

*This Week at Grace*  
*Sunday, March 4, 2007*  
*The Second Sunday in Lent*  
*29 Days to the Twins Home Opener*

**INTRODUCTION**

*Baptism is the compass that guides us through life. Lent is a season for immersing ourselves in a new identity—reminding us who we are and calling us to what we are to be doing. The miracle of grace is as amazing as starting a family in your old age, as Abraham and Sarah did, or being reminded that our true citizenship lies beyond this world.*

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

God of the covenant,  
in the mystery of the cross you promise everlasting life to the world.  
Gather all peoples into your arms, and shelter us with your mercy,  
that we may rejoice in the life we share in your Son,  
Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord,  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and forever.

**FIRST READING**    *Genesis 15:1–12, 17–18*

*God promises a childless and doubting Abram that he will have a son, that his descendants will be as numerous as the stars, and that the land will be their inheritance. Abram's trust in God's promise, sealed with a covenant-making ritual, is reckoned to him as righteousness.*

After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, "Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great."<sup>2</sup> But Abram said, "O Lord GOD, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?"<sup>3</sup> And Abram said, "You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir."<sup>4</sup> But the word of the LORD came to him, "This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir."<sup>5</sup> He brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your descendants be."<sup>6</sup> And he believed the LORD; and the LORD reckoned it to him as righteousness.

<sup>7</sup> Then he said to him, "I am the LORD who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to possess."<sup>8</sup> But he said, "O Lord GOD, how am I to know that I shall possess it?"<sup>9</sup> He said to him, "Bring me a heifer three years old, a

female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtledove, and a young pigeon." <sup>10</sup> He brought him all these and cut them in two, laying each half over against the other; but he did not cut the birds in two. <sup>11</sup> And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away.

<sup>12</sup> As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram, and a deep and terrifying darkness descended upon him. <sup>17</sup> When the sun had gone down and it was dark, a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces. <sup>18</sup> On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, "To your descendants I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates,

**PSALM (ELW)**      *Psalm 27*

*In the day of trouble, God will give me shelter. (Ps. 27:5)*

<sup>1</sup>The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom then | shall I fear?

The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I | be afraid?

<sup>2</sup>**When evildoers close in against me to de- | vour my flesh,  
they, my foes and my enemies, will stum- | ble and fall.**

<sup>3</sup>Though an army encamp against me, my heart | will not fear.

Though war rise up against me, my trust will | not be shaken.

<sup>4</sup>**One thing I ask of the LORD; one | thing I seek;  
that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life; to  
gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to seek God | in the temple. R**

<sup>5</sup>For in the day of trouble God will | give me shelter,  
hide me in the hidden places of the sanctuary, and raise me high up- | on a  
rock.

<sup>6</sup>**Even now my head is lifted up above my enemies | who surround me.  
Therefore I will offer sacrifice in the sanctuary, sacrifices of rejoicing;  
I will sing and make music | to the LORD.**

<sup>7</sup>Hear my voice, O LORD, | when I call;  
have mercy on me and | answer me.

<sup>8</sup>**My heart speaks your message-- | "Seek my face."  
Your face, O LORD, | I will seek. R**

<sup>9</sup>Hide not your face from me, turn not away from your ser- | vant in anger.  
Cast me not away--you have been my helper; forsake me not, O God of |  
my salvation.

<sup>10</sup>**Though my father and my moth- | er forsake me,  
the LORD will | take me in.**

<sup>11</sup>Teach me your | way, O LORD;  
lead me on a level path, because of | my oppressors.

<sup>12</sup>**Subject me not to the will | of my foes,  
for they rise up against me, false witnesses | breathing violence.**

<sup>13</sup>This I believe--that I will see the goodness | of the LORD  
in the land | of the living!

