

This Week at Grace
Sunday, November 25, 2007
Christ the King Sunday

Thank you to everyone for not noticing that I forgot to change the date on last week's template. You are such nice people! PT

INTRODUCTION

"Jesus shall reign where'er the sun does its successive journeys run," wrote the English hymnist Isaac Watts. He died on this date in 1748 but left a glorious legacy of English hymnody. On this last Sunday of the church year, we honor Christ, who reigns as king from the cross. The effusive descriptions of Christ in the letter to the Colossians remind us of the absolutely central and vital role he rightfully claims in our life. All space and all time belong to the one who offers paradise to those who live and die with him.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God, our true life, to serve you is freedom, and to know you is unending joy. We worship you, we glorify you, we give thanks to you for your great glory. Abide with us, reign in us, and make this world into a fit habitation for your divine majesty, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 23:1-6

Today's reading builds on the common ancient Near Eastern metaphor of the king as shepherd. The influence of an unjust ruler is about to bring disaster. Nevertheless, the Lord will raise up a new and righteous shepherd who will rule a restored Judah.

Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture! says the LORD.
²Therefore thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, concerning the shepherds who shepherd my people: It is you who have scattered my flock, and have driven them away, and you have not attended to them. So I will attend to you for your evil doings, says the LORD. ³Then I myself will gather the remnant of my flock out of all the lands where I have driven them, and I will bring them back to their fold, and they shall be fruitful and multiply. ⁴I will raise up shepherds over them who will shepherd them, and they shall not fear any longer, or be dismayed, nor shall any be missing, says the LORD.

⁵The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. ⁶In his days Judah will be saved and Israel will live in safety. And this is the name by which he will be called: "The LORD is our righteousness."

PSALM: Psalm 46

I will be exalted among the nations. (Ps. 46:10)

- ¹God is our ref- | uge and strength,
a very present | help in trouble.
- ²**Therefore we will not fear, though the | earth be moved,
and though the mountains shake in the depths | of the sea;**
- ³though its waters | rage and foam,
and though the mountains tremble | with its tumult.
- ⁴**There is a river whose streams make glad the cit- | y of God,
the holy habitation of | the Most High.**
- ⁵God is in the midst of the city; it shall | not be shaken;
God shall help it at the | break of day.
- ⁶**The nations rage, and the | kingdoms shake;
God speaks, and the earth | melts away. R**
- ⁷The LORD of | hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob | is our stronghold.
- ⁸**Come now, regard the works | of the LORD,
what desolations God has brought up- | on the earth;**
- ⁹behold the one who makes war to cease in | all the world;
who breaks the bow, and shatters the spear, and burns the | shields with fire.
- ¹⁰**"Be still, then, and know that | I am God;
I will be exalted among the nations; I will be exalted | in the earth."**
- ¹¹The LORD of | hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob | is our stronghold. R

SECOND READING: Colossians 1:11–20

An early Christian hymn praises Christ as one who reigns in heaven and on earth.

- ¹¹May you be made strong with all the strength that comes from his glorious power, and may you be prepared to endure everything with patience, while joyfully ¹²giving thanks to the Father, who has enabled you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the light. ¹³He has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved Son, ¹⁴in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.
- ¹⁵He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; ¹⁶for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers — all things have been created through him and for him. ¹⁷He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. ¹⁸He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. ¹⁹For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, ²⁰and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.

GOSPEL: Luke 23:33–43

On the cross, Jesus is revealed to be a different sort of ruler than many had anticipated. He has the power to welcome others to Paradise, but will not use that power to save himself from death.

³³When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. [[³⁴Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing."]] And they cast lots to divide his clothing. ³⁵And the people stood by, watching; but the leaders scoffed at him, saying, "He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God, his chosen one!" ³⁶The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine, ³⁷and saying, "If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!" ³⁸There was also an inscription over him, "This is the King of the Jews."

³⁹One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, "Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!" ⁴⁰But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? ⁴¹And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong." ⁴²Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." ⁴³He replied, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise."

