

This Week at Grace
Sunday, October 14, 2007
The Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

INTRODUCTION

"Kyrie, eleison," the church cries: "Lord, have mercy." In Jesus, God does have mercy--mercy upon lepers who are outcasts, mercy on apostles who are in chains. God has mercy upon foreigners, breaking through boundaries of nationality and political alienation.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty and most merciful God, your bountiful goodness fills all creation. Keep us safe from all that may hurt us, that, whole and well in body and spirit, we may with grateful hearts accomplish all that you would have us do, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

FIRST READING: 2 Kings 5:1–3, 7–15c

Naaman, a Syrian general, suffers from leprosy. In this passage Elisha miraculously cures his illness, but only after Naaman realizes, with the help of his servants, that his real problem lies in his pride. The rest of the chapter relates how Naaman came to see the benefits of confessing his faith in God.

Naaman, commander of the army of the king of Aram, was a great man and in high favor with his master, because by him the LORD had given victory to Aram. The man, though a mighty warrior, suffered from leprosy. ²Now the Arameans on one of their raids had taken a young girl captive from the land of Israel, and she served Naaman's wife. ³She said to her mistress, "If only my lord were with the prophet who is in Samaria! He would cure him of his leprosy." ⁷When the king of Israel read the letter, he tore his clothes and said, "Am I God, to give death or life, that this man sends word to me to cure a man of his leprosy? Just look and see how he is trying to pick a quarrel with me."

⁸But when Elisha the man of God heard that the king of Israel had torn his clothes, he sent a message to the king, "Why have you torn your clothes? Let him come to me, that he may learn that there is a prophet in Israel." ⁹So Naaman came with his horses and chariots, and halted at the entrance of Elisha's house. ¹⁰Elisha sent a messenger to him, saying, "Go, wash in the Jordan seven times, and your flesh shall be restored and you shall be clean." ¹¹But Naaman became angry and went away, saying, "I thought that for me he would surely come out, and stand and call on the name of the LORD his God, and would wave his hand over the spot, and cure the leprosy! ¹²Are not Abana and Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? Could I not wash in them, and be clean?" He turned and went away in a rage. ¹³But his servants approached and said to him, "Father, if the prophet had commanded you to do something difficult, would you not have done it? How much more, when all he said to you was, 'Wash, and be clean'?" ¹⁴So he went down and immersed himself seven times in the Jordan,

according to the word of the man of God; his flesh was restored like the flesh of a young boy, and he was clean.

¹⁵Then he returned to the man of God, he and all his company; he came and stood before him and said, "Now I know that there is no God in all the earth except in Israel.

PSALM: Psalm 111

I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart. (Ps. 111:1)

¹Hallelujah! I will give thanks to the LORD with ¹ my whole heart,
in the assembly of the upright, in the ¹ congregation.

²**Great are your ¹ works, O LORD,
pondered by all who de- ¹ light in them. R**

³Majesty and splendor ¹ mark your deeds,
and your righteousness en- ¹ dures forever.

⁴**You cause your wonders to ¹ be remembered;
you are gracious and full ¹ of compassion.**

⁵You give food to ¹ those who fear you,
remembering forev- ¹ er your covenant.

⁶**You have shown your people the power ¹ of your works
in giving them the lands ¹ of the nations. R**

⁷The works of your hands are faithful- ¹ ness and justice;
all of your pre- ¹ cepts are sure.

⁸**They stand fast forev- ¹ er and ever,
because they are done in ¹ truth and equity.**

⁹You sent redemption to your people and commanded your cove- ¹ nant forever;
holy and awesome ¹ is your name.

¹⁰**The fear of the LORD is the begin- ¹ ning of wisdom;
all who practice this have a good understanding. God's praise en- ¹ dures forever. R**

SECOND READING: 2 Timothy 2:8–15

Though Paul is chained as a prisoner, he reminds Timothy that the word of God is never shackled. He encourages his young friend to proclaim that word of freedom in an honest and upright life as well as in his teaching and preaching.

⁸Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, a descendant of David — that is my gospel, ⁹for which I suffer hardship, even to the point of being chained like a criminal. But the word of God is not chained. ¹⁰Therefore I endure everything for the sake of the elect, so that they may also obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus, with eternal glory. ¹¹The saying is sure:

If we have died with him, we will also live with him;

¹²if we endure, we will also reign with him;
if we deny him, he will also deny us;

¹³if we are faithless, he remains faithful —

for he cannot deny himself.

¹⁴Remind them of this, and warn them before God that they are to avoid wrangling over words, which does no good but only ruins those who are listening. ¹⁵Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved by him, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly explaining the word of truth.

GOSPEL: Luke 17:11–19

A Samaritan leper becomes a model for thanksgiving. He does not take for granted the kindness shown to him but takes time to thank Jesus and to glorify God.

¹¹On the way to Jerusalem Jesus was going through the region between Samaria and Galilee.

