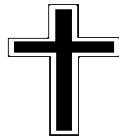


Click here to open service web page for: 2013/01/13/

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 1

Date: January 13, 2013

✠ THE ORDER OF WORSHIP ✠

Worship Preparation: Psalm 2, TLH p. 123

Hymn: TLH 119: Great God, We Sing That Mighty Hand

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

First Reading: Isaiah 55:6-11

God's ways are higher than ours, always seeking salvation for man.

Responsive Reading: Psalm 2

P: Why do the nations rage, And the people plot a vain thing?

C: The kings of the earth set themselves, And the rulers take counsel together,

P: Against the Lord and against His Anointed, saying,

C: "Let us break Their bonds in pieces And cast away Their cords from us."

P: He who sits in the heavens shall laugh; The Lord shall hold them in derision.

C: Then He shall speak to them in His wrath, And distress them in His deep displeasure:

P: "Yet I have set My King On My holy hill of Zion."

C: "I will declare the decree: The Lord has said to Me,

P: `You are My Son, Today I have begotten You.

C: Ask of Me, and I will give You The nations for Your inheritance, And the ends of the earth for Your possession.

P: You shall break them with a rod of iron;

C: You shall dash them to pieces like a potter's vessel."

P: Now therefore, be wise, O kings; Be instructed, you judges of the earth.

C: Serve the Lord with fear, And rejoice with trembling.

P: Kiss the Son, lest He be angry, And you perish in the way, When His wrath is kindled but a little.

C: Blessed are all those who put their trust in Him.

CDS Hymn: TLH 136: Angels from the Realms of Glory

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 2:7-16

The Holy Spirit reveals to us through the Word the things God wants us to know about Him. These are foolishness to the world, leaving man to be conceited enough to think that he can know better than God.

Alleluia: WS p. 14 f.

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

Hymn: TLH 273: Sweet Flowerets of the Martyr Band

Sermon: Matthew 2:13-23

¹³ Now when they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream, saying, "Arise, take the young Child and His mother, flee to Egypt, and stay there until I bring you word; for Herod will seek the young Child to destroy Him." ¹⁴ When he arose, he took the young Child and His mother by night and departed for Egypt, ¹⁵ and was there until the death of Herod, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying, "Out of Egypt I called My Son." ¹⁶ Then Herod, when he saw that he was deceived by the wise men, was exceedingly angry; and he sent forth and put to death all the male children who were in Bethlehem and in all its districts, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had determined from the wise men. ¹⁷ Then was fulfilled what was spoken by Jeremiah the prophet, saying: ¹⁸ "A voice was heard in Ramah, Lamentation, weeping, and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children, Refusing to be comforted, Because they are no more." ¹⁹ Now when Herod was dead, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, ²⁰ saying, "Arise, take the young Child and His mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the young Child's life are dead." ²¹ Then he arose, took the young Child and His mother, and came into the land of Israel. ²² But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning over Judea instead of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And being warned by God in a dream, he turned aside into the region of Galilee. ²³ And he came and dwelt in a city called Nazareth, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophets, "He shall be called a Nazarene." (NKJV^M)

Our Questions, God's Answer

Offertory: WS p. 16

Hymn: TLH 294: O Word of God Incarnate

Offering, Prayers, Benediction:

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

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 speak with you!

