

Click here to open service web page for: 2011/01/30/

Grace Lutheran Church & School



460 75th Ave. NE
Fridley, MN 55432



Email: jphein@clclutheran.com

Home Page: www.CLGraceLutheranChurch.org

Member: CHURCH OF THE LUTHERAN CONFESSION

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

Phone: 763-784-8784

School Phone: 763-784-6340

Grades: Kindergarten-8th

Church Year: Epiphany 4

Date: January 30, 2011

† THE ORDER OF WORSHIP †

Worship Preparation: *Psalm 1, TLH p. 123*

Hymn: *TLH 224: Come, Holy Ghost, God and Lord!*

Liturgy: *WS, p. 12 ff. (Pastor sings Lord Have Mercy, top of p. 13)*

First Reading: *1 Corinthians 1:26-31*

The xxx

Responsive Psalm: *Psalm 1*

P: Blessed is the man Who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly,

C: Nor stands in the path of sinners, Nor sits in the seat of the scornful;

P: But his delight is in the law of the LORD,

C: And in His law he meditates day and night.

P: He shall be like a tree Planted by the rivers of water, That brings forth its fruit in its season,

C: Whose leaf also shall not wither; And whatever he does shall prosper.

P: The ungodly are not so,

C: But are like the chaff which the wind drives away.

P: Therefore the ungodly shall not stand in the judgment,

C: Nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous.

P: For the LORD knows the way of the righteous,

C: But the way of the ungodly shall perish.

Second Reading: *Matthew 5:1-12*

Christ teaches what it means to be blessed.

Alleluia: *WS p. 14 f.*

Confession of Faith: *Apostles' Creed, WS p. 15*

Hymn: *TLH 417, st. 1-5: How Can I Thank Thee, Lord*

Sermon: *Luke 16:1-13*

(1) Hear now what the LORD says: "Arise, plead your case before the mountains, And let the hills hear your voice. (2) Hear, O you mountains, the Lord's complaint, And you strong foundations of the earth; For the LORD has a complaint against His people, And He will contend with Israel. (3) "O My people, what have I done to you? And how have I wearied you? Testify against Me. (4) For I brought you up from the land of Egypt, I redeemed you from the house of bondage; And I sent before you Moses, Aaron, and Miriam. (5) O My people, remember now What Balak king of Moab counseled, And what Balaam the son of Beor answered him, From Acacia Grove to Gilgal, That you may know the righteousness of the LORD." (6) With what shall I come before the LORD, And bow myself before the High God? Shall I come before Him with burnt offerings, With calves a year old? (7) Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams, Ten thousand rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, The fruit of my body for the sin of my soul? (8) He has shown you, O man, what is good; And what does the LORD require of you But to do justly, To love mercy, And to walk humbly with your God? (NKJVTM)

"How Do You Plead Your Case?"

1. Are you guilty of lifeless religion?

2. Are you walking humbly with your God in living faith?

Offertory: *WS p. 16*

Hymn: *TLH 416: Oh, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways*

Offering, Prayers, Benediction:

Hymn: *WS 798: God, We Praise You*

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!

"On behalf of the class trip members, we would like to thank the congregation for their most generous donations. We had a lot of fun learning how to shine shoes. We hope everyone enjoys their shiny shoes!" – Emily, John, Ned, David

WORTH MORE THAN MANY SPARROWS:

When God created the earth and the world and all that is in it, man was the crowning jewel of creation. Man was created and placed on the earth as the unique expression of divine creation. Adam was created a special creature—formed from the dust of earth. Into his nostrils was breathed the breath of life “and man became a living being” (Genesis 2: 7). It was “not good that man should be alone” (2:18) but there was none among all the animals God created that was a suitable mate for Adam. Consequently God took of the rib of Adam and He made of it woman, the perfect mate for Adam: spiritually, emotionally, sexually, and morally.

