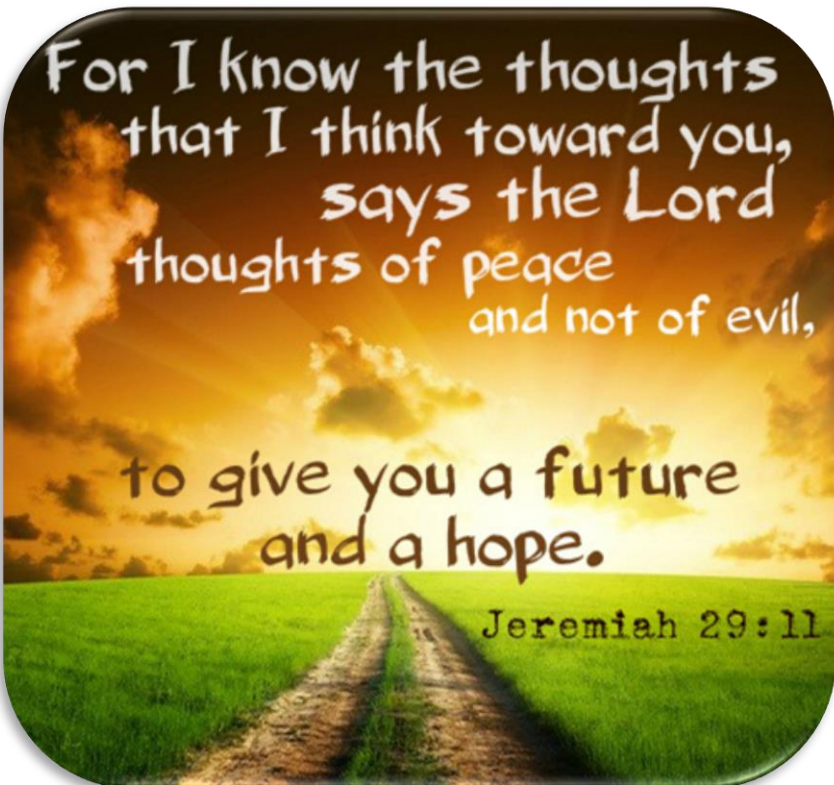

Grace Lutheran Church & School



For I know the thoughts
that I think toward you,
says the Lord
thoughts of peace
and not of evil,

to give you a future
and a hope.

Jeremiah 29:11

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

Pastor: John Hein (Cell 612-408-1635)

Phone: 763-784-8784

School Phone: 763-784-6340

Grades: Kindergarten-8th

Church Year: Easter 6

Date: May 17, 2020

✠ WORSHIP INFORMATION ✠

Hymns:

WS 757: Christ Triumphant, Ever Reigning
WS 736: At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing
LSB 336: Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending
(music also in bulletin)

WS 732, st. 3-4: Now All the Vault of Heaven

Listening assistance is available. Please ask an usher.

Worship Prep:

Psalm 8, TLH p. 124

Liturgy:

TLH, p. 12 (Projected)
Psalm 96: WS, p. 26

Scripture Readings:

Acts 16:6-10
John 17:20-26

Sermon: Jeremiah 29:1,4-14

¹ Now these *are* the words of the letter that Jeremiah the prophet sent from Jerusalem to the remainder of the elders who were carried away captive-- to the priests, the prophets, and all the people whom Nebuchadnezzar had carried away captive from Jerusalem to Babylon. ... ⁴ Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, to all who were carried away captive, whom I have caused to be carried away from Jerusalem to Babylon: ⁵ Build houses and dwell *in them*; plant gardens and eat their fruit. ⁶ Take wives and beget sons and daughters; and take wives for your sons and give your daughters to husbands, so that they may bear sons and daughters-- that you may be increased there, and not diminished. ⁷ And seek the peace of the city where I have caused you to be carried away captive, and pray to the LORD for it; for in its peace you will have peace. ⁸ For thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: Do not let your prophets and your diviners who are in your midst deceive you, nor listen to your dreams which you cause to be dreamed. ⁹ For they prophesy falsely to you in My name; I have not sent them, says the LORD. ¹⁰ For thus says the LORD: After seventy years are completed at Babylon, I will visit you and perform My good word toward you, and cause you to return to this place. ¹¹ For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope. ¹² Then you will call upon Me and go and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. ¹³ And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart. ¹⁴ I will be found by you, says the LORD, and I will bring you back from your captivity; I will gather you from all the nations and from all the places where I have driven you, says the LORD, and I will bring you to the place from which I cause you to be carried away captive. (NKJVTM)

