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# Grace Lutheran Church & School

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# Grace Lutheran Church & School



460 75<sup>th</sup> Ave. NE  
Fridley, MN 55432

Email: [john.p.hein@gmail.com](mailto:john.p.hein@gmail.com)

Home Page: [www.FridleyLutheran.org](http://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-8<sup>th</sup>

**Church Year:** Easter 7

**Date:** May 24, 2020

## ✠ WORSHIP INFORMATION ✠

### Hymns:

TLH 213: Hail the Day that Sees Him Rise

TLH 215: Draw Us to Thee

TLH 219: The Head that Once was Crowned

TLH 341, st. 5: Crown Him with Many Crowns

Listening assistance is available. Please ask an usher.

### Worship Prep:

Psalm 8, TLH p. 124

### Liturgy:

WS, p. 1 (Projected)

### Scripture Readings:

Acts 1:1-11

John 17:11b-19

### Sermon: Hebrews 10:5-14

<sup>5</sup> Therefore, when He came into the world, He said: "Sacrifice and offering You did not desire, But a body You have prepared for Me. <sup>6</sup> In burnt offerings and *sacrifices* for sin You had no pleasure. <sup>7</sup> Then I said, 'Behold, I have come-- In the volume of the book it is written of Me-- To do Your will, O God.'" <sup>8</sup> Previously saying, "Sacrifice and offering, burnt offerings, and *offerings* for sin You did not desire, nor had pleasure *in them*" (which are offered according to the law), <sup>9</sup> then He said, "Behold, I have come to do Your will, O God." He takes away the first that He may establish the second. <sup>10</sup> By that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once *for all*. <sup>11</sup> And every priest stands ministering daily and offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. <sup>12</sup> But this Man, after He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down at the right hand of God, <sup>13</sup> from that time waiting till His enemies are made His footstool. <sup>14</sup> For by one offering He has perfected forever those who are being sanctified. (NKJV<sup>TM</sup>)

"Ascension Satisfaction"

## ✝ ***THE ANNOUNCEMENTS*** ✝

- ➔ **Events at Grace:** This week the President announced that churches were essential and are able to reopen with worship. The Minnesota Governor is now allowing churches to reopen at 25% of their capacity starting this coming week. With Grace able to seat over 200, services will be limited to 50 people. Therefore, Grace will reopen next Sunday, May 31, with two services, at 9:00 am and 10:30 am. Members are urged to register, along with the number of people from each household, at: [signup.com/go/FGCVzqk](https://signup.com/go/FGCVzqk). A plan is also being sent via email. If anyone is high risk, vulnerable, recently exposed to a COVID-19 patient, or has symptoms of illness (especially high temperature and cough), the individual along with any others in that person's household are strongly urged to stay home for one's own well-being and the well-being of others. Also, please understand that if any member remains uncomfortable about returning to worship, online worship is still available at [FridleyLutheran.org](https://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 13, 2018, spliced with a new sermon and hymn. With Sunday School and Bible Class season over, these are not included this week.
- ➔ **Membership:** Joseph Thomas has recently completed his instruction class with Pastor Hein, now expressing agreement with our doctrinal teaching and practice. The intention is for him to profess his faith once we can have a public worship service.
- ➔ **Summer Schedule:** Per the Grace calendar, the summer schedule was slated to begin today, 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.
- ➔ **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](mailto:janellehein@gmail.com).
- ➔ **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:

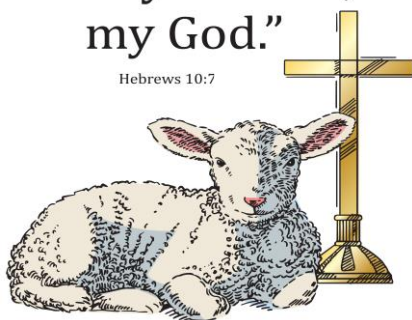
Grace Lutheran Church; 460 75<sup>th</sup> Ave NE; Fridley, MN 55432

The Council will ensure these are accounted for and deposited.

