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Grace Lutheran Church & School



460 75th Ave. NE

Fridley, MN 55432

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Home Page: 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-8th

Church Year: Pentecost 23

Date: November 8, 2009

† THE ORDER OF WORSHIP †

Worship Preparation: *Psalm 116, TLH p. 148*

Hymn: *TLH 279: Today Thy Mercy Calls Us*

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

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

P: I will extol the Lord at all times, His praise will always be on my lips.

C: My soul will boast in the Lord, let the afflicted hear and rejoice.

P: Glorify the Lord with me;

C: Let us exalt His name together.

P: I sought the Lord, and He answered me;

C: He delivered me from all my fears.

P: The righteous cry out, and the Lord hears them;

C: He delivers them from all their troubles. Glory be to God!

Gloria in Excelsis: *TLH 570, st. 1, 8*

1. Praise, oh, praise our God and King, Hymns of adoration sing; For His mercies still endure, Ever faithful, ever sure.	8. Glory to our bounteous King, Glory let creation sing; Glory to the Father, Son, And the Spirit, Three in One!
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Children: *TLH 285: How Precious Is the Book Divine*

First Reading: *Isaiah 50:4-10*

A prophecy of the shame our Savior would experience by His enemies during His Passion. In response He would react in mercy toward them.

Gradual:

P: These are they who have come out of the great tribulation;

C: They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

P: Blessed are those whose strength is in you,

C: Who have set their hearts on pilgrimage.

P: Alleluia. Alleluia. This is the Lord, we trusted in Him;

C: Let us rejoice and be glad in His salvation. Alleluia.

Second Reading: *Mark 8:27-35*

As Jesus looks to the cross He must bear for our sakes, He reminds us that those who believe in Him shall bear their own cross when following Him.

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

Hymn: *WS 779: Redeemed, Restored, Forgiven*

Sermon: *James 2:1-13*

(1) My brethren, do not hold the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, *the Lord* of glory, with partiality. (2) For if there should come into your assembly a man with gold rings, in fine apparel, and there should also come in a poor man in filthy clothes, (3) and you pay attention to the one wearing the fine clothes and say to him, "You sit here in a good place," and say to the poor man, "You stand there," or, "Sit here at my footstool," (4) have you not shown partiality among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts? (5) Listen, my beloved brethren: Has God not chosen the poor of this world *to be* rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom which He promised to those who love Him? (6) But you have dishonored the poor man. Do not the rich oppress you and drag you into the courts? (7) Do they not blaspheme that noble name by which you are called? (8) If you really fulfill *the* royal law according to the Scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself," you do well; (9) but if you show partiality, you commit sin, and are convicted by the law as transgressors. (10) For whoever shall keep the whole law, and yet stumble in one *point*, he is guilty of all. (11) For He who said, "Do not commit adultery," also said, "Do not murder." Now if you do not commit adultery, but you do murder, you have become a transgressor of the law. (12) So speak and so do as those who will be judged by the law of liberty. (13) For judgment is without mercy to the one who has shown no mercy. Mercy triumphs over judgment.

Mercy Triumphs Over Judgment in the Church

Offertory: *TLH p. 12 f.*

Hymn: *TLH 464: Blest Be the Tie That Binds*

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

Hymn: *TLH 20: God of Mercy, God of Grace*

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!

WHO IS TRULY LUTHERAN (II)? Before answering the question we do well to define the term “Christian.” A Christian is one who believes in the forgiveness of sins through the blood atonement of the Lord Jesus Christ. This faith and confidence is not part of the natural human heart, but a consequence of the Gospel through which the Holy Spirit creates the faith that confesses, “I believe in God the Father ... and in Jesus Christ ... and in the Holy Ghost.” One is not a Christian because he is perfect in his mortal state, but because he is pardoned through the substitutionary atonement of the Lord Jesus Christ. From such faith flows the life of sanctification — Christian living — which glorifies our Heavenly Father Who has begotten us again unto a living hope through the resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ from the dead (1 Peter 1:3-9).