“I will Give You a Future and a Hope”

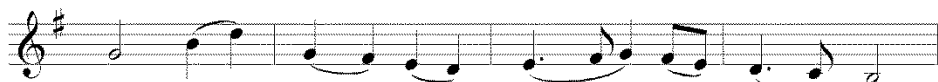
Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending



1. Lo! - He comes with clouds de- scend - ing,
2. Ev - 'ry eye shall now be- hold Him
3. Those dear to - kens of His Pas - sion
4. Yea, A - men, let all a - dore Thee,



Once for ev - 'ry sin - ner slain;
Robed in glo - rious maj - es - ty,
Still His daz - zling bod - y bears,
High on Thine e - ter - nal throne;



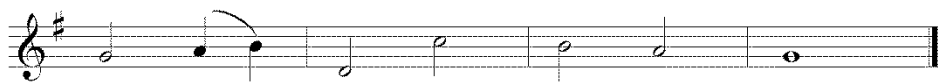
Thou - sand thou - sand saints at - tend - ing
Those who rid - i - culed and sold Him,
Cause of end - less ex - ul - ta - tion
Ev - 'ry knee shall bow be - fore Thee;



Swell the tri - umph of His train:
Pierced and nailed Him to the tree,
To His ran - somed wor - ship - ers.
Come and take Thy peo - ple home!



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
Deep - ly wail - ing, deep - ly wail - ing, deep - ly wail - ing,
With what won - der with what won - der with what won - der,
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!



Christ re - veals His end - less reign.
Shall the true Mes - si - ah see.
Gaze we on those glo - rious scars!
Thou shalt reign, and Thou a - lone!

✝ *THE ANNOUNCEMENTS* ✝

➔ **Events at Grace:** This week the Governor announced that the stay-at-home order would expire on May 18. However, he is still limiting gatherings to no more than 10 people. The Elders are continuing the suspension of worship services and on-site events, reviewing this regularly. A plan is being put together for how to handle things once we can resume our worship. We continue to share an online package of spiritual materials by email, also posted on Grace's website at FridleyLutheran.org. Pastor is willing to serve private communion upon request. Please feel free to communicate with Pastor regarding any spiritual need you may have. His number is 612-408-1635.

➔ **This Weekend's Service:** The service today is adapted chiefly from May 1, 2016, spliced with a new sermon.

➔ **Ascension Worship:** This Thursday is Ascension Day. 40 days after Jesus' resurrection He ascended into heaven away from view of His disciples. Nevertheless, He did not leave them but promised He would be with them always as they proclaimed His Word to a world in need of it. Instead of providing an on-demand worship service like we have been, the Elders are having Pastor provide an online worship service via Zoom. This will be similar to our Easter Day gathering with Scripture readings, an informal devotion, and prayers.



Topic: Grace's Ascension Day Worship

Time: May 21, 2020 07:00 PM Central Time (US and Canada)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85050484691?pwd=eEQ0WmJSRWZtd3g0S21meXBPTWdQUOT09>

Meeting ID: 850 5048 4691/ Password: 548006

Or call with phone: 1-312-626-6799 (same meeting ID & password)

Zoom can be used on your computer or on your mobile device by downloading the Zoom app via Google Play or Apple App Store.

➔ **Summer Schedule:** Per the Grace calendar, the summer schedule is slated to begin on May 24 this year, when we suspend Bible Class and Sunday School for the summer and hold our Sunday worship service at 9 am. Please stay tuned for additional adjustments.

➔ **Midweek Bible Class:** This With Ascension this week and with the summer schedule, Midweek Bible Class is concluded.



➔ **Graduates:** Due to the suspension of services, we will be unable to recognize the Grace members graduating this year. This year Patrick Baker, Jessica Maki, and Kylee Yang are graduating from high school. Our hearts go out to them that their senior year has been so disrupted. May the LORD be with them as He unfolds their future according to His good pleasure. May they cling to His promises and to the salvation they have through Him!



Our Church's Graduates

➔ **Grace Lutheran School** staff is beginning to plan for the 2020-21 school year. If you are interested in enrolling your child in our school, please speak to one of the teachers for an enrollment form. You may also email Janelle Hein at janellehein@gmail.com.

➔ **Parade:** Normally we promote the school in the annual Spring Lake Park Tower Days parade. This has been cancelled this year.

