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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
 School Phone: 763-784-6340 Grades: Kindergarten-8th
 Church Year: Lent I Date: March 13, 2011

✠ **THE ORDER OF WORSHIP** ✠

Worship Preparation: *Psalm 130, p. 153*

Hymn: *TLH 291: Lamp of Our Feet Whereby We Trace*

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

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

Introit:

P: Because you have made the LORD, who is my refuge,
C: Even the Most High, your dwelling place,
 P: No evil shall befall you, Nor shall any plague come near your dwelling;
C: For He shall give His angels charge over you, To keep you in all your ways.
 P: In their hands they shall bear you up,
C: Lest you dash your foot against a stone.
 P: You shall tread upon the lion and the cobra,
C: The young lion and the serpent you shall trample underfoot.

Gloria in Excelsis: *TLH 331, st. 7-8*

All praise, eternal Son, to Thee
 For absolution full and free,
 In which Thou showest forth Thy grace;
 From false indulgence guard our race.
 Praise God the Father and the Son
 And Holy Spirit, Three in One,
 As 'twas, is now, and so shall be
 World without end, eternally!

First Reading: *Genesis 3:1-24*

The first temptation and fall into sin. But also the first Gospel promise!

Gradual:

P: Oh, come, let us fix our eyes on Jesus,
C: The author and finisher of our faith,
 P: Who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, scorning the shame,
C: And sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.
 P: Put on the full armor of God,
C: So that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes.

Second Reading: *2 Corinthians 6:1-10*

Paul urges his fellow workers not to receive the grace of God in vain.

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

Hymn: *TLH 367: Hail, Thou Once Despised Jesus*

Sermon: *Matthew 4:1-11*

(1) Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. (2) And when He had fasted forty days and forty nights, afterward He was hungry. (3) Now when the tempter came to Him, he said, "If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread." (4) But He answered and said, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.'" (5) Then the devil took Him up into the holy city, set Him on the pinnacle of the temple, (6) and said to Him, "If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down. For it is written: 'He shall give His angels charge over you,' and, 'In their hands they shall bear you up, Lest you dash your foot against a stone.'" (7) Jesus said to him, "It is written again, 'You shall not tempt the LORD your God.'" (8) Again, the devil took Him up on an exceedingly high mountain, and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. (9) And he said to Him, "All these things I will give You if You will fall down and worship me." (10) Then Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! For it is written, 'You shall worship the LORD your God, and Him only you shall serve.'" (11) Then the devil left Him, and behold, angels came and ministered to Him. (NKJVTM)

**IN THE FACE OF TEMPTATION BY THE DEVIL,
 JESUS PREVAILED.** So we consider today

1. The temptation of our Lord
2. The means by which He overcame
3. The fruit of His victory

Offertory: *TLH p. 12 f.*

Hymn: *WS 760: Oh, Love, How Deep*

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

Hymn: *TLH 48: How Blest Are Thy Who Hear God's Word*

† THE ANNOUNCEMENTS †

- ◆ **Thanks** to Pastor Emeritus Daniel Fleischer for sharing the Good News today. Pastor Hein is preaching at our outreach station in Eden Prairie. He will be back in time for the Council meeting.
- ◆ **Midweek Lenten Services:** Our Midweek Lenten services are held at 7:00 pm on Wednesdays. Our series this year is entitled, "Blessed Jesus, at Thy Cross," Lenten meditations based on the Beatitudes. This coming Wed. Pastor David Schierenbeck from Berea Lutheran Church in Inver Grove Hts. will preach on, "Blessed are the Meek."
- ◆ **Lenten Soup Suppers** will be held before every Lenten service starting at 6 pm. If you are interested in bringing soup and/or serving at one or more supper(s), please sign up on the sheet posted on the bulletin board in the fellowship hall.
- ◆ **Immanuel Tour Choir at Grace:** Grace of Fridley is very blessed to be able to host one of the concerts this year. The choir will be making its final stop at Grace next Sunday, March 20, 7 pm. Please make plans to be here to support the choir and to be spiritually uplifted by the sacred music. A free-will offering will be received. Members are asked to bring a treat to share afterward. Committee #3 is hosting. Other CLC congregations are aware of this and we will likely get visitors. This event has also be published in a news release.
- ◆ **Catechism Parents:** This Wednesday Pastor is traveling to Red Wing to preach. If you could have the kids here a little earlier than normal it would enable him to leave a little earlier. Thanks.
- ◆ **Note to Hospitality Teams:** Extra food for hospitality is no longer located in the freezer, but is located in the left side of the tall pantry cupboard. If you have any questions, please contact Chris Lentz.
- ◆ **Easter Flowers:** There is an Easter flower sign-up sheet on the cupboard in the narthex if you are interested in purchasing either an Easter Lily or other spring flower for our Easter service. Please see Jackie Radichel if you have any questions.
- ◆ **2011 Grace Yearbook:** A limited number of hard copies are still available by the mail boxes.
- ◆ **CLC News:** Pastor David Schaller has returned the call to Trinity in Spokane, WA. † Pastor Walter Schaller will be having hip replacement surgery on March 17. Contact info.: 26689 Northeastern Hwy. Madison Heights, MI 48071
- ◆ **Sunday School Memory Work:** #24, Baptism 2