✠ *THE ANNOUNCEMENTS* ✠

- ◆ **Among Us:** Due to growing health issues, Curt Miesen no longer has treatment options for his leukemia. By all signs, it appears that the Lord will soon be receiving Curt to his heavenly home. May the Lord continue to bless him with faith in his promised inheritance, all made possible through his Savior Jesus Christ. Don Dahlin returned home from the hospital on Friday. He will need some recovery time prior to returning to his cancer treatment. Connie Ahrens has been diagnosed with breast cancer. She will be having surgery on Feb. 5 at North Memorial. Benno Sydow will be having surgery on Feb. 1 to repair a partial tear of his bicep tendon. Leota Schiermeister, mother of Grace's former vicar Scott Schiermeister and member at our congregation in Bismarck, NE, had back surgery this past week at the Univ. Medical Center. This is phase two of the surgery she had a couple of years ago. 1 Peter 1:6-7: "In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ, ..."
- ◆ **Addresses:** Viola Schweikert can now receive visitors. She's at the New Brighton Care Center, Room #110. However, her room is subject to change. Her address is: New Brighton Care Center; 805 6th Ave NW; New Brighton, MN 55112. Also, albeit reported belatedly, Ellen Rust is at 2996 Cleveland Ave. N, # 323; Roseville, MN 55113. Her phone is 651-633-6638.
- ◆ **Women's Retreat:** The annual Christian Women's Retreat will be held in LaCrosse, WI, on April 5-7 Brochures with further details are available by the guest book.
- ◆ **Quilt Day:** Back by popular demand, on Sat., Jan. 19, those who are interested are invited to help assemble two quilts for the ILC after-banquet party. We will be making a Morning Glorious quilt and a Dominoes quilt. We hope to start bright and early at 9:00 am and stay until 2:00pm. Please bring something to add to the lunch menu. Sewing machines, irons, ironing boards, and cutting tools will be needed. You don't have to be a sewer to help out. We need ironers, cutters, and someone to do the lunch. It is a fun time for all.- Ann Radichel
- ◆ **Whitewater Winter Camp:** Immanuel of Mankato is hosting a camp for high school students at Whitewater State Park in SE Minnesota on January 25-27. There will be cabin lodging with group cooked meals. Activities include hiking, snow play, indoor games, indoor camp fire, Christian fellowship – and more! Pastor Hein has more details.
- ◆ **Church Cleaning:** Volunteers are needed for the next few weeks.
- ◆ **Sunday School Memory Work:** #17, Second Article, Part 2

VICTORIOUS FAITH

(I John 5:4)

**Dear Father, see Thy children
At the threshold of the year.
Our lips would sing Thy praises,
But our hearts are full of fear.
Oh, may we hear Thy promise
Above the battle's din
That they who put their trust in Thee
The victory shall win.
For bombs may bring destruction
Wherever they are hurled,
But faith is God's own promise
That overcomes the world.**

**We think in terms of living
As if this life were all.
Our dreams are too earth-centered;
We whimper when they fall.
We build our little castles,
And worship at their shrine,
Forgetting we are pilgrims,
Living on borrowed time,
That heaven is our dwelling,
And earth our training ground.
O Father, purge and prune us
That righteous fruits abound.**

**Then will we trust Thy promise:
"Come unto Me and rest."
And "all things for God's children
Work ever for the best."
And yet again that promise,
Repeat it now with me:
"According to thy days, Child,
So shall thy strength e'er be."
And then whate'er destruction
Through sins of men is hurled,
Oh, ours shall be the vict'ry
That overcomes the world.**

From The Lutheran Witness of Dec. 8, 1953, poem by Esther A. Schumann.

I HOPE I AM GOING TO HEAVEN?

Frequently when one engages in a discussion of religion, one hears someone say, “I hope I am going to heaven” or “I think I will go to heaven, at least I hope so.” Such statements of uncertainty make the heart of a believer in Christ sorrowful.

Such expressions are often heard from individuals who fashion themselves religious, and perhaps even attend a church service somewhere. Even believers in Christ occasionally may have moments of concern about their salvation because Satan is always trying to turn confidence to doubt. The antidote to such satanic suggestions is to go back to the Scriptures. The Spirit of God Who brings hearts to faith in Christ through the Word of God also chases away doubt through the same Word. Satan cannot overcome the truth of Scripture or the power of the Gospel.

As we try to analyze the reasons for the miserable expressions of uncertainty of those who do not know and perhaps have never known for sure, we might conclude that reason gets in the way of believing the clear words of Scripture which tell us that Jesus died for all people. So what does Scripture expressly say? It tells us that Jesus, the perfect Sacrifice, died for the “ungodly” (Romans 5:6). He died for the sins “of all” (2 Corinthians 5:15). John and Paul tell us that God loved and reconciled the world (John 3:16, 2 Corinthians 5:19). Uncertainty of one’s salvation certainly cannot be blamed upon a lack of information or an unclear message!

Another underlying cause of uncertainty is rooted in a work righteous mentality. If one labors under the delusion that he must earn his way to heaven in whole or in part, he cannot ever be sure of salvation. They who labor under the yoke of the law must forever be in the prison house of uncertainty because they can never be confident that they have done enough to satisfy the wrath of God. What a burden to bear!

Scripture however is clear in regard to the cause of eternal salvation. It declares, “*By grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God*” (Ephesians 2:8). “... Knowing that a man is *not justified by works of the law but by faith in Jesus Christ ... for by the works of the law no flesh shall be justified*” (Galatians 2:16). “For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, being *justified freely by His grace* through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus ... Therefore we conclude that a man is *justified by faith apart from the deeds of the law*” (Romans 3:24-25, 28). And finally “... *Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy He saved us* through the washing or regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior that having been *justified by His grace* we should become heirs according to the hope of eternal life” (Titus 3:5-7).

