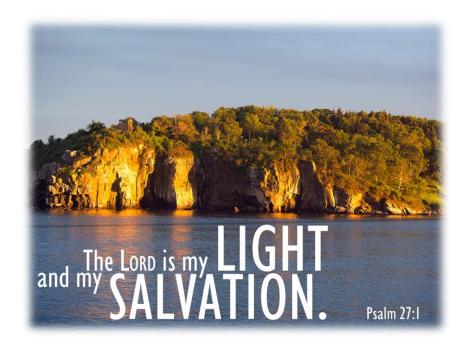
Grace Lutheran Church & School



Grace Lutheran Church & School



460 75th Ave. NE Fridley, MN 55432

Email: john.p.hein@gmail.com **Home Page:** www.FridleyLutheran.org

Member: Church of the Lutheran Confession



サ THE ORDER OF WORSHIP サ

Worship Preparation: Psalm 27, TLH p. 129
Hymn: TLH 396: Oh, For a Faith That Will Not Shrink

- 1. Oh, for a faith that will not shrink Tho' pressed by many a foe; That will not tremble on the brink Of poverty or woe;
- 2. That will not murmur nor complain Beneath the chast'ning rod,But in the hour of grief or painCan lean upon its God;
- 3. A faith that shines more bright and clear When tempests rage without; That, when in danger, knows no fear, In darkness feels no doubt;
- 4. That bears unmoved the world's dread frown Nor heeds its scornful smile;
 That sin's wild ocean cannot drown
 Nor Satan's arts beguile;

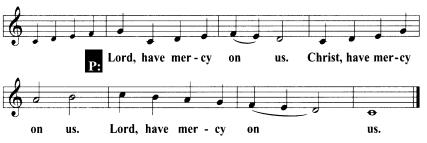
5. A faith that keeps the narrow way Till life's last spark is fled And with a pure and heavenly ray Lights up the dying bed.

Lord give us such a faith as this;
 And then, whate'er may come,
 We'll taste e'en now the hallowed bliss
 Of an eternal home.

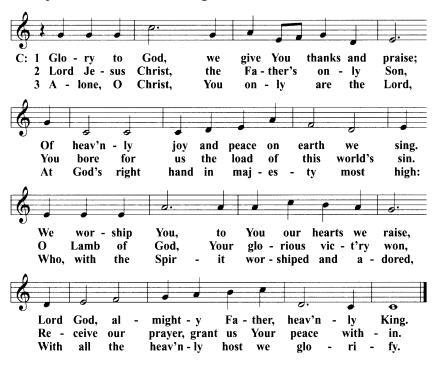
Opening Liturgy:WS p. 12 ff.

- P: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
- C: Amen.
- P: We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve Him as His dear children. But we have disobeyed Him and deserve only His wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to Him and plead for His mercy.
- C: Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against You and do not deserve to be called Your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to Your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.
- P: God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, He has removed your guilt forever. You are His own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to His will.
- C: Amen.

Lord, Have Mercy:



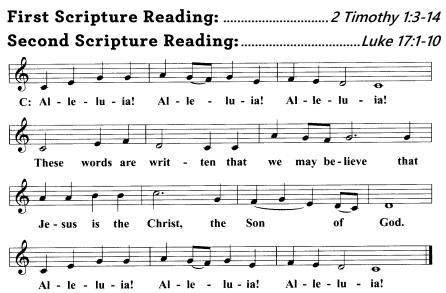
Glory to God in the Highest:



Prayer of the Day:

P: Let us pray. [Prayer ...]

C: Amen.



