

This Week at Grace
Sunday, September 30, 2007
The Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

INTRODUCTION

The readings for this day continue the theme of the past several weeks, asking God's people to consider their relationship to wealth. Our money can be a powerful tool for alleviating suffering in the world, but it can just as easily become a strong force that alienates us from the riches of God's love. We need to know where we place our deepest values.

On this day in 420, the great biblical scholar and translator Jerome died. He was largely responsible for making the riches of Christian texts written in Greek available to Latin readers in the Roman Empire.

Jerome, translator, teacher, died 420

Jerome was a biblical scholar and translator, but rather than translating the original Hebrew and Greek scriptures into classical Latin, he worked in the commonly-spoken Latin of the day, creating a version called the Vulgate.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God, rich in mercy, you look with compassion on this troubled world. Feed us with your grace, and grant us the treasure that comes only from you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

FIRST READING: Amos 6:1a, 4–7

In this reading, Amos condemns the arrogance and indifference of Israel's elitist leadership. The prophet presents God's judgment using mourning language, suggesting that Israel has already died.

^aAlas for those who are at ease in Zion,
and for those who feel secure on Mount Samaria, ⁴Alas for those who lie on beds of
ivory,
and lounge on their couches,
and eat lambs from the flock,
and calves from the stall;
⁵who sing idle songs to the sound of the harp,
and like David improvise on instruments of music;
⁶who drink wine from bowls,
and anoint themselves with the finest oils,
but are not grieved over the ruin of Joseph!

⁷Therefore they shall now be the first to go into exile,
and the revelry of the loungers shall pass away.

PSALM: Psalm 146

The LORD gives justice to those who are oppressed. (Ps. 146:7)

¹Hal- | lelujah!

Praise the LORD, | O my soul!

²**I will praise the LORD as long | as I live;**

I will sing praises to my God while I | have my being.

³Put not your | trust in rulers,

in mortals in whom there | is no help.

⁴**When they breathe their last, they re- | turn to earth,**

and in that day | their thoughts perish. R

⁵Happy are they who have the God of Jacob | for their help,

whose hope is in the | LORD their God;

⁶**who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that | is in them;**

who keeps promis- | es forever;

⁷who gives justice to those who are oppressed, and food to | those who hunger.

The LORD sets the cap- | tives free.

⁸**The LORD opens the eyes of the blind; the LORD lifts up those who | are bowed down;**

the LORD | loves the righteous.

⁹The LORD cares | for the stranger;

the LORD sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way | of the wicked.

¹⁰**The LORD shall | reign forever,**

your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. | Hallelujah! R

SECOND READING: 1 Timothy 6:6–19

Timothy is reminded of the confession he made at his baptism and of the implications this has for daily life. His priorities will be different from those of people who want to be rich.

⁶Of course, there is great gain in godliness combined with contentment; ⁷for we brought nothing into the world, so that we can take nothing out of it; ⁸but if we have food and clothing, we will be content with these. ⁹But those who want to be rich fall into temptation and are trapped by many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. ¹⁰For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, and in their eagerness to be rich some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pains.

¹¹But as for you, man of God, shun all this; pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance, gentleness. ¹²Fight the good fight of the faith; take hold of the eternal life, to which you were called and for which you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.

¹³In the presence of God, who gives life to all things, and of Christ Jesus, who in his testimony before Pontius Pilate made the good confession, I charge you ¹⁴to keep the commandment

without spot or blame until the manifestation of our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁵which he will bring about at the right time — he who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords. ¹⁶It is he alone who has immortality and dwells in unapproachable light, whom no one has ever seen or can see; to him be honor and eternal dominion. Amen.

¹⁷As for those who in the present age are rich, command them not to be haughty, or to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but rather on God who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. ¹⁸They are to do good, to be rich in good works, generous, and ready to share, ¹⁹thus storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of the life that really is life.

GOSPEL: Luke 16:19–31

When Jesus taught that no one can serve both God and wealth, some of his hearers mocked him. He responded with the story of the rich man and Lazarus.