- ➔ **Parade:** Normally we promote the school in the annual Spring Lake Park Tower Days parade. This has been cancelled this year.
- ➔ **CLC Youth Camp:** This summer's youth camp has been cancelled.
- ➔ **Arise and Shine:** This retreat has been cancelled.
- ➔ **CLC News:** Pastor Paul Tiefel of Messiah Lutheran in Eau Claire, WI, has received the call to Redeemer Lutheran in Bowdle, SD, and Zion Lutheran in Ipswich, SD. † Pastor Michael Gurath of Holy Cross Lutheran in Phoenix, AZ, has returned the call to St. Luke's Lutheran in Lemmon, SD. † Seminary Graduate Cory Drehle will be installed/ordained as pastor of Berea Lutheran in Sioux Falls, SD, on June 14. † Teacher Neil Bernthal of Immanuel Lutheran in Winter Haven, FL, has returned the high school math/science teacher call to Immanuel Lutheran in Mankato, MN. † Teacher Dan Barthels of Gethsemane Lutheran in Saginaw, MI, has returned the teacher/principal call to Redeemer Lutheran in Cheyenne, WY.

"I have come  
to do your will,  
my God."

Hebrews 10:7



# CLC E-Devotion: Friday May 22, 2020

1 Peter 3:22 Jesus Christ ... has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, angels and authorities and powers having been made subject to Him.

## **Our Ascended Lord Has Authority Over Powers**

This Scripture makes clear reference to “powers” which are subject to Jesus Christ as He is seated at the right hand of God.

The unbelieving world likes to speak about “acts of God” — the ways a supreme being appears to operate in the vastness and minuteness of this incredibly large universe. On our part, we believers take comfort knowing such “acts” are all in Jesus’ hands.

Yes, all! All atomic, laser, and quasar technology — life in all its forms — operates under the control of Christ, as the apostle Paul writes: “By Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist...” (Colossians 1:16-17).

And the “all” that is subject to Christ includes the powers of darkness. The devil and his demonic hosts, the spirit that now works in the children of disobedience — he and all his angels and all his wicked servants among mankind are subject to Jesus who is at the right hand of the Father.

If then nothing happens except by Jesus’ providential guidance and His all-pervasive direction, how do we explain the horrors of violence, war, and countless other horrible atrocities, tragedies, and maladies on planet Earth — including the current international scourge of COVID-19 which may claim the lives even of Christian believers? How do we reconcile all this with the gracious providential care of a loving God and Savior?

One Bible-based answer is God does not condone these things, but He does permit them. In the process though He sees to it that none of His elect among the victims are lost forever, for “all things work together for good to them that love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose” (Romans 8:28).

Thus for comfort and strength in every circumstance we turn to our loving Savior on heaven’s high throne, knowing “He Himself took our infirmities and bore our sicknesses” (Matthew 8:17).

*Alleluia! Not as orphans Are we left in sorrow now;  
Alleluia! He is near us; Faith believes, nor questions how.  
Though the cloud from sight received Him When the forty days were o’er,  
Never shall we lose his promise: “I am with you evermore!”*

(Worship Supplement 2000, 738:3)

# IS WORSHIP ESSENTIAL?

“Extremely important, absolutely necessary, fundamental, indispensable” are definitions we found for the word essential.

What is essential is much in the news today during the panic created by the present virus. What is deemed essential today determines what is allowed, or what is open or closed. Given that God’s Word (Scripture) is challenged by people echoing Pilate who asked, “What is Truth?”, we are not surprised our *right to gather for worship* is deemed as unessential. The decision is conditioned by subjective opinion of opinion makers, not all of whom are agreed with one another.

No less than others, Christ-believers have concern for their neighbor, as well as themselves. Christians are not insensitive to death and dying caused by the virus. We understand the seriousness of it. Christians in their mortal bodies are no less immune to contracting disease than others. Christians get sick and die just like the heathen. What distinguishes Christ-believers from the majority are respect for and trust in the Lord Who day by day – from the air we breathe to the food we eat — provides the essentials for life. Further, virus or no, our times are in His hands (Psalm 31:15)

We understand some things are more essential than others as efforts are made to mitigate (another presently popular word) the consequences of a disease. So we do not disagree with the necessity of choosing essentials. However, we take issue with what is deemed essential, since what is essential is the criterion by which worship inside a church building has been denied.

What is essential in the present scenario is fraught with contradictions. Among many, perhaps the most egregious example in the context of trying to save lives is how initially cancer surgeries that contribute to quality of life were not essential. Yet the right to get an abortion which destroys life was deemed as essential.

