

Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany

January 28, 2024 A.D.

10:30 A.M.



GRACE

Evangelical Lutheran Church



North American Lutheran Church

Christ-Centered

Mission-Driven

Traditionally-Grounded

Congregationally-Focused

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Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany



Welcome and Announcements

Prelude..... Please Observe Silence for Meditation

- * Brief Order for Confession and Forgiveness page 56

PRAISE

- * Opening Hymn..... **Alleluia, Song of Gladness**..... **WOV 654**
- * The Kyrie page 57
- * The Hymn of Praise Glory to God..... page 58
- * The Salutation and Prayer of the Day.....page 62

EQUIP

The First Lesson..... Deuteronomy 18:15-20

L: The Word of the Lord. **All: Thanks be to God.**

The Psalm 111 Bulletin pg. 4

The Second Lesson 1 Corinthians 8:1-13

L: The Word of the Lord. **All: Thanks be to God.**

- * The Holy Gospel.....Mark 1:21-28
- Children's SermonPastor Coble
- The Message....."Why"Pastor Coble
- Hymn of the Day.....**Oh How He Loves You and Me**.....**TCH 349**
- * The Apostles' Creed.....page 65
- * The Prayers and the Peace..... page 65

GIVE

The Offering The People of God

- * The Offertory and Prayerpages 66, 67

RECEIVE

- * The Great Thanksgiving..... page 68
- * The Eucharistic Prayer & The Lord's Prayerpages 69, 71
- * **The Distribution of the Holy Sacrament**
- * Post-Communion Canticle.....*Thank the Lord*..... page 72
- * Post-Communion Prayer
- * The Benediction

SEND

- * The Sending Hymn.....**Lord, Dismiss Us With Your Blessing****LBW 259**
 - * The Dismissal: P: Go in Peace. Be the Church! **All: Thanks be to God!**
- Postlude

* = Stand

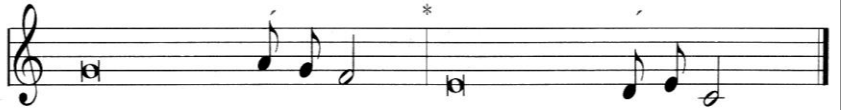
Hymnals in Pew Rack: LBW = Green WOV = Blue TCH = Burgundy

WELCOME TO ALL WHO WORSHIP at Grace Church this morning as we gather to worship the Father, + Son and Holy Spirit in truth. As you entered the sanctuary today, you received this bulletin containing the order for worship and announcements. Please also notice the Prayer List where you will find a listing of all the known prayer concerns. You are invited to use this as a guide for your personal prayers throughout the coming week. If you need information about our congregation or if you'd like to update your information, make sure to fill out the yellow Worship Today Form and place it in the offering plate at the time of the offering. If you have a prayer concern, indicate that on your Worship Today Form at the bottom or on the reverse side. The Prayer Teams will be praying with you and for your concerns during the coming week as well. If you are seeking a Church Home or would like more information about Grace, please contact the Church Office this week.

THIS WEEK'S THEME – Why do you come to worship? What happens here that brings you back each week? I thought about that question when I read the lessons for today. Jesus is going to the synagogue. Jesus is God and God is all knowing, so He isn't going there to learn. Today we are going to be reminded that we come to worship to hear the voice of God with authority and we come so He can heal us.

FIRST LESSON: Deuteronomy 18:15-20

¹⁵ “The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your brothers—it is to him you shall listen— ¹⁶ just as you desired of the LORD your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly, when you said, ‘Let me not hear again the voice of the LORD my God or see this great fire any more, lest I die.’ ¹⁷ And the LORD said to me, ‘They are right in what they have spoken. ¹⁸ I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their brothers. And I will put my words in his mouth, and he shall speak to them all that I command him. ¹⁹ And whoever will not listen to my words that he shall speak in my name, I myself will require it of him. ²⁰ But the prophet who presumes to speak a word in my name that I have not commanded him to speak, or who speaks in the name of other gods, that same prophet shall die.’



PSALM 111

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

²**Great are the deeds / of the LORD!***
they are studied by all who de- / light in them.

³His work is full of majes- / ty and splendor,*
and his righteousness en- / dures forever.

⁴**He makes his marvelous works to / be remembered;***
the LORD is gracious and full / of compassion.