<sup>14</sup>**Wait for the LORD | and be strong.**

## Take heart and wait | for the LORD! R

### SECOND READING *Philippians 3:17—4:1*

*Although Paul's devotion to Christ has caused him to be persecuted, he does not regret the course he has taken. Writing from prison, he expresses confidence in a glorious future and encourages other Christians to follow in his footsteps.*

#### Chapter 3

<sup>17</sup> Brothers and sisters, join in imitating me, and observe those who live according to the example you have in us. <sup>18</sup> For many live as enemies of the cross of Christ; I have often told you of them, and now I tell you even with tears. <sup>19</sup> Their end is destruction; their god is the belly; and their glory is in their shame; their minds are set on earthly things. <sup>20</sup> But our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>21</sup> He will transform the body of our humiliation that it may be conformed to the body of his glory, by the power that also enables him to make all things subject to himself.

#### Chapter 4

Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

### GOSPEL *Luke 13:31–35*

*Jesus likens the tyrant Herod to a murderous fox. He speaks of himself as a mother hen who would sacrifice her own life to shield her children from danger.*

<sup>31</sup> At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to him, "Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you." <sup>32</sup> He said to them, "Go and tell that fox for me, 'Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work. <sup>33</sup> Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed outside of Jerusalem.' <sup>34</sup> Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! <sup>35</sup> See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, 'Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.'"

**THIS WEEK AT GRACE**

- TODAY:** 8:30a and 11:00a Worship Services  
9:30a Coffee Fellowship  
9:45a Sunday School/Education Hour  
2:00p Girl Scout Meeting
- MONDAY:** 2:00p Funeral Service for Robert Dockwell  
7:00p Book Club  
7:30p Cantori Rehearsal
- TUESDAY:** 9:00a Staff Meeting  
9:30a Ladies Bible Study  
11:00a Pastor's Text Study  
11:30a Freeborn Co. Ministerium  
2:30p 3D Meeting  
3:30p Communion Service at Trailside Apts.  
6:30p GLCW Board Meeting
- WEDNESDAY:** 9:00a Sewing Day  
5:30p Cherub/Chancel Choir Rehearsals  
5:30p Soup and Sandwich Supper  
6:30p Bells of Praise  
7:00p Lenten Worship Service  
8:00p Adult Choir
- THURSDAY:** 6:00a Early Morning Bible Study  
7:00p Evening Bible Study
- FRIDAY:** Sr. High Ski Trip to Giant's Ridge  
1:30p ThorneCrest Bible Study  
NO 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> gr. Youth Room
- NEXT SUNDAY:** *Daylight Saving Time Begins*  
8:30a and 11:00 Worship Services  
9:30a Coffee Fellowship  
9:45a Sunday School / Education Hour  
9:45a First Communion Instruction

**MISSIONARY FOR A DAY:** [Mar. 4: Given by Pastor Milt & Delores Ost.] [Mar. 4: Sunday School] [Mar. 5: Given by Pastor Walsh.] [Mar. 6: In honor of Larry & Kris Brandt's 25<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary given by Babe & Lois Brandt.] [Mar. 4: GLCW].

**REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS** our members and friends known to have been hospitalized this past week: Pastor John Henriksen (Rochester Methodist), Leonard Jepson, Ruth Marcus, and Delona Petersen.

**PLEASE REMEMBER** those needing the continuing prayers of our congregation: Janice Anderson, Marlene Bergeson, Larry Bergo, Kathy Diaz, Mark & Carol Fisher (parents of Lynn Stadheim), Theresa Gamble, Jan Guse, Dan Hagen, Tara Hanson, April Hustoft, Marlys Jahnke, Bonnie Linder (Good Samaritan Center), Ethel McGill, 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 the family of Robert Dockwell. His funeral service will be held here Monday at 2:00p.

**WE JOIN OUR SISTERS AND BROTHERS** in Christ throughout the Southeast Minnesota Synod today in praying for Cross of Christ Lutheran Church in Welch, Christ the King Lutheran of Mankato, Central Lutheran of Winona, and East St. Olaf Lutheran Church in Byron.

**GREETERS FOR OUR SERVICES** this morning are Gordy & Marlene Sorenson, and David & Evonne Schlobohm at 8:30; and Sonya Paulson, Bob Pleiss, Mike Pleiss, and Delores Nasby at 11:00.

