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# Grace Lutheran Church & School



460 75<sup>th</sup> Ave. NE

Fridley, MN 55432

Email: [jphein@clclutheran.com](mailto:jphein@clclutheran.com)

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

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-8<sup>th</sup>

Church Year: Easter 7 (Sun. after Ascension)

Date: May 4, 2008

## † THE ORDER OF WORSHIP †

Worship Preparation: ..... *Psalm 8, TLH p. 124*

Hymn: ..... *TLH 213: Hail the Day that Sees Him Rise*

Liturgy: ..... *TLH, p. 15 ff. (Also available on laminated sheet in pew)*

Introit (followed by Gloria Patri, The Kyrie): ..... *TLH, pp. 16-17*

P: Sing with joy to God, all the earth!

C: Sing to the glory of His name; offer Him glory and praise!

P: Praise our God, O peoples, let the sound of His praise be heard;

C: He has preserved our lives and kept our feet from slipping.

P: Praise be to God, who has not rejected my prayer ...

C: Or withheld His love from me! Glory be to God!

Gloria in Excelsis: ..... *TLH 199, st. 4*

Sing we to our God above, Alleluia!

Praise eternal as His love: Alleluia!

Praise Him, all ye heavenly host, Alleluia!

Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Alleluia!

CDS Children: ..... *TLH 51: Now May He Who From the Dead*

First Reading: ..... *Acts 1:1-14*

The disciples return with joy after Jesus' ascension.

Gradual:

P: Christ has risen from the dead.

C: God the Father has crowned Him with glory and honor.

P: He has made Him ruler over the works of His hands;

C: He has put everything under His feet.

P: Alleluia. Alleluia. Since Christ was raised from the dead, He cannot die again;

C: Death no longer has mastery over Him. Alleluia.

Second Reading: ..... *1 Peter 4:12-17; 5:6-11*

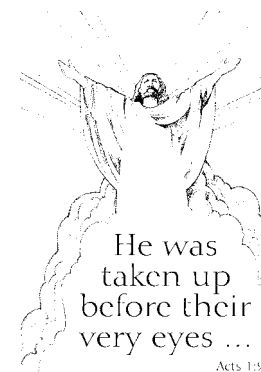
As Christians, we won't have an easy life due to the devil and persecution.

Confession of Faith: ..... *Nicene Creed, TLH p. 22*

Hymn: ..... *WS 757: Christ Triumphant, Ever Reigning*

Sermon: ..... *John 17:1-5*

(1) Jesus spoke these words, lifted up His eyes to heaven, and said: "Father, the hour has come. Glorify Your Son, that Your Son also may glorify You, (2) "as You have given Him authority over all flesh, that He should give eternal life to as many as You have given Him. (3) "And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent. (4) "I have glorified You on the earth. I have finished the work which You have given Me to do. (5) "And now, O Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was. (NKJV<sup>TM</sup>)



## "CREDIT TO WHOM CREDIT IS DUE"

Offertory: ..... *TLH p. 22 f.*

Hymn: ..... *TLH 212, st. 1-5: A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing*

Offering & Prayer:

Liturgy for the Lord's Supper: ..... *TLH p. 24 ff.*

Distribution: ..... *TLH 315*

Note: In obedience to God's Word, and out of concern for the welfare of souls (1 Corinthians 11:29), and finally that we may honestly express the unity of faith and hope that binds us, we ask that only such as have identified with Grace through public confession of faith or another CLC congregation, approach the altar at the usher's direction.

Nunc Dimittis, Prayer, Benediction: ..... *TLH 29 ff.*

Hymn: ..... *TLH 212, st. 6-7: A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing*

*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!*

## † THE ANNOUNCEMENTS †

- ◆ **Among Us:** This past week Lyle Trulin was released from Methodist.
- ◆ **Confirmation:** Confirmation will be on May 18<sup>th</sup>. The students are Karie Davis, Rachel Rhinesmith, Dylan Stifter, and Matthew Vandever. May the Lord bless their preparations.
- ◆ **Graduation Recognition:** On May 25 we will be recognizing the graduates from the congregation. If you are graduating, please list your name (and degree if in college) on the sheet by the guest book.
- ◆ **The Branches:** Last chance to renew your subscription, or to become a new subscriber, to this quarterly magazine for women of all ages. Please sign the subscription request list by the guest book. The \$12.00 subscription cost is covered by the congregation.
- ◆ **ILC Spring Concert:** This year's concert is being held in a different location, Messiah Lutheran Church rather than in the campus fieldhouse. Over against the fieldhouse Messiah's new sanctuary features at least three desirable elements for a concert of sacred song (all beginning with "A"): good acoustics, aesthetics, and air-conditioning. Messiah is located at 2015 N. Hastings Way, Eau Claire, WI. The concert will be on May 23, 7:30 pm.
- ◆ **Spokesman Editor:** There is an unfortunate, glaring omission of the word "not" in one sentence on page 15 of the May issue just out. It was the editor's fault, not the original writer's. The last sentence of the first paragraph should read: "To try to answer what Scripture does NOT answer would involve..." Other lesser mistakes in the same issue would be 1) the EYES have it--beneath the clip art on p. 3; 2) "wilderness" in the photo caption, p. 13.
- ◆ **CLC News:** Gloria Wilke and Debi Leinberger have both accepted their calls to teach the lower grade children of Gethsemane in Saginaw, MI. Pastor Paul Larsen is scheduled to have back surgery on May 6. Pastor Tom Schuetze continues to recover with relatives in Mankato. He plans to return to Coloma in mid-May. Chris Fossum, wife of Pastor Vance Fossum, continues to struggle with her bone cancer. Pastor Michael Schierenbeck continues to remain stable until such time as he needs a bone marrow transplant. Please remember these servants of the Word in your prayers.
- ◆ **Sunday School Memory Work:** #32 – Second & Third Petitions.