REVISIONIST DOCTRINE

As we come into the season of Lent, Pope Benedict has promoted the politically correct approach to Scripture interpretation declaring for the record that the Jews are not responsible for the crucifixion and death of Jesus.

Before we address his politically correct and wrong interpretation of Scripture, let us acknowledge that **we all** are responsible for the death of Jesus in the sense that the sins of the whole world—the sins of Jew and Gentile – were laid upon Jesus. We sing in one of our hymns: "Ah! I also and my sin wrought Thy deep affliction; This indeed the cause has been of Thy crucifixion" (TLH 140, st.3). Jesus said of Himself, the Son of Man, "For He will be delivered to the Gentiles and will be mocked and insulted and spit upon. They will scourge Him and kill Him" (Luke 18:32-33). It was the Jewish leaders who delivered Jesus to the Roman soldiers who carried out the execution, but there is no sinner who is exonerated in the death of Christ. Again we sing, "It is my sins for which Thou, Lord, must languish; Yea, all the wrath, the woe, Thou dost inherit, this I do merit" (TLH 143, st.3). Jesus died because on Him was laid the iniquity of us all (Isaiah 53:6). He who will not confess his contribution to the death of Jesus will die in his sins! Even as we confess our sins and responsibility for Jesus' death, we thank the Heavenly Father for sending the Savior, Who in turn willingly bore our sins and bore the agony of hell for us as He suffered in our place!

In a forthcoming book "Jesus of Nazareth. Holy Week: From the Entrance Into Jerusalem to the Resurrection," the pope asks: "Who exactly were Jesus' accusers? Who insisted that he be condemned to death? The entire early Christian community was made up of Jews." He says that John in his gospel "is referring to the Temple aristocracy. So the circle of accusers who instigate Jesus' death is precisely indicated in the Fourth Gospel and clearly limited: it is the Temple aristocracy – and not without certain exceptions, as the reference to Nicodemus (7:50-52) shows."

In other words, he suggests that it is using too broad a brush to speak of the Jews as those who accused Jesus and condemned Him to death because among the Jews were also Christians. The latter of course is true, but we propose that the pope is not defending the Christ believers among the Jews, but reinterpreting Scripture out of fear of offending the Jews.

He proceeds to give a novel interpretation of Matthew 27:25 Of the statement "His blood be on us and on our children," Benedict says it's a mistake to interpret that as some sort of blood curse of the enemies of

Christ against themselves. He says that the Jews were speaking of the blood as the cleansing blood of forgiveness and reconciliation.

Neither the context or the text allows for making only the “aristocracy” responsible for the death of Christ. After Pilate had washed his hands of responsibility for the death of Jesus because he wanted to be “innocent of the blood of this just Person” (Matthew 27:24), he said “You see to it.” To Pilate’s question about what he should do with Jesus, “They all said to him, ‘Let Him be crucified’” (27:22). In response to Pilate’s handwashing we read, “And **all the people**” (as compared to only the aristocracy) “answered and said, ‘His blood be on us and on our children’”(v.25). Pilate then released Barabbas because the chief priests and elders had persuaded **the multitudes** to ask for him (v.20). Luke tells us that Pilate called together the chief priests, the rulers, and the people,” (Luke 23:13) who called for the crucifixion of Jesus (Luke 23:21).

At the cross we hear the challenge to Jesus, “You who destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself! If you are the Son of God come down from the cross” (Matthew 27:40). It is clear these were the words of the people (27:39) for we read in the next verse, “Likewise the chief priests also, mocking with the scribes and elders,” joined in under the cross (Matthew 27:41, Mark 15:29-31).

Scripture is clear. The pope is wrong as are all those who adopt his line, which by the way is not a new error. Rome promotes the legend that Peter was the first pope. Benedict contradicts Peter. “And there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men, from every nation under heaven” (Acts 2:5). In his sermon on Pentecost Peter said to the men of Israel, “Him (Jesus) being delivered by the determined purpose and foreknowledge of God you have taken, by lawless hands, have crucified, and put to death” (Acts 2:23). It is a distortion of Scripture to change the facts.