**ACOLYTES** are Gracie Thomas and Jenna Bowman at 8:30; and Jordan Mondeel and Makenzie Johnson at 11:00.

**LESSON READERS** for our worship services are Bill Leland at 8:30; and Jeanie Godtland at 11:00.

**COMMUNION BREAD AND WINE** is given today by Marshall & Helen Bendixen.

**ASSISTING WITH COMMUNION** are Nancy and Ashley Brandt at 8:30; and LuVerne Godtland and Marc Kleih at 11:00.

**REFRESHMENTS BETWEEN SERVICES** are being served today by Alexa McCune and her parents, Matt & Rochelle.

**EQUAL EXCHANGE COFFEE** is available today before and after both services. Remember, they also have tea, chocolate, and cocoa. Stock up for the next snow storm!

**ADULT FORUM TODAY** will take a break from Pastor John's discipleship series to take up, "Dem Bones, Dem Bones, Dem Fake Bones: A Sneak Peak into the Jesus Bone Box and Why There's No Meat on Those Bones."

**ATTENTION EVERYONE!** During the month of March – the five Thursdays of Lent – we will view a segment of the movie, *The Passion of the Christ*, each week and then have

approximately a half hour of discussion on the portion of the film viewed. This is a great opportunity to focus on the events surrounding the passion of our Lord. Join us at 7:00p on the Thursdays in March. We will meet in either the Fireside Room or Fellowship Hall depending on events scheduled at the church. Bring your Bibles!

**OUR THANKS** to January Altar Guild workers, Orliiss Diaz and Cathy Perschbacher.

**BOOK CLUB** will hold it's next meeting on Monday, Mar. 5<sup>th</sup>, 7:00p, and will focus on the book *Among the Lilies* by Mary Adriano. Plan to join us!

**FIRST COMMUNION CLASS** for 5<sup>th</sup> graders is coming, beginning Mar. 11<sup>th</sup> through Apr. 1<sup>st</sup>. Classes will be held in the Chapel at 9:45a during the Sunday School hour. Both parents and students need to attend.

**EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION – Summer Camp**

Registration forms for Good Earth Village are here and if you get registered before Mar. 15<sup>th</sup> you qualify for a discount. Also, something new is – *Bring a Friend Discount* – check it out! Grace Lutheran pays \$100 for each member going to camp. Forms are located outside of Jill's office, and financial scholarships are also available.

**ALTAR GUILD** will have it's next meeting on Tues., Mar. 20<sup>th</sup>, at 7:30p in the Fireside Room. (There will be no April meeting.)

**GLCW GUEST NIGHT: Tuesday, Apr. 17<sup>th</sup>, 6:30p**

Grace Lutheran Church Women will host a WELCA Guest Night on Tues., Apr. 17<sup>th</sup>, beginning at 6:30p. Mary Nelson, author of two books, *Grace for Each Hour* and *Grace for the Tough Times*, is a survivor of breast cancer and prays for other women who have the disease. She leads the Pray for the Cure cancer ministry at Hosanna!, a church of 5,000 in Lakeville. Mark you calendars now and plan to join us!

**"CHURCH BASEMENT LADIES" TRIP:**

Tickets have been ordered for the Plymouth Playhouse presentation of *Church Basement Ladies* for Sunday, May 20<sup>th</sup>, at the 2:00p matinee performance. Sale will begin as soon as the tickets arrive. Plan to join us for this delightfully funny performance. More information will be coming.

**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, Feb. 25<sup>th</sup></b>	<b><u>Year to Date</u></b>
General Fund Giving	\$ 4,614.00	\$ 70,713.00
Budgeted Need	\$ 10,096.00	\$ 80,768.00
Quarters for World Hunger	\$ 13.75	\$ 367.00
Stones, Rocks, Boulders Fund	\$ 292.00	

Attendance Last Sunday - 66; Last Year - 414

**GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**Albert Lea, Minnesota**

**SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT**  
March 4, 2007