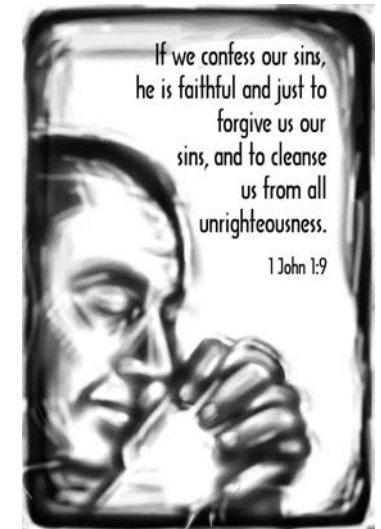
Last Week's Stats: Apr. 27, 2008		Sun.: 119	S.S.: 24	B.Cl.: 43	
Sun. Offering:	Grace:	3,197.16	CLC:	900.00	
Thu. Offering:	Grace:	336.00	CLC:	50.00	
Weekly Need:	Grace:	3,225.00	CLC:	1,000.00	
-Under / +Over:	Grace:	+308.16	CLC:	-50.00	
Year-to-Date Offering::	Grace:	52,207.16	CLC:	17,179.35	
Year-to-Date Need:	Grace:	54,825.00	CLC:	17,000.00	
Year-to-Date (+/-)	Grace:	-2,617.84	CLC:	+179.35	
Other Offerings:	Living Faith:	5.00	Tuition:	25.00	
GLC Other:	100.00	MDF:	25.00	Kinship:	105.67
ILC Student Aid:	100.00	ILC Bldg.	40.00	IIF: 0.00	CEF: 26.00

## I AM SORRY ... IF:

In this interminably long political campaign, emotions have run high, tempers have flared, and political discourse has plummeted frequently into a black hole. This is nothing new in this political season or for that matter in society generally. Except that issues that must be addressed are serious, this political season has afforded some comic relief through the accusations that have been made and the comments that are offered as an apology. In the course of it all what has been exposed is an all too pervasive attitude of the sin-corrupted heart that is part of the fallen nature of us all.

“Sin” – the transgression of God’s law - is a small word with consequences. “The wages of sin is death” (Romans 6:23). Impenitence, the unwillingness to acknowledge and confess sin before God, carries with it the curse of eternal death. Of course, the subject of sin, confession, and its consequence is of little interest to those who reject God’s Word (the Law), and have only disdain for God (the Lawgiver). They cannot appreciate God’s Word (the Gospel), or God’s Son, Jesus Christ (the Savior from sin). They come to everlasting condemnation.

Scripture tells us, “He that covers his sins shall not prosper ...” (Proverbs 28: 13). This is of course of no concern to those who deny the reality of sin. The verse goes on, “But whoso confesses and forsakes them shall have mercy.” This is meaningless to those who will not confess. We read also, “If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us” (1 John 1: 8 – 10).



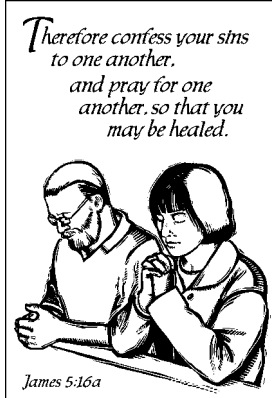
So what is confession? Confession involves the acknowledgement of sin. Confession in its entirety includes “that we receive absolution or forgiveness ...” (Luther’s *Small Catechism*). Furthermore as we confess our sins to the Lord in the confidence of forgiveness through our Lord Jesus Christ, the Christ believer will accede to the Word which declares, “Confess your faults one to another, and pray for one another ...” (James 5: 16). Particularly we will confess those sins to one another that burden the conscience. We will do this to make things right with the neighbor against whom we have sinned, but above all that we might be relieved in our conscience through the blessed message of forgiveness in our Lord Who died to take away our sin, and Whose blood has washed us clean.