Confession of Faith: The Apostles Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Hymn: TLH 445: Am I a Soldier of the Cross

- Am I a solder of the Cross,
 A foll'wer of the Lamb,
 And shall I fear to own
 His cause or blush to speak His name?
- 2. Must I be carried to the skies On flow'ry beds of ease While others fought to win the prize And sailed thro' bloody seas?
- 3. Are there no foes for me to face? Must I not stem the flood? Is this vile world a friend to grace To help me on to God?
- 4. Sure I must fight if I would reign; Increase my courage, Lord! I'll bear the toil, endure the pain, Supported by Thy Word.
- 5. Thy saints in all this glorious war Shall conquer though they die; They see the triumph from afar With faith's discerning eye.

6. When that illustrious Day shall rise And all Thine armies shine In robes of victory through the skies, The glory shall be Thine.

Sermon: *Psalm 27:1-6*

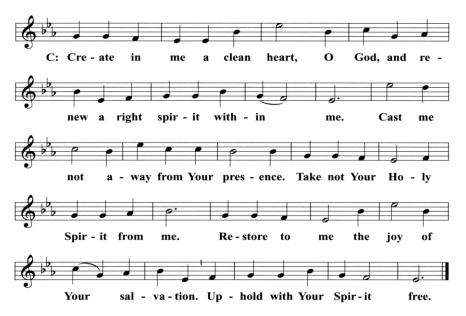
¹ The LORD *is* my light and my salvation; Whom shall I fear? The LORD *is* the strength of my life; Of whom shall I be afraid? ² When the wicked came against me To eat up my flesh, My enemies and foes, They stumbled and fell. ³ Though an army may encamp against me, My heart shall not fear; Though war should rise against me, In this I *will be* confident. ⁴ One *thing* I have desired of the LORD, That will I seek: That I may dwell in the house of the LORD All the days of my life, To behold the beauty of the LORD, And to inquire in His temple. ⁵ For in the time of trouble He shall hide me in His pavilion; In the secret place of His tabernacle He shall hide me; He shall set me high upon a rock. ⁶ And now my head shall be lifted up above my enemies all around me; Therefore I will offer sacrifices of joy in His tabernacle; I will sing, yes, I will sing praises to the LORD. (*NKIV*TM)

HOLD YOUR HEAD UP HIGH

1. In Christian Confidence

2. In Christian Joy

Create in Me:



Hymn:TLH 206, st. 1-4: Jesus Christ, My Sure Defense

- 1. Jesus Christ, my sure Defense
 And my Savior, ever liveth;
 Knowing this, my confidence
 Rests upon the hope it giveth
 Though the night of death be fraught
 Still with many an anxious thought.
- 2. Jesus, my Redeemer, lives; I, too, unto life shall waken. Endless joy my Savior gives; Shall my courage, then, be shaken? Shall I fear, or could the Head Rise and leave His members dead?
- 3. Nay, too closely am I bound
 Unto Him by hope forever;
 Faith's strong hand the Rock hath found,
 Grasped it, and will leave it never;
 Even death now cannot part
 From its Lord the trusting heart.
- 4. I am flesh and must return Unto dust, whence I am taken; But by faith I now discern That from death I shall awaken With my Savior to abide In His glory, at His side.

Offering, Prayer, Lord's Prayer:

C: Our Father who art in heaven, Hallowed be Thy name; Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven; Give us this day our daily bread; And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; And lead us not into temptation; But deliver us from evil; For Thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Benediction:

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine upon you, and be gracious unto you. The Lord lift up His countenance upon you, and give you peace.

C. ☐: Amen. Amen. Amen.

Hymn:.........TLH 44: Ye Lands, to the Lord Make a Jubilant Noise

- 1. Ye lands, to the Lord make a jubilant noise;Glory be to God!Oh, serve Him with joy, in His presence now rejoice;Sing praise unto God out of Zion!
- 2. Not we, but the Lord is our Maker, our God;Glory be to God!His people we are, and the sheep led by His rod;Sing praise unto God out of Zion!
- 3. Oh, enter His gates with thanksgiving and praise;Glory be to God!To bless Him and thank Him our voices we will raise;Sing praise unto God out of Zion!
- 4. For good is the Lord, and His mercy is sure;Glory be to God!To all generations His truth shall still endure;Sing praise unto God out of Zion!