Jew and Gentile alike should join with those who, pricked in their hearts, asked, “Men and brethren, what shall we do?” (Acts 2:37), and then hear Peter’s response with penitent hearts, “Repent and let everyone of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins” (Acts 2:38). “And it shall come to pass that whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved” (Acts 2:21).

This Lenten season let us pray:

Grant that I Thy Passion view with repentant grieving
Nor Thee crucify anew by unholy living (TLH 140,st.4).

Written by Rev. Daniel Fleischer, 3/13/2011

CLC E-Devotion

Wednesday, March 9, 2011 - Ash Wednesday

Genesis 3:19 “By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food until you return to the ground, since from it you were taken; for dust you are and to dust you will return.”

REMEMBER YOU ARE DUST

Pride is the mother of all sins for it is the sin against the mother of all commandments (You shall have no other gods before me). We find its trail of wreckage throughout human history. Eve was tempted to eat the forbidden fruit because she wanted to be like God. Jesus’ disciples argued over who would be the greatest. Hitler’s pride in a so-called Aryan race led to the great holocaust. When man gets an inflated sense of his own importance and power, only trouble can follow.

Today is Ash Wednesday and on this day we are reminded of what God told Adam: “Dust you are and to dust you will return.” The ashes say to us, “You are only mortal. You are not God. Remember where you came from and do not be proud.” By extension, ashes have come to be a symbol of sorrow over sin. Sitting in sackcloth and ashes as Daniel did (Dan 9:3) was a sign that he remembered he was dust – that he saw himself as but a poor sinner approaching a holy God.

As we enter the season of Lent in which we again ponder the suffering and death of the Lord Jesus, let us remember that we are dust. We do not want to turn away from Christ in pride, thinking that we can do well enough without Him. We do not want to excuse our guilt through a careless attitude toward it. We rather acknowledge that we are indeed frail sinners who desperately need our Savior’s cleansing –a cleansing He graciously gives us by His atoning sacrifice on Calvary.

We remember we are dust, and that is good. Even better: HE remembers we are dust -- and in mercy does for us what we could never do for ourselves.

† **TODAY AT GRACE** †

Organist: **Sue Nelson** Elder: **Frank Radichel**
Ushers: **David Stifter, John Auel, Scott Baker, Al
 Rosendahl, Dylan Stifter, Lyle Trulin, Micheal Ude**
Counting Team 1: **Dan Degnan; Larry Nelson; Phil Radichel;
 Pat Paplow**
Hospitality Team 6: **Richard & Shauna Rhinesmith; Brian &
 Maureen Eichstadt; Brandt Wendland; Eli & Laura Wales**
Church Cleaners: **Anderson** School: **Radichel**

† **NEXT WEEK AT GRACE** †

Ushers: **David Stifter, John Auel, Scott Baker, Al
 Rosendahl, Dylan Stifter, Lyle Trulin, Micheal Ude**
Counting Team 2: **Gary Gunther; Bill Rust; Bob Vandever;
 Clint Welker; Mark Wales**
Hospitality Team 1: **Phil & Jackie Radichel; Lynn & Janice
 Sandhoefner**
Church Cleaners: **??** School: **Story**

† **OUR SCHEDULE** †

Today: 9:00 am – Sun. School & Bible Class
 10:00 am – Worship Service
 11:15 am – Hospitality; 12:00 pm – Council Meeting

Wed., Mar. 16: 4:00-5:45 pm – Catechism for Public School Students
 6:00 pm – Lenten Soup Supper
 7:00 pm – Midweek Lenten Worship Service

Sun., Mar. 20: 8:30 am – Choir Practice
 9:00 am – Sun. School & Bible Class
 10:00 am – Worship Service
 11:15 am – Hospitality
 7:00 pm – Immanuel Tour Choir Concert @ Grace

Sun., Apr. 24: 7:30 am – Easter Breakfast; 9:00 am – Easter Worship

Last Week's Stats: Mar. 6, 2011 Sun.: 119 S.S.: 20 B.Cl.: 30 Wed.: 71

Sun. Offering:	Grace:	\$4,046.66	CLC:	\$1,064.00	
Wed. Offering:	Grace:	569.55	CLC:	70.00	
Weekly Need:	Grace:	2,850.00	CLC:	960.00	
-Under / +Over:	Grace:	+1,766.21	CLC:	+174.00	
Year-to-Date Offering::	Grace:	\$28,507.45	CLC:	\$9,938.50	
Year-to-Date Need:	Grace:	28,500.00	CLC:	9,600.00	
Year-to-Date (+/-)	Grace:	+7.45	CLC:	+338.50	
Other Offerings:	Living Faith:	25.00	Tuition:	150.00	
GLC Other:	252.00	MDF:	0.00	Kinship:	100.00
ILC Student Aid:	0.00	ILC Bldg.	20.00	IIF: 0.00	CEF: 0.00

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