To the continuation of genuine Christianity and the Christian’s hope, the Word of God is essential. Apart from that Word there would be no Christianity! Furthermore, apart from the Word of salvation there is no genuinely Christian life. Martin Luther said, “I am continually saying that our entire life and all our works must conform to God’s Word if they are to be considered God-pleasing and holy” (WLS, Vol. I, para. 633, p. 214). Luther also maintained that a Christian accepts the Word of God without question: “Christians should simply cling to the Word alone and not argue as to whether God is lying or telling the truth. They are simply to believe it because Christ says it” (Para.634).

So then who is truly Lutheran? That Christian is truly Lutheran who — as Martin Luther implied — remains loyal to Scripture! “The perfectly pure, the only, and the certain Word of God must be the foundation of our faith” (WLS, Vol. II. Para.2693, p. 863). No honest Lutheran would deny Luther’s comment. But here is where a problem arises. Not all within Lutheranism agree on what is Scripture. Consequently not all agree on what constitutes loyalty to Scripture.

For us the whole Bible is the inspired, unerring Word of God. What God transmitted to the prophets and apostles was the Word of God, is the Word of God, and shall forever remain the Word of God. Therefore not a single Word of Scripture can be denied without doing violence to the whole of Scripture. For us loyalty to Scripture means that without reservation, evasion, or recasting, we confess

and teach the Bible. We are not among those who believe that the divine Word is subject to revision for our time. To suggest so is heresy. This is our confession. It is truly Lutheran! Martin Luther declared, “Nor should we let men toy with Scripture, juggle the Word of God, and make it submit to being explained, twisted, stretched, and revised to suit people or to achieve peace and union; for then there should be no secure or stable foundation on which consciences might rely” (WLS, Vol.III, para. 4770, p.1475). They who deny that the whole of Scripture is the Word of God make God a liar!

However, even among Lutherans who profess respect for the Word of God and who hold legitimate concerns about the direction of Lutheranism are those who for reasons of their own still pick and choose what they want to believe and practice from Scripture. For example, a sizeable group within the ELCA is upset over that church’s approval of homosexual pastors and homosexual unions. Some of those are leaving the ELCA. Yet they continue to ordain women into the pastoral ministry, and engage in unionism — joint worship without unity in doctrine and teaching — as well as in open communion practice. Though they claim that Scripture is the only and final authority in matters of doctrine, they have adapted themselves to modern interpretations and practices rejected by their fathers.

We make no judgment regarding the salvation of such in that salvation is the gracious gift of God the Father to all who hold fast to Christ and believe in the forgiveness of sins through faith in the merit and atonement of Christ. Nevertheless, we repeat with respect to them — and ourselves for that matter — they are truly Lutheran who remain steadfast in the Word of God in all doctrines that He has set forth in Scripture, and which further are confessed in the accepted confessions of the Lutheran Church set forth in the *Book of Concord* of 1580.

True Lutherans give more than lip service to the name “Lutheran” and to the doctrines confessed in the Augsburg Confession, which is the defining confession of true Lutheranism.

Without reservation — with the Augsburg Confession — true Lutherans teach from Scripture that:

1. God is Triune: Father, Son, and Holy Ghost
2. All since the fall of Adam and begotten in the natural way are born with sin
3. Christ, true God, assumed the human nature being conceived of the Holy Ghost through the virgin Mary (see Apostolic Creed).
4. All people are justified, and their sins are forgiven for Christ's sake, Who by His death has made satisfaction for our sins.
5. The ministry of the Word and Sacraments was instituted for the proclamation of the Word through which the Holy Spirit creates faith
6. This Spirit-engendered faith produces fruits of faith (good works)
7. The Church is the congregation of Christ-believers (Saints) in which the Gospel is rightly taught and the sacraments rightly administered. Its unity is maintained through the Word and Sacraments, not human rites or traditions
8. The Church consists of all believers in Christ, and only believers. It shall endure forever
9. Baptism administers the grace of God, and children are to be baptized
10. The body and blood of Christ are truly present in the Sacrament, and are distributed in, with, and under the bread and wine.
11. Private confession and absolution is retained in the church
12. Repentance consists of contrition (sorrow) and faith in Christ's atonement
13. The Sacraments awaken and confirm faith in those who use them
14. No one should publicly teach in the Church who is not regularly called
15. Customs and traditions are observed that do not burden consciences, and which serve good order in the Church.
16. It is right for Christians to hold civil office
17. Christ will return at the end of time to judge all - believers to heaven, unbelievers to hell
18. Humans possess free will in civil matters, but without the Spirit not in spiritual
19. The cause of sin is the will of the wicked, that is of the devil, and the ungodly

