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Grace Lutheran Church & School



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Member: CHURCH OF THE LUTHERAN CONFESSION

Pastor: John Hein (Cell 612-408-1635) **Phone:** 763-784-8784
Principal: Ryan Libby (Ph. 763-784-6340) **Grades:** Kindergarten-8th
Church Year: Pentecost 23 **Date:** October 19, 2008

† **THE ORDER OF WORSHIP** †

Worship Preparation: *Psalm 19, TLH p. 126*

Hymn: *TLH 4: God Himself Is Present*

Liturgy: *TLH, p. 5 ff. (Also available on laminated sheet in pew)*

Introit (followed by Gloria Patri, The Kyrie): *TLH, pp. 6-7*

P: Trust in the LORD, and do good;
C: Dwell in the land, and feed on His faithfulness.
P: Delight yourself also in the LORD,
C: And He shall give you the desires of your heart.
P: Commit your way to the LORD, Trust also in Him,
C: And He shall bring it to pass.
P: The salvation of the righteous comes from the LORD;
C: He is their stronghold in time of trouble. Glory be to God!

Gloria in Excelsis: *TLH 246, st. 1,4: Holy, Holy, Holy*

1. Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
 Early in the morning our song shall rise to Thee;
 Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty!
 God in Three Persons, blessed Trinity!
4. Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
 All Thy works shall praise Thy name in earth and sky and sea.
 Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty!
 God in Three Persons, blessed Trinity!

First Reading: *Philemon 1:1,10-21*

Paul writes to Philemon who had once owned an escaped slave named Onesimus. But while gone Onesimus comes to faith through Paul's ministry. To right things, Paul sends Onesimus back to Philemon with the hope that he will not wrong him, but will rather have joy in what has taken place.

Gradual:
P: Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God!
C: How unsearchable His judgments, and His paths beyond tracing out.
P: For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things.
C: To Him be the glory forever and ever! Amen.
P: Alleluia. Alleluia. Rejoice in the Lord always.
C: I will say it again: Rejoice! Alleluia.

Second Reading: *Luke 14:25-33*

Jesus instructs His disciples about the cost of following Him.

Confession of Faith: *Apostolic Creed, TLH p. 12*

Hymn: *TLH 291: Lamp of Our Feet*

Sermon: *Proverbs 9:8-12*

(8) Do not correct a scoffer, lest he hate you; Rebuke a wise man, and he will love you. (9) Give instruction to a wise man, and he will be still wiser; Teach a just man, and he will increase in learning. (10) "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, And the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding. (11) For by me your days will be multiplied, And years of life will be added to you. (12) If you are wise, you are wise for yourself, And if you scoff, you will bear it alone."

"The Focus of Wisdom"

1. Its gaze turns away from self
2. Its gaze turns toward the LORD

Offertory: *TLH p. 12 f.*

Hymn: *TLH 294: O Word of God Incarnate*

Offering, Prayers, Benediction: *TLH p. 14*

Hymn: *WS 792: Let All Things Now Living*

† **THE ANNOUNCEMENTS** †

- ◆ **Meetings:** Today is the quarterly Voters meeting in which the budget will be set for next year. Next Sunday will be the Dorcas Guild meeting.
- ◆ **Work Day:** Next Saturday will be our work day. Plans are to focus on trimming back the lilacs. We'll be starting around 9 am.
- ◆ **Immanuel Lutheran College Visitors Day:** is November 7th beginning at 10:05 a.m. in the ILC gymnasium for chapel. It will feature presentations and classroom visits. Come and learn more about your church's college and a continuing education with Christ. If interested, please speak with Pastor Hein.
- ◆ **Sunday School Memory Work:** #7 – 5th Commandment.

HOW LONG LORD?

