

*This Week at Grace*  
*Sunday, April 1, 2007*  
*Palm Sunday*

*1 Day to the Twins Home Opener*

**INTRODUCTION**

*The procession with palms brings us into Holy Week and the celebration of the mystery of our salvation. We enter the week by hearing the story of Jesus' passion—his suffering and death. In baptism we have been fused to this story; in Holy Week we make our way through it again, because it brings us to life with Christ.*

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Everlasting God, in your endless love for the human race  
you sent our Lord Jesus Christ to take on our nature  
and to suffer death on the cross.  
In your mercy enable us to share in his obedience to your will  
and in the glorious victory of his resurrection,  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and forever. Amen.

**PROCESIONAL GOSPEL**

Luke 19:28-40

After he had said this, he went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem. 29 When he had come near Bethphage and Bethany, at the place called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of the disciples, 30 saying, "Go into the village ahead of you, and as you enter it you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden. Untie it and bring it here. 31 If anyone asks you, 'Why are you untying it?' just say this, 'The Lord needs it.'" 32 So those who were sent departed and found it as he had told them. 33 As they were untying the colt, its owners asked them, "Why are you untying the colt?" 34 They said, "The Lord needs it." 35 Then they brought it to Jesus; and after throwing their cloaks on the colt, they set Jesus on it. 36 As he rode along, people kept spreading their cloaks on the road. 37 As he was now approaching the path down from the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to praise God joyfully with a loud voice for all the deeds of power that they had seen, 38 saying, "Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven, and glory in the highest heaven!" 39 Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, order your disciples to stop." 40 He answered, "I tell you, if these were silent, the stones would shout out."

**FIRST READING** *Isaiah 50:4–9a*

*This text, the third of the "Servant Songs" that arose in the last years of Israel's exile in Babylon, speaks of the servant's obedience in the midst of persecution. Though the servant has been variously understood as the prophet himself or a remnant of faithful Israel, Christians have often recognized the figure of Christ in these poems.*

- <sup>4</sup> The Lord GOD has given me  
the tongue of a teacher,  
that I may know how to sustain  
the weary with a word.  
Morning by morning he wakens —  
wakens my ear  
to listen as those who are taught.
- <sup>5</sup> The Lord GOD has opened my ear,  
and I was not rebellious,  
I did not turn backward.
- <sup>6</sup> I gave my back to those who struck me,  
and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard;  
I did not hide my face  
from insult and spitting.
- <sup>7</sup> The Lord GOD helps me;  
therefore I have not been disgraced;  
therefore I have set my face like flint,  
and I know that I shall not be put to shame;
- <sup>8</sup> he who vindicates me is near.  
Who will contend with me?  
Let us stand up together.  
Who are my adversaries?  
Let them confront me.
- <sup>9</sup> It is the Lord GOD who helps me;

**PSALM** *Psalms 31:9–16*

- <sup>9</sup> Have mercy on me, O LORD, for I | am in trouble;  
my eye is consumed with sorrow, and also my throat | and my belly.
- <sup>10</sup> **For my life is wasted with grief, and my | years with sighing;  
my strength fails me because of affliction, and my bones | are  
consumed.**
- <sup>11</sup> I am the scorn of all my enemies, a disgrace to my neighbors, a dismay to | my  
acquaintances;  
when they see me in the street | they avoid me.
- <sup>12</sup> **Like the dead I am forgotten, | out of mind;  
I am as useless as a | broken pot. R**
- <sup>13</sup> For I have heard the whispering of the crowd; fear is | all around;

they put their heads together against me; they plot to | take my life.

**<sup>14</sup>But as for me, I have trusted in | you, O LORD.**

**I have said, "You | are my God.**

**<sup>15</sup>My times are | in your hand;**

rescue me from the hand of my enemies, and from those who | persecute  
me.

**<sup>16</sup>Let your face shine up- | on your servant;  
save me in your | steadfast love." R**

## **SECOND READING**      *Philippians 2:5–11*

*Paul quotes from an early Christian hymn that describes Jesus' humble obedience, even to death, and his exaltation as Lord of all.*

<sup>5</sup> Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,

<sup>6</sup> who, though he was in the form of God,

did not regard equality with God

as something to be exploited,

<sup>7</sup> but emptied himself,

taking the form of a slave,

being born in human likeness.