¹²As he entered a village, ten lepers approached him. Keeping their distance, ¹³they called out, saying, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!" ¹⁴When he saw them, he said to them, "Go and show yourselves to the priests." And as they went, they were made clean. ¹⁵Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice. ¹⁶He prostrated himself at Jesus' feet and thanked him. And he was a Samaritan. ¹⁷Then Jesus asked, "Were not ten made clean? But the other nine, where are they?" ¹⁸Was none of them found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?" ¹⁹Then he said to him, "Get up and go on your way; your faith has made you well."

THIS WEEK AT GRACE

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

MONDAY: 1:30p Bone Builders Group
6:30p Grieving Parents Support Group
7:30p Cantori Rehearsal

TUESDAY: 9:00a Staff Meeting
9:30a Ladies Bible Study
11:00a Pastor's Text Study
6:30p Circle Bible Study Leader's Meeting

WEDNESDAY: 9:00a Sewing Day
NO Chew-n-Chat
NO Cherub / Chancel Choir Rehearsals
6:30p Worship Telecast, Cable Ch. 6
NO Confirmation Classes
6:30p Bells of Praise
7:30p Adult Choir

THURSDAY: 6:00a Early Morning Bible Study
1:30p Bone Builders Group
NO Thursday Evening Bible Study
7:00p Gracious Christianity Bible Study

FRIDAY: 1:30p ThorneCrest Bible Study
NO 4th-6th gr. Youth Room
Wedding Rehearsal

SATURDAY: 4:30p Wedding of Nicole Marpe and Brad Edwards

NEXT SUNDAY: 8:30a and 11:00a Worship Services
9:30a Coffee Fellowship
9:45a Sunday School / Education Hour
6:00p Confirmation Banquet, Pictures, and Rehearsal

MISSIONARY FOR A DAY: [Oct. 14: Given by Pastor Milt & Delores Ost.] [Oct. 14: Sunday School] [Oct. 15: Given by Babe & Lois Brandt.] [Oct. 16: Given by Pastor Todd Walsh.] [Oct. 17: GLCW].

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS our members and friends known to have been hospitalized this past week: Bob Hoeg, and Marianne Sahli.

PLEASE REMEMBER those needing the continuing prayers of our congregation: Janice Anderson, Kathryn Amann (mother of Beth Ruud), 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, Vern Nasby, DeAnna Nelson, Dave & Kelli Nelson, LeMoyné Oakland, Lissa Parrish, Mike Ranney, Morgan Rasmussen, Jackson Schrock (grandson of Vince & Corrine Tims), Mark Stevens, LaVon Stewart, Carter Tappe, Naomi Tatarek (daughter of LuVerne & Jeanie Godtland), Leland Wadding, Sally Witham (mother of Greg Witham), and Eleanor Wolfe.

IN YOUR PRAYERS, please also remember Helen Hamberg and Pat Schultz and their families upon the death of their mother/grandmother, Catherine Greenwood; and Marv Gulbrandson and family upon the death of his sister, Ida Nelson.

WE JOIN OUR SISTERS AND BROTHERS in Christ throughout the SE Minnesota Synod today in praying for St. John Lutheran Church in Kasson, Redeemer Lutheran of Alden, Our Savior's Lutheran of Kiester, and St. Peter Lutheran Church in Northfield.

REFRESHMENTS BETWEEN SERVICES are being served today by Andy Christian and his parents, Mark & Sharon.

SPECIAL THANKS to Les Shaunce who is serving as van driver this morning. 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.

CONFIRMATION REMINDER:

There will be no 7th-10th gr. Confirmation classes this week on Oct. 17th due to MEA break.

CHILDREN'S CHOIRS will not be meeting this week for rehearsals, also due to the MEA vacation.

GRACIOUS CHRISTIANITY Bible Study will meet on Thursday evening, Oct. 18th, at 7:00p, at the home of David & Carol Larson (111 South Lane). Attend for a time of thought-provoking discussion.

LUTHERAN SOCIAL SERVICE of Minnesota Adoption is holding an informational meeting at its offices in Mankato on Tuesday, Oct. 23rd, 6:30-8:30p, in the basement level of Bethlehem Lutheran Church (710 S. 2nd St., Mankato). LSS can assist families in adopting children in Minnesota and from countries around the world. Call Angela Bruns at 507-625-7660, extension 247 to register. Walk-ins are also welcome. For more information, visit www.minnesotaadoption.org.

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.

CANCELLED POSTAGE STAMPS: Our GLCW is no longer collecting cancelled postage stamps because the Bethphage Village is unable to continue to utilize them. They thank you for your past support.

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, Oct. 7th	<u>Year to Date</u>
General Fund Giving	\$ 11,474.00	\$ 393,464.00
Budgeted Need	\$ 10,096.00	\$ 403,840.00
Quarters for World Hunger	\$ 125.00	\$ 1,927.25
Stones, Rocks, Boulders Fund	\$ 57.00	

Attendance Last Sunday - 414; Last Year - 487

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
Albert Lea, Minnesota
TWENTIETH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
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