

*This Week at Grace*  
*Sunday, January 28, 2007*  
*The Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany*  
*21 Day to Minnesota Twins Spring Training*

**INTRODUCTION**

*An epiphany ought to be a surprise. The prophet Jeremiah is surprised that God would call a youth, but Jeremiah has been in God's sight for a long, long time. Jesus is popular in many places but maybe not at home. Love, which seems so familiar, is really a radical invitation to care for others on their terms. How will love surprise us this day?*

***Thomas Aquinas, teacher, died 1274***

*One of the most brilliant and creative theologians in the church's history, Aquinas worked to bring together scripture and the philosophy of Aristotle. A member of the Order of Preachers (Dominicans), Aquinas was also a hymnwriter.*

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Almighty and ever-living God,  
increase in us the gifts of faith, hope, and love;  
and that we may obtain what you promise,  
make us love what you command,  
through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

**FIRST READING** *Jeremiah 1:4–10*

*Today's reading relates Jeremiah's call and commissioning as a prophet in the years before the Babylonian exile of 587 B.C. His task was to preach God's word in the midst of the difficult political realities of the time. He was to make God known, not just among the Israelites, but also among the nations.*

<sup>4</sup> Now the word of the LORD came to me saying,

<sup>5</sup> "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you,  
and before you were born I consecrated you;  
I appointed you a prophet to the nations."

<sup>6</sup> Then I said, "Ah, Lord GOD! Truly I do not know how to speak, for I am only a boy." <sup>7</sup>  
But the LORD said to me,

"Do not say, 'I am only a boy';  
for you shall go to all to whom I send you,

and you shall speak whatever I command you.  
<sup>8</sup> Do not be afraid of them,  
 for I am with you to deliver you,  
 says the LORD."  
<sup>9</sup> Then the LORD put out his hand and touched my mouth; and the LORD said to me,  
 "Now I have put my words in your mouth.  
<sup>10</sup> See, today I appoint you over nations and over kingdoms,  
 to pluck up and to pull down,  
 to destroy and to overthrow,  
 to build and to plant."

**PSALM**      *Psalms 71:1-6*

<sup>1</sup>In you, O LORD, have I | taken refuge;  
 let me never be | put to shame.  
<sup>2</sup>**In your righteousness, deliver me and | set me free;  
 incline your ear to | me and save me.**  
<sup>3</sup>Be my strong rock, a castle to | keep me safe;  
 you are my crag | and my stronghold.  
<sup>4</sup>**Deliver me, my God, from the hand | of the wicked,  
 from the clutches of the evildoer and | the oppressor. R**  
<sup>5</sup>For you are my hope, | O Lord GOD,  
 my confidence since | I was young.  
<sup>6</sup>**I have been sustained by you ever since I was born; from my mother's womb  
 you have | been my strength;  
 my praise shall be al- | ways of you. R**

**SECOND READING**      *1 Corinthians 13:1-13*

*Some at Corinth prided themselves on their spiritual gifts. Paul reminds them that God gives us many gifts through the Holy Spirit, but the most important of these is love, the kind of love that allows us to live and work in cooperation with one another, the kind of love that God first showed us in Christ.*

If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. <sup>2</sup> And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. <sup>3</sup> If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

<sup>4</sup> Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant <sup>5</sup> or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; <sup>6</sup> it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. <sup>7</sup> It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

<sup>8</sup> Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues,

they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. <sup>9</sup> For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part; <sup>10</sup> but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. <sup>11</sup> When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. <sup>12</sup> For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. <sup>13</sup> And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

**GOSPEL**     *Luke 4:21–30*

*People in Jesus' hometown are initially pleased when he speaks of the fulfillment of scriptures (specifically, of God's promise to liberate the oppressed). Their pleasure, however, turns to rage when he reminds them that prophets often bring God's blessings to those who are regarded as outsiders.*

<sup>21</sup> Then he began to say to them, "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing."  
<sup>22</sup> All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his mouth. They said, "Is not this Joseph's son?" <sup>23</sup> He said to them, "Doubtless you will quote to me this proverb, 'Doctor, cure yourself!' And you will say, 'Do here also in your hometown the things that we have heard you did at Capernaum.'" <sup>24</sup> And he said, "Truly I tell you, no prophet is accepted in the prophet's hometown. <sup>25</sup> But the truth is, there were many widows in Israel in the time of Elijah, when the heaven was shut up three years and six months, and there was a severe famine over all the land; <sup>26</sup> yet Elijah was sent to none of them except to a widow at Zarephath in Sidon. <sup>27</sup> There were also many lepers in Israel in the time of the prophet Elisha, and none of them was cleansed except Naaman the Syrian." <sup>28</sup> When they heard this, all in the synagogue were filled with rage. <sup>29</sup> They got up, drove him out of the town, and led him to the brow of the hill on which their town was built, so that they might hurl him off the cliff. <sup>30</sup> But he passed through the midst of them and went on his way.