⁵He gives food to / those who fear him;*
he is ever mindful / of his covenant.

⁶**He has shown his people the power / of his works***
in giving them the lands / of the nations.

⁷The works of his hands are faithful- / ness and justice;*
all his command- / ments are sure.

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

⁹He sent redemption to his people; he commanded his cove- / nant forever;*
holy and awesome / is his Name.

¹⁰**The fear of the LORD is the begin- / ning of wisdom;***
those who act accordingly have a good understanding; his praise en- / dures forever.

SECOND LESSON: 1 Corinthians 8:1-13

Now concerning food offered to idols: we know that “all of us possess knowledge.” This “knowledge” puffs up, but love builds up. ²If anyone imagines that he knows something, he does not yet know as he ought to know. ³But if anyone loves God, he is known by God. ⁴Therefore, as to the eating of food offered to idols, we know that “an idol has no real existence,” and that “there is no God but one.” ⁵For although there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth—as indeed there are many “gods” and many “lords”— ⁶yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one

Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist. ⁷ However, not all possess this knowledge. But some, through former association with idols, eat food as really offered to an idol, and their conscience, being weak, is defiled. ⁸ Food will not commend us to God. We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. ⁹ But take care that this right of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. ¹⁰ For if anyone sees you who have knowledge eating in an idol's temple, will he not be encouraged, if his conscience is weak, to eat food offered to idols? ¹¹ And so by your knowledge this weak person is destroyed, the brother for whom Christ died. ¹² Thus, sinning against your brothers and wounding their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. ¹³ Therefore, if food makes my brother stumble, I will never eat meat, lest I make my brother stumble.

THE HOLY GOSPEL: Mark 1:21-28

²¹ And they went into Capernaum, and immediately on the Sabbath he entered the synagogue and was teaching. ²² And they were astonished at his teaching, for he taught them as one who had authority, and not as the scribes. ²³ And immediately there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit. And he cried out, ²⁴ “What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the Holy One of God.” ²⁵ But Jesus rebuked him, saying, “Be silent, and come out of him!” ²⁶ And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying out with a loud voice, came out of him. ²⁷ And they were all amazed, so that they questioned among themselves, saying, “What is this? A new teaching with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him.” ²⁸ And at once his fame spread everywhere throughout all the surrounding region of Galilee.

Next Sunday's Readings: Isaiah 40:20-31; Psalm 147:1-11; 1 Corinthians 9:16-27; Mark 1:29-39. Readings are based on the recommended use of the English Standard Version (ESV) by the North American Lutheran Church and Lectionary of Sola Publishing. Used by Permission.

PLEASE GIVE A WARM WELCOME TO PASTOR GARY COBLE who is leading us in worship today!

FEBRUARY NEWSLETTERS are available today. You can help distribute them by taking one to a friend or relative. Those not picked up will be mailed next week.

GRACE PRAYER LIST

In the Grace Church Family: Kevin Adams, Jeffry Bivens, Rick & Cindy Bivens, Glenda Childers, Pat Dietz, Allen and Kay Hatchett, Irene Heavner, Lorene Heavner, Rachel Heavner, Lula Ingle, Larry & Brenda Jarrett, Martha Johnson, Faye Lane, Phil Leatherman, Betty Matheson, Jane Moss, Christine Norman, Tricia and Dan Panek, Debi Pisko, Michael Pisko, Stephen Pisko, Helen Smith, Ethan Starnes, Richard & Sandi Tallant, Libby Travis, Shirley Warlick, Carolyn & Scott Whisnant.

Nursing Home: Juanita Haas (Trinity Village), Ted Whisnant (Trinity Village),

Friends and Relatives in our Prayers: Pray for Peace in Israel and the World, New Covenant Lutheran Mission Church, all of those who are suffering from the widespread sicknesses, Bobby Aderholdt, Jimmy Aderholdt, LeAnn Buckwell, Caleb Bumgarner & Family, Travis Bumgardner, Jessica Cassels & Family, Dennis & Evelyn Childers, Sheila Cook, Harold Crouse, Wayne Eckard, Julie Foster, Guy Franzen, Wendy Hannah, Larry Heavner, Family of Susie Hennessee, Peggy Klutz, Lily Rose, Bill Little, Ryan McMullen, Greg Masters, Chris Medlin, Katie Patton, Angela Sanford, Scott Speagle, Zachary Speagle and Amber, Cozel Spencer, Shanie Spencer, Steven, Sue, Monica Thomas, United States of America; Faye White, and especially the families of those who have given their lives in the service of our country and those who continue to protect our freedoms and for all members of our Armed Forces.

