

This Week at Grace
Sunday, July 29, 2007
The Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

INTRODUCTION

We want to learn how to pray, and our prayers have many shapes. Jesus' model prayer shapes our own and leads us to a fuller realization of God's presence in our lives and in the world--a vision shared by Paul as he proclaims Christ's new day.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty and ever-living God, you are always more ready to hear than we are to pray, and you gladly give more than we either desire or deserve. Pour upon us your abundant mercy. Forgive us those things that weigh on our conscience, and give us those good things that come only through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

FIRST READING *Genesis 18:20–32*

According to Genesis 18:17-19 (and 12:3), Abraham is to play an important role in the divine plan: that "all the nations of the earth be blessed in him" (18:18). His role is to teach the justice of God, which condemns only the guilty and spares the innocent.

²⁰ Then the LORD said, "How great is the outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah and how very grave their sin! ²¹ I must go down and see whether they have done altogether according to the outcry that has come to me; and if not, I will know."

²² So the men turned from there, and went toward Sodom, while Abraham remained standing before the LORD. ²³ Then Abraham came near and said, "Will you indeed sweep away the righteous with the wicked?" ²⁴ Suppose there are fifty righteous within the city; will you then sweep away the place and not forgive it for the fifty righteous who are in it? ²⁵ Far be it from you to do such a thing, to slay the righteous with the wicked, so that the righteous fare as the wicked! Far be that from you! Shall not the Judge of all the earth do what is just?" ²⁶ And the LORD said, "If I find at Sodom fifty righteous in the city, I will forgive the whole place for their sake." ²⁷ Abraham answered, "Let me take it upon myself to speak to the LORD, I who am but dust and ashes. ²⁸ Suppose five of the fifty righteous are lacking? Will you destroy the whole city for lack of five?" And he said, "I will not destroy it if I find forty-five there." ²⁹ Again he spoke to him, "Suppose forty are found there." He answered, "For the sake of forty I will not do it." ³⁰ Then he said, "Oh do not let the LORD be angry if I speak. Suppose thirty are found there." He answered, "I will not do it, if I find thirty there." ³¹ He said, "Let me take it upon myself to speak to the LORD. Suppose twenty are found there." He answered, "For the sake of twenty I will not destroy it." ³² Then he said, "Oh do not let the LORD be angry if I speak just once more. Suppose ten are found there." He answered, "For the sake of ten I will not destroy it."

PSALM *Psalm 138*

¹I will give thanks to you, O LORD, with ¹ my whole heart;
before the gods I will ¹ sing your praise.

²**I will bow down toward your holy temple and praise your name, because of your steadfast
¹ love and faithfulness;**
for you have glorified your name and your word a-¹bove all things. R

³When I called, you ¹ answered me;
you increased my ¹ strength within me.

⁴**All the rulers of the earth will praise ¹ you, O LORD,
when they have heard the words ¹ of your mouth.**

⁵They will sing of the ways ¹ of the LORD,
that great is the glory ¹ of the LORD.

**⁶The LORD is high, yet cares ¹for the lowly,
perceiving the haughty ¹from afar. R**

⁷Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you ¹keep me safe;
you stretch forth your hand against the fury of my enemies; your right ¹hand shall save
me.

⁸You will make good your pur- ¹pose for me;

**O LORD, your steadfast love endures forever; do not abandon the works ¹of your
hands. R**

SECOND READING *Colossians 2:6–15 [16–19]*

The letter to the Colossians warns about "the empty lure" of ideas that compromise the faith into which people are baptized. Through baptism, the church is rooted in Christ.

⁶ As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, continue to live your lives in him, ⁷
rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in
thanksgiving.

⁸ See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deceit, according
to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the universe, and not according to Christ.
⁹ For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, ¹⁰ and you have come to fullness in him,
who is the head of every ruler and authority. ¹¹ In him also you were circumcised with a spiritual
circumcision, by putting off the body of the flesh in the circumcision of Christ; ¹² when you were
buried with him in baptism, you were also raised with him through faith in the power of God,
who raised him from the dead. ¹³ And when you were dead in trespasses and the uncircumcision
of your flesh, God made you alive together with him, when he forgave us all our trespasses, ¹⁴
erasing the record that stood against us with its legal demands. He set this aside, nailing it to the
cross. ¹⁵ He disarmed the rulers and authorities and made a public example of them, triumphing
over them in it.