20. Good works cannot reconcile to God, for the sinner is saved by grace through faith in Christ alone
21. We may follow the faith and example of the saints, but do not venerate them

These and whatever other doctrines are set forth in Scripture are to be believed and faithfully taught in the Lutheran Church. Luther said in his day, "Let him who does not want Scripture stick to his own. We want Christ and not the pope" (WLS, Vol. III, para 3766, p. 1178). Let those who choose go their own way. For our part we have no intent to disassociate ourselves from Luther and the doctrine he set forth from Scripture. As we are Christian, God help us to remain truly Lutheran!

Written by Rev. Daniel Fleischer, 11/1/2009

† ***THE ANNOUNCEMENTS*** †

- ◆ **Voters Meeting:** A special Voters meeting is scheduled for Sunday, November 22, to discuss the 2010 budget proposal.
- ◆ **Thanksgiving Eve Service:** Our Thanksgiving service will be on Wed., Nov. 25, 7 pm.
- ◆ **Christmas Eve Service:** If you haven't already done so, please let pastor know if your children will participate in this year's Christmas Eve service.
- ◆ **Church Cleaning:** There are a few weeks in November in which volunteers are needed for cleaning.
- ◆ **Mission Calendars:** 2010 calendars are available which focus on our CLC missions. If you would like one, please make a \$3 donation to the MDF. Copies are available below the mailboxes.
- ◆ **Eden Prairie Worship:** Regular Sunday morning services are being held at 9:00 am in Eden Prairie, MN, as an outreach effort in the southwest area of the Twin Cities. Fliers are by the guest book.
- ◆ **CLC News:** Morning Star Lutheran, Fairchild, WI, has called Rev. Philip Matzke, member at Immanuel in Mankato, MN, to be its pastor. † Messiah Lutheran, Eau Claire, WI, has called Pastor Bruce Naumann of Grace at Sleepy Eye, MN, to be its second pastor.
- ◆ **Sunday School Memory Work:** #10. Eighth Commandment

† TODAY AT GRACE †

Organist: Jan Davis

Elder: Frank Radichel

Ushers: Benno Sydow, Brian Eichstadt, Gary Gunther, Rich Rhinesmith, Jeff Stifter, Larry Nelson

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

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

Church Cleaners: Sandhoefner School Cleaners: Teachers

† NEXT WEEK AT GRACE †

Ushers: Benno Sydow, Brian Eichstadt, Gary Gunther, Rich Rhinesmith, Jeff Stifter, Larry Nelson

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

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

Church Cleaners: Any Volunteers? School Cleaners: Maki

† OUR SCHEDULE †

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

Wed., Nov. 11: 4:00-5:45 pm – Catechism for Public School Students
7:00 pm – Midweek Bible Class

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

Sun., Nov. 22: 10:30 am – Voters Meeting (2010 Budget)

Wed., Nov. 25: 7:00 pm – Thanksgiving Eve Worship

Last Week's Stats: Nov. 1, 2009 Sun.: 124 S.S.: ?? B.Cl.: 42 Wed.: 20

Sun. Offering:	Grace:	\$3,574.79	CLC:	\$791.00
Weekly Need:	Grace:	3,300.00	CLC:	1,000.00
-Under / +Over:	Grace:	+274.79	CLC:	-244.00
Year-to-Date Offering::	Grace:	128,889.23	CLC:	39,828.40
Year-to-Date Need:	Grace:	145,200.00	CLC:	44,000.00
Year-to-Date (+/-)	Grace:	-16,310.77	CLC:	-4,171.60
Other Offerings:	Living Faith:	91.00	Tuition:	42.00
GLC Other: 42.00	MDF:	264.00	Kinship:	50.00
ILC Student Aid: 0.00	ILC Bldg.	91.00	IIF: 16.00	CEF: 16.00

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Blessed
are the
merciful:
for they shall
obtain mercy.

Matthew 5:7