

† TODAY AT GRACE †

Organist: Ryan Mueller Elder: Benno Sydow
Ushers: Larry Brandt; Nick Duehlmeier; Dale Enns; Duane Enns; Ned Sandhoefner
Counting Team 3: Brian Eichstadt; Phil Flesner; Chad Hestekin; Benno Sydow
Church Cleaners: R. & H. Nelson

† NEXT WEEK AT GRACE †

Ushers: Brian Eichstadt; Alex Baker; Kevin Baker; Dan Degnan; Brandon Paplow; Pat Paplow
Counting Team 4: James Bomber; Roger Ochsner; Al Rosendahl; Dave Rust
Church Cleaners: Anderson

† OUR SCHEDULE †

Sun., Aug 7 9 00 am - Worship Service w/Lord's Supper
Mon, Aug. 8 7 00 pm - Grace School Ice Cream Social
Sat, Aug. 13 9 00 am - Grace School Work Day
Sun, Aug. 14 9:00 am - Worship Service
Sun, Aug 21 3 00 pm - Immanuel Opening Service/Kaumann Installation
Mon., Aug. 29 8 00 am - Grace School Opening
Wed, Aug 31 4 30 pm - Catechism Begins for Public School Students
Wed, Sept. 7: School's 40th Anniversary (Sept 7 1976)
Sun, Sept. 11: Return to Regular Sunday Schedule
8 30 am - Choir Practice
9 00 am - Bible Class & Sunday School
10 00 am - Worship Service
11 00 am - Hospitality Begins
12 00 pm - Council Meeting
Sun, Sept 18: Grace Church Picnic

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!

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



"YOU ARE THE
MESSIAH,
THE SON OF THE
LIVING
GOD"

Matthew 16:16

Grace Lutheran Church & School



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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: Pentecost 12

Date: August 7, 2016

✠ THE ORDER OF WORSHIP ✠

Worship Preparation: *Psalm 33, TLH p 131*

Hymn: *TLH 344: Come, Let Us Join Our Cheerful Songs*

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

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

P Surely God is my help, the Lord is the one who sustains me

C: **Praise, O servants of the Lord, praise the name of the Lord.**

P From the rising of the sun to the place where it sets

C: **The name of the Lord be praised, both now and forevermore.**

P He raises the poor from the dust and lifts up the needy from the ash heap.

C: **Surely God is my help, the one who sustains me Glory be to God!**

Gloria in Excelsis: *TLH 9, st. 5*

New graces ever gaining From this our day of rest,

We reach the rest remaining To spirits of the blest.

To Holy Ghost be praises, To Father, and to Son;

The Church her voice upraises To Thee, blest Three in One.

First Reading: *1 Kings 19-4-8*

The servants of the Lord function through the strength that the Lord provides.

Gradual:

P Great is the Lord and most worthy of praise,

C **His greatness no one can fathom**

P I will meditate on Your wonderful works,

C: **And I will proclaim Your great deeds**

P Alleluia Alleluia Now faith is being sure of what we hope for

C: **And certain of what we do not see. Alleluia**

Second Reading:

Ephesians 4:30-5:2

Believers reflect the love of God their Father in their walk of faith

Confession of Faith:

Nicene Creed, TLH p 22

Hymn:

TLH 467: Built on the Rock the Church Doth Stand

Sermon:

Matthew 16:13-19

¹³When Jesus came into the region of Caesarea Philippi, He asked His disciples, saying, "Who do men say that I, the Son of Man, am?" ¹⁴So they said, "Some say John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." ¹⁵He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" ¹⁶Simon Peter answered and said, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." ¹⁷Jesus answered and said to him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven." ¹⁸And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it. ¹⁹And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." (NKJVTM)

WHAT JESUS TAUGHT about

1 Who He is

2. The foundation of the Church

3 The power He vested in the Church

Offertory:

TLH p 22 f.

Hymn:

TLH 321: Oh Faithful God, Thanks Be to Thee

Offering & Prayer:

Liturgy for the Lord's Supper:

TLH p. 24 ff.

Distribution:

TLH 304: An Awe-full Mystery Is Here

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 313: O Lord, We Praise Thee



weeping of a Christ-believers is not of the same sort as that of others *who have no hope* "I have fought the good fight I have finished the race, I have kept the faith Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing" (2 Timothy 4 7-8) Such was the confidence of Stephen who died under a hail of stones, and whose death for the Lord was witnessed approvingly by none less than Paul before his conversion "And they stoned Stephen as he was calling on God and saying, 'Lord Jesus, receive my spirit'" (Acts 7:59) Then by power of the Spirit, he cried out with a loud voice, "Lord, do not charge them with this sin" (Acts 7:60)

"Thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ Therefore, My beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord" (1 Corinthians 15:57-58) The truth is "Take they our life, goods, fame, child, and wife (spouse), let these all be gone, they yet have nothing won, the Kingdom ours remaineth" (*)

(*) Martin Luther A Mighty Fortress is our God TLM 262, st 4

Written by Rev Daniel Fleischer, 7/2016

✠ THE ANNOUNCEMENTS ✠

- ◆ Thanks to guest speaker, Rev Daniel Fleischer, for sharing the Word today Pastor Hein will be gone until August 20, helping his uncle harvest He still has his cell phone (612-408-1635), but may be slow to answering any emails Janelle and a couple of kids will still be around in case you need to call the church (763-784-8784) or need to get in If pastoral help is needed, please call
- ◆ **August Council Meeting.** This has been cancelled
- ◆ **Collection:** A purse is being collected for Vicar Rodebaugh If you wish to contribute, please mark "Vicar" on your offering envelope
- ◆ **Service Schedule:** Please keep in mind that the service schedule will be changing on September 11 Sunday School and Bible Class will begin at 9:00 a.m with regular morning worship at 10:00 a.m
- ◆ **School Volunteers:** With an increasing enrollment in our school this coming year, the request is being made for volunteers to help out Areas of help would include correcting, recess, homework help, art, listening to students read, etc Please contact Janelle Hein if you are interested
- ◆ **Sunday School Teachers:** Sunday School begins the Sunday after Labor Day (Sept. 11) We are looking for volunteers to help including substitutes If you are interested, please let Superintendent Michael Ude know so he can hopefully find a place for you on staff