¹⁶ Therefore do not let anyone condemn you in matters of food and drink or of observing
festivals, new moons, or sabbaths. ¹⁷ These are only a shadow of what is to come, but the
substance belongs to Christ. ¹⁸ Do not let anyone disqualify you, insisting on self-abasement and
worship of angels, dwelling on visions, puffed up without cause by a human way of thinking, ¹⁹
and not holding fast to the head, from whom the whole body, nourished and held together by its
ligaments and sinews, grows with a growth that is from God.

GOSPEL *Luke 11:1–13*

*In Luke's gospel Jesus prays often and urges his disciples to do the same. Here, he teaches them
to pray and encourages them to trust in God at all times.*

He was praying in a certain place, and after he had finished, one of his disciples said to him,
"Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples." ² He said to them, "When you pray, say:

Father, hallowed be your name.

Your kingdom come.

³ Give us each day our daily bread.

⁴ And forgive us our sins,

for we ourselves forgive everyone indebted to us.

And do not bring us to the time of trial."

⁵ And he said to them, "Suppose one of you has a friend, and you go to him at midnight and say
to him, 'Friend, lend me three loaves of bread; ⁶ for a friend of mine has arrived, and I have
nothing to set before him.' ⁷ And he answers from within, 'Do not bother me; the door has
already been locked, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot get up and give you anything.'

⁸ I tell you, even though he will not get up and give him anything because he is his friend, at least
because of his persistence he will get up and give him whatever he needs.

⁹ So I say to you, Ask, and it will be given you; search, and you will find; knock, and the
door will be opened for you. ¹⁰ For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches
finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened. ¹¹ Is there anyone among you who,
if your child asks for a fish, will give a snake instead of a fish? ¹² Or if the child asks for an egg,
will give a scorpion? ¹³ If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children,
how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!"

THIS WEEK AT GRACE

TODAY:	8:00a	and 10:00a	Worship Services
	9:00a		Outdoor Coffee Fellowship
TUESDAY:	9:00a		Staff Meeting
	11:00a		Pastor's Text Study
WEDNESDAY:	9:00a		Sewing Day
THURSDAY:	6:00a		Early Morning Bible Study
	7:00p		Thursday Evening Worship Service
FRIDAY:	1:30p		ThorneCrest Bible Study
NEXT SUNDAY:	8:00a	and 10:00a	Worship Services
	9:00a		Outdoor Coffee Fellowship

MISSIONARY FOR A DAY: [July 29: Given by Pastor Milt & Delores Ost.] [July 29: Sunday School] [July 30: Given by Babe & Lois Brandt.] [July 31: Given by Pastor Todd Walsh.] [Aug. 1: [GLCW] [Aug. 2: Given by Mildred Hopperstad].

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS our members and friends known to have been hospitalized this past week: Marie Gilbertson (Rochester), Jeanie Godtland (Rochester), and Betty Hanson.

PLEASE REMEMBER those needing the continuing prayers of our congregation: Janice Anderson, Larry Bergo, Kathy Diaz, Miff Eglund, Theresa Gamble, Jan Guse, Dan Hagen, Tara Hanson, Edna Herfendal, April Hustoft, Marlys Jahnke, Norman Johnson, Glenn McDaniel, Ethel McGill, Gary Mesch (son-in-law of Dick & Arlyss Haug), Vern Nasby, DeAnna Nelson, LeMoyne Oakland, Lissa Parrish, Bob Richerson (brother of Nancy Greiner), Mark Stevens, LaVon Stewart, Carol Thompson, Lauri Vietrum, Leland Wadding, Mabel Wadding, Sally Witham (mother of Greg Witham), and Eleanor Wolfe.

WE JOIN OUR SISTERS AND BROTHERS in Christ throughout the SE Minnesota Synod today in praying for St. John Lutheran Church in Elkton, Oakland Lutheran of Oakland, St. Paul Lutheran of Red Wing, and Trinity Lutheran Church in Blooming Prairie.

GREETERS FOR OUR SERVICES this morning are Carl & Lorraine Branstad, and Bill & Sue Barber at 8:00; and Hazel Spiering, Randy & Lynn Stay, and Gloria Ugland at 10:00.

ACOLYTES today are Alex Wieland and Shane Louks at 8:00; and Ashley Gilbertson and Courtney Hanna at 10:00.

REFRESHMENTS BETWEEN SERVICES are being served today by Alex Lau and his father, Ron.

FLOWERS ON THE PIANO this morning are given in memory of Andy Munyer by the Munyer Family.