THIS WEEK AT GRACE

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

MONDAY: 1:30p Bone Builders Group
6:00p Personnel Committee Reviews
6:00p Mary Circle
6:00p Girl Scout Meeting

TUESDAY: 9:00a Staff Meeting
9:30a Ladies Bible Study
11:00a Pastor's Text Study
6:00p Personnel Committee Reviews
7:00p Girl Scout Meeting
7:30p Lois Circle

WEDNESDAY: 9:15a Deborah Circle
9:30a Program Staff Meeting
10:00a Martha Circle
1:15p Ruth Circle
5:00p Chew-n-Chat
5:30p Cherub and Chancel Choir Rehearsals
6:30p Confirmation Classes
6:30p Sr. High Bible Study

6:30p Bells of Praise
7:30p Adult Choir

THURSDAY: 6:00a Early Morning Bible Study

FRIDAY: 1:30p ThorneCrest Bible Study
3:30p Youth Room for 4th-6th Graders
Wedding Rehearsal

SATURDAY: Wedding of Lisa Miller and Aaron Gilliland

NEXT SUNDAY: 8:30a and 11:00a Worship Services
9:30a Coffee Fellowship
9:45a Sunday School / Education Hour
12:00p Advent Family Festival

MISSIONARY FOR A DAY: [Nov. 25: Given by Pastor Milt & Delores Ost.] [Nov. 25: Sunday School] [Nov. 26: Given by Babe & Lois Brandt.] [Nov. 27: Given by Pastor Todd Walsh.] [Nov. 28: GLCW].

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS our members and friends known to have been hospitalized this past week: Irene Erickson.

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 Eglund, Ray & Janet Ewing, Theresa Gamble, Jeanie Godtland, Jan Guse, Tara Hanson, Edna Herfendal, Mildred Hopperstad, April Hustoft, Marlys Jahnke, Norman Johnson, Lisa Koenecke (daughter of Dave & Elaine Long), Glenn McDaniel, Ethel McGill, Vern Nasby, Dave & Kelli Nelson, LeMoyne Oakland, Lissa Parrish, Mike Ranney, Morgan Rasmussen, Jackson Schrock (grandson of Vince & Corrine Tims), LaVon Stewart, Carter Tappe, Naomi Tatarek (daughter of LuVerne & Jeanie Godtland), Paige Thompson (great-niece of Judy Anderson), Leland 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 retired pastors and specialized ministry partners serving nursing homes in hospitals, retirement communities, and the military.

IN YOUR PRAYERS, please also remember the family of William Paul (father of Roger Paul) who passed away last week.

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

GREETERS for our worship services are Gary & Sharon Seedorf, and Paul & Lorraine Nagel at 8:30; and Don & Clarice Porter, and Bruce & Marsha Wolfgram at 11:00.

ACOLYTES are Amanda Westcott and Kayla Swee at 8:30; and Alex Wieland and Tyler Stadheim at 11:00.

LESSON READERS today are Solveig Peterson at 8:30; and Larry Harmdierks at 11:00.

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.

COULD YOU HELP? Our GLCW is currently seeking volunteers to help serve the meal for next Sunday's Advent Festival, and Caring & Sharing co-chairs for various months in 2008. Sign up with a friend. Your help would be greatly appreciated! If you could help serve the meal next Sunday, please call Mary Harriman (373-7912). Sign-up sheets for Caring & Sharing are located on the GLCW table in the narthex.

ADDITIONAL SINGERS are invited to sing in the Adult Choir for a shorter commitment, as we prepare music for Advent and Christmas. We will sing a Lessons and Carols service on Sunday, Dec. 23rd. Rehearsals are Wednesday evenings, 7:30-8:30, in the balcony. If you have questions, call Sherry Seberson (377-9329).

MISSION PARTNER: Heifer International

Heifer is a great way to support developing nation families with your gift in a unique way. It is particularly a good way for children to learn about helping others. When you are planning your Christmas giving this year, please consider giving the gift that keeps on giving: a gift to Heifer International. Through Heifer International, your donation will provide an animal (heifer, pig, goat, llama, rabbits, chickens, bees) that will help a hungry family to become more self-sufficient. Stop by the table in the narthex to learn more about Heifer or make your donation. Gift cards will be available.

