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Grace Lutheran Church & School



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Fridley, MN 55432

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Home Page: www.CLGraceLutheranChurch.org

Member: CHURCH OF THE LUTHERAN CONFESSION



Pastor: John Hein (Cell 612-408-1635)

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Principal: Ryan Libby (Ph. 763-784-6340)

Grades: Kindergarten-8th

Church Year: Pentecost 21

Date: October 5, 2008

† THE ORDER OF WORSHIP †

Worship Preparation: *Psalm 118, TLH p. 148 f.*

Hymn: *TLH 370: My Hope is Built on Nothing Less*

Liturgy: *TLH, p. 15 ff. (Also available on laminated sheet in pew)*

Introit (followed by Gloria Patri, The Kyrie): *TLH, pp. 16-17*

P: I will extol the Lord at all times, His praise will always be on my lips.

C: My soul will boast in the Lord, let the afflicted hear and rejoice.

P: Glorify the Lord with me;

C: Let us exalt His name together.

P: I sought the Lord, and He answered me;

C: He delivered me from all my fears.

P: The righteous cry out, and the Lord hears them;

C: He delivers them from all their troubles. Glory be to God!

Gloria in Excelsis: *TLH 199, st. 4*

Sing we to our God above, Alleluia!

Praise eternal as His love: Alleluia!

Praise Him, all ye heavenly host, Alleluia!

Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Alleluia!

First Reading: *Isaiah 5:1-7*

The Lord's describes His Church as being like a vineyard.

Gradual:

P: These are they who have come out of the great tribulation;

C: They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

P: Blessed are those whose strength is in you,

C: Who have set their hearts on pilgrimage.

P: Alleluia. Alleluia. This is the Lord, we trusted in Him;

C: Let us rejoice and be glad in His salvation. Alleluia.

Second Reading: *Philippians 3:12-21*

As Christians we are citizens of heaven. Let us therefore strive for that goal.

Confession of Faith: *Nicene Creed, TLH p. 22*

Hymn: *TLH 460: Behold the Sure Foundation Stone*

Sermon: *Matthew 21:33-43*

(33) "Hear another parable: There was a certain landowner who planted a vineyard and set a hedge around it, dug a winepress in it and built a tower.

And he leased it to vinedressers and went into a far country. (34) "Now

when vintage-time drew near, he sent his servants to the vinedressers, that they might receive its fruit. (35) "And the vinedressers took his servants,

beat one, killed one, and stoned another. (36) "Again he sent other servants, more than the first, and they did likewise to them. (37) "Then last

of all he sent his son to them, saying, 'They will respect my son.' (38) "But when the vinedressers saw the son, they said among themselves, 'This is the

heir. Come, let us kill him and seize his inheritance.' (39) "So they took him and cast *him* out of the vineyard and killed *him*. (40) "Therefore, when

the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those vinedressers?"

(41) They said to Him, "He will destroy those wicked men miserably, and lease *his* vineyard to other vinedressers who will render to him the fruits in

their seasons." (42) Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the Scriptures: 'The stone which the builders rejected Has become the chief

cornerstone. This was the Lord's doing, And it is marvelous in our eyes'? (43) "Therefore I say to you, the kingdom of God will be taken from you and given to a nation bearing the fruits of it."

"THE MARVELOUS CORNERSTONE:

The Reason of Our Existence as a Congregation"

Offertory: *TLH p. 22 f.*

Hymn: *TLH 465: Christ Is Our Cornerstone*

Offering & Prayer:

Liturgy for the Lord's Supper: *TLH p. 24 ff.*

Distribution: *TLH 305*

Note: In obedience to God's Word, and out of concern for the welfare of souls (1 Corinthians 11:29), and finally that we may honestly express the unity of faith and hope that binds us, we ask that only such as have identified with Grace through public confession of faith or another CLC congregation, approach the altar at the usher's direction.

Nunc Dimittis, Prayer, Benediction: *TLH 29 ff.*

Hymn: *TLH 477, st. 1-2: Lord Jesus, Thou the Church's Head*

WHO IS JESUS?

We are told that we live in a religious age. We are not impressed! Man it has been said is incurably religious. Israel was religious, Judah was religious. The Gentiles were religious as is evident in reading the book of Acts. What age has not been religious?

Religion talk has become part of political rhetoric. When religion is injected into the political arena, it becomes clear how deeply pervasive unbelief is in our society and/or how abysmally ignorant of the Christian faith people are. We are not espousing a religious test to hold political office in our pluralistic society. What we are scoring is the blatant abuse and misuse of the Bible and of our Lord by those who claim to be Christian but whose words, actions, and lives betray their lack of understanding. Even less do we have respect for those who use the Bible and our Lord's name to further their own ends, political or otherwise. Then of course there are those who may not even claim to be Christian but who blaspheme our Lord and His Word. The latter is to be expected.

No doubt, we have all heard how some politician defending the presidential candidate of his choice, equated Jesus to a "community organizer." Someone who was offended at the community organizer comment suggested that Jesus was not a "community organizer," thank you, because we all know that Jesus was a carpenter.

Mary's husband Joseph was a carpenter. As a lad growing up in Joseph's home Jesus may well have worked in the carpenter's shop. However, that the people asked of Jesus, "Is this not the carpenter..." (Mark 6:3)? proves nothing but the ignorance of the people who did not know Who Jesus was.

Who is Jesus? The same question was asked in Jesus' day. There were many ideas as to Who He was. By the way, as far as we know, community organizer was not among them. Jesus posed a critical question to His disciples, "But who do you say that I am? And Simon Peter answered and said, 'Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God'" (Matthew 16:15,16). Jesus was the Messiah, the Christ, the Anointed one. He was promised of God the Father. Jesus was the Word made flesh (John 1:14).

