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*Grace Lutheran Church & School*



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Home Page: [www.CLCGraceLutheranChurch.org](http://www.CLCGraceLutheranChurch.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-8<sup>th</sup>  
 Church Year: Lent 5 Date: March 25, 2012

✠ **THE ORDER OF WORSHIP** ✠

**Worship Preparation:** ..... *Psalm 110, TLH p. 146*

**Hymn:** ..... *TLH 166: Savior, When in Dust to Thee*

**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 love the Lord, for He heard my voice;

**C: He heard my cry for mercy.**

P: Because He turned His ear to me,

**C: I will call upon Him as long as I live.**

P: For You, O Lord, have delivered my soul from death,

**C: My eyes from tears, my feet from stumbling. Glory be to God!**

**Gloria in Excelsis:** ..... *TLH 246, st. 1,4: Holy, Holy, Holy*

**1. Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!**

**Early in the morning our song shall rise to Thee;**

**Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty!**

**God in Three Persons, blessed Trinity!**

**4. Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!**

**All Thy works shall praise Thy name**

**in earth and sky and sea.**

**Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty!**

**God in Three Persons, blessed Trinity!**

**First Reading:** ..... *Jeremiah 31:31-34*

The Lord described what His new covenant would be like. It wouldn't be like the old two-way covenant of Mt. Sinai. It will be a new one-way covenant of grace because He would forgive our iniquity and remember our sin no more.

**Gradual:**

P: Oh, come, let us fix our eyes on Jesus,

**C: The author and finisher of our faith,**

P: Who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, scorning the shame,

**C: And sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.**

P: The Son of Man did not come to be served,

**C: But to serve and give His life as a ransom for many.**

**Second Reading:** ..... *John 12:20-33*

Jesus foretells the usefulness of His death. But He indicates that He is personally troubled by what He would experience, much like when He was in the Garden of Gethsemane. While He is yet speaking God the Father spoke from heaven. He promised that Jesus would glorify the Father's name by His upcoming death. By dying He would draw people from all nations to God.

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

**Hymn:** ..... *TLH 159: Go To Dark Gethsemane*

**Sermon:** ..... *Hebrews 5:7-10*

(7) [Christ], in the days of His flesh, when He had offered up prayers and supplications, with vehement cries and tears to Him who was able to save Him from death, and was heard because of His godly fear, (8) though He was a Son, yet He learned obedience by the things which He suffered. (9) And having been perfected, He became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him, (10) called by God as High Priest "according to the order of Melchizedek," ... (NKJV™)

*JESUS, MY GREAT HIGH PRIEST*

*1. AGONIZED WITH THE BURDEN OF MY SIN*

*2. LEARNED OBEDIENCE BY THE THINGS HE SUFFERED*

*3. BECAME THE AUTHOR OF MY ETERNAL SALVATION*

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

**Hymn:** ..... *TLH 220: Jesus, My Great High Priest*

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

**Hymn:** ..... *TLH 179: On My Heart Imprint Thine Image*

*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 †

- ◆ **Midweek Lenten Worship:** Our Midweek Lenten worship services are held on Wednesdays at 7 pm. The devotions this year are based upon the Seven Words of Christ. Lenten soup suppers are held before every Lenten service starting at 6 pm.
- ◆ **Easter:** Our schedule for Easter (April 8) includes a breakfast served at 7:30 am followed by our Easter worship service at 9:00 am.
- ◆ **Easter Lilies:** There is a sign-up sheet for Easter Lilies or plants on the counter by the guest book in the narthex. Please direct any questions and payments to Jackie Radichel.
- ◆ **Liberian Collection:** Alvin Jask has shared a list of items he would like to send over to Liberia for aid in his effort to share the Gospel with children. These will be collected in the blue barrel in the fellowship hall. Here are some examples of what he says he would like to collect: casual & light weight clothing for people of all ages; bedding, black low heel shoes for school children, socks, hair grease, used clippers for hair cuts, disposable razors, over-the-counter pain relief.
- ◆ **Arise & Shine:** The 20's and 30's retreat is scheduled for June 7-10, 2012 at Camp JIM, Pillager, MN. For more info & to register go to the website: [www.AriseAndShineRetreat.com](http://www.AriseAndShineRetreat.com) Costs: \$125 per adult (ages 7 and up), \$50 (ages 4-6), FREE (ages 0-3). Child Care is provided at no additional cost to families. We ask that families attending the retreat register by May 18th to enable child care arrangements to be made. Questions: Feel free to contact: Pastor Luke Bernthal - [lbernthal@live.com](mailto:lbernthal@live.com) 402.389.2147 -or- Alana Ahrens - [alanaahrens@yahoo.com](mailto:alanaahrens@yahoo.com) 402.322.9064
- ◆ **Visitors Day:** Immanuel Lutheran High School in Eau Claire, WI, will be holding its Visitors' Day program on April 27, 2012. This day gives our congregation's 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders a wonderful opportunity to get a taste of the Immanuel environment. Those interested may speak with Pastor (that is, if he doesn't speak with you first!).
- ◆ **CLC News:** President John Schierenbeck writes: "Memorials and calls for graduates need to be in my hands by April 18, 2012."
- ◆ **Sunday School Memory Work:** Easter Recitation & Hymn

