

Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany

February 4, 2024 A.D.

10:30 A.M.



GRACE

Evangelical Lutheran Church



Christ-Centered

Mission-Driven

Traditionally-Grounded

Congregationally-Focused

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Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany



Welcome and Announcements

Prelude..... Please Observe Silence for Meditation

- * Brief Order for Confession and Forgiveness page 56

PRAISE

- * Opening Hymn.....**Oh, For a Thousand Tongues to Sing****LBW 559**
- * 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..... Isaiah 40:21-31

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

The Psalm 147:1-12 Bulletin pg. 4

The Second Lesson 1 Corinthians 9:16-27

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

- * The Holy Gospel.....Mark 1:29-39
- Children's SermonPastor Coble
- The Message....."What Stops You?".....Pastor Coble
- Hymn of the Day.....**Blessed Assurance**.....**WOV 699**
- * 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.....**He Leadeth Me: Oh, Blessed Thought!****LBW 501**
 - * 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 – In the Gospel for today, after Jesus has healed Peter's mother-in-law and all who are sick in the town, He says to them, "Let us go on to the next towns, that I may preach there also, for that is why I came out." One of the joys you have as a Christian is telling others the story of Jesus Christ and His love for us. So what stops you from sharing that wonderful news?

FIRST LESSON: Isaiah 40:21-31

²¹ Do you not know? Do you not hear? Has it not been told you from the beginning? Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth? ²² It is he who sits above the circle of the earth, and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers; who stretches out the heavens like a curtain, and spreads them like a tent to dwell in; ²³ who brings princes to nothing, and makes the rulers of the earth as emptiness. ²⁴ Scarcely are they planted, scarcely sown, scarcely has their stem taken root in the earth, when he blows on them, and they wither, and the tempest carries them off like stubble. ²⁵ To whom then will you compare me, that I should be like him? says the Holy One. ²⁶ Lift up your eyes on high and see: who created these? He who brings out their host by number, calling them all by name; by the greatness of his might and because he is strong in power, not one is missing. ²⁷ Why do you say, O Jacob, and speak, O Israel, "My way is hidden from the LORD, and my right is disregarded by my God"? ²⁸ Have you not known? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable. ²⁹ He gives power to the faint, and to him who has no might he increases strength. ³⁰ Even youths shall faint and be weary, and young men shall fall exhausted; ³¹ but they who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.

SECOND LESSON: 1 Corinthians 9:16-27

¹⁶ For if I preach the gospel, that gives me no ground for boasting. For necessity is laid upon me. Woe to me if I do not preach the gospel! ¹⁷ For if I do this of my own will, I have a reward, but if not of my own will, I am still entrusted with a stewardship. ¹⁸ What then is my reward? That in my preaching I may present the gospel free of charge, so as not to make full use of my right in the gospel. ¹⁹ For though I am free from all, I have made myself a servant to all, that I might win more of them. ²⁰ To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews. To those under the law I became as one under the law (though not being myself under the law) that I might win those under the law. ²¹ To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (not being outside the law of God but under the law of Christ) that I might win those outside the law. ²² To the weak I became weak, that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that by all means I might save some. ²³ I do it all for the sake of the gospel, that I may share with them in its blessings. ²⁴ Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one receives the prize? So run that you may obtain it. ²⁵ Every athlete exercises self-control in all things. They do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable. ²⁶ So I do not run aimlessly; I do not box as one beating the air. ²⁷ But I discipline my body and keep it under control, lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified.

THE HOLY GOSPEL: Mark 1:29-39

²⁹ And immediately he left the synagogue and entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. ³⁰ Now Simon's mother-in-law lay ill with a fever, and immediately they told him about her. ³¹ And he came and took her by the hand and lifted her up, and the fever left her, and she began to serve them. ³² That evening at sundown they brought to him all who were sick or oppressed by demons. ³³ And the whole city was gathered together at the door. ³⁴ And he healed many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons. And he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him. ³⁵ And rising very early in the morning, while it was still dark, he departed and went out to a desolate place, and there he prayed. ³⁶ And Simon and those who were with him searched for him, ³⁷ and they found him and said to him, "Everyone is looking for you." ³⁸ And he said to them, "Let us go on to the next towns, that I may preach there also, for that is why I came out." ³⁹ And he went throughout all Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and casting out demons.