Unless one believes in Him, confesses Him, and trusts in His atoning work one's claim to Christianity and use of the name of Christ is nothing, and one's religion only a shell of the real thing. Unless one believes in the person and nature of Christ as Scripture teaches, one is in fact without God. What he worships as god is an idol. Paul wrote to the Ephesians of their pre-conversion state: "At that time you were without Christ...having no hope and without God in the world" (Ephesians 2:12). No one can deny what Paul says without denying the Word of God and Christ Himself. One cannot deny those words and claim to be a Christian in the same breath. So what is the Christian faith? Who is Christ? With the everlasting Scriptures as his source, Luther answers our inquiry on both points: "I believe that Jesus Christ, true God begotten of the Father from eternity and also true Man, born of the Virgin Mary is my Lord. He has redeemed a lost and condemned creature, purchased and won me from all sin,

from death and from the power of the devil, not with gold or silver but with His holy precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death...even as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity."

Jesus is not a social do-gooder, community organizer, a carpenter, another lawgiver, an example, or whatever "religious people" want to make of Him. He is the Son of God-yea God Himself- and the Savior of the world. Furthermore, Scripture teaches that there is no other foundation of faith, hope and salvation than Jesus Christ (1 Corinthians 3:11). "He who has the Son (believes in Him) has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life" (1 John 5:12). No one comes to the Father except through Jesus (John 14:7). John, the apostle of the Lord speaks even stronger words when he writes, "He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father Who sent Him" (John 5:23).

There are many manifestations of a committed Christian, but it begins with a steadfast confession of the divine human nature of Christ, and all that He has done for sinful man. Jesus said, "Not everyone that that saith unto Me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven, but he that doeth the will of My Father which is in heaven" (Matthew 7:21). What is the will of God but that we believe in Him? To such is given the promise, "If thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised Him up from the dead, thou shalt be saved" (Romans 10:9).

Who is Jesus? That is a critical question, the answer to which demonstrates whether one understands Christianity, and upon which depends one's eternal salvation!

Written by Rev. Daniel Fleischer, 9/21/2008

† THE ANNOUNCEMENTS †

- ◆ **Among Us:** This past Friday evening Jeff Radichal and Sarah Noeldner were united in holy matrimony. May the Lord richly bless their lifetime together!
- ◆ **Mission Festival:** Next Sunday is our annual Mission Festival celebration. Rev. Philip Matzke, member at Mankato, will be our guest speaker. Following the service there will be a potluck meal. Members are asked to bring a dish to pass. Committee #2 will be serving.
- ◆ **Mission Helper:** There is still room for the 2009 Mission Helper Trip to India trip. The trip will take place in July. Deadline for applications is January 15. Contact Pastor Todd Ohlmann at (636) 225-3458.
- ◆ **Sunday School Memory Work:** #5 – 3rd Commandment.

Welcome to our guests and visitors. We appreciate the opportunity to share God's Word with you today. Please come again! Those interested in learning more about the Scriptures and our doctrinal position, please speak with Pastor Hein. He would be delighted to visit with you!

† TODAY AT GRACE †

Organist: Sue Nelson Elder: Benno Sydow
Ushers: Benno Sydow, Brian Eichstadt, Gary Gunther, Rich Rhinesmith, Jeff Stifter, Larry Nelson
Counting Team 3: Don Auel; Brian Eichstadt; Jack Kirkham; Benno Sydow; Michael Ude
Hospitality Team 5: Pat & Dawn Paplow; Mike & Pat Dick; Frank & Ann Radichel
Church Cleaners: B. & B. Sydow School Cleaners: Hein

† NEXT WEEK AT GRACE †

Ushers: Mark Wales, Josh Benzer, Pete Fleischer, Don Auel, Ole Olmanson, Brandt Wendland
Counting Team 4: Paul Lentz; Al Rosendahl; Dave Rust; Lynn Sandhoefner; Jeff Radichel
Hospitality Team 6: Bye (Mission Festival)
Church Cleaners: B. & B. Sydow School Cleaners: Hein

† OUR SCHEDULE †

Today: 9:00 am – Sunday School and Bible Class
 10:00 am – Worship Service w/ Lord's Supper
 11:00 am – Hospitality; 12:00 pm – Council Meeting

Oct. 7-8: MN Pastoral Conference @ Okabena, MN

Wed., Oct. 8: 4:00-5:45 pm – Catechism for Public School Students
 7:00 pm – Midweek Bible Study

Sun., Oct. 12: 8:30 am – Choir Practice
 9:00 am – Bible Class and Sunday School
 10:00 am – Mission Festival Worship
 11:15 am – Mission Festival Potluck

Sun., Oct. 19: Quarterly Voters Meeting

Sat., Oct. 25: Work Day

Sun., Nov. 2: 4:00 pm – MN Area Reformation Service @ Mankato, MN

Last Week's Stats: Sept. 28, 2008 Sun.: 115 S.S.: ?? B.Cl.: 40 Wed.: 19

Sun. Offering:	Grace:	2,988.50	CLC:	855.00
Weekly Need:	Grace:	3,225.00	CLC:	1,000.00
-Under / +Over:	Grace:	-236.50	CLC:	-145.00
Year-to-Date Offering::	Grace:	114,777.75	CLC:	37,450.35
Year-to-Date Need:	Grace:	125,775.00	CLC:	39,000.00
Year-to-Date (+/-)	Grace:	-10,997.25	CLC:	-1,549.65
Other Offerings:	Living Faith:	2.00	Tuition:	128.00
GLC Other:	MDF:	3.00	Kinship:	100.00
ILC Student Aid:	ILC Bldg.	1,126.00	IIF:	1.00
			CEF:	2.00

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