

# *This Week at Grace*

## *Sunday, April 29, 2007*

### *The Fourth Sunday of Easter*

#### **INTRODUCTION**

*With the fourth Sunday of Easter the gospel readings turn away from resurrection appearances of Jesus and begin to focus on echoes of Jesus' earlier words that had pointed toward his death and resurrection during his ministry. He meant to go this path all along. As we listen to Jesus' words from the tenth chapter of John's gospel, we learn that Jesus is both shepherd as well as the victorious Lamb. Peter is a shepherd like Jesus as he leads one of Jesus' sheep from death to life.*

#### **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

O God of peace,  
you brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ,  
the great shepherd of the sheep.  
By the blood of your eternal covenant,  
make us complete in everything good that we may do your will,  
and work among us all that is well-pleasing in your sight,  
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord,  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and forever.

#### **FIRST READING** Acts 9:36–43

*When Dorcas, faithful minister to the widows of Joppa, fell ill and died, Peter raised her back to life through the power of prayer.*

<sup>36</sup> Now in Joppa there was a disciple whose name was Tabitha, which in Greek is Dorcas. She was devoted to good works and acts of charity. <sup>37</sup> At that time she became ill and died. When they had washed her, they laid her in a room upstairs. <sup>38</sup> Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, who heard that Peter was there, sent two men to him with the request, "Please come to us without delay." <sup>39</sup> So Peter got up and went with them; and when he arrived, they took him to the room upstairs. All the widows stood beside him, weeping and showing tunics and other clothing that Dorcas had made while she was with them. <sup>40</sup> Peter put all of them outside, and then he knelt down and prayed. He turned to the body and said, "Tabitha, get up." Then she opened her eyes, and seeing Peter, she sat up. <sup>41</sup> He gave her his hand and helped her up. Then calling the saints and widows, he showed her to be alive. <sup>42</sup> This became known throughout Joppa, and many believed in the Lord. <sup>43</sup> Meanwhile he stayed in Joppa for some time with a certain Simon, a tanner.

PSALM *Psalm 23*

<sup>1</sup>The LORD | is my shepherd;  
I shall not | be in want.

<sup>2</sup>**The LORD makes me lie down | in green pastures  
and leads me be- | side still waters.**

<sup>3</sup>You restore my | soul, O LORD,  
and guide me along right pathways | for your name's sake.

<sup>4</sup>**Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall | fear no  
evil;  
for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they | comfort me. R**

<sup>5</sup>You prepare a table before me in the presence | of my enemies;  
you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is | running over.

<sup>6</sup>**Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days | of my life,  
and I will dwell in the house of the | LORD forever. R**

**SECOND READING**      *Revelation 7:9–17*

*Christ is the shepherd who leads his faithful to springs of the water of life. Christ is also the Lamb who vanquishes sin and suffering, in whose blood the saints have washed their robes and made them white.*

<sup>9</sup> After this I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands. <sup>10</sup> They cried out in a loud voice, saying,

"Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!"

<sup>11</sup> And all the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, <sup>12</sup> singing,

"Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom  
and thanksgiving and honor  
and power and might  
be to our God forever and ever! Amen."

<sup>13</sup> Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, "Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?" <sup>14</sup> I said to him, "Sir, you are the one that knows." Then he said to me, "These are they who have come out of the great ordeal ;they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

<sup>15</sup> For this reason they are before the throne of God,  
and worship him day and night within his temple,  
and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them.

<sup>16</sup> They will hunger no more, and thirst no more;  
the sun will not strike them,  
nor any scorching heat;



**THURSDAY:** 6:00a Early Morning Bible Study  
9:00a BERC Pastor's Meeting  
6:30p GLCW Board Meeting  
NO Thursday Evening Bible Study  
7:15p Cantori Rehearsal

**FRIDAY:** 1:30p ThorneCrest Bible Study  
3:30p 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> gr. Youth Room

**NEXT SUNDAY:** 8:30a and 11:00a Worship Services  
9:30a Coffee Fellowship  
9:45a Sunday School/Education Hour  
11:00a Spring Musical Rehearsal  
7:00p Cantori Concert

**MISSIONARY FOR A DAY:** [Apr. 29: Given by Pastor Milt & Delores Ost.] [Apr. 29: Sunday School] [Apr. 30: Given by Babe & Lois Brandt.] [May 1: Given by Pastor Todd Walsh.] [May 2: GLCW].

**REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS** our members and friends known to have been hospitalized this past week: Judy Anderson, and Leland Wadding (St. Mary's, Rochester).

**PLEASE REMEMBER** those needing the continuing prayers of our congregation: Janice Anderson, Larry Bergo, Kathy Diaz, Carol Fisher (mother of Lynn Stadheim), Theresa Gamble, Shirley Gold, Jan Guse, Dan Hagen, Tara Hanson, April Hustoft, Marlys Jahnke, Norman Johnson, Glenn McDaniel, Ethel McGill, Vern Nasby, DeAnna Nelson, LeMoyné Oakland, Marian Odson, Lissa Parrish, Bob Richerson (brother of Nancy Greiner), Joyce Schreiber, Mark Stevens, LaVon Stewart, James Vangen, Leland Wadding, Sally Witham (mother of Greg Witham), and Eleanor Wolfe.

**THERE IS NO ADULT FORUM TODAY** due to the reception for new members. The next two weeks will be devoted to a continuation of a discussion that began some time ago on what it means to be a disciple. This is an introductory look at "Discovering a Faith that Works in Real Life." We will discuss the subjects of practicing our faith, joy and happiness, our calling, and being called to real life. Please join us for these important discussions as we lay some groundwork for future learning about what it means to be a follower of Jesus Christ.

**TELECAST UPDATE:** We were informed on Wednesday that this would be the last week we can telecast our services on Sunday morning due to changes at Charter Communications. We apologize for this short notice and will work on figuring out if there is any way we can resume the Sunday telecast. For the time being our Sunday morning services will be telecast on Wednesday evening at 6:30 on cable channel 6 until further

notice. Please help us spread the word.

**THURSDAY EVENING BIBLE STUDY** will not meet for the remainder of the year, but will resume again in the fall.

**NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER** is Thursday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>. A gathering for prayer for our nation will be held from Noon to 12:45p that day at the Freeborn County Courthouse. Trinity Lutheran is the alternation location in case of bad weather.

**SPRING IS HERE!!** Do you want to go for a bike ride? Grace Lutheran is putting together a team to ride in the Freeborn County Cancer Society Bike-A-Thon to be held on Saturday, May 5<sup>th</sup>. Starting time is 6:00a at the Sibley warming house and the team members are expected to ride at least to Glenville. Time is short, so sign up *now* on the poster in the narthex and pick up a pledge sheet. Questions? Call Jeanette (377-1871), or talk to Pastor Todd.

**IT'S FRIENDSHIP:** The Daughters of Grace Dinner and Program will be held Monday, May 7<sup>th</sup>, at 6:00p. Tickets will be on sale before and after the 8:30 worship service and before the 11:00 service today. Tickets are also available in the church office through Tuesday, May 1<sup>st</sup>. \$7.00 for adults, and \$4.00 for children. All Grace women, girls, and guests and invited.

**VOLUNTEERS ARE STILL NEEDED** to fill up the Gulf Coast trip to Mobile, Alabama, to rebuild homes through Habitat for Humanity. The trip is June 9-16<sup>th</sup>. For information, costs, trip details, and to register, go online to [www.pastorsoli.com](http://www.pastorsoli.com) or call 383-0941.

**WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS!** This morning at our 8:30 worship service we will receive those listed below into membership at Grace Lutheran Church. We rejoice that they have chosen Grace Lutheran as their church family. Between our morning services, there will be a reception held downstairs in the Fireside Room in honor of our new members. Please join us as we welcome them into our Grace Family.