¹⁹There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. ²⁰And at his gate lay a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, ²¹who longed to satisfy his hunger with what fell from the rich man's table; even the dogs would come and lick his sores. ²²The poor man died and was carried away by the angels to be with Abraham. The rich man also died and was buried. ²³In Hades, where he was being tormented, he looked up and saw Abraham far away with Lazarus by his side. ²⁴He called out, 'Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am in agony in these flames.' ²⁵But Abraham said, 'Child, remember that during your lifetime you received your good things, and Lazarus in like manner evil things; but now he is comforted here, and you are in agony. ²⁶Besides all this, between you and us a great chasm has been fixed, so that those who might want to pass from here to you cannot do so, and no one can cross from there to us.' ²⁷He said, 'Then, father, I beg you to send him to my father's house — ²⁸for I have five brothers — that he may warn them, so that they will not also come into this place of torment.' ²⁹Abraham replied, 'They have Moses and the prophets; they should listen to them.' ³⁰He said, 'No, father Abraham; but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent.' ³¹He said to him, 'If they do not listen to Moses and the prophets, neither will they be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.'"

SERMON TITLE: “Is There Life Beyond This World?”

THIS WEEK AT GRACE

TODAY: 8:30a and 11:00a Worship Services
9:30a Prayer Partner Coffee
9:45a Coffee Fellowship
9:45a Sunday School / Education Hour
2:00p Good Samaritan Sunday

MONDAY:	6:30p	Girl Scout Meeting
	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 County Ministerium
	7:00p	Personnel Committee Meeting
WEDNESDAY:	9:00a	Sewing Day
	1:00p	Service at Good Samaritan Center
	5:00p	Chew-n-Chat
	5:30p	Cherub / Chancel Choir Rehearsals
	6:30p	Worship Telecast, Cable Ch. 6
	6:30p	Confirmation Classes
	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
	NO	Thursday Evening Bible Study
FRIDAY:	1:30p	ThorneCrest Bible Study
	3:30p	4 th -6 th gr. Youth Room
		Wedding Rehearsal
SATURDAY:	4:00p	Wedding of Jackie Montag and Alan Attig
NEXT SUNDAY:	8:30a	and 11:00a Worship Services
	9:45a	Sunday School / Education Hour

MISSIONARY FOR A DAY: [Sept. 26: In memory of brother, Art Foley given by Alice Lageson.] [Sept. 30: Given by Pastor Milt & Delores Ost.] [Sept. 30: Sunday School] [Oct. 1: Given by Babe & Lois Brandt.] [Oct. 2: Given by Pastor Todd Walsh.] [Oct. 3: GLCW].

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS our members and friends known to have been hospitalized this past week: (no one reported).

PLEASE REMEMBER those needing the continuing prayers of our congregation: Janice Anderson, Elizabeth Baker, Larry Bergo, Paula Burkart (niece of John & Beth Ruud), Kathy Diaz, Lyle Dickson, Miff Egland, Ray & Janet Ewing, Theresa Gamble, Jeanie Godtland, Mike Greiner, Jan Guse, Dan Hagen, Tara Hanson, Edna Herfendal, Mildred Hopperstad, April Hustoft, Marlys Jahnke, Norman Johnson, Helen Lykken, Glenn McDaniel, Ethel McGill, Gary Mesch (son-in-law of Dick & Arlyss Haug), Vern Nasby, DeAnna Nelson, LeMoyne Oakland, Lissa Parrish, Morgan

Rasmussen, Bob Richerson (brother of Nancy Greiner), Jackson Schrock (grandson of Vince & Corrine Tims), Mark Stevens, LaVon Stewart, Carter Tappe, Naomi Tatarek (daughter of LuVerne & Jeanie Godtland), Leland Wadding, Mabel Wadding, Sally Witham (mother of Greg Witham), and Eleanor Wolfe.

IN YOUR PRAYERS, please also remember Rita Olson and Brandy Boettcher and their families upon the recent death of their mother, Camille Christenson.

WE JOIN OUR SISTERS AND BROTHERS in Christ throughout the SE Minnesota Synod today in praying for United Lutheran Church of Red Wing, St. Matthew Lutheran in Granger, Zion Lutheran in Stewartville, and St. Paul Lutheran Church of Conger.

