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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)

**Phone:** 763-784-8784

**Principal:** Ryan Libby (Ph. 763-784-6340)

**Grades:** Kindergarten-8<sup>th</sup>

**Church Year:** Pentecost 8

**Date:** July 6, 2008

## † THE ORDER OF WORSHIP †

**Worship Preparation:** ..... *Psalm 2, TLH p. 123*

**Hymn:** ..... *TLH 575: Before the Lord We Bow*

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

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

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 377, st. 10*

**All blessing, honor, thanks, and praise To Father, Son, and Spirit,**

**The God that saved us by His grace, - All glory to His merit!**

**O Triune God in heaven above, Who hast revealed Thy saving love, Thy blessed name be hallowed.**

**First Reading:** ..... *Psalm 2*

God sets His Son as the One over all, including kings.

### 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:** ..... *Matthew 17:24-27*

Jesus pays His taxes, understanding that even He was under authority.

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

**Hymn:** ..... *TLH 584: Swell the Anthem, Raise the Song*

**Sermon:** ..... *Romans 13:1-5*

(1) Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God. (2) Therefore whoever resists the authority resists the ordinance of God, and those who resist will bring judgment on themselves. (3) For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to evil. Do you want to be unafraid of the authority? Do what is good, and you will have praise from the same. (4) For he is God's minister to you for good. But if you do evil, be afraid; for he does not bear the sword in vain; for he is God's minister, an avenger to execute wrath on him who practices evil. (5) Therefore *you* must be subject, not only because of wrath but also for conscience' sake. (NKJV™)

### ***"BE SUBJECT TO THE GOVERNING AUTHORITIES"***

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

**Hymn:** ..... *TLH 339: All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name*

### **Offering & Prayer:**

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

**Distribution:** ..... *Meditative Music*

**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 577: God Bless Our Native Land*

*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!*



**3. Faith's basis is Christ and His work** - Job could have had such a response because he knew his faith was based on a living God. He said For I know that my Redeemer lives, And He shall stand at last on the earth; {26} And after my skin is destroyed, this I know, That in my flesh I shall see God, {27} Whom I shall see for myself, And my eyes shall behold, and not another. How my heart yearns within me! Job confesses his faith in the resurrection of the body unto life everlasting.

That is where you may stand today, confident that your Redeemer lives. You can be certain that death did not contain Jesus in the grave. He defeated death. Job believed that this was going to happen. We believe that it has happened, but the only difference is the time in which we live. It is the same faith and the same foundation.

God saves by grace through this faith. Faith serves you well in life as you are able to stay firm and confident even when life is going poorly, but faith also serves you in death. Trusting in Jesus, you are connected to His death and resurrection. When you die in faith you die with the certainty that you will be raised again. We may praise God today certain that, though the body can be destroyed through time, and that it will return to dust, this will not stop our Redeemer from raising it to everlasting life.

## † THE ANNOUNCEMENTS †

- ♦ **Among Us:** Yesterday, Laura Hulke and Eli Wales were united in marriage. May their lifetime together as husband and wife be centered around God's holy Word and Christ's love.
- ♦ **Metro Ministry:** As indicated previously, the Elders of Grace and Berea have been meeting to discuss a joint ministry effort. This would be to call a third pastor in the metro area to potentially start a third congregation and to supplement the ministries at Berea and Grace. Last week the Voters of Berea met and approved the plan. We will be considering this at our July 20<sup>th</sup> meeting. Copies of the proposal have been dispersed in members' mailboxes. Please approach Pastor Hein or one of the Elders (Benno Sydow, Dave Rust, and Al Rosendahl) regarding any questions you might have.
- ♦ **Vacation Bible School:** On July 21-25, 9:00 - 11:30 am, we will be having our VBS. This includes children age 4 years, to children going into eighth grade. Please register your children on the sheet by the guest book.
- ♦ **CLC News:** Prof. Michael Sydow found out that surgery is not an option with his pancreatic cancer. He is still consulting doctors regarding treatment. Pastor Michael Schierenbeck will be beginning chemotherapy this Tues. in preparation for his bone marrow transplant. Pastor Jay Hartmann's daughter is suffering from cancer.