**GOD’S WORD IS ESSENTIAL!** That is not debatable! That has not been banned – yet. According to what and by whose measure other than personal opinion or consensus (which does not establish science) is hearing God’s Word in public worship service not essential?

Whether or not we are permitted to worship publicly, the principle by which the Christ-believer lives is: “This book of the Law shall not depart

from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night... (Joshua 1:8). The apostle Paul wrote, "Let the Word of God dwell in you richly in all wisdom ..." (Colossians 3:16). Jesus said, "Blessed are those who hear the Word of God and keep it" (Luke 11:28).

Does the application of that principle make attending *public worship* essential? In one sense, no. There is no Scripture that says, "Thou must go to church to be saved." We hear the Word when we read the Scripture at home, when we study the Word at home, when we meditate on the grace of God at home, when we teach our children the Word of the Lord at home. The Word of God is heard and is efficacious in whatever venue it is studied. The Spirit of God nurtures faith unto salvation through the Word in the quiet of our homes as well as before the altar in church.

According to the third commandment, we are not to "despise preaching and His Word, but hold it sacred, and gladly hear and learn it." However, it is not *inability* to hear the Word in church that condemns. The sin is neglecting the Word and Sacrament and, being indifferent to hearing it. But the reality is that not everyone is always able to attend church. For example, sickness, having no church of one's own faith, military service, and work(?), can intervene. Further, hearing the Word of God means more than sitting in the pew once a week or reading the Bible every day at home. Hearing is manifest in our assent to the apostle's word which says, "But be ye doers of the Word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves" (James 1:22). True hearing means meditating on the Word and applying it to one's life, both with respect to "You shall," and "You shall not" (the Law), as well as the blessed Gospel of salvation in Christ Who has redeemed us from sin and clothed us in His righteousness which avails before God.

*However*, since one can be blessed through study of the Word and meditation in it in the privacy of one's home (Is it being done faithfully?), let no one conclude that attending worship with fellow, likeminded believers is unimportant. David said, "I was glad when they said to me, 'Let us go into the house of the LORD'" (Psalm 122:1). No



passage speaks more directly to the God-fearing, Spirit-inspired Christ-believer's attitude than David's expressions: "LORD, I have loved the habitation of Your house, and the place where Your glory dwells...My foot stands in an even place; in the congregations [assemblies of believers] I will bless the LORD" (Ps. 26:8,12). The writer to the Hebrews said, "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 ourselves together*, as *is* the manner of some, but exhorting *one another*, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching" (Hebrews 10:23-25). The conclusion of the Colossians passage above says, "...Teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord." Asaph was envious of how the wicked prospered. He said, "When I thought how to understand this, it was too painful for me—until I went into the sanctuary of God; then I understood their end" (Psalm 73:16-17). In the early church "They continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in breaking of bread, and in prayers" (Acts 2:42). The same chapter in Acts speaks of how they continued "daily with one accord in the temple." Mark says of Jesus, "He entered into the synagogue and taught" (Mark 1:21). Paul and Barnabas "gathered the church together" (Acts 14:27). They gathered the believers to tell how the Lord "had opened the door of faith to the Gentiles."

Again there is no "Go to church to be saved" in the Bible. Yet, assembling together as the Lord instructs is a public confession of faith. Besides the personal blessing, it is a witness to the world and the neighbor that nurturing and nourishing faith is an *essential* part of the Christian's existence as he awaits the Lord's return. It is the desire, and yes, a "felt need", of Christians to mutually support and encourage one another, to sit with one another at the feet of Jesus Whose Word is proclaimed by the called under-shepherd, and to join in a united choir of praise to the Lord. Worshiping together is an expression of a God-fearing priority.



People are innately social. Within the family of God, there is a closer bond yet than the social bond. Christians of the same faith, hope, and eternal future through faith in Christ need one another in a world that scorns the



Lord, mocks the faith, and considers worship unessential. Obviously, the Savior considered worship “essential.” As a twelve-year-old, He went to the temple with Mary and Joseph. During His ministry, “As His custom was, He went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day...” (Luke 4:16).

Faith in Christ is the tie that unites fellow believers. Within the worship service the Church, the assembly of believers, in Jesus’ name sings in unison:

“We share our mutual woes, Our mutual burdens bear,  
And often for each other flows The sympathizing tear” (TLH 464:3).