*Travis Broskoff  
Carroll Hovland  
David Nelson  
Lisa Rippentrop and Fallon  
Pastor Peter & Sandy Soli; Anna, Margaret, and Jon  
Sarah Stay and Lucy  
Pamela Wolters*

**REFRESHMENTS BETWEEN SERVICES** are being served this morning by Amanda Westcott and her dad, Travis.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL MISSION PROJECT:** With the generous help from the Grace congregation, our Sunday School was able to raise \$2,861.00 for their *Heifer Mission Project*. We will be buying 2 heifers, 2 water buffalo, 2 llamas, 1 sheep, 2 goats, 2 pigs, 2 trio of rabbits, 2 stands of tree seedlings, 2 honeybee hives, 3 flocks of chicks, and 2 flocks of ducks. Thank you for making this possible!

**BOOK CLUB** will meet again on May 7<sup>th</sup>, 7:00p, at the home of Hazel Spiering, 2122 Grand Ave. The featured book is *The Little Sparrows* by Al & JoAnna Lacy. Join us for great discussion and fellowship!

**GRACE QUILTERS** continue to appreciate your donations of fabric, sheets, mattress pads, curtains, drapes, and blankets to make quilts for Lutheran World Relief. Think of us as you do your "spring cleaning". Join us the first and third Wednesdays at 9:00a to assemble and pack the quilts. (Lutheran World Relief no longer accepts clothing.) Please call Ardis Bang at 373-7503 if you have any questions.

**GRACE SENIORS: Wednesday, May 9<sup>th</sup>, 1:00p**

Grace Seniors will meet that day in the Fireside Room to view the film *Homeland*, presented by Roger Lunning. This is a movie about an immigrant family from Norway. (The movie will be about two hours long, so we will start at 1:00 to 3:00, and then we will have lunch and coffee.) This is a very, very good movie and all actors are local from Lake Mills. You may even know some of the people yourself, so come out and bring all your Norwegian friends along and enjoy. All will be glad they came!

**"CHURCH BASEMENT LADIES" TRIP:** The tickets have all been reserved. There is an informational flyer for everyone who has signed up for tickets on the GLCW table in the narthex. It includes departure time, cost, description of the meal, and process for the collection of funds. Approximately half of the funds have been collected at this time. If you have not already done so, please send payment as directed in the flyer.

**SPECIAL THANKS** to Bill Leland who is serving as van driver today. Our church van picks up riders every Sunday for the 11:00 worship service. If you or anyone you know is interested in riding the van, please call the church office to be added to the pick up schedule.

**WHY DO I NEED A WILL?** Attend an evening about estate planning and Wills with ELCA Foundation Representative Deborah Simonson Smith on Tues., May 22<sup>nd</sup>, 6:30p, at Salem Lutheran Church of Albert Lea. Discover how a sound estate plan can save your family tax dollars and legal fees, and how you can financially, emotionally and spiritually care for your minor children in the event of your passing. Find out what an advanced directive is and why you should make your medical choices ahead of time. You will also learn why people of all ages need a will and how to go about getting one made, along with how to remember the people and caring ministries that have meant the most to you and your family. A sign up sheet is located in the narthex for anyone planning to attend.

**THE COMMUNITY GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP** will be sponsoring a presentation entitled, *Mind/Body Health: Bringing Mind and Body Together in Healing through the*

**Grieving Process**, to be held Tuesday, May 15<sup>th</sup>, 6:30p, at the HealthReach facility. Dr. Craig M. Helbok, a licensed psychologist at the Albert Lea Medical Center will be the featured presenter.

**RELAY FOR LIFE:** Planning has begun for the American Cancer Society Relay for Life which will be held in August. The planning committee for the Grace team is looking for lots of help and input. We would like a team 'theme' and Bible verse, a team logo, and lots of team participants during the walk. Please be thinking about these things and watch for future announcements. There will be opportunities for fundraising, team building, and fellowship as our Grace team helps to raise money for the fight against cancer.

**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, Apr. 22<sup>nd</sup></b>	<b><u>Year to Date</u></b>
General Fund Giving	\$ 6,371.00	\$ 176,842.00
Budgeted Need	\$ 10,096.00	\$ 161,536.00
Quarters for World Hunger	\$ 57.00	\$ 784.25
Stones, Rocks, Boulders Fund	\$ 135.00	

Attendance Last Sunday - 437; Last Sunday - 386

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

**FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**  
April 29, 2007