In view of the status of this sinful, wicked and self serving world, those of us who care cannot begin to comprehend the grace, love and patience of God in whose heart is determined the times before appointed. As He concluded the book of Revelation, He said through the apostle:

Seal not the sayings of the prophecy of this book: for the time is at hand. He that is unjust, let him be unjust still: and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still: and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still: and he that is holy, let him be holy still. And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last. Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city. For without are dogs, and sorcerers, and whoremongers, and murderers, and idolaters, and whosoever loveth and maketh a lie. I Jesus have sent mine angel to testify unto you these things in the churches. I am the root and the offspring of David, and the bright and morning star. And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely. For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book (Revelation 22: 10 – 19).

In conclusion Jesus said, "Surely I come quickly. Amen." To this John responded, "Even so, come, Lord Jesus."

Those who will not give up their evil way and who continue in it impenitently are given over to it by God. It is a judgment upon them. It is a fearsome thing to cross the the Lord, and to ultimately fall into the hand of Him Who judges!

On the other hand, our Lord Jesus Christ gives great and precious promises to all who who repent of their sins, who at the same time in faith wash their robes and make them white in the blood of the Lamb (Revelation 7:14). Believers in Christ will be anxious for the fulfillment of Christ's promise to return soon. Our anxiety for the fulfillment increases as we witness the downward spiral of our society, a spiral unfortunately and frighteningly abetted in the world by the church which has lost respect for the Word of God.

How in the name of the God whom they profess to proclaim can any church tolerate the philosophy that any religion is acceptable unto God? A church that believes that or tolerates such ideas either does not know what it believes, believes anything or nothing, is hypocritical, or is too frightened to tell the truth. How can a church that professes to be Christian tolerate the lie that salvation is by works? How can any church claiming to be Christian confess the creed- if they still do- and deny the substance of that creed? How can any church that claims to be serious about Christian witness, approve the sins of abortion, homosexuality, or same sex "marriage"? The wages of any sin is death (Romans 6:23a). To the extent that the church tolerates or condones what God calls sin is to bring judgment upon it and those who are deceived by it. Make no mistake! The deterioration of clear proclamation of law and gospel is rampant in the church! To the extent that the church in society has traded the truth for a mess of pottage, it cannot escape the judgment of God!

Ultimately each individual will have to answer for his or her lack of faith and the actions born of such lack before God. While the church has abetted the slide into the cesspool of evil no one can say, "The church made me do it," anymore than he can say, "The

devil made me do it. When sin entered the world, God's question was "Have *you* eaten of the tree of which I commanded you that you should not eat" (Genesis 3:11)? The Father accepted no excuse and no evasion!

If we think that professing Christians within our fellowship are immune, we are sadly mistaken. There is lack of appreciation for the Word, neglect of Word and Sacrament, confused priorities, lack of respect for marriage. More and more we witness people who practice live-in marriage without being married, and who defend it. Vulgarity and abuse of the name of God is so common place in our society that people do not care that they do it, and worse frequently don't know that they are doing it. Greed, slander, hatred and incivility are staples of our dying society. Our young people are bombarded in society with the evil of the times, and frequently are sucked into the black hole. That sin happens dare not surprise us. We are flesh and the natural heart is only evil continually (Genesis 6:5). But should we not be concerned when sin is laughed at, thought lightly of, defended, and practiced as a right?

Is the world more wicked than the generations previous to us? No. The Lord said to Noah, "The end of all flesh has come before Me, for the earth is filled with violence through them..." (Genesis 6:13). But this is our time. It is the souls of men and women, young and old, strangers, friends, and acquaintances – and yes, we ourselves - in our times that are in the balance. Pay close heed. We are living in a time and a society described by the apostle:

This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent (without self-control), fierce, despisers of those that are good, Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away. For of this sort are they which creep into houses, and lead captive silly (gullible) women laden with sins, led away with divers lusts, Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth. Now as Jannes and Jambres withstood Moses, so do these also resist the truth: men of corrupt minds, reprobate concerning the faith (2 Timothy 3: 1 – 8).