(Names are left on the prayer list for 30 days unless the office is notified otherwise.)

A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE LEADERSHIP MINISTRY BOARD will be held tomorrow, January 28th, at 6:00 p.m. All Board Members are urged to attend.

STEPHEN MINISTRY TRAINING will be held on **Tuesday, January 30 at 6:00 pm.**

THE ECCCM FOOD ASK for the month of **January** is **canned soup or broth.** ECCCM thanks the disciples of Grace for helping to keep the food pantry stocked!

CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS FOR 2023 were mailed this past week. If you did not receive yours or if you have questions about the statement, please contact the Church Office.

GET READY FOR SUPER BOWL SUNDAY ON FEBRUARY 11TH! All worshipers at Grace are asked to bring a couple of cans of soup which will be delivered to the ECCCM Food Pantry to feed the hungry. All donations are genuinely appreciated!

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

Psalm 111:1

HAPPY FEBRUARY BIRTHDAY TO:

- 1 – Josie Jarrett
- 4 – Tricia Panek
Rebecca Jackson

THIS WEEK AT GRACE

- Today:** **FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY**
9:30A – Sunday School
10:30A – Worship Celebration
- Monday:** 6:00P – Special Leadership Ministry Board Meeting
- Tuesday:** 6:00P – Stephen Ministry Training
- Next Sunday:** **FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY**
9:30A – Sunday School
10:30A – Worship Celebration

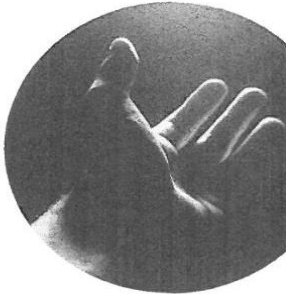
The Ministers.....The People of Grace Lutheran Church
Pastor
Organist..... Sandi Tallant
Administrative Assistant Pam Tallent
Leadership Board President Tim Eckard
Youth LeaderStormy Shull
Lector
Communion Assistants..... Rick and Cindy Bivens
UshersJoe and Lynette Momier
Altar Preparation..... Herb and Libby Travis
Offering TabulatorsTodd Childers and Jason Yoder
Custodian.....Chris Abernethy



TableTalk II

By Rev. Timothy J. Swenson • ILT Dean of Chapel

Septuagesima Sunday | January 28, 2024



MATTHEW 20:1-16

"...they thought they would receive more..." Vs. 10

These workers presumed much, didn't they? They presumed, based on the wages paid to the last workers hired, that they would receive some multiple of what the last hired received. Their presumption grew. This inference instilled coveting. By that coveting, they estimated that those increased wages were already their possession. So, when the owner of the vineyard paid them a mere denarius, they felt robbed. The vineyard owner had stolen from them what their covetous hearts had already considered as theirs. No wonder they grumbled!

The savvy vineyard owner confronts their disgruntled and grumbling state. Those grumblers have voiced the complaint, "These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat" (vs. 12). Their suffering... their unequal burden... their labor and discipline far exceeded the last hired. Surely, they should receive more. That master of the household... the vineyard owner... punctures their inflated balloon of self-centered coveting, saying to them, "Take what belongs to you and go." Those workers had agreed to work the day for one denarius. That is what they received regardless of how much more they had coveted.

How about you? Has your labor in the Lord's vineyard... perhaps over the course of years... perhaps over decades of devoted stewardship... perhaps with countless acts of self-denial... have these works given you a presumption of increased reward? ...of coveting more than mere salvation? ...of some reward greater than that of the newly baptized reprobate? We of the church... you and I who have supported it... sweated over it... sacrificed for it... don't you and I often react with a selfishness when it comes to sharing or permitting the use of church facilities to those who have been outside the church for years and years? Thanks be to God that he does not begrudge his generosity!

Table Talk: Discuss the inequality of the reward of eternal life.

Pray: Heavenly Father, keep me satisfied with what I have and content to receive what you give me. Amen



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