む The Announcements む

- ➡ Events at Grace: In addition to the previous cancellations of worship on March 22 and 29, the Elders are now also cancelling April 5. This is in order to comply with the Minnesota Governor's emergency order to limit movements through April 8. An evaluation by the Elders will be made of the circumstances at that time. For now, an online package of spiritually edifying materials is being posted on Grace's website at FridleyLutheran.org. This includes:
 - 1. A Sunday morning worship service from the archives
 - 2. A brief family devotion recorded by Pastor
 - 3. A brief children's devotion recorded by Pastor
 - 4. Materials for a Sunday School lesson
 - 5. A Bible Class from the archives

In addition, the following church events are postponed as well:

- Bible Class and Sunday School
- o Midweek Lenten worship services and soup suppers
- Lord's Supper during public worship services
- Hospitality
- Easter breakfast
- o Choir

Pastor is willing to serve private communion upon request. Instruction classes will continue so long as each individual desires to do so. Also, please feel free to communicate with Pastor regarding any spiritual need you may have. His number is 612-408-1635.

Isaiah 41:10 Fear not, for I *am* with you; Be not dismayed, for I *am* your God. I will strengthen you, Yes, I will help you, I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.'

→ Offerings: During this time when services are suspended, the Lord is still doing all His work to keep our souls and bodies in His keeping. His Gospel work never ends, even as our pastor and teachers continue to function in their divine calls. Therefore, our gratitude continues for the Lord's boundless and bountiful blessings. Please remember this by giving a thank offering to Him. These may be sent by mail directly to the church at:

Grace Lutheran Church 460 75th Ave NE Fridley, MN 55432

The Council will ensure these are accounted for and deposited.

- ➡ Grace School: Currently the holding of classes at school has been suspended. Our teachers are pulling together lessons for the students to do work at home. While not as effective as holding classes, the hope is that the parents will be mindful of the need for their children to continue their education so they do not slip behind.
- **▶ Immanuel Update:** During this time of limited contact, Immanuel is adjusting to providing online instruction. This past week the seminary began this. The college will start its online classes this week and the high school will start on April 6.
- ➡ Immanuel Chapels: While Immanuel is having online instruction, the chapels are available at: www.ilc.edu/faith-worship/chapellist/. At the bottom of this page you can also subscribe to a daily email which has the chapels and the daily bulletin.
- ➡ CLC Nominations: Nominations for CLC Officers and Board Members will be received from January 1 through March 31, 2020. Pastors, professors, male teachers, and any voter of a CLC congregation can nominate individuals to fill the four synodical offices: President, Vice-President, Moderator, and Secretary; as well as positions on the four synodical boards: Trustees, Missions, Regents, and Education & Publications. Go to this link: www.clclutheran.net/nominate/.
- ➡ Invitation: St. John's Ev. Lutheran Church has its 125th anniversary celebration slated for July 4-5, with a 9:30 am worship service at 9:30 am. Memorabilia is available at OkabenaLutheran.org.
- → CLC News: The Call Committee for Educational Institutions of the CLC has extended a divine call to Pastor Mark Weis of St. Luke's Lutheran Church in Lemmon, SD, to serve as Professor at Immanuel Lutheran High School, College, and Seminary, filling the vacancy on the faculty due to the retirement of Prof. Paul Sullivan. He has accepted this call. Given the feedback the faculty has shared regarding the Regents' administrator proposal, the board decided it was wise at this time to resume the call process. Further solutions will be considered to address the growing administration needs on campus.
- **Sunday School Memory Work:** #21 − Third Article, Part 3

Micah 7:8 Do not rejoice over me, my enemy; When I fall, I will arise; When I sit in darkness, The LORD will be a light to me.