**Last Week's Stats:** Mar. 18, 2012 Sun.: 118 S.S.: 18 B.Cl.: 46 Wed.: 56

Sun. Offering:	Grace:	\$2,400.39	CLC:	\$881.00	
Wed. Offering:	Grace:	\$649.35	CLC:	\$0.00	
Weekly Need:	Grace:	3,030.00	CLC:	960.00	
-Under / +Over:	Grace:	+19.74	CLC:	-79.00	
Year-to-Date Offering::	Grace:	\$33,478.41	CLC:	\$11,667.00	
Year-to-Date Need:	Grace:	36,360.00	CLC:	11,520.00	
Year-to-Date (+/-)	Grace:	-2,881.59	CLC:	+147.00	
Other Offerings:	Living Faith:	9.00	Tuition Aid:	135.00	
GLC Other:	209.00	MDF:	5.00	Kinship:	55.00
ILC Student Aid:	25.00	ILC Bldg.	150.00	IIF: 5.00	CEF: 9.00

## ANNOUNCEMENT:

"Effective immediately, we are closing our church at this location. Services will no longer be held on this site. The church building will be put up for sale. Instruction in the Word of God will no longer sound within these walls. There will be no more baptisms, and the Lord's Supper will no longer be distributed. Sunday School for the children will cease. There will be no marriages or funerals here. The pastor will no longer be available for hospital calls, or for personal instruction, or for comforting the troubled. Please do not call him. As the church closes many of us will no longer see one another again. So in closing, we wish you all well."

All who read this will recognize that the "announcement" is not true. While it is not true, the substance of it is not a joking matter! Whenever an individual, a couple, or a family who holds membership in a Christian congregation regularly, negligently, neglectfully, indifferently, without concern, or without pang of conscience skips worship service and does not fellowship with fellow Christians in the worship setting, that person or family is voting to close the church!

Faithfulness in worship is a public witness to the world. It says to friend and neighbor that one is serious in his claim that he is a confessor of the Lord Jesus. Neglect of and indifference toward worship is also a witness, one that makes mockery of any claim to be a faithful confessor of the Lord Jesus Christ. Such neglect and indifference toward worship tells our neighbor, as well as our children or grandchildren, that an active worship life and nourishment through Word and Sacrament is not something to be cherished, much less practiced. If that is the message we send we bear responsibility for the souls of those who may be misled by our indifference and neglect!

This writer was told by a young man, "I do not have to go to church to be a Christian." Lest he be accused of judging the heart, the pastor simply countered, "Why would one who claims to be a Christian not want to go to church?"

Scripture says, "Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful. And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of our selves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching. For if we sin willfully after we have received the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins ..." (Hebrews 10:23-26).

As sinners we need the daily assurance of the forgiveness of our sins. This comfort is found the Word of God in private devotion in our home. Inasmuch as the Lord Himself instructs that we gather together in public worship, the faithful Christian also delights in the public hearing of the Word and in the public announcement of absolution through Word and Sacrament. How can anyone who understands the nature of man, and appreciates the love of God weary of hearing the Father's Word?

Luke 11 tells how a certain woman admired Jesus (v. 27). She said, "Blessed is the womb that bore you ..." But Jesus said, "More than that, blessed are those who hear the Word of God and keep (treasure) it" (v. 28). Hearing the Word of God includes the reading of the Word in private. God speaks to us as we read. It includes gathering together in worship to hear the Word. And most certainly it involves loving, listening attentively, and processing the Word as it is preached and taught ... in other words, being more than a body in a pew!

Hearing the Word faithfully and attentively recognizes as one has said, "this is the critical hour (time) in which only one thing matters: to hear and keep the Word which God is in these last days speaking by His Son" (Franzmann). The Lord through the Psalmist said, "O come, let us worship and bow down; Let us kneel before the Lord our Maker, for He is our God, and we are the people of His pasture, and the sheep of His hand. ... Today, if you will hear His voice: 'Do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion ...'" (Psalm 95:6-8a, Hebrews 3:7, 11, 15). You can read in the Psalm as well as in Hebrews the judgment of God that fell upon those who hardened themselves against the Word.

Neglect of hearing physically and with understanding resulted in the loss of the Word. The prophet, Amos, spoke the word of the Lord, "Behold the days are coming," says the Lord God, "that I will send a famine on the land, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the Lord. They shall wander from sea to sea and from north to east; they shall run to and fro, seeking the Word of the Lord, but shall not find it" (Amos 8:11-12).