And being found in human form,

<sup>8</sup> he humbled himself

and became obedient to the point of death —

even death on a cross.

<sup>9</sup> Therefore God also highly exalted him

and gave him the name

that is above every name,

<sup>10</sup> so that at the name of Jesus

every knee should bend,

in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

<sup>11</sup> and every tongue should confess

that Jesus Christ is Lord,

to the glory of God the Father.

## **GOSPEL READINGS**

Luke 19.41-48

As he came near and saw the city, he wept over it, 42 saying, "If you, even you, had only recognized on this day the things that make for peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes. 43 Indeed, the days will come upon you, when your enemies will set up ramparts around you and surround you, and hem you in on every side. 44 They will crush you to the ground, you and your children within you, and they will not leave within you one

stone upon another; because you did not recognize the time of your visitation from God." 45 Then he entered the temple and began to drive out those who were selling things there; 46 and he said, "It is written, 'My house shall be a house of prayer'; but you have made it a den of robbers." 47 Every day he was teaching in the temple. The chief priests, the scribes, and the leaders of the people kept looking for a way to kill him; 48 but they did not find anything they could do, for all the people were spellbound by what they heard.

Luke 20.1-19

One day, as he was teaching the people in the temple and telling the good news, the chief priests and the scribes came with the elders 2 and said to him, "Tell us, by what authority are you doing these things? Who is it who gave you this authority?" 3 He answered them, "I will also ask you a question, and you tell me: 4 Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?" 5 They discussed it with one another, saying, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say, 'Why did you not believe him?' 6 But if we say, 'Of human origin,' all the people will stone us; for they are convinced that John was a prophet." 7 So they answered that they did not know where it came from. 8 Then Jesus said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things." 9 He began to tell the people this parable: "A man planted a vineyard, and leased it to tenants, and went to another country for a long time. 10 When the season came, he sent a slave to the tenants in order that they might give him his share of the produce of the vineyard; but the tenants beat him and sent him away empty-handed. 11 Next he sent another slave; that one also they beat and insulted and sent away empty-handed. 12 And he sent still a third; this one also they wounded and threw out. 13 Then the owner of the vineyard said, 'What shall I do? I will send my beloved son; perhaps they will respect him.' 14 But when the tenants saw him, they discussed it among themselves and said, 'This is the heir; let us kill him so that the inheritance may be ours.' 15 So they threw him out of the vineyard and killed him. What then will the owner of the vineyard do to them? 16 He will come and destroy those tenants and give the vineyard to others." When they heard this, they said, "Heaven forbid!" 17 But he looked at them and said, "What then does this text mean: 'The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone'? 18 Everyone who falls on that stone will be broken to pieces; and it will crush anyone on whom it falls." 19 When the scribes and chief priests realized that he had told this parable against them, they wanted to lay hands on him at that very hour, but they feared the people.

### THIS WEEK AT GRACE

#### **TODAY:**

#### ***Palm Sunday***

8:30a and 11:00a Worship Services  
9:30a Coffee Fellowship  
9:45a Sunday School/Education Hour  
9:45a First Communion Instruction  
11:00a Spring Musical Rehearsal  
2:00p Girl Scout Meeting  
4:00p Tenebrae Rehearsal, 9<sup>th</sup> gr.