## PESSIMIST OR REALIST?

On a national holiday the collective spirits of a nation run high. There is a spirit of patriotism and renewal on such holidays as the 4<sup>th</sup> of July. Most citizens have a heartfelt appreciation for the blessings enjoyed in this land. There is a tinge of emotion when caring citizens hear the patriotic music and see the flag pass by in review. So it may seem a bit pessimistic and irreverent to suggest that ours is a nation in decline! Is that assessment correct? If so, is it born of pessimism, or is it an expression of objective realism? We are convinced that it is an objective assessment.

Buried not too deeply under the surface of the 4<sup>th</sup> of July patriotic expression and revelry is the reality of a nation that is factionalized. The melting pot concept in which this nation has heretofore prided itself has become a cauldron of unrest, distrust, and disrespect. With the multitude of gods –the gods of men's imagination and making are dumb idols (Isaiah 44) - "God bless America" has become hardly more than obligatory expression signifying nothing. How far we have declined is demonstrated by the fact that even within Christendom there are few anymore that will raise the voice of warning, but have instead been taken in by the spirit of the age. False teachers and heterodox churches have become enablers of evil! On the political front is an attitude of selfish pride and pursuit of personal power. On the moral front, foul-mouthed public discourse, promotion of homosexuality, open rebuttal of divinely instituted marriage, divorce, abortion, the drug culture, as well as the feminization of our culture bodes ill for the future of our nation. Of course in the world we are to expect this. The apostle Paul spoke of the things that are indicative of the last times (2 Timothy 3). All of which Paul speaks is of course foolishness to the blind – to those who reject the reality of the Triune God, and who are utterly disrespectful of His Word. David wrote the word of the Lord when he wrote, "The nations have sunk down in the pit which they made; In the net which they hid, their own foot is caught" (Psalm 9: 15). He also wrote, "Arise, O Lord, do not let man prevail; Let the nations be judged in your sight. Put them in fear, O Lord, that the nations may know themselves to be but men" (9:19, 20). The corrupter of society cannot heal it! May we be so bold as to take Jeremiah's word out of context for a moment and speak to this nation, "If you return, O Israel!" says the Lord, 'Return to Me; and if you will put away your abominations out of My sight, then you shall not be moved'" (Jeremiah 4:1).

Though not a-political, nevertheless, respectful of God's Word as well as our nation we will not turn the Gospel ministry or the church into political force. Our concern is for the souls of God's children lest they

become enamored with this world. Further, in this age of confusion we want to help them guard against despair. We are confident that to the ultimate benefit of His children the God of heaven and earth will bring to pass in every way what is His will. He will keep us here and finally take us from this vale of tears to Himself in heaven.

Christ believers will not quit the world, much less stop praying or working for the good of the nation. So long as it is possible before the Lord comes, we will care about our nation with a realism that recognizes that in its best state all the world is vanity. True concern about our nation as well as our own well being temporally and spiritually begins with personal repentance. As we recognize our inability to make ourselves right with the offended God, we will look outside of ourselves. Outside of ourselves we find Christ Jesus Who in His person is the divine face of God's love. The love of God in Christ Jesus is found on every page of the inspired Word, written that we may know that we have eternal life (1 John 5)! From the Word we know that He has forgiven our sins. While we sojourn here in a world that is dismissive of the Lord and His truth, we find our hope in His promises of eternal life.

The future of this world is known only to God who created it. We leave the nation's future in His hands. In the midst of this present evil world the children of God have a greater focus. We acknowledge that "our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ Who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able to subdue all things to Himself" (Philippians 3: 20, 21). We set our affections on things above where is peace and rest.

What God has promised, no nation or machinations of men can take from those who are in Christ!

Many of the cultures and nations that once existed are now history. So it will be for this nation. When all time is turned into history one nation shall in fact endure. It is the nation of God's special people (1 Peter 2:9) who through the ages have trusted in the living God, and who having been saved from this tribulation, have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb (Revelation 7:14). That is confident faith, based not on empty promises of men, but anchored in the victorious Christ Who has begotten us to a living hope by His resurrection from the dead, to an everlasting inheritance (1 Peter 1:3).