FLOWERS TODAY are also from the wedding of Ashley Avery and Travis Broskoff held here Friday.

LESSON READERS are Bruce Olson at 8:00; and Judy Hall at 10:00.

SPECIAL THANKS to Jerry Dahl who is serving as van driver this morning. Our church van picks up riders every Sunday for the 10:00 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.

WE ARE IN THE PROCESS of formulating a team of people to work on a preliminary plan for the Prayer/Peace Garden on the east side of the church. If you are interested in being part of this team, please let Pastor John know. Thank you.

LIKE TO BAKE COOKIES? Vacation Bible School is coming up, Aug. 6th-10th, and lots of delicious cookies are needed for daily snack time. Any donations of cookies or pre-sweetened kool-aid mix can be dropped off for Jill in the Education office. The kids thank you ☺ !!

SHINE FEST WEEK 2007 – Aug. 5th-12th

ShineFest is made up of many faith communities working together on local community projects. Grace Lutheran has chosen Brookside School as a special project on Aug. 9th to help with landscaping, painting, playground restoration, and general clean up. We have also chosen to pass out ShineFest magnets that include a Bible verse. If you would like to help with the Brookside project or any of the other projects held during ShineFest week, please call Melvin (826-3703) or Mona (377-3131). These are two very good mission projects on God's agenda for Grace Lutheran. (More information detailing other projects scheduled that week will be available in next week's bulletin.) Please come and help us – there is work to be done!

GRACE LUTHERAN Relay for Life team members will be selling luminaries between church services through the month of July. Please consider buying a luminary for \$10.00 to honor a loved one who is struggling with cancer or to remember one who has been lost to cancer. Also, there will be an opportunity to contribute to the team effort through offerings that will be collected after the church services today and again on Aug. 5th. Also, plan on joining us for coffee and fellowship between services on Aug. 5th when Relay team members will provide and serve special treats and coffee. Thanks very much from the team members for all of your support!

****All Grace members walking on ANY Relay for Life Teams:** Stop at the Relay table in the narthex and pick up a button – *Walking With Grace* – to show Grace's commitment to this wonderful effort.

GRACE LUTHERAN'S Relay for Life Team is inviting Grace members who are currently living with cancer to join them as their guests at the potluck dinner being held at the team campsite. This will begin at about 5:00p on Friday night, Aug. 10th, prior to the opening ceremonies of the Relay for Life Walk.

STILL NEEDED: **white t-shirts** in size small (17 needed), medium (31 needed), and large (21 needed); mixed boys and girls. During VBS this summer we will be decorating new t-shirts for the Children's Orphanage in Bogota, Columbia, at the request of Jeanene Thicke. Donations can be dropped off at the Education Office.

BOOK CLUB will meet again on Monday evening, Aug. 6th, 7:00p, at the home of Pat Arends (1645 Masee St.). The featured book for August is *Hearts Touching Hearts* written by Pastor Milt Ost. Pastor Ost will also be present that evening to lead discussion. Join us for great fellowship.

VOLUNTEERS ARE STILL NEEDED to help with Vacation Bible School, Aug. 6th-10th. If you are able to help that week, please talk with Jill about jobs to be filled, 373-6496.

PANS! PANS! PANS! There are a large number of unclaimed cake pans in the kitchen above the sink area. They have been there for many months. If the pans are not claimed by September 1st they will be donated to the Epilepsy Foundation. PLEASE pick up your cake pans. Thank you.

LUTHERAN WOMEN TODAY MAGAZINE:

For just \$12.00 a year, women of Grace can subscribe to a terrific magazine with many inspiring as well as thought-provoking articles. The magazine also carries the Circle Bible Study on the Beatitudes. There is a subscription sign-up list at the GLCW table in the narthex. We especially encourage all Circle members subscribe to this magazine so they will have the Bible Study. (There will be no copies made this coming year.) Please do this today to receive the September issue.

COMING TO GRACE: HARMONY JUNCTION Barbershop Chorus will be singing at both worship services on Sunday, Aug. 12th. You won't want to miss it!

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.

	Sunday, July 22nd	<u>Year to Date</u>
General Fund Giving	\$ 5,673.00	\$ 297,278.00
Budgeted Need	\$ 10,096.00	\$ 292,784.00
Quarters for World Hunger	\$ 34.75	\$ 1,347.25
Stones, Rocks, Boulders Fund	\$ 8.00	

Attendance Last Sunday - 317; Last Year - 333

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
Albert Lea, Minnesota
NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
July 29, 2007