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# Grace Lutheran Church & School



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Home Page: [www.CLGraceLutheranChurch.org](http://www.CLGraceLutheranChurch.org)

Member: CHURCH OF THE LUTHERAN CONFESSION

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

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Grades: 1<sup>st</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>

Church Year: Pentecost 19

Date: October 23, 2011

## † THE ORDER OF WORSHIP †

**Worship Preparation:** ..... *Psalm 25, TLH p. 128*

**Hymn:** ..... *TLH 246: Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty*

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

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

P: Your name, O LORD, endures forever,

**C: Your renown, O LORD, through all generations.**

P: Praise the name of the LORD; Praise Him, you servants of the LORD,

**C: You who minister in the house of the LORD, in the courts of the house of our God.**

P: Praise the Lord, for the LORD is good;

**C: Sing praise to His name, for that is pleasant. Glory be to God!**

**Gloria in Excelsis:** ..... *TLH 360, st. 1, 7*

Oh, for a thousand tongues to sing

My great Redeemer's praise,

The glories of my God and King,

The triumphs of His grace!

Glory to God and praise and love

Be ever, ever given

By saints below and saints above,

The Church in earth and heaven.

**First Reading:** ..... *Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32*

The Lord's will is repentance, to turn from evil and do what is pleasing.

## Gradual:

P: Oh the depths 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! Amen.**

P: Alleluia. Alleluia. At the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

**C: And every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Alleluia.**

**Second Reading:** ..... *Philippians 2:1-8*

We are not to look out solely for our own interests, but the interests of others.

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

**Hymn:** ..... *TLH 336: My God, Accept My Heart This Day*

**Sermon:** ..... *Matthew 21:28-32*

(28) "But what do you think? A man had two sons, and he came to the first and said, 'Son, go, work today in my vineyard.' (29) "He answered and said, 'I will not,' but afterward he regretted it and went. (30) "Then he came to the second and said likewise. And he answered and said, 'I go, sir,' but he did not go. (31) "Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said to Him, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Assuredly, I say to you that tax collectors and harlots enter the kingdom of God before you. (32) "For John came to you in the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him; but tax collectors and harlots believed him; and when you saw *it*, you did not afterward relent and believe him. (NKJV™)

## Actions Speak Louder Than Words

1. As an unrepentant hypocrite, your words can never get you in
2. As a repentant believer, your sins can never keep you out

**Offertory:** ..... *TLH p. 12 f.*

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

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

**Hymn:** ..... *TLH 412: May We Thy Precepts, Lord, Fulfill*

*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!*

We do not presume to read hearts, and thus to judge whether any individual, Mormon or otherwise, is a Christian or is saved. That is God's business. However, *any religion* that denies the Trinity, as the Mormon religion does is not Christian. *Anyone* who denies the Trinity is not a Christian. No one who denies the person of Christ or the Trinity is saved!

Further, good works (heavily emphasized in recent LDS TV ads) of themselves do not define a Christian, much less earn salvation. Even the heathen can do good works in service to society (civic righteousness), but such works are not acceptable before God (Hebrews 11:6). The Christian faith teaches that good works are fruits of faith, not the cause of salvation!

As regards salvation, Scripture teaches that only those who confess their sins believe on the Lord Jesus Christ as their Savior, and trust in God's promise of salvation by grace through faith in Christ are saved.

Finally, the historic Christian Church drawing on the Holy Scriptures (only Scripture can establish doctrine!) has confessed its faith before the world in the following universal creeds of Christendom: the Apostolic (date unknown), Nicene (A.D. 325) and Athanasian (A.D. 450). Of the Trinity, the Person of Christ, the work of the Spirit and the way of salvation, the Athanasian Creed says, "This is the catholic (Christian) faith; *which except a man believe faithfully and firmly, he cannot be saved.*"