The third commandment says, “Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy” (Exodus 20:8, Deuteronomy 5:12). Sabbath means “rest.” For the Jews that was the 7<sup>th</sup> day. They were commanded to set aside the day for study and meditation. With the coming of Christ we are not under the command as to the day (Colossians 2:16-17). Christ is our Sabbath—every day. Whenever we immerse ourselves in the Word, and in the Gospel, we find rest for our soul and spirit. The early Church in freedom chose the first day of the week to gather in public worship in commemoration of the Lord’s resurrection on the first day of the week. Every Sunday is a celebration of Easter.

Martin Luther wrote: “Nature teaches and demands that the mass of the people—servants and mechanics, who the whole week attend to their work and trades—retire for a day of rest and recreation. And then, especially, do we keep holy days that people may have time and opportunity to worship with the congregation which otherwise they could not do. Also that they may assemble in meetings to hear and discuss God’s Word and appropriately praise him with song and prayer... “How then is the day kept holy? Not by sitting behind the stove and avoiding manual labor, nor by decking ourselves with garlands and putting on our best clothes; but, as has been said, by studying God’s Word and putting it into practice” (*Large Catechism*, Augsburg Pub. House, 1935, pp. 60-61).

Satan masquerades under the cover of the pandemic. Coming out of the pandemic, whoever believes or is deceived into thinking that assembling for worship together (Hebrews 10:23-25) is not essential has bought his lie.

“The old evil Foe Now means deadly woe;  
Deep guile and great might  
Are his dread arms in fight...” (TLH:262:1)

The child of God will not let him have the day. During the mandated closure of churches, utilize the Word privately and together with your family, including your children. The Lord is present where two or three are gathered together in His name (Matthew 18:20). He is present with His Gospel of salvation, and with reassurance for the difficult times, as well as healing for the sorrowful spirit.

Be that as it may, **worship together is essential.** But let us also recognize and acknowledge that any protestations to denying Christians the right to worship together are meaningless if after the worship ban is lifted we prove ourselves hypocrites by negligence and complacency in our worship life. God forbid!

Let this time of closure be a reminder of the blessings we have in the Word, and may it increase appreciation of the privilege we have to worship in God's house in fellowship with one another around the Means of Grace, the Gospel in Word and Sacrament. How pleasant it is for Christ-believers to gather to be nourished by the Good Shepherd in the green pastures and by the still waters.



The Lord's our Creator, Redeemer, and Keeper  
Our Refuge in trouble, our Comfort in need,  
Our Savior from sin, the way, truth, and life.  
To plead both His mercy and plenteous grace,  
In faith with thanksgiving, in confidence of heav'n,  
With hearts united and voices together,  
We worship together the Lord of our life.

"Give unto the LORD, O you mighty ones, give unto the LORD glory and strength. Give unto the LORD the glory due to His name; Worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness" (Psalm 29:1-2).

Written by Rev. Daniel Fleischer, 5/2020

# Worship the LORD!

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# MINISTRIES FOUND ONLINE

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[www.FridleyLutheran.org](http://www.FridleyLutheran.org)

## Some website links:



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

## Check out the following online devotional materials:

- ➔ Weekly video of the Grace Lutheran Church sermon:  
[www.fridleylutheran.org/category/sermons/](http://www.fridleylutheran.org/category/sermons/)
- ➔ Weekly CLC "Ministry by Mail" sermon:  
[ministrybymail.clclutheran.org](http://ministrybymail.clclutheran.org)
- ➔ Daily email devotions from The Bread of Life (The Lutheran Spokesman): [breadoflife.clclutheran.org](http://breadoflife.clclutheran.org)
- ➔ Daily email devotions from CLC pastors:  
[www.redeemerclc.info/ministries/](http://www.redeemerclc.info/ministries/)
- ➔ Daily email for a CLC Three-Year Bible reading program:  
[www.threeyearbiblereadingplan.wordpress.com](http://www.threeyearbiblereadingplan.wordpress.com)
- ➔ Daily audio of the chapel address from our Immanuel campus:  
[www.ilc.edu/faith-worship/chapel-list/](http://www.ilc.edu/faith-worship/chapel-list/)

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 24:** Summer Schedule Begins  
Online Worship Service
- Sun., May 31:** Register for service at [signup.com/go/FGCVzqk](https://signup.com/go/FGCVzqk)  
9:00 am – Worship Service  
10:30 am – 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 17, 2020				Sun.: Online