**THIS WEEK AT GRACE**

- |                 |        |            |                               |
|-----------------|--------|------------|-------------------------------|
| <b>TODAY:</b>   | 8:30a  | and 11:00a | Worship Services              |
|                 | 9:30a  |            | Coffee Fellowship             |
|                 | 9:45a  |            | Sunday School/Education Hour  |
|                 | 12:00p |            | Congregational Lasagna Dinner |
|                 | 1:00p  |            | Annual Meeting                |
| <b>MONDAY:</b>  | 7:30p  |            | Cantori Rehearsal             |
| <b>TUESDAY:</b> | 9:00a  |            | Staff Meeting                 |
|                 | 9:30a  |            | Ladies Bible Study            |
|                 | 11:00a |            | Pastor's Text Study           |
|                 | 2:30p  |            | 3D Meeting                    |

**WEDNESDAY:** 5:00p Chew-n-Chat  
 5:30p Cherub/Chancel Choir Rehearsals  
 6:30p Confirmation Classes  
 6:30p Sr. High Bible Study  
 6:30p Bells of Praise  
 7:30p Adult Choir

**THURSDAY:** 6:00a Early Morning Bible Study  
 9:00a BERC Pastor's Meeting  
 6:30p GLCW Board Meeting  
 7:00p Evening Bible Study

**FRIDAY:** 1:30p ThorneCrest Bible Study  
 No 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> gr. Youth Room

**NEXT SUNDAY:** 8:30a and 11:00 Worship Services  
 9:30a Coffee Fellowship  
 9:45a Sunday School / Education Hour  
 2:00p Girl Scout Meeting

**MISSIONARY FOR A DAY:** [Jan. 28: Given by Pastor Milt & Delores Ost.] [Jan. 28: Sunday School] [Jan. 22: In honor of son, Larry Brandt's birthday given by Babe & Lois Brandt.] [Jan. 24: GLCW].

**REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS** our members and friends known to have been hospitalized this past week: Phil Benbow, Jan Guse (Rochester Methodist), and Erika Youlden.

**OUR CONGRATULATIONS** to Eric & Erika Youlden upon the birth of son, Tyler James, Jan. 21<sup>st</sup>.

**PLEASE REMEMBER** those needing the continuing prayers of our congregation: Janice Anderson, Marlene Bergeson, Larry Bergo, Kathy Diaz, Mark Fisher (father of Lynn Stadheim), Theresa Gamble, Jan Guse, Dan Hagen, Tara Hanson, April Hustoft, Marlys Jahnke, Bonnie Linder (Good Samaritan Center), Vern Nasby, DeAnna Nelson, LeMoyne Oakland, Marian Odson, Lissa Parrish, Joyce Schreiber, Sally Skrlin, LaVon Stewart, Sally Witham (mother of Greg Witham), and Eleanor Wolfe.

**IN YOUR PRAYERS,** please also remember Mark & Sharon Christian and family upon the death of Sharon's son, Chris Opseth.

**WE JOIN OUR SISTERS AND BROTHERS** in Christ throughout the Southeast Minnesota Synod today in praying for First Lutheran Church in Ellendale, Cross of Christ Lutheran of Houston, Gloria Dei Lutheran of Rochester, and Community Lutheran Church

in Geneva.

**AT THE JANUARY CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING** the agenda for today's Annual Meeting was approved. Apart from the traditional reports, etc., there will be two resolutions and the proposed 2007 budget. One resolution is to designate our mission partners for Missionary for a Day giving for 2007. The other resolution is to propose to the congregation the purchase and installation of pew cushions. A member has donated funds that they hope can be used for this purpose if the congregation approves. The proposed 2007 budget is \$525,009 which represents a 2.99% increase. Today's Adult Forum between services will be an opportunity for members to hear information regarding the resolutions and proposed budget and ask questions. See you at the Annual Meeting!

**WHAT CAN YOU DO WITH A QUARTER?** Put it in the offering plate. All quarters are given directly to the World Hunger Appeal. Thank you!

**GIVING AT GRACE:**

The Property and Finance Ministry appreciates your generous support. Your faithful stewardship is essential for us to continue to support our ministries at Grace.

	<b>Sunday, Jan. 21<sup>st</sup></b>	<b><u>Year to Date</u></b>
General Fund Giving	\$ 5,663.00	\$ 29,765.00
Budgeted Need	\$ 9,803.00	\$ 29,409.00
Quarters for World Hunger	\$ 31.75	\$ 133.75
Stones, Rocks, Boulders Fund	\$ 67.00	

Attendance Last Sunday - 324; Last Year - 442

**Annual Meeting  
Today**

**Dinner served at 12:00p  
Meeting begins at 1:00p**

Come enjoy a great meal and  
let us do the cooking!

**Proceeds to help support the Heifer Project.**

Join us!