MINISTRIES FOUND ONLINE

www.FridleyLutheran.org

Some website links:

→ Grace Lutheran Church: www.FridleyLutheran.org



- → Grace on Facebook: www.facebook.com/CLCGraceLutheranChurch
- → Church of the Lutheran Confession (CLC): www.clclutheran.org
- → Immanuel Lutheran High School, College, & Seminary (ILC): www.ilc.edu
- → CLC Missions: www.lutheranmissions.org
- → The CLC Book House (CLC book store): www.clcbookhouse.org
- → The Lutheran Spokesman (CLC publication): www.lutheranspokesman.org
- → The Branches (women's publication): www.thebranchesonline.info

Check out the following online devotional materials:

- → Weekly video of the Grace Lutheran Church sermon: www.clcgracelutheranchurch.org/category/sermons/
- → Weekly CLC "Ministry by Mail" sermon: www.clclutheran.org/ministrybymail
- → Daily email devotions from The Bread of Life (The Lutheran Spokesman): www.glcdailydevotion.wordpress.com
- → Daily email devotions from CLC pastors: www.redeemerclc.info/devotional.html
- → Daily email for a CLC Three-Year Bible reading program: www.threeyearbiblereadingplan.wordpress.com
- → Daily audio of the chapel address from our Immanuel campus: www.ilc.edu/chapel.htm

Also, check out the Grace Lutheran Church on Google Play for Android devices.

Facebook Page: If you're on Facebook, be sure to like or share items that are on the Grace Lutheran Church page. This can help promote the page to others, along with events that we publicize there.



The more shares, etc., the more Facebook promotes our church page to others.

TO WHOM SHALL WE GO?

In addition to the general deterioration of absolutes and morality in our nation which weighs heavily on many Christian hearts, we are now confronted with the COVID-19 pandemic which has struck fear into many. Christians are not immune to the fear. So we are being told by sincere and earnest people to pray. In these days in which the majority in the world and our nation has spurned the Lord and many are comfortable doing what is right in their own eyes (Judges 17:6), and as the nation spirals toward Sodom, and COVID-19 spreads, surely children of the Heavenly Father will heed *His* invitation to lay their concerns before Him in prayer.

In a general sense the sudden national interest in prayer raises questions. To whom do people pray? What do people expect when they pray? Why the interest in prayer now? These questions are not as ridiculous as they sound. Consider:

To whom do people pray? To whom do those pray who do not believe God exists. There was a saying heard in wars past, "There are no atheists in foxholes." Fear and fright do not convert hearts. However, there is a natural tendency of the fearful that moves even an atheist to call out to someone or something higher than self. We have all heard it, foxhole or not, "I do not pray a lot. But I sure prayed." When confronted by trouble, disaster, or death itself they prayed, but to whom?

For people who do not believe in the existence of God, who have their own concept of God, or who create their own gods, prayer may be a feel-good experience. Such prayer is a waste of breath. Israel which turned from the true God to idols was challenged by Elijah to call to Baal to send fire to consume the sacrifice.

"So they took the bull which was given them, and they prepared it, and called on the name of Baal from morning even till noon, saying, 'O Baal, hear us!' But there was no voice, no one answered. Then they leaped about the altar which they had made. And so it was, at noon, that Elijah mocked them and said, 'Cry aloud, for he is a god, either he is meditating, or he is busy, or he is on a journey, or perhaps he is sleeping and must be awakened.' So they cried aloud, and cut themselves, as was their custom, with knives and lances, until the blood gushed out on them. And when midday was past, they prophesied until the time of the offering of the evening sacrifice. But there was no voice, no one answered, no one paid attention" (1 Kings 18:26-29).

Elijah prayed to the Lord God of heaven who responded. The people "fell on their face" and said, "The Lord, He is God! The Lord, He is God" (1 Kings 18:39).