|                     |                        |  |
|---------------------|------------------------|--|
|                     | 6:00p                  | First Communion Banquet                  |
| <b>MONDAY:</b>      | 7:00p                  | Book Club                                |
|                     | 7:30p                  | Cantori Rehearsal                        |
| <b>TUESDAY:</b>     | 9:00a                  | Staff Meeting                            |
|                     | 9:30a                  | Ladies Bible Study                       |
|                     | 11:00a                 | Pastor's Text Study                      |
|                     | 11:30a                 | Freeborn County Ministerium              |
|                     | 2:30p                  | 3D Meeting                               |
|                     | 5:00p                  | Pew Cushion Committee Meeting            |
|                     | 7:00p                  | Health Cabinet Meeting                   |
| <b>WEDNESDAY:</b>   | 9:00a                  | Sewing Day                               |
|                     | 1:00p                  | Communion Service at Good Samaritan Home |
|                     | 5:30p                  | Cherub/Chancel Choir Rehearsals          |
|                     | 6:30p                  | Bells of Praise                          |
|                     | 7:30p                  | Adult Choir                              |
| <b>THURSDAY:</b>    |                        | <i>Maundy Thursday</i>                   |
|                     | 6:00a                  | Early Morning Bible Study                |
|                     | 5:30 or 7:30p          | Worship Service                          |
| <b>FRIDAY:</b>      |                        | <i>Good Friday</i>                       |
|                     |                        | <i>(Offices Close at Noon)</i>           |
|                     | 11:30a                 | Good Friday Luncheon                     |
|                     | 12:30p                 | Worship Service                          |
|                     | 1:30p                  | ThorneCrest Bible Study                  |
|                     | 7:30p                  | Tenebrae Service                         |
| <b>NEXT SUNDAY:</b> |                        | <i>Easter Sunday</i>                     |
|                     | 6:30a                  | Sunrise Service                          |
|                     | 7:00a                  | Easter Breakfast (Serving 7:00-10:00a)   |
|                     | 8:00, 9:30, and 11:00a | Festive Worship Services                 |
|                     | NO                     | Sunday School / Education Hour           |

**MISSIONARY FOR A DAY:** [Apr. 1: Given by Pastor Milt & Delores Ost.] [Apr. 1: Sunday School] [Apr. 2: Given by Babe & Lois Brandt.] [Apr. 3: Given by Pastor Todd Walsh.] [Apr. 4: GLCW].

**REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS** our members and friends known to have been hospitalized this past week: Janet Ayers, Gwen Baas, Owen Kvenvold (St. Mary's, Rochester), Ron Lau (St. Mary's, Rochester), Katelyn Lee (St. Mary's, Rochester), and Alex Sheetz.

**PLEASE REMEMBER** those needing the continuing prayers of our congregation: Janice Anderson, Larry Bergo, Kathy Diaz, Mark & Carol Fisher (parents of Lynn Stadheim), Theresa Gamble, Jan Guse, Dan Hagen, Tara Hanson, Arvella Henderson (mother of Greg Henderson), April Hustoft, Marlys Jahnke, David Johnson (son of Norman & Irene Johnson), Norman Johnson, Ethel McGill, Vern Nasby, DeAnna Nelson, LeMoyne Oakland, Marian Odson, Lissa Parrish, Joyce Schreiber, Sally Skrlin, Mark Stevens, LaVon Stewart, James Vangen, Leland Wadding, Sally Witham (mother of Greg Witham), and Eleanor Wolfe.

**IN YOUR PRAYERS**, please also remember Muriel & Bob Hoeg and family upon the death of Muriel's mother this past week.

**WE JOIN OUR SISTERS AND BROTHERS** in Christ throughout the Southeast Minnesota Synod today in praying for Hosanna Lutheran Church of Rochester, Emmons Lutheran in Emmons, Grace Lutheran of Nerstrand, and North Waseca Lutheran Church in Waseca.

**SPRING MUSICAL REHEARSALS** continue today, 11:00, in the Fireside Room for those in grades 2-6. All students interested in participating are encouraged to attend!

**BOOK CLUB** will meet tomorrow evening, 7:00p, at the home of Pam Pleiss, 400 Johnson St. Join them!

**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!

**SUBMITTED PICTURE DIRECTORY PHOTOS**

Did you bring in a photo to be submitted for the picture directory done last fall? Previously we were told that these pictures would not be returned to the church, however, last week we received a mailing from the company which included these photos. They can be picked up in the church office. Photos we have include Joe & Pam Avery and family, Josh & Angie Barker and Auslund, Eda Bergh, Arnold Brunsvold, Bob & Donna Oakland, Chad Samp and Erica Stevens, and Grace Vee.

**ADULT FORUM** today will conclude viewing the film "The Passion of the Christ" with discussion included.

**AREA COMMUNITY CHOIR** will present the cantata, *Footprints in the Sand* by Joseph M. Martin at Calvary Baptist Church, Monday evening, Apr. 2<sup>nd</sup> at 7:00p. The public is invited. A freewill offering will be taken with all proceeds going to the Food Shelf and to help defray expenses.