➔ **Lutheran Spokesman:** The Lutheran Spokesman is a CLC publication which is dedicated to sharing rich, devotional messages for our spiritual edification. The congregation covers the cost. Those who currently receive the publication are listed on a spreadsheet. Please follow the instructions at the following link regarding continuing, discontinuing, or being added (the deadline is May 31): <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1K3TP3YHqGA1i0Ja1hvn8T9v6Ay-QZcuIunF6FXzLTVk/edit?usp=sharing>

➔ **The Branches:** "The Branches" is now up for renewal. This is a quarterly publication for Christian women. Please contact Norma Rust (sew410@att.net/763-571-5735) if you wish to continue receiving this publication or if you wish to be a new subscriber. The congregation pays for the subscription. May 31 is the deadline.

➔ **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.

➔ **CLC Youth Camp:** This summer's youth camp has been cancelled.

➔ **Arise and Shine:** This retreat has been cancelled.

TWO UNDENIABLE TRUTHS

God said, "In the day you eat of it, you shall surely die" (Genesis 2:17). The devil said, "You will not surely die" (Genesis 3:4). Adam and Eve believed the lie. Since the first lie, because the natural heart is corrupt, devious, polluted, and fraudulent, it is often a challenge to distinguish between the truth and the lie. "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked; who can know it" (Jeremiah 17:9)? The Lord is not speaking through the prophet of a desperately wicked person. He is speaking of the human heart. Hypocrisy is living a lie. *Telling* an untruth is a lie. *Shading* the truth is a lie. Proverbs 6 speaks of "six things," "yes seven," things "God hates." One is "a lying tongue" and another, "A false witness who speaks lies."

The Lord established the *principle*! "Therefore, putting away lying, 'let each one of you speak truth with his neighbor'" (Ephesians 4:25). In interaction and communication with our neighbor we are to speak the truth. But how then shall we understand some lies mentioned in Scripture? Living in an imperfect world in which the Lord also hates "hands that shed innocent blood," the midwives "feared God" and did not kill the newborn Moses as Pharaoh had commanded. In response to Pharaoh's question, "Why," they lied (Exodus 1:15-21). When men with evil intent sought the spies in the promised land, Rahab hid them on the roof. When she was asked to deliver them she told them they had fled (Joshua 3:5).

In neither case, did the women lie to commit some evil, or to save their own reputation, further themselves, or save their own hide which is the general purpose of telling a lie. They in fact put themselves at risk. They did so to save lives of endangered men threatened by evil men who meant them harm. In neither the case of the midwives or Rahab (both of whose untruths the Lord used to His people's benefit) did the Lord tell them to lie. They made a choice under the circumstances for the reasons they did. Their behavior does not overthrow the principle, nor is it a license or an excuse for lying.

In our own age a government may "lie" to protect operational information from the enemy, or to hide a military strategy from the foe. A family may tell a "lie" to hide a surprise party from another member of the family. In one case the lie is for the protection of the citizens for whom it is responsible; in the other it is a "fun" lie. Again, the exception does not disprove or overthrow the principle.

On the other hand, Abraham denied Sarah was his wife and misled Abimelech who had designs on her (Genesis 20:2). David lied to take Bathsheba as a wife. Jacob with Rebekah's help lied to his father to gain Esau's blessing (Genesis 27). David's conscience persecuted him. Jacob had to flee. Ananias and Sapphira lied to enhance their reputation and died. Time after time we see *how lying* misleads, causes misery, discomfort, and pain, or brings judgment.

“Lying lips are an abomination to the Lord...” (Proverbs 12:22). A lie is of the devil, the father of lies (John 8:44). “The Lord will not hold him guiltless who takes His name in vain” (Exodus 20:7).

Truth, number 1: EVERYONE DIES.

Sin entered the world, and death by sin (Romans 5). “The day you eat of it you shall surely die” (Genesis 2:17). Adam disobeyed the Lord. Through Adam death came upon all. Sin manifested itself immediately when Adam lied. “... I was afraid because I was naked; and I hid myself” (Genesis 3:10). The Lord saw right through it. “The wages of sin is death ...” (Romans 6:23). What the Lord said would happen, happened. It is proven by human experience. The Lord says what He means and means what He says. **God does not lie.** In His Word He speaks to the greater pandemic, one however of which the world is ignorant, and/or will not acknowledge. It is the pandemic of sin. He who denies God and His truth does so at peril to his soul!