Mother nature is not! Mankind whose being the Lord Jesus Christ took on in His incarnation was not born of the earth. God was the Creator; man the creature. Man was not created to be God. God created him to be what he was—perfect at the creation and in the image of God, without sin, and righteous. Adam and Eve enjoyed a special relationship with the Creator God—one which the animals did not have.

Adam and Eve were made higher than the animals which themselves were perfect as was all creation. “God saw everything that He had made, and indeed it was very good” (Genesis 1:31). Upon the completion of creation, the Lord God said to Adam and Eve, “Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it, have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth” (1:28). It is clear to those who believe that the holy, mighty, and merciful God created the world as the Bible teaches, that mankind (male and female) made in His image, unlike the animals, is to have “dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth” (1:26). You can look it up. It’s in the Bible! It’s truth!

The Bible tells the sad history of how sin corrupted man so that consequently man and the whole created world groans and suffers under the burden of sin (Romans 8:22). Notwithstanding that God gave the promise of the Savior from sin to Adam and Eve—the Seed of the woman, (Genesis 3:15)—the world because of unbelief is marching to its destruction. Surely it is the greatest tragedy that the majority of humanity rejects the blood atonement of the Lord Jesus and chooses the way of death!

One example of such rejection is the passing off of evolution as scientific fact. The teaching of evolution is a rejection of the Lord God and His Word. One manifestation of such unbelief is the idea that man is just an animal, albeit a higher form of animal. Scripture tells us things concerning the creation of man that do not apply to animals. For example, God communed with Himself and said, “Let us make man in our image, according to our likeness” (1:26). Man was made a living, rational being, created as Luther said “by a peculiar (special) counsel and wisdom and formed by the finger of God.” Created by God, human beings are not lower than the beast of the field, or the animal equal to humans, notwithstanding too frequently men and women in the corruption of the sinful heart act like or worse than animals!

As stewards of that which God has created we are to appreciate His creation and take care of it. Bible believers should be the most careful “environmentalists” of all. The passages we have quoted concerning man’s relationship to other created beings does not give license or justification to abuse or misuse. The reality is that purveyors of evolution are the biggest abusers of the environment in that they worship and serve the creature rather than the Creator (Romans 1:25).

This writer remembers how traumatic it was to give up an orphaned dog which the family raised and to which it had become attached. So we do not disparage those who enjoy their pets. Neither do we deny that pets can be and are to many good companions, and serve our benefit in many ways. That was the Creator’s intent. But they are still animals!

It is therefore a product of evolutionary foolishness when animals are accorded the same rights as people for whom Christ died. If there had been a mate for Adam among the four-legged beasts, we could conclude that there would have been no Eve. We had recent reminders of the evolutionary influence. When the governor of Minnesota was inaugurated recently it was dutifully reported in the news that one of his sick and dying dogs, “lived long enough to see his inauguration.” Are we to gather that the dog died in a happy state of mind? Recently one large dog shall we say “murdered” a smaller dog. The murdering canine was quickly dispatched. This troubled the owner of Jacob, the murdered dog. The bereaved dog owner said, “We know that Jacob has it in his heart to forgive this dog. It is our belief that both dogs are in a better place, and perhaps in this existence, even they will be friends.” Frequently one reads how someone left an inheritance to the dogs or cats whose names even appear as survivors in obituary columns. To each his own. But who elevated animals to the level of human beings? Such elevation to the status of human is totally foreign to Scripture and is an outgrowth of evolutionary philosophy.

“To the divine honor and dignity of man belongs also this that the creation is subject unto him” (Stoekhardt). That man lost this honor and dignity when sin entered into the world does not alter the reality of the relationship of man and animals in God’s creation. The sin of man does not justify compounding the sin by degrading God’s redeemed people to the level of dogs and cats, or the beasts of the jungle.

Enjoy your pets and appreciate that they too are gifts of God Who created them. But give no quarter to evolution and evolutionists who in dumbing you down to the level of, if not lower than your pet, thereby belittle Christ Jesus Who “became flesh and dwelt among us” (John 1:14) and in whose person we see the glory of God, and the smiling face of God our Father.