Written by Rev. Daniel Fleischer, 10/23/2011

## † THE ANNOUNCEMENTS †

- ◆ **Among Us:** Last week Alex Baker professed his agreement with our doctrinal position and became a communicant member at Grace. May the Lord bless his connection to the Word and Sacrament! Alex is engaged to Bonnie Story. They are planning an August 2012 wedding.
- ◆ **Work Day:** This coming Saturday is a work day at Grace. Please join us around 9 am as we winterize the yard. Bring a rake!
- ◆ **CLC News:** This past Tuesday the Lord took the soul of Claudine Radtke home to heaven. Mrs. Radtke was the loving wife of Pastor/Professor Emeritus Gordon Radtke. The memorial service was on Friday in Eau Claire, WI. Pastor Radtke's address is 1105 Rainetta Dr.; Eau Claire, WI 54701.
- ◆ **Sunday School Memory Work:** #6 – 5<sup>th</sup> Commandment.

**The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (Mormon)** — is it a Christian religion? This question has surfaced with the presence of a Mormon running for president, as well as a result of the frequent Mormon ads that are seen on television.

To address that question appropriately and objectively it must first be clearly understood what Christianity is.

### BRIEFLY THEN SOME TENETS OF THE CHRISTIAN FAITH:

1. The Bible is divinely inspired and **IS** the Word of God (2 Timothy 3:16). It is eternal and unchangeable truth. The purpose of the Bible is to make ONE wise unto salvation (2 Timothy 3:15, 16).

2. God is a Spirit (John 4:24). Among His attributes, He is eternal, unchangeable, omnipotent (almighty), omniscient (all-knowing) and omnipresent (present everywhere), holy, merciful.

The only true God, beside Whom there is no other (1 Corinthians 8:4) is **TRIUNE**: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. The true God is **ONE GOD** (Deuteronomy 6: 4), yet three separate and distinct persons. Though Triune He remains one divine Being (*The Athanasian Creed* expresses the Christian faith as drawn from the Scriptures). All gods apart from the Triune God are figments of man's imagination and are idols (1st Commandment).

3. God is the Creator of all things. He created man in His image that is sinless and holy (Genesis 1).

4. Man by his own volition fell into sin, and all people born into the world since the entrance of sin are born with sin (original sin), are dead in sins, corrupt and eternally lost (Psalm 51:5; John 3:6).

5. Jesus Christ, the Son of God, became man. He was conceived of the Holy Ghost (Matthew 1:21), born of the Virgin (Isaiah 7:14, Matthew 1:23) and perfectly kept the divine Law, yet died under THAT LAW to satisfy the just demands of the Law in the sinner's behalf. He restored life through His resurrection. He has prepared a place in heaven for all who believe in Him (John 14:1-3).

6. There is no salvation apart from faith in Jesus Christ (John 3:36; John 3:16; Acts 4:12).

7. Sinners are saved by grace through faith in Jesus Christ, not by works, or personal righteousness (Ephesians 2:8; Romans 3:28; Romans 11:6)

8. Jesus invites us to bring children to Him (Mark 10:13-15; Luke 18:15-17). Baptism is a means of grace through which the Lord blesses little children with the gift of forgiveness and eternal life as they are reborn into His family (Titus 3:5-7).

**ON THE OTHER HAND**, Latter Day Saints teach:

1. "We believe the Bible to be the word of God as far as it is translated correctly. . ." (8th Article of Faith of the Mormon Church).

"The *Book of Mormon* is the word of God, like the Bible. It is Holy Scripture, with form and content similar to that of the Bible. Both books contain God's guidance as revealed to prophets as well as religious histories of different civilizations. While the Bible is written by and about the people in the land of Israel and surrounding areas, and takes place from the creation of the world until shortly after the death of Jesus Christ, the *Book of Mormon* contains the history and God's dealings with the people who lived in the Americas between approximately 600 BC and 400 AD. The prophets in the *Book of Mormon* recorded God's dealings with His people, which were compiled by a prophet named Mormon onto gold plates.