**ANNUAL EASTER BREAKFAST: Next Sunday, Apr. 8<sup>th</sup>**

Dennis Brue is getting his griddle fired up for his famous pancakes. We will be serving pancakes, eggs, sausage, fruit, muffins, coffee and juice from 7:00-10:00a Easter morning. Cost of the meal is \$5.00 per plate. Families of 4 or more cost \$20.00. Proceeds from the breakfast will help fund the summer mission trip to Appalachia. Matching funds provided by *Thrivent for Lutherans*.

**LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF TRUCK** will be here in May. We will be assembling kits in April to be included in that shipment. We are in dire need of the following items: cloth school bags (about 12" x 14"), colored construction paper, cloth diapers and pins, receiving blankets, nail files or clippers, toothpaste, and wide-toothed combs. Thank you for your continued support and generosity.

**IN JANUARY**, Grace youth participated in an Urban Immersion weekend in Minneapolis. The weekend entailed learning about the working poor in our area, poverty locally and globally, as well as volunteer opportunities. Youth and adult leaders were put to work helping and learning from those who were at a crossroad in their life. The gifts that we received during the weekend were truly sent by God. We have had a request to schedule another weekend. We would like to offer this as an intergenerational event for our congregation. Youth and adults interested in taking part in this event are welcome to sign up on the bulletin board outside of Denae's office. The weekend planned for this Urban Immersion is May 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup>. If you would like to find out more about the weekend planned, please talk to Denae Juntunen. The cost for the weekend is \$40.00. Please consider taking part in this amazing opportunity.

**MEN OF ALL AGES** are invited to attend the 4<sup>th</sup> annual Breakfast with The Bishop, Harold Usgaard, on Sat., Apr. 14<sup>th</sup>, at 8:00a at Cabela's upstairs restaurant. A special presentation, *Coming of Age: Exploring the Identity and Spirituality of Young Men*, will be given by Professor Rollie Martinson of Luther Seminary. Cost is \$10 per person. A sign up sheet is available in the narthex today. (Deadline to register is Apr. 6<sup>th</sup>.)

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**Would you like to share an Easter Lily with the congregation?**

**Lilies are available at \$9.75 each.** (Please place your order by Apr. 2<sup>nd</sup>.)  
Drop this form along with payment in the offering plate, or mail to the church office.

**In honor/memory of:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Given by:** \_\_\_\_\_

**GRACE SENIORS: Wednesday, Apr. 11<sup>th</sup>, 2:00p**

Grace Seniors will meet that day in the Fireside Room to hear speaker Romoke Ogunkanbi who was born and raised in Nigeria, Africa. Her family and friends deserted her as she turned from their religion to Jesus Christ. You can see, this will be a most interesting program, so come out and bring a friend along – you will be glad you did! *If you need a ride to a Seniors activity, please call Lisa in the church office, or the Kleih's at 826-3176.*

**CHILDREN'S VISION INTERNATIONAL** founder, Jeanene Thicke will be here for a presentation on Sunday, Apr. 15<sup>th</sup>. She will be here to greet our congregation at both services and will lead a presentation about the orphanage in Bogota in Fellowship Hall at 9:45a. The congregation is invited to attend.

**"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. A sign up sheet is located on the GLCW table in the narthex today. We will also plan to enjoy a buffet lunch at the theatre (however, you are welcome to bring a bag lunch if you so desire). Plan to join us for this delightfully funny performance. Tickets are going fast! Sign up today.

**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, Mar. 25<sup>th</sup></b> | <b><u>Year to Date</u></b> |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| General Fund Giving          | \$ 9,613.00                         | \$ 122,596.00              |
| Budgeted Need                | \$ 10,096.00                        | \$ 121,152.00              |
| Quarters for World Hunger    | \$ 52.75                            | \$ 571.50                  |
| Stones, Rocks, Boulders Fund | \$ 87.00                            |                            |

Attendance Last Sunday - 443; Last Year - 451

**GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**Albert Lea, Minnesota**  
**PALM SUNDAY**  
April 1, 2007