CONGRATULATIONS to Vern & Marlys Jahnke who celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary Sept. 21.

GRACE MEAL MINISTRY has been called in to service for the first time. This is a ministry that is available to families who are experiencing a time of increased stress. It may be due to an illness, injury or surgery. It may be due to a period of prolonged confinement. There may be someone who is experiencing a period of depression that interferes with daily routines. Whatever the reason, the Meal Ministry Team is available to help out by providing a meal/meals for an individual or family. If you would like to consider this for your family or for family members or friends who are Grace members, please call Lisa at the Grace office. She will see that the message is passed on to the team leaders.

IT'S TIME AGAIN for Grace Lutheran to send out college care packages to our college students. If you have a child in college and would like for them to receive a care package from the church, please fill out their college address on the sheet provided in the back of the narthex.

NEEDED: Cookie Bakers for our College Students

We will be sending out care packages to our college students and are in need of many, many cookies. We take cookies, bars, candy – whatever you are willing to prepare. If you are able to help out with this project, please sign up on the sheet located in the back of the narthex. FYI – the youth who received cookies from last year *loved* the fresh baked goodies in their boxes!

ANNUAL SALAD LUNCHEON: Friday, Oct. 12th

Be thinking of what kind of salad you may be able to bring and if you would be able to help by working for the event. Sign-up sheets are located in the narthex this morning. Mark your calendars now! See you at the Salad Luncheon to enjoy the great food and fellowship.

ST. JOHN'S HOME Annual Auxiliary Benefit Luncheon will be held today held in the St. John's chapel from 11:00a to 1:00p. There is a free-will donation for the fundraiser and a drawing for a quilt made by St. John's Quilting Circle. All proceeds are designated to resident's needs.

BENEFIT BREAKFAST AND SILENT AUCTION for Grace member, Carter Tappe, will be held today, 7:00a to 1:00p, at the New Richland City Hall. Carter has been diagnosed with Primary Congenital Glaucoma, an extremely rare condition affecting fewer than 0.05% of children

which leads to vision problems and possible blindness. He has undergone several expensive surgeries and will need further surgery, plus continuing treatment and costly medications. The family welcomes your prayers and support. All proceeds raised will be matched by *Thrivent Financial for Lutherans*.

GOOD SAM SUNDAY: Today, 2:00p

Come with us to visit residents of the Good Samaritan Center and play some games, assist them getting to and from coffee hour, or just talk with them. After our time with the residents we come back to the church, share a meal, and have a time of fellowship. Youth and adults of every age are welcomed to participate.

BOOK CLUB will meet Monday evening, Oct. 1st, 7:00p, at the home of Jeanette Beamer, 1402 Crestview Rd. The featured book for the month is *A Bend in the Road* by Nicholas Sparks.

SENIOR HIGH YOUTH: Sign up for a weekend on the Luther College campus for Church Youth Fest. This is an annual weekend retreat filled with great classes, meeting new people, hanging out at Luther, super fun games, events, speakers, etc...! November 11th-12th, cost is \$20.00. Contact Denae with any questions you may have. Youth signing up before Oct. 10th get a free t-shirt!

STUDENTS AND PARENTS of 7th Grade: Mark your calendars for Oct. 14th. At both worship services students will be called forward for the *Stepping Stones* blessing. Plan to attend.

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, Sept. 23rd	<u>Year to Date</u>
General Fund Giving	\$ 7,386.00	\$ 374,689.00
Budgeted Need	\$ 10,096.00	\$ 383,648.00
Quarters for World Hunger	\$ 50.00	\$ 1,761.75
Stones, Rocks, Boulders Fund	\$ 250.00	

Attendance Last Sunday - 433; Last Year - 487

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
Albert Lea, Minnesota
EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
September 30, 2007

***31st Annual
Grace Lutheran Church
SALAD LUNCHEON***

Friday, October 12th

Serving from 11:00am to 1:00pm

***Hot BBQ Sandwiches and
many delicious Salads***

Cost: \$6.00

***Sponsored by Grace Lutheran Church Women
and Thrivent Financial for Lutherans Chapter #31179***

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