Before these faithful Christians perished, their record was safely hidden away. Joseph Smith obtained these ancient records in 1827, and with the gift and power of God Joseph was able to translate the ancient writings into what we have today. The *Book of Mormon*, along with the Bible, testifies that Jesus Christ is our divine Redeemer and that by living according to His gospel we can find peace in this life and eternal happiness in the life to come" (Latter Day Saints website).

2-3. "God himself was once as we are now, and is an exalted man, and sits enthroned in yonder heavens!!! . . . We have imagined that God was God from all eternity. I will refute that idea and take away the veil, so that you may see," (*Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith*, p. 345).

"The Father has a body of flesh and bones as tangible as man's," (Doctrine and Covenants 130:22; Compare with Alma 18:26-27; 22:9-10).

"Therefore we know that both the Father and the Son are in form and stature perfect men; each of them possesses a tangible body . . . of flesh and bones," (*Articles of Faith*, by James Talmage, p. 38).

The trinity is three separate Gods: The Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost. "That these three are separate individuals, physically distinct from each other, is demonstrated by the accepted records of divine dealings with man," (*Articles of Faith*, by James Talmage, p. 35).

5. "Christ was begotten by an Immortal Father in the same way that mortal men are begotten by mortal fathers" (*Mormon Doctrine*, by Bruce McConkie, p. 547).

6,7. In his book, *The Miracle of Forgiveness*, former LDS (Latter-day Saints) Apostle and Prophet Spencer W. Kimball defined the "gospel"

of Mormonism as a "code of laws and commandments" by which humans "might attain perfection and, eventually, godhood." According to Kimball, "this set of laws and ordinances...is the only plan which will exalt mankind"...Consequently, the *Book of Mormon* states: "...for we know that it is by grace that we are saved, after all we can do." Thus, according to the LDS Bible Dictionary, "This grace is an enabling power that allows men and women to lay hold on eternal life and exaltation after they have expended their own best efforts." Have you done All You can do (4MORMON.org)?

"Salvation is attainable only through compliance with the laws and ordinances of the Gospel" (*Articles of Faith*, by James Talmage, p. 422).

8. " Not only is infant baptism unnecessary, it is an abomination. Only children who have come to an age of being accountable need baptism. In The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints the minimum age a child can be baptized is eight.

When Mormon (who abridged *The Book of Mormon*) asked the Lord about it, this was God's reply:

Listen to the words of Christ, your Redeemer, your Lord and your God. Behold, I came into the world not to call the righteous but sinners to repentance; the whole need no physician, but they that are sick; wherefore, little children are whole, for they are not capable of committing sin; wherefore the curse of Adam is taken from them in me, that it hath no power over them...

But little children are alive in Christ, even from the foundation of the world; if not so, God is a partial God, and also a changeable God, and a respecter to persons; for how many little children have died without baptism!

All little children are automatically saved by Christ's atonement. Infants and children who die go straight to heaven to be with God in the Celestial Kingdom." (Mormon Website).

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While many words and phrases in the doctrinal platform of the Latter Day Saints are similar in sound to those of Holy Scripture, their definition of God, their denial of the Trinity, and their teaching of the way to salvation is not Christian. The *Book of Mormon* is set on the level of Holy Scripture. Inasmuch as the Trinity is denied, their baptism (denied to infants) is invalid. Mormons practice a baptism for the dead.

We conclude that the (Mormon) religion is not Christian. This conclusion is based on the established facts of what is taught.

