exalt themselves will be humbled, but all who humble themselves will be exalted.” (Luke 18:13-14 NRSVUE)

As I reflect on all of the people who have crossed my path in my life, some of the most confident, successful, and self-assured people stand out. They hold their heads high, they always seem to know the exact words to say, and they carry themselves like the world is theirs to command. Yet, as I think back, those people are a blur of faces and names. They stand out in the moment and fade away just as quickly.

The ones who make a lasting impression are the ones who have humble souls. They are ones who quietly listen with both ears and an open heart. They are ones who admit their mistakes—the big ones and more importantly the little ones. They are the ones who show compassion and act in big ways, without ever seeking attention. They each radiate a different kind of strength.

In today’s scripture, Jesus tells the story of a humbled tax collector who stands apart. His eyes lowered to the ground, praying simply, “Be merciful to me, a sinner.” He doesn’t celebrate his accomplishments. He doesn’t compare himself to anyone else. He is painfully aware of his own imperfections and lays them bare before God. Jesus tells us that his humbled prayer makes him right with God.

Humility doesn’t mean that you think less of yourself. It doesn’t mean that you don’t value the uniqueness you bring. It really just means thinking of yourself honestly before God and trusting in His mercy. No matter our age or season of life, there is freedom in letting go of pride. It means acknowledging our own need for God’s grace. In our honest, humble moments before God, may we each discover a peace and strength that lasts far longer than any recognition the world can give.

Prayer: Merciful God, help us be like the tax collector in today’s scripture. Be with us and remind us to let go of the need to appear perfect to the world. Help us move away from self-importance so that we may pray with honesty and trust. Help us to find peace, restoration, and joy in Your presence as we find that gentle humility. Amen

With Grace and Love,

Pastor Amy

October 26, 2025
Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

Welcome/Announcements
Westminster Chimes and Prelude

**+“Lift My Life Up” #64

** Call to Worship

Lector: We come to worship today, to draw near to God.

Congregation: Some of us come with confidence, and some of us come with some hesitation.

Lector: God hears every prayer, spoken and unspoken.

Congregation: When we are feeling overwhelmed, God offers calmness. When we are lost, God offers a path.

Lector: In God's presence, pride melts away and grace rises.

Congregation: We come just as we are, to be renewed by mercy and to lift our hearts in gratitude and praise.

** Opening Prayer: (pray silently or aloud)
Loving God, be merciful to me, a sinner. Help me to walk humbly in this life and to give You all the praise and glory as You walk with me on my journey. Open my eyes to see Your grace at work, my ears to hear Your still, small voice, and my heart to receive the peace You freely give. May this time of worship draw me closer to You. Amen.

** Sharing the Peace of Christ

Prayer of Confession/Silent Reflection/Assurance of Grace

Celebration of Our Gifts

** Offertory Response: Doxology #625

** Prayer of Dedication

**^o Hymn: “Victory in Jesus” #473

Joys and Concerns
Praying for Others
Lord's Prayer

Scripture Readings:
Psalm 65
Luke 18:9-14

^o Hymn: “Just As I Am” #342

Time for the Young at Heart

Message: “Simply Humbled”

**+“What an Awesome God” #61

** Final Blessing

** “A Choral Benediction”

Postlude

** Please stand, if you are able.

+ Black contemporary folder

^o Blue hymnal

Announcements

- Youth Sunday School Kick-off started September 21st
- Harvest Home collections – If you have any nonperishable items, please remember to bring them in. Donations are going to God's Meal Barrel
- There are over 800 families in need of Thanksgiving Dinner this year. We are collecting 800 cans (15 oz) of fruit cocktail for donation to New Hope Ministries

Upcoming Events

- Grace Trick or Treat, October 28th @ 6:00 – 8:00 pm
- All Saints Sunday, November 2nd
- Monthly Movie, November 14th @ 3:00 pm
- Annual Meeting, November 16th, following worship

Upcoming Meetings

- Faith Formation, October 27th @ 4:30 pm
- Worship & Music, October 27th @ 6:00 pm



Grace United Church of Christ

100 Fourth Street

Hanover, Pennsylvania 17331

717-632-1146

Prayer Line: 717-632-1146 LINE 3

Thank you for today's Worship Leaders:

Pastor - Amy Fawks

Lector - Len Bankert

Organist and Music Director - Christian Keller

Head Usher – Becky Boyer & Chelsey Topper

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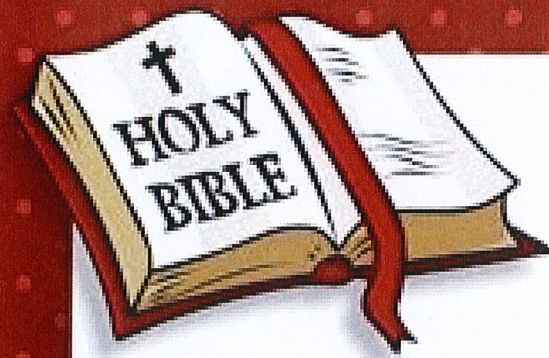
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Psalm 65

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Luke 18

I Z L O S U Q X W K B R B N Y E F H T N R D R Q U L
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 Q V B F C A T H O U D X P R E R E C E I V E L T A P
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 G G N S C U I S E P H D H B X E V W A H V Y R S W A
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