“PREPARE THE ROYAL HIGHWAY; the King of Kings is near!” Be sure to pick up one of the Advent coin collectors from our ushers. Proceeds will go to the Martin Luther Fund from which help is given to needy families in our congregation. Turn them in with the offering as you fill them, or at the end of Advent. Let's see what we can raise by Christmas!

NEXT SUNDAY: December 2nd COME ONE! COME ALL!

Begin the Advent Season by joining your Grace Family for worship. Then stay (or come back) for lunch at noon followed by opportunities for everyone of all ages to decorate our church for the Advent/Christmas season. Choose the area or activity you like, but COME and be a part of this festive day!

BOOK CLUB will hold their next meeting on Monday evening, Dec. 3rd, 7:00p, at the home of Hazel Spiering (2122 Grand Ave.). The featured book is *Ten Thousand Charms* by Allison Pittman.

GLCW CHRISTMAS PARTY: Thursday, Dec. 6, 6:30p

Everyone is invited to attend, both men and women. Bring your neighbors and your friends! The musical group, Escalade will be performing – then join us for treats following the program.

NOVA CANTABILE TO PERFORM AT GRACE: Saturday, Dec. 8th

Nova Cantabile, a southern Minnesota semi-professional singing group, will perform at Grace Lutheran on Saturday, Dec. 8th, at 7:00p. Members of *Nova Cantabile* are musicians and music educators from throughout southern Minnesota, including Sherry Seberson (Grace member). Tickets are available at the church the day of the performance.

9th-12th GRADERS: The summer 2008 trip has been announced! Youth in 9th-12th grades are invited to sign up for the Midwest Meets Adventure weeklong excursion. We will travel to Camp Emmaus in northern MN, journey for our adventure part of the trip to Devil's Lake State Park in Wisconsin, and then off to inner city Chicago for mission work. Dates for this trip are July 13th-19th. Cost will be \$150.00 plus fundraising. Sign up deadline is Dec. 16th. A sign-up sheet is located on the bulletin board outside of Denae Juntunen's office.

DURING THE LAST FEW WEEKS you have heard a number of comments about the *Simply Giving* program and may have some questions about it. It is a program funded by Thrivent Financial that provides the means for someone to have their offerings electronically withdrawn from their checking or savings account. Thrivent offers this program as a means of helping church members make sure their contributions are given as a convenience or when they are unable to attend worship. If you are interested in this kind of program, please contact the Stewardship Ministry Team or one of the pastors if you have questions. Enrollment forms are available in the church office.

ADVENT PACKETS are available in the narthex for the upcoming Advent season. They include great activity ideas and information – something for everyone! Stop and pick one up.

NOVEMBER CIRCLE MEETINGS:

Mary Circle will meet Monday, Nov. 26th, 6:00p, at the home of Becky Tennis Hanson, 20702 707th Ave.

Lois Circle meets Tuesday, Nov. 27th, 7:30p, at the home of Harriet Harne, 321 Burr Oak Dr.

Deborah Circle will meet Wednesday, Nov 28th, 9:15a, at the home of Peggy Bangert, 1007 Wood Park Ln.

Peggy will be leading the Bible Study.

Martha Circle meets Wednesday, Nov. 28th, 10:00a, at Trumble's Restaurant.

Ruth Circle will meet Wednesday, Nov. 28th, 1:15p, at the church. Bible Study will be group discussion.

Circle Chairwomen are reminded to stop in the church office prior to their meetings to pick up copies of the November Circle Announcements.

We are looking for someone to help make **lelse at Advent Festival** on Sunday, December 2. Please see our education director, Jill Hagen, if you are interested!

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, Nov. 18th	<u>Year to Date</u>
General Fund Giving	\$ 10,031.00	\$ 453,152.00
Budgeted Need	\$ 10,096.00	\$ 464,416.00
Quarters for World Hunger	\$ 119.00	\$ 2,659.00
Stones, Rocks, Boulders Fund	187.00	

Attendance Last Sunday - 500; Last Year - 419

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
Albert Lea, Minnesota
CHRIST THE KING SUNDAY
November 25, 2007