† **TODAY AT GRACE** †

Organist: Maureen Ochsner      Elder: Frank Radichel

Ushers: David Stifter, Scott Baker, Al Rosendahl, Dylan Stifter, Lyle Trulin, Michael Ude

Counting Team 1: Dan Degnan; Larry Nelson; Phil Radichel; Pat Paplow

Hospitality Team 5: Pat & Dawn Paplow; Mike & Pat Dick; Frank & Ann Radichel

Church Cleaners: Dick/Englehorn    School: Sydow

† **NEXT WEEK AT GRACE** †

Ushers: David Stifter, Scott Baker, Al Rosendahl, Dylan Stifter, Lyle Trulin, Michael Ude

Counting Team 2: Gary Gunther; Bill Rust; Bob Vandever; Clint Welker; Mark Wales

Hospitality Team 6: Richard & Shauna Rhinesmith; Brian & Maureen Eichstadt; Brandt Wendland; Eli & Laura Wales

Church Cleaners: Dick/Englehorn    School: Hein

† **OUR SCHEDULE** †

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

**Wed., Oct. 26:** 4:00 pm – Catechism for Public School Students  
7:00 pm – Midweek Bible Class

**Sat., Oct. 29:** 9:00 am – Grace Work Day

**Sun., Oct. 30:** 8:30 am – Choir Practice  
9:00 am – Bible Class & Sunday School  
10:00 am – Worship Service  
11:15 am – Hospitality

**Wed., Nov. 23:** 7:00 pm – Thanksgiving Eve Worship

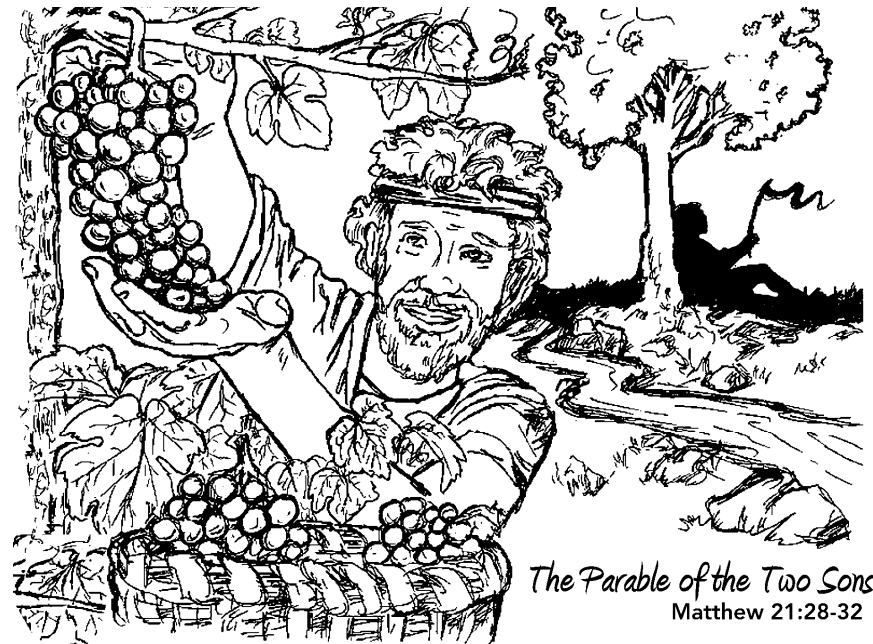
**Last Week's Stats:** Oct. 16, 2011    Sun.: 112    S.S.: 15    B.Cl.: 39    Wed.: 19

Sun. Offering:	Grace:	\$2,019.50	CLC:	\$1,406.00	
Weekly Need:	Grace:	2,850.00	CLC:	960.00	
-Under / +Over:	Grace:	-830.50	CLC:	+446.00	
Year-to-Date Offering::	Grace:	\$120,669.78	CLC:	\$38,201.00	
Year-to-Date Need:	Grace:	119,700.00	CLC:	40,320.00	
Year-to-Date (+/-)	Grace:	+969.78	CLC:	-2,119.00	
Other Offerings:	Living Faith:	5.00	Tuition Aid:	40.00	
GLC Other:	15.50	MDF:	5.00	Kinship:	58.00
ILC Student Aid:	20.00	ILC Bldg.	25.00	IIF: 6.00	CEF: 5.00

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*The Parable of the Two Sons*  
Matthew 21:28-32