In view of the warning both in Revelation and in 2 Timothy, we dare not be indifferent to the sin that so easily assails us, and the judgment that unrepented sin brings. But there is hope and comfort for the penitent and waiting Christian. Jesus, "the root and offspring of David, and the bright morning star," commissioned the Church to proclaim the Gospel which quenches the thirst of those who thirst for the water of life. In Revelation 21 He says, "I will give of the fountain of the water of life freely to him who thirsts." The Lord promises to His people that He will deliver them from all evil. He will preserve His beset children unto His eternal kingdom and give to us the gift of salvation, sealed to us through the atonement accomplished at His cross and empty tomb. In the face of the evil world we can, in the time of tribulation, rejoice in our future and after the tribulation enjoy the peace and blessing of heaven. In heaven former things will have passed away. For that reason we find comfort in God's assurance, "Surely, I come quickly." And with longing and anticipation, we say, "Even so, come, Lord Jesus."

"Lord Jesus, our merciful Savior, forgive us our sins in thought, word, and deed. Preserve us by Thy grace from the wiles of the devil and the deceit of the world in which we live lest we identify with the world in our lives and actions and receive the same judgment. Lord, Shepherd and Keeper of our souls, come, come quickly and deliver us from the temptations of our own flesh and from the hands of those who hate us and would do us harm in body and soul. Come, and fulfill Thy promise to take us home. Come quickly. Amen."

Written by Rev. Daniel Fleischer, 10/19/2008

† TODAY AT GRACE †

Organist: **Mareen Ochsner** Elder: **Dave Rust**
Ushers: **Mark Wales, Josh Benzer, Pete Fleischer, Don Auel, Ole Olmanson, Brandt Wendland**
Counting Team 5: **Mike Dick; Brad Kitzman; Ed Lentz; Roger Ochsner**
Hospitality Team 1: **Phil & Jackie Radichel; Lynn & Janice Sandhoefner**
Church Cleaners: **Olmanson** School Cleaners: **None**

† NEXT WEEK AT GRACE †

Ushers: **Mark Wales, Josh Benzer, Pete Fleischer, Don Auel, Ole Olmanson, Brandt Wendland**
Counting Team 1: **Dan Degnan; Larry Nelson; Phil Radichel; Pat Paplow**
Hospitality Team 2: **Janelle Hein; Chris Lentz; Peter Fleischer; Alice Weibye; Ed & Verona Lentz**
Church Cleaners: **E.Wales/R.Nelson** School Cleaners: **Teachers**

† OUR SCHEDULE †

Today: 9:00 am – Sunday School and Bible Class
 10:00 am – Worship Service
 11:00 am – Hospitality; 11:30 am – Voters Meeting
Wed., Oct. 22: 4:00-5:45 pm – Catechism for Public School Students
 7:00 pm – Midweek Bible Study
Sat., Oct. 25: 9:00 am – Work Day
Sun., Oct. 26: 8:30 am – Choir Practice
 9:00 am – Sunday School and Bible Class
 10:00 am – Worship Service
 11:00 am – Hospitality; 11:30 am – Dorcas Guild Meeting
Sun., Nov. 2: 4:00 pm – MN Area Reformation Service @ Mankato, MN
Fri., Nov. 7: Immanuel College Visitors' Day; 7:30 pm – ILC Play

Last Week's Stats:	Oct. 12, 2008	Sun.: 124	S.S.: ??	B.Cl.: 44	Wed.: NA
Sun. Offering:	Grace:	2,655.98	CLC:	1,612.00	
Weekly Need:	Grace:	3,225.00	CLC:	1,000.00	
-Under / +Over:	Grace:	-569.02	CLC:	+612.00	
Year-to-Date Offering:	Grace:	119,536.93	CLC:	39,831.35	
Year-to-Date Need:	Grace:	132,225.00	CLC:	41,000.00	
Year-to-Date (+/-)	Grace:	-12,688.07	CLC:	-1,168.65	
Other Offerings:	Living Faith:	1.00	Tuition:	52.00	
GLC Other:	1.00	MDF:	154.00	Kinship:	20.00
ILC Student Aid:	87.00	ILC Bldg.	75.00	IIF: 0.00	CEF: 0.00

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Christ
the POWER of
GOD and the
WISDOM of
God

1 Corinthians 1:24