He who honestly confesses his sin does not try to justify it, excuse it, or spin it. True confession comes clean before God. Israel did not find relief until it said, “We have sinned, for we have spoken against the Lord and against thee” (Number 21: 7). David, to his own discomfort (Psalm 32), tried to cover his sin. When confronted by Nathan, the prophet of the Lord, David confessed it. In the 51<sup>st</sup> Psalm he said, “For I acknowledge my transgressions: and my sin is ever before me. Against Thee, Thee only have I sinned, and done this evil in Thy sight ...” (vv. 3, 4). Upon his confession, David found comfort in that “Thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin” (Psalm 32:5).

Confession and apology are not the same thing. Confession involves acknowledgement of sin. Apology is the expression of remorse at some misdeed or wrongdoing. Confession includes faith in the forgiveness of sin. Apology or remorse frequently is nothing more than that. As Christ believers are to live honestly before all, we will honestly acknowledge our sin and/or wrongdoing against our neighbor when we have wronged him. Our sorrow will manifest itself through seeking to make amends if possible.

This brings us back to our political reference. More than once things have been said for which someone felt it politically expedient to apologize. But what of these apologies? What kind of apology is it whether out of the mouth of a politician or our own mouth one says, “If I offended anyone ... if I hurt anyone’s feelings ... if I upset anyone ... if I used an expression that troubles you, I apologize.”

That is neither an apology nor a confession. Such a manner of speech basically says, “I said what I said and I meant what I said, but I am sorry you are offended.” Such an apology is not only not an acknowledgment of a wrong, but is rather a veiled suggestion that the real sin is not that of the perpetrator of the word or deed, but of the one who was offended. The offended one should not have been so sensitive. His being offended becomes the sin.



Imagine Israel saying to Moses and God, “If we hurt your feelings or if we offended you we are sorry ...” Or David saying, “God, if I offended you, I am sorry.” The prodigal son did *not* say in Luke 15, “I will arise and go to my father, and will say unto him, ‘if I have offended you ...’” Instead he said, “I will arise and go to my father, and will say unto him, Father, *I have sinned* against heaven, and before thee, and am no more worthy to be called thy son: make me as one of thy hired servants ... And the son said unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and in thy sight, and am no more worthy to be called thy son” (Luke 15: 11 – 32).

Before God, the ultimate Judge of all, recognize that all your righteousnesses are as filthy rags (Isaiah 64:6). Examine your life in the mirror of God’s law and say honestly, “Heavenly Father, I have sinned against you in thought, in word, and in deed. I am sorry for my sin against you. Forgive me for Jesus’ sake.” That is true sorrow and a meaningful confession. Then believe that for Jesus’ sake the Heavenly Father has indeed put away your sin.

To live peaceably with all speak and live honestly; to find the peace which is God’s will for you in Christ, make straightforward confession to Him Who says “Be of good cheer, Thy sins be forgiven thee.” Our Father’s word of grace and forgiveness in Christ is unconditional! Let our confession and sorrow be without evasion or dissembling.

Written by Rev. Daniel Fleischer, 4/27/2008

## † TODAY AT GRACE †

Organist: Maureen Ochsner      Elder: Dave Rust

Ushers: Al Rosendahl, John Auel, Scott Baker, David Stifter, Lyle Trulin, Micheal Ude

Counting Team 1: Dan Degnan; Larry Nelson; Phil Radichel; Ryan Libby

Hospitality Team 7: Richard & Shauna Rhinesmith; Brian & Maureen Eichstadt; Brandt Wendland

Church Cleaners: Degnan      School Cleaners: ??

## † NEXT WEEK AT GRACE †

Ushers: Mike Dick, Larry Brandt, Roger Brandt, Scott Dauer, Dale Enns, Lynn Sandhoefner

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

Hospitality Team 1: Phil & Jackie Radichel; Lynn & Janice Sandhoefner

Church Cleaners: Degnan      School Cleaners: Sandhoefner

## † OUR SCHEDULE †

**Today:** 9:00 am – Sunday School & Bible Class  
10:00 am – Worship Service w/ Lord's Supper (Easter 7)  
11:00 am – Hospitality; 12:00 pm – Council Meeting  
4:00, 5:00 pm – Grace Softball Games (Field #4)

**Wed., May 7:** 4:00 pm – Catechism for Public School Students  
6:30 pm – Confirmation Exam Preparation

**Sun., May 11:** 8:30 am – Choir Practice  
9:00 am – Sunday School & Bible Class  
10:00 am – Worship Service (Pentecost)  
11:00 am – Hospitality

**Sun., May 18:** Confirmation Day (K. Davis; R. Rhinesmith; D. Stifter; M. Vandever)

**Fri., May 23:** 3:00 pm – ILC Class Day  
7:30 pm – ILC Spring Concert @ Messiah Lutheran

**Sat., May 24:** 10:00 am – ILC Graduation

**Sun., May 25:** 9:00 am – Summer Worship Schedule Begins  
Graduation Recognition

**Thu., May 29:** 7:00 pm – Grace School Program (Brer Rabbit)



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