LIKE THE MASTER, SO SERVANTS (Expect it)

The cruel cross loomed before our Lord But caring not for self but His disciples, He spoke to them in the upper room on the night of His betrayal He prepared them for the hour, as well as for the perils of the ministry and life in a godless world "Let not your heart be troubled, you believe in God, believe also in Me In My Father's house are many mansions, if it were not so, I would have told you I go to prepare a place for you" (John 14:1-2)

How often have Christ-believers not thought about this promise of the Lord! How often have pastors not used these words of comfort from the Lord when ministering to the dying believer! Surely the apostle Paul thought on this promise when he spoke of his "desire to be with Christ, which is far better" (Philippians 1:23)

In His high-priestly prayer, Jesus prayed for His disciples who were with Him that night, as well as for those "who will believe in Me through their word" (John 17:20) He prayed for the unity of the Church, that it might be a reflection of the unity of which He spoke when He said, "I and My Father are One" (John 10:30) He prayed for His disciples through the ages, that they might be preserved in an alien and hostile world. Even the godless world knows that there is strength in unity. What the world cannot know and will never understand is that there is no strength that even begins to compare to the strength that belongs to believers who are united in Christ—Who is their strength (Philippians 4:13) "Heavenly Father, for Jesus' sake, and our blessing, keep us steadfast and united in Your Word."

In His admonition to His disciples Jesus said, "These things I command you, that you love one another" (John 15:17) Such love as He admonished is manifested as His children stand fast together in His Truth, in His words and promises He admonished love for each other because He knew and knows that we need each other in view of this reality "if the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before it hated you If you were of the world, the world would love its own Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you Remember the word that I said to you, 'A servant is not greater than his master' If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you If they kept My word, they will keep yours also. But all these things they will do to you for My name's sake, because they do not know Him who

sent Me If I had not come and spoken to them, they would have no sin, but now they have no excuse for their sin He who hates Me hates My Father" (John 15:18-23)

The Savior's words resound loudly today Why do the worldlings hate the children of God? Because they don't appreciate being confronted about their sin and God's judgment They love and are comfortable in their unbelief, and in the practice of things and life-styles God rejects They hate the Lord God who uncovers their lies, and they hate the messengers who remind them of what the Lord says *Expect it*

On the other hand, if the world embraces the Christian, it is a call to take a look at ourselves in light of what our Lord says further through His apostle "Do not love the world or the things in the world If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world And the world is passing away, and the lust of it, but he who does the will of God abides forever" (1 John 2:15-17)

It is clear that John is speaking of the wickedness of the world—the *lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life* We are not to identify with it, embrace it, defend it, much less promote it In spite of the hatred such a stance engenders, we are to continue to show the love the world hates by calling sinners to repentance, even as we daily live in repentance What a precious promise it is for those who face the reality of their sin and repent "My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous And He Himself is the propitiation (blood covering) for our sins, and not ours only but also for the whole world" (1 John 2:1-2) True love proclaims the whole truth of God's Word, law and gospel

The apostle Peter also addressed the circumstance of God's people in the world "For we *have spent* enough of our past lifetime in doing the will of the Gentiles—when we walked in lewdness, lusts, drunkenness, revelries, drinking parties, and abominable idolatries In regard to these, they think it strange that you do not run with *them* in the same flood of dissipation, speaking evil of *you* They will give an account to Him who is ready to judge the living and the dead For this reason, the gospel was preached also to those who are dead, that they might be judged according to men in the flesh, but live according to God in the spirit

"But the end of all things is at hand, therefore be serious and watchful in your prayers And above all things have fervent love for one another, for love will cover a multitude of sins *Beloved, do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened to you, but rejoice to the extent that you partake of Christ's sufferings, that when His glory is revealed, you may also be glad with exceeding joy* If you are reproached for the name of Christ, *blessed are you*, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you On their part He is blasphemed, but on your part He is glorified But let none of you suffer as a murderer, a thief, an evildoer, or as a busybody in other people's matters. *Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in this matter*" (1 Peter 4).

Faithful Christians suffer rejection and abuse from different sources The unkindest of all is the sort of which Paul spoke "For I know this, that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock, also from among our own selves men will rise up, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after themselves" (Acts 20:29-30) The secular world hates anything religious, particularly if it is of the Lord and His inspired Word Such detestation of Christian teaching is usually manifest through ridicule, mockery, and rejection At the same time, today we are increasingly witnessing how hatred has turned to physical violence against those who profess Christianity This of course is not a new phenomenon It is reminiscent of the persecution against the Church through the ages, including against Jesus' disciples Of the twelve, only John died a natural death, and that in exile May God spare us

Believers in Christ are not indifferent toward physical threats against themselves or others They are not nobler, they are not more courageous They tremble in the flesh Christians weep in pain, they weep under duress, they weep in sorrow and at loss of life, whosoever it may be What believers in Christ have that others do not have is the confidence of eternal life through Jesus Who died for them and rose again They see suffering of whatever nature for the sake of the gospel and in confession of the Lord Jesus not as meriting salvation, but as glorifying the Lord Who reconciled them to the Father

When the child of God weeps in sorrow at suffering, pain, or loss, and even at death, it is not the weeping of the world The apostle Paul who died a violent death under the emperor Nero, wrote of why the