Next Sunday's Readings: Exodus 34:29-35; Psalm 50:1-6; 2 Corinthians 3:12-13, 4:1-6; Mark 9:2-9. 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!

GRACE PRAYER LIST

In the Grace Church Family: Jeffrey 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, 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, Brian Fruits, Wendy Hannah, Larry Heavner, Peggy Klutz, Lily Rose, Bill Little, Ryan McMullen, Greg Masters, Chris Medlin, Larry Milsaps, 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.)

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

THE GRACE PRAYER BREAKFAST will be held on **Saturday, February 10 at 9:00 a.m.** at Four Peas Restaurant in Conover. There will be good fellowship, a time for prayers and concerns and a great breakfast! Come and bring a friend!

GET READY FOR SOUPER BOWL OF CARING ON 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! **The ECCCM food ask for the month of February is macaroni, pasta, and canned spaghetti sauce.** ECCCM is very thankful for the support it receives from the disciples at Grace!

*“Hallelujah! How good it is to sing praises to our God!
How pleasant it is to honor him with praise!”*

Psalm 147:1

HAPPY FEBRUARY BIRTHDAY TO:

4 – Tricia Panek
Rebecca Jackson

7 – Alyson Devine
Alyx Williamson

THIS WEEK AT GRACE

Today:

FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

9:30A – Sunday School

10:30A – Worship Celebration

Tuesday:

6:00P – Stephen Ministry Training

Saturday:

9:00A – Grace Prayer Breakfast at Four Peas

Next Sunday:

TRANSFORMATION OF OUR LORD

Souper Bowl Of Caring Sunday

9:30A – Sunday School

10:30A – Worship Celebration

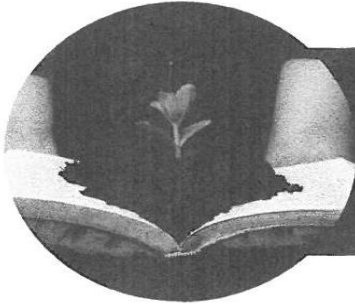
The Ministers..... The People of Grace Lutheran Church
Pastor
Organist..... Sandi Tallant
Administrative Assistant Pam Tallent
Leadership Board President Tim Eckard
Youth Leader Stormy Shull
Lector Herb Travis
Communion Assistants..... Sheila Drum, Cindy Bivens, Libby Travis
Ushers Jack Wilfong and James Hall
Altar Preparation..... Herb and Libby Travis
Offering Tabulators Todd Childers and Alan Shull
Custodian..... Chris Abernethy



TableTalk II

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

Sexagesima Sunday | February 04, 2024



LUKE 8:4-15

“As for that in the good soil, they are those who, hearing the word, hold it fast in an honest and good heart, and bear fruit with patience.” Vs.15

“The seed is the Word of God” (vs. 11). Jesus presents to us the vulnerability of God’s Word: it is trampled, devoured, withered, and choked out (vs. 5). Jesus, himself the Word of God, possessed this vulnerability: he was persecuted, convicted, condemned, scourged, and crucified. All these impositions upon the vulnerable Word of God come from its hearers who are listening also to a different word. Another voice is speaking into their ears. Satan, his minions, and his lies have claimed those hearers and bound them into thinking they do have a choice. They can hear God’s Word with obedience flowing spontaneously out of that hearing, or they can hear God’s Word and consider whether they will obey it. In the first instance, God’s Word is the active agent. In the second instance, the human will is the active agent.

For those who hear the Word of God and forth with are set free from their bondage to sin, death, and the power of the devil... these hearers are the good soil. These hearers are vulnerable to that Word of God. The Word of God is the active agent of their lives, not their own human will. They now have the heart of Jesus Christ; it is an honest and good heart (vs. 15). They can wait patiently for that Word—the Lord Jesus—to bear

fruit. Good soil does not know that it is good soil. Good soil simply hears the Word and holds it fast. In other words, good soil “lives by every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord” (Dt. 8:3).

You... you who hear the Word of God need Satan, his minions, and his lies silenced. This silencing takes place when your preacher declares to you, “In the name of Jesus Christ, by his authority, and in his stead, I forgive you all your sin.” This absolution enthrones Jesus as Lord of your conscience and silences Satan and his ilk.

Table Talk: Discuss what it means to say that “Good soil does not know that it is good soil.

Pray: Heavenly Father, keep sending me a preacher with absolution on her lips that my bondage to sin would be broken. Amen



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