We are realistic about this world. ***In Christ we are confident of the next!***

## **The Value of Faith in Life and in Death**

(Adapted from a funeral sermon preached by Pastor Michael Schierenbeck – Included in CLC President John Schierenbeck's July Letter)

When things pile up in our lives or the lives of our members, we often compare ourselves or others to Job. However, most of the time we identify with Job's sufferings. Yet there is another similarity that is even more important to share with Job. This connection can also be there without suffering to the degree of Job or without suffering at all. That connection is faith in Jesus as your Savior God. Job knew suffering, but he knew the value of faith. Know the value of faith in life and in death. We go to the book of Job to learn from our Lord.

**1. Faith stands up to the challenge** - The beginning of the book of Job is quite interesting. We are told of a conversation between the Lord and Satan. The Lord said to Satan: Have you considered my servant Job, that there is none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, one who fears God and shuns evil? The devil countered with his own thoughts. The devil was of the opinion that if the Lord took away Job's great riches, and he was rich - we're told that he was the greatest man in the east - the devil figured that if Job lost that, then he would lose his faith. The devil was wrong. He shortchanged the value of faith. The Lord knew what Job's faith was based on and what it could withstand, and so He allowed Satan a long leash. He took away Job's wealth. He took away Job's health. But He did not allow Job's faith to be taken away. This was off-limits to Satan. The Lord would not allow Job to be tempted beyond what he was able. We think it would be easy to be a follower of Jesus when everything goes well. It is not. Good times have their own challenges. True faith does not depend on how much we have or do not have. Remember that the Lord's ultimate goal is to take you to heaven, and He is most certainly not working to destroy your faith or drive you away from Him.

**2. Faith reacts with praise in adversity** - When you have faith you can have a much different reaction to tragedy compared to someone without faith. We find this in the book of Job as well. When all of these things were occurring, answers based on something other than faith were proffered. Job's wife said, "Curse God and die!" Blame God for your troubles! Be bitter, be angry and give up. Job's friends gathered together with him and offered him non-faith-based advice. They thought that Job had all of this coming, that he had sinned in some great fashion, and God was punishing him. They thought that he was a fool. And they had other suggestions that were based on logic rather than on faith. You are offered some choices today as well. You can get angry at God. You can become bitter. You can give up. But those are not reactions based on faith. Let's see how faith responds: Job said, Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked shall I return there. The LORD gave, and the LORD has taken away; Blessed be the name of the LORD. An unusual response? You bet! But faith is unusual. With it you are able to see the goodness and mercy of God.

## † TODAY AT GRACE †

Organist: Janelle Hein Elder: Benno Sydow

Ushers: Pat Paplow, Gerald Anderson, Dan Degnan, Matt Dick, Brandon Paplow, Andrew Rosendahl

Counting Team 5: Mike Dick; Brad Kitzman; Ed Lentz; Roger Ochsner

Church Cleaners: Hein

## † NEXT WEEK AT GRACE †

Ushers: Roger Ochsner, Don Dahlin, Jeremiah Boe, Bob Maki, Joel Stifter, Arnold Gehrls

Counting Team 5: Mike Dick; Brad Kitzman; Ed Lentz; Roger Ochsner

Church Cleaners: Hein

## † OUR SCHEDULE †

**Today:** 9:00 am – Worship Service w/ Lord's Supper  
No Softball

**Sun., July 13:** 9:00 am – Worship Service  
11:00 am – Council Meeting  
4:00, 5:00 pm – Grace Softball Games (Field #4)

**Sun., July 20:** Quarterly Voters Meeting

**July 21-25:** Vacation Bible School

<b>Last Week's Stats:</b> June 29, 2008		Sun.: 92	
Sun. Offering:	Grace:	3,436.25	CLC: 700.00
Weekly Need:	Grace:	3,225.00	CLC: 1,000.00
-Under / +Over:	Grace:	+211.25	CLC: -300.00
Year-to-Date Offering::	Grace:	77,992.17	CLC: 25,029.35
Year-to-Date Need:	Grace:	83,850.00	CLC: 26,000.00
Year-to-Date (+/-)	Grace:	-5,857.83	CLC: -970.65
Other Offerings:	Living Faith:	1.00	Tuition: 127.00
GLC Other:	MDF:	3.00	Kinship: 50.00
ILC Student Aid:	ILC Bldg.	1,021.00*	IIF: 11.00 CEF: 25.00

\*\$1,000 in memory of Chris Fossum

For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; *it is* the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast. - Ephesians 2:8-9

# GRACE

## Grace Lutheran Church & School



*For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God. Romans 13:1*