The futility, uselessness, and foolishness of calling on idols is further demonstrated in 1 Samuel 5. The Philistines took the Ark of God from Israel and set it in the house of Dagon, their idol. The next morning they found their god on its face. In a turn about from the relationship of the true God toward His people, the Philistines put their god in place again, only to find the next morning that not only had it fallen on its face, but its head and hands were broken off. Their god was decapitated!

"Who would form a god or mold an image that profits him nothing?" (Isaiah 44:10), and say, "Deliver me, for you are my god" (Isaiah 44:17-read the chapter)?

What do people expect when they pray? The question may be put this way—Why should God answer the prayer of those who pray with an attitude of "Why not? It can't hurt." The apostle James wrote, "If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him. But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways" (James 1:5-8). Or why should the Lord God answer a prayer of anyone whose attitude toward the Lord is, "Yes, I understand, God, but …"

James raises an issue that ought to lead us all to examine our own heart. Such exercise will move a Christian to begin with a confession, "Lord, forgive me for my 'Yes but ... moments and my doubts." Take me to the cross daily where Your gracious will overcomes mine, and to the empty tomb where doubt is removed."

Just asking; why should the Lord answer the prayers of those within the church who while claiming to believe the Scripture, twist it, distort it, and adapt it to fit their agenda or accommodate societal whims and immoral behaviors-- in other words, of those who accept the premise that it is acceptable for everyone to do what is right in his own eyes despite what Scripture teaches?

Finally, the last question, "Why now? Why do people who otherwise do not pray, pray when they or the nation are in trouble? Why then, why now? Is prayer considered merely an exercise to take one's mind off a problem? Is prayer a "feel-good" exercise? Is prayer considered a magical potion? Church attendance frequently spikes in time of stress, or national disaster. Why then? Is worship or communication with the Lord in prayer important only when one feels a need, or when the nation is suffering an epidemic or a pandemic, or has had a 9/11 experience?

Under quarantine, the "have no time" argument will not wash. It is time well spent (as well as good discipline) to set aside a time for meditation in God's Word and for prayer. It is God's will that His children address Him in

trustful prayer day and night. Scripture says, "Pray without ceasing," (1 Thessalonians 5:17). This does not mean, however, that the Christ-believer must walk about constantly in a prayer posture or legalistically adopt an "hour of prayer".

So what is prayer? In contrast to those who pray to the wind, who pray to lifeless idols of man's imagination, to gods whom they prop up, who do not know to whom they pray, or why they pray, meaningful prayer is an exercise of the heart of those who through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ are reconciled to the Father. It is a privilege given to His children to communicate their every need to Him, whether it is a temporal necessity or a spiritual. The Sermon on the Mount was spoken to Jesus' disciples. In the sermon on prayer (Matthew 6), He said to them, "In this manner, therefore, pray, 'Our Father Who art in heaven ...'" Prayer is an act of worship in which the Christ-believer brings petitions before God in the name of Jesus, confident that the Father hears and answers according to His gracious will and promise. The Christian does not dictate to God but believes Jesus Who said, "Most assuredly, I say to you, whatever you ask the Father in My name He will give you" (John 16:23). God's children are encouraged, "Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need" (Hebrews 4:16).

In praying for things related to our temporal wellbeing, Jesus in Gethsemane gives us the model: "Not my will but Yours be done." When asking for blessings related to our spiritual wellbeing, we know the will of God. It is revealed in the Word. It was declared at the cross and empty tomb and in every expressed will of God for our salvation. Therefore we pray simply and confidently as did the sorrowful tax collector in the temple, "God, be merciful to me a sinner" (Luke 18:13), and Stephen who prayed in the face of death, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit" (Acts 7:59).

A child of God does not take God for granted. Prayer includes giving thanks in everything (1 Thessalonians 5:18). If we look for an outline of prayer we can find it in ACTS -- Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving, Supplication. "DEAR Heavenly Father...We CONFESS our sins to You.... THANK YOU for your blessings of body and soul... We SUPPLICATE (ask) You to keep us in Your care..." However, inasmuch as prayer is an expression of trust in the living God, the God Who is, and the God who hears and answers prayer, the Christian's whole life is an exercise in prayer. A sigh, a tear, a word of a believing heart is a prayer to Him, "... For the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered" (Romans 8:26).