Rev. Daniel Fleischer, 1/30/2011

† THE ANNOUNCEMENTS †

- ◆ **Thanks** to those who were here yesterday for work day.
- ◆ **Directory:** Please check your contact information in the draft copy of the directory located in the narthex. Place a check mark by your entry if it is correct. If it is not, then please edit as necessary. If you wish to add email or cell numbers, please do so. Your cooperation is appreciated as we attempt to produce an accurate directory.
- ◆ **Among Us:** Last week Bonnie Story engaged was to Alex Baker. May the Lord bless their preparations for their wedding, but more importantly for their marriage. Pat Paplow’s father, Myron Seibert, is now in hospice with complications from Alzheimer’s and is in serious condition. Lyle Trulin was hospitalized overnight this past week at the VA for a minor stroke. Al and Marj Rosendahl were blessed with a grandson, William Kenneth, last Sunday, son of Marty and Rachel Rosendahl. The Lord bless and keep His people steadfast until life everlasting.
- ◆ **Offering Statements:** Recently our financial secretary, Brandon Paplow, distributed the offering statements for 2010. They were placed in the members’ mailboxes. If there are any questions or perceived errors, please contact him (phone: 763-229-0726, email: bpaplow@gmail.com).
- ◆ **Call News:** Pastor Terrel Kesterson of Trinity in Spokane, WA, has accepted the call to St. Stephen in Mountain View, CA (San Francisco area).
- ◆ **Sunday School Memory Work:** #18, Second Article, Part 3

† **TODAY AT GRACE** †

Organist: Janelle Hein Elder: Ed Lentz
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 1: Phil & Jackie Radichel; Lynn & Janice Sandhoefner
Church Cleaners: M&T Wales School: Hein

† **NEXT WEEK AT GRACE** †

Ushers: Benno Sydow, Brian Eichstadt, Gary Gunther, Rich Rhinesmith, Jeff Stifter, Larry Nelson
Counting Team 4: Ed Lentz; Roger Ochsner; Al Rosendahl; Dave Rust; Lynn Sandhoefner
Hospitality Team 6: Richard & Shauna Rhinesmith; Brian & Maureen Eichstadt; Brandt Wendland; Eli & Laura Wales
Church Cleaners: Vandever School: Bergstrom

† **OUR SCHEDULE** †

Today: 9:00 am – Sun. School & Bible Class
 10:00 am – Worship Service
 11:15 am – Hospitality

Wed., Feb. 2: 4:00-5:45 pm – Catechism for Public School Students
 7:00 pm – Midweek Bible Class

Sun., Feb 6: 8:30 am – Choir Practice
 9:00 am – Sun. School & Bible Class
 10:00 am – Worship Service w/Lord's Supper
 11:15 am – Hospitality

Sun., Feb. 27: Meal & silent auction for the class trip

Wed., Mar. 9: 7:00 pm – Ash Wed. Worship (Midweek Lent Starts)

Last Week's Stats: Jan. 23, 2011 Sun.: 128 S.S.: 25 B.Cl.: 42 Wed. 18

Week's Offering:	Grace:	\$2,470.54	CLC:	\$1,081.00	
Weekly Need:	Grace:	2,850.00	CLC:	960.00	
-Under / +Over:	Grace:	-379.46	CLC:	+121.00	
Year-to-Date Offering::	Grace:	\$10,303.47	CLC:	\$3,258.00	
Year-to-Date Need:	Grace:	11,400.00	CLC:	3,840.00	
Year-to-Date (+/-)	Grace:	-1,096.53	CLC:	-582.00	
Other Offerings:	Living Faith:	0.00	Tuition:	26.00	
GLC Other:	311.50	MDF:	0.00	Kinship:	50.00
ILC Student Aid:	40.00	ILC Bldg.	50.00	IIF:	20.00
			CEF:	0.00	

*Grace Lutheran
Church & School*

What does the Lord require of you



**but to do justice...
love kindness,
& to walk humbly
with your God?**



M i c a h 6 :