Our blessed Lord and Savior who earnestly desires our salvation encourages us: "To this man will I look, even to him that is poor and of a contrite spirit and trembles (stands in awe of) at My Word" (Isaiah 66:2). Today (tomorrow is guaranteed to no one) is the day of salvation!

For the sake of your own soul, for the sake of your eternal future, for the sake of your neighbor, and for the enduring witness of your church, to the glory of God, resolve now by the power of the Spirit of God that you will not vote to close your church. Gladly hear and learn the Word of God. Do not be responsible for making the "announcement" a reality!

Written by Rev. Daniel Fleischer, 3/2012

## **CLC E-Devotion:**

Friday, February 24, 2012

Hebrews 5:7 During the days of Jesus' life on earth, he offered up prayers and petitions with loud cries and tears to the one who could save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission.

### **LEARN FROM JESUS' OBEDIENCE AND SUFFERING**

We also learn from Jesus' obedience and suffering. First of all we learn to submit to the will of God. When Jesus prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane, it was a more intense prayer than any one of us has uttered -- and everything was at stake in that prayer. Yet Jesus concluded by saying, "Not My will, but Thine be done." It is also part of the Lord's Prayer, which Jesus taught us. We often say, "Thy will be done," but how often do you think about that? We're saying, "Not what I want to happen, Lord, but what you want." God does want what is best for you. He has shown this in the fact that He sent you His very best, His only-begotten Son. This is proof of His dedication for your spiritual well-being.

God has that long-term vision that you and I do not possess. Sure, we like to speculate on what we will think will happen, but seldom are we right. It is a matter of trust to rely on God for the future. It is also a matter of trust to submit yourself to His will. Here learn of Jesus and His obedience in carrying the cross. God may say for reasons that you cannot understand I want you to go through a financial crisis, or grief as He takes your mom or your husband away before you think you're ready. God may also allow trials to afflict your own body. In His will there may be tough times for us, but it is for a greater goal. In Acts 14:22 we read, "We must through many tribulations enter the kingdom of God." Learn of Christ to bear the cross, willingly submitting yourself to the will of your Heavenly Father.

We also learn patience from our Savior. For thirty-three years He hid His glory as the Son of God. This was especially true when it came to His death. It was not until after His resurrection that He was glorified. That rightful glory will be evident to all when He returns on the Last Day as Judge of all. The glory that you have coming will also have to wait. God has promised you a perfect body, freedom from sin, and complete happiness, but none of that will be complete here on earth. Searching for that here on earth will leave you empty and frustrated.

Learn patience and contentment will follow.

† **TODAY AT GRACE** †

Organist: **Sue Nelson**

Elder: **Ed Lentz**

Ushers: **Benno Sydow, Gary Gunther, Larry Nelson, Jacob Rhinesmith, Rich Rhinesmith, Jeff Stifter**

Counting Team 3: **Don Auel; Brian Eichstadt; Jack Kirkham; Benno Sydow; Brandt Wendland**

Hospitality Team 2: **Janelle Hein; Chris Lentz; Jenny Kleifgen**

Church Cleaners: **Hein**

School: **Cook**

† **NEXT WEEK AT GRACE** †

Ushers: **Benno Sydow, Gary Gunther, Larry Nelson, Jacob Rhinesmith, Rich Rhinesmith, Jeff Stifter**

Counting Team 4: **Ed Lentz; Roger Ochsner; Al Rosendahl; Dave Rust; Lynn Sandhoefner**

Hospitality Team 3: **Larry Nelson; Barb Sydow; Ryan & Mikey Oman; Nick & Miranda Duehlmeier; Dan & Cindy Degnan**

Church Cleaners: **F & A Radichel** School: **Cook**

† **OUR SCHEDULE** †


- Today:** 9:00 am – Sunday School & Bible Class  
10:00 am – Worship Service  
11:15 am – Hospitality  
6:30 pm – Immanuel Tour Choir @ Messiah in Eau Claire
- Wed., Mar. 21:** 4:00 pm – Catechism for Public School Students  
6:00 pm – Lenten Soup Supper  
7:00 pm – Midweek Lenten Worship
- Thu. Mar. 29:** 7:00 pm – Student History Fair (focus on patriotism)
- Sun., Apr. 1:** 8:30 am – Choir Practice  
9:00 am – Sunday School & Bible Class  
10:00 am – Palm Sunday Worship Service  
11:15 am – Hospitality  
12:00 pm – Council Meeting
- Fri., Apr. 6:** 7:00 pm – Good Friday Worship
- Sun., Apr. 8:** 7:30 am – Easter Breakfast  
9:00 am – Easter Worship
- Sun., Apr. 15:** 11:30 am – Voters & Dorcas Guild Meetings
- Fri., Apr. 27:** Immanuel High School Visitors Day

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**“ALTHOUGH  
HE WAS A  
SON,  
HE LEARNED  
OBEDIENCE  
THROUGH WHAT  
HE SUFFERED.”**



Hebrews 5:8