Blessed are the children of God who in faith know and believe in the Father as good and gracious for the sake of Jesus, whose life He spent to forgive our sins and redeem our lives from destruction. Unlike those who have no god or do not know to whom to pray, how confident we can be in all things, in good days and bad, in sorrow and trouble, in sickness and in health. In

the darkest nights, in the most painful circumstances, in time of fear, we know **our Lord knows us**. He will according to His gracious will deliver us. Even death itself despite the fear it engenders in the flesh is overcome in Christ Who is "The Resurrection and the Life" (John 11:25). We have an ear that hears, a Father Who cares. Thanks be to God!

When many turned away from the Lord and walked no more with Him, He asked the disciples, "Do you also want to go away?" Their response through Peter was, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life" (John 6:66-67).

In that spirit we pray,

O Lord, in whom our life consists, Our cares are known to You. While still on earth we here do dwell, We trust Your steadfast love.

Lord, give this nation we call home Such who will govern well. May all their thoughts and words and deeds Be guided by Your will,

Lord, give us faith Your will to do, Respecting those who serve. Give to our nation peace and rest, So long as here we dwell.

Lord of the nation and the Church, Protect Your children true. Our faithful God, trustworthy Lord. O, hear our urgent prayer.

O Lord, in sorrow, sickness, fear, In these uncertain times, Please hold us in your warm embrace, And calm our troubled hearts.

Lord, help us focus evermore On Christ, our Savior true; And when our days on earth are done, O, take us Home to You. Amen



む Our Schedule む

Please keep in mind that this schedule is tentative given the circumstances. Stay tuned by the email announcements.

Sun., Mar. 29: Online Worship Service (Lent 5)

Wed., Apr. 1: 4:30 pm – Catechism for Public School Students **Fri., Apr. 3:** Grace School Bible/Hymn Student Fair (Postponed)

Sun., Apr. 5: PALM SUNDAY

Online Worship Service

Fri., Apr. 10: GOOD FRIDAY

7:00 pm - Good Friday Worship Service

Sun., Apr. 12: EASTER (S.S., Bible Class, Hospitality Suspended)

9:00 am - Easter Festival Worship Service

Sun. Apr. 19: Council Meeting (delayed due to Easter)

Sun., Apr. 26: Voters & Dorcas Guild Meetings (delayed due to Easter)

3:00-5:30 pm - Evangelism Workshop @ Eau Claire, WI

Thu., May 21: ASCENSION DAY

12:00 pm - Grace School Dismissal for Summer

July 20-24: Vacation Bible School

Last Week's Stats:	Mar. 22,	2020	Sun.: Online	S.S.: Online	B.Cl.: Online	
Sun. Offering:		Grace:	\$1,260	CLC:	\$840	
Weekly Need:		Grace:	4,000	CLC:	950	
-Under / +Over	•	Grace:	-2,740	CLC:	-110	
Year-to-Date Offe	ring:	Grace:	\$40,366	CLC:	\$10,555	
Year-to-Date Need:		Grace:	48,000	CLC:	11,400	
Year-to-Date (+/-)		Grace:	-7,634	CLC:	-845	
GLC Other:	0	Living F	aith: 0	Tuition A	id: 0	
SAF Endowment:	0	MDF:	0	Kinship:	0	
ILC Student Aid:	0	ILC Bld	g. 0	IIF: 0	CEF: 0	
Current Balances		Tuition	Aid: \$785			_

<u>Prayer</u>: O God, You desire not the death of sinners, but rather that we turn from our wickedness and live. Graciously behold Your people who plead to You and spare us. Withdraw the scourge of Your wrath and be moved in mercy to turn away this pestilence from us; for the sake of Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.