Upon the cross Jesus declared, “It is finished” (John 19:30). If a task is finished what is left to do? Each of those passages from God’s Word is clear, and subject to no interpretation. Not by works—but *by grace through faith in Christ Jesus* we are saved.

Lest someone now wrongfully conclude that works are not important in the Christian life we simply say, “Works are fruits of faith born of the Gospel; they are evidence of faith. They are not pathways or stepping stones to heaven!”

So then how can we be certain that we are saved? The first answer is simply put, “Believe the Scripture,” because they are they which testify of Christ (John 5:39). Jesus said, “He that believes and is baptized *shall be saved*” (Mark 16:16). To Martha Jesus said, “... And whoever lives and believes in **Me** shall never die. Do you believe this” (John 11:25)? Martha responded that she believed that He was the Christ, the Son of God. And what did the Son of God say? He said that whoever believes in Him should not perish but *have* everlasting life (John 3:16). Scripture – the Word of God – is the Savior’s voice, and He says, “My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. And *I give* them eternal life, and they shall never perish, *neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand*” (John 10:27-28). The apostle John wrote the inspired Word which says, “These things I have written *to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know* that you have eternal life and that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God” (1 John 5:13).

The Heavenly Father accepted the sacrifice of Jesus as sufficient! Our salvation was assured, sealed, and confirmed by the resurrection of the Lord Jesus from the dead. Jesus Who by His atonement paid for our sin freely by His grace and mercy has laid up for us an “inheritance ... that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you” (1 Peter 1:4) who are kept by the power of God through faith.

He who does not believe that the Bible is the Word of God or who does not believe the words and promises of God has no source of certainty and no anchor to which to attach hope. On the other hand, they who believe that the Bible is the Word of God and that the risen, living Christ is their Savior *have* such an anchor and have hope. They can say with Paul, “I know whom I have believed and am persuaded that He is able to keep what I have committed unto him over against that day” (2 Timothy 1:12). Because the Lord Jesus made full atonement, for sin and opened paradise to all who believe, and because God who promised cannot lie, they who believe can say, “**I know I am going to heaven.**” No doubt about it!

✠ TODAY AT GRACE ✠

Organist: Janelle Hein Elder: Larry Nelson
Ushers: Larry Brandt, Roger Brandt, Charles Davis,
 Nick Duehlmeier, Dale Enns, Lynn Sandhoefner,
 Ned Sandhoefner
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: Kirkham School Cleaners: Hein

✠ NEXT WEEK AT GRACE ✠

Ushers: Larry Brandt, Roger Brandt, Charles Davis,
 Nick Duehlmeier, Dale Enns, Lynn Sandhoefner,
 Ned Sandhoefner
Counting Team 2: Gary Gunther; Bill Rust; Bob Vandever;
 Clint Welker; Mark Wales
Hospitality Team 6: Richard & Shauna Rhinesmith; Brian &
 Maureen Eichstadt; Brandt Wendland
Church Cleaners: ? School Cleaners: A. Baker

✠ OUR SCHEDULE ✠

Sun., Jan. 13: 9:00 am –Bible Class & Sunday School
 10:00 am – Worship Service (Epiphany 1)
 11:15 am – Hospitality; 12:00 pm – Council Meeting
Tue., Jan. 15: Christian Day School – St. Paul City Ballet Field Trip
Wed., Jan. 16: 4:30 pm – Catechism for Public School Students
 7:00 pm – Midweek Bible Class
Sat., Jan. 19: 9:00 am – Quilt Day
Sun., Jan. 20: 9:00 am –Bible Class & Sunday School
 10:00 am – Worship Service (Epiphany 2)
 11:15 am – Hospitality
 11:30 am – Voters & Dorcas Guild Meetings
Sat., Jan. 26: 9:00 am – Grace Work Day

Last Week's Stats: Jan. 6, 2013 Sun.: 131 S.S.: ? B.Cl.: 41

Sun. Offering:	Grace:	\$3,368.00	CLC:	\$960.00
Weekly Need:	Grace:	3,000.00	CLC:	960.00
-Under / +Over:	Grace:	+368.00	CLC:	+0.00
Other Offerings:	Living Faith:	0.00	Tuition Aid:	110.00
GLC Other: 2.00	MDF:	200.00*	Kinship:	100.00
ILC Student Aid: 25.00	ILC Bldg.	75.00	IIF: 0.00	CEF: 50.00

* \$30 Charlotte Dick Memorial

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