Medical science struggles to contain epidemics and pandemics and find cures. We pray they succeed. But ever since the fall into sin, people have been dying. Over the course of time there have been epidemics, pandemics, wars, murders, suicides, accidents of one kind or another. People expire simply of natural causes. Until the end of time there will be death because neither medical science nor governments have, or will ever have, the solution to the underlying pandemic of sin.

The Lord alone has the solution to consequence of the sin pandemic. Death — spiritual, physical, eternal -- is a consequence of sin rooted in unbelief. A plague is a call to all to repent. In as much as all sin of whatever magnitude is sin against the holy God, no one’s sin is greater than another’s. “Unless you repent you will all likewise perish” (Luke 13:5). Believers suffer and die in a plague, as well as unbelievers. Eternal death, however, is the ultimate judgment upon all who deny God and reject Jesus Christ, the Son of God, and Savior from sin.

The corollary to the reality of death is that while we are on the earth there will be aches and pains, trials and physical afflictions, discomfort, and anguish, brought on by the myriads of physical diseases—themselves a consequence of sin. Even with the best of medical science that can alleviate pain and disease as well as temporarily prolong life (as God wills), **everyone is going to die.** That is the way it has been, that is the way it is, and that is the way it will be, until our Lord comes again. That is the truth. **God does not lie.** God has the solution and therein **lies the second undeniable truth.** Christ Jesus overcame the consequences of sin.

In His high priestly prayer Jesus said to the Father, “Your Word is truth” (John 17:17). Jesus said of Himself, “I am the way, the truth, and the life ...” (John 14:6). Jesus said, “Because I live, you will live also” (John 14:19). His Word is confirmed by His resurrection as well as His Ascension.

Truth number 2: AS MANY AS BELIEVE IN CHRIST JESUS SHALL LIVE.

In the excitement of youth thoughts of death are few and far between. The older we get the oftener we think of it, not morbidly, but as a realistic progression of life. We become more in tune with the reality of our mortality. As uncomfortable as that is, it serves a divine purpose as it reminds us of what is really important in life.

The Heavenly Father in His love and mercy graciously determined in His own heart to rescue man from the fate he brought on himself. The Father determined that He would restore life—a life far removed from anything that we can imagine in this life. “... The gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Romans 6:23).

Our Lord Jesus said, “I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though He may die, he shall live. And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die” (John 11:25-26). This presents an interesting dichotomy. In this life as **to the flesh we are dead in sins, but as to our regenerate being**, born of the Spirit through the Gospel, **we are alive in Christ**.

The Lord reconciled us unto the Father by His life, His death, His resurrection. All this confirmed what He said of Himself as the Resurrection and the Life. “Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God, through our Lord Jesus Christ” (Romans 5:1). We were “buried with Him in baptism” and “were raised with Him through faith in the working of God Who raised Him from the dead” (Colossians 2:12). In Christ, the Father “has made [us] alive together with Him, having forgiven [us] all trespasses” (Colossians 2:12). Sin is the cause of death. But *as all our sins have been forgiven in Christ, the penalty of death has been removed, and they who believe in Christ “shall never die”* (John 11:26).

The Lord never promised us freedom from pain, sickness, or suffering in this present sorrowful existence. From a Christian perspective, the discomfort and anguish, the pain and uncertainty and the physical afflictions of the body, and threats of viruses serve a purpose when they remind us to direct our eyes heavenward. Turn your thoughts away from all the things of this earth – good or bad. Paul wrote, “If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God” (Colossians 3:1-3).

Think about that. Alive in Christ through faith, your eternal life is banked securely in heaven—Scripture calls it your inheritance—with Christ in God. Yes, in this season of Ascension think about it. Through tears of weeping eyes, through the noise of this raucous world, tune your ears and heart to the Savior Who said to His troubled disciples, “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. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am there you may be also” (John 14:1-3).

With repentant hearts and steadfast faith, in times of uncertainty and fear, pray:

While in this life of sin and death
O Lord, forgive us all our sin.
Grant us the faith by Gospel Word,
Never to doubt our sins forgiv’n.

As Jesus lives we thank You, Lord,
We are alive through faith in Him,
And though our life on earth will pass,
We will not die but live again.

Help us O Lord in every need,
In sickness, sorrow, want, or care
In midst of earth’s vain hopes, and fears
Oh, keep our hope in Christ alive.

As every promise of Your Word
Is truth and ne’er can be denied
In darkest moments and despair,
Still present is Immanuel.

O Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,
By faithful Word and Gospel true
Inspire our faith that we may know
The joy and peace of heav’nly bliss.

Believer in Christ, as surely as Your God is true, He hears your prayer. You have a living hope that will carry you through that which strikes fear into those who without Christ have no hope. The journey in time may be difficult, it may be aggravating, the future here uncertain. But in Christ, you can see the other side! “For whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved” (Romans 10:13). “God is not a man, that He should lie ...” (Numbers 23:19).

Therefore the Christ-believer says with certainty: “I know Whom I have believed and am persuaded that He is able to keep what I have committed to Him until that day” (2 Timothy 1:12).

Through faith we know the speaker. We know He speaks truth!

CLC E-Devotion – May 1, 2020

John 11:25-26 (NKJV) I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die.

Resurrection Answers

Jesus says, "Most assuredly, I say to you, whatever you ask the Father in My name He will give you" (John 16:23). Yet every Christian struggles with "unanswered" prayers and God's apparent silence. How do we reconcile Jesus' words with our common let-downs?

He offers a shocking reply: "Until now you have asked nothing in My name" (John 16:24). What does He mean I've asked nothing? All I do is ask! The key phrase here is "in My name." There's nothing wrong with Jesus' ears. The problem is our ears, our assumptions. Instead of praying in His name, we tend to pray in our names, with our priorities in mind.

Ponder well, then, the name and promises Jesus revealed to Martha: "I am the resurrection and the life" (John 11:25). Jesus didn't say, "I am the temporary and fleeting." Yet we often pray as if that's His name. What will make me happy in the moment? What will solve my problems on my terms? Now instead of later.

When you consider what Jesus truly gives, the forgiveness of sins and salvation, faith realizes Jesus' timetable is, yes, different than ours, but oh so much better: "He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live" (John 11:25). In the eternal perspective, any wait is more than worth it!

Does God really answer every proper prayer? The older German Lutheran catechisms gave a clear answer: "Yes, but in His own manner and at His appointed time." And the ultimate manner, time, and place is the Final Day, when God will "raise up me and all the dead, And give unto me and all believers in Christ eternal life." There and then, every prayer will be answered in full.

In heaven, you'll weep no more. In the resurrection, your aches and pains wash away into a glorified body. And whatever it is He seems to refuse to answer you right now, you won't even remember. "Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full." In Jesus' name, in perspective of all He promises, you won't be disappointed.

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.



✠ OUR SCHEDULE ✠

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

Sun., May 17: Online Worship Service

Thu., May 21: **ASCENSION DAY**

Grace School Official Dismissal for Summer

7:00 pm – Ascension Worship Service (Zoom)

Sun., May 24: Summer Schedule Begins

Online Worship Service

June 8-10: CLC Boards & Coordinating Council

Sat., July 11: 10:00 am – MN Delegate Conference @ Mankato, MN

July 20-24: 9:00-11:30 am – Vacation Bible School (Tentative)

July 30-Aug. 2: CLC Convention @ Eau Claire, WI

Sun., Aug. 23: 3:00 pm – Opening Service at ILC (Tentative)

Mon., Aug. 31: Opening Day for Grace Lutheran School (Tentative)

Last Week's Stats: May 10, 2020 Sun.: Online S.S.: Online B.Cl.: Online

Sun. Offering:	Grace:	\$3,965	CLC:	\$1,380
Weekly Need:	Grace:	4,000	CLC:	950
-Under / +Over:	Grace:	-35	CLC:	+430
Year-to-Date Offering:	Grace:	\$77,537	CLC:	\$16,645
Year-to-Date Need:	Grace:	72,000	CLC:	17,100
Year-to-Date (+/-)	Grace:	+5,537	CLC:	-455
GLC Other: 0	Living Faith: 0		Tuition Aid: 400	
SAF Endowment: 0	MDF: 0		Kinship: 200	
ILC Student Aid: 0	ILC Bldg. 0		IIF: 0	CEF: 0
Current Balances:		Tuition Aid: \$1,370		

1. If God Himself be for me,
I may a host defy;
For when I pray, before me
My foes, confounded, fly.
If Christ, my Head and Master,
Befriend me from above,
What foe or what disaster
Can drive me from His love?

2. This I believe, yea, rather,
Of this I make my boast,
That God is my dear Father,
The Friend who loves me most,
And that, whate'er betide me,
My Savior is at hand
Through stormy seas to guide me
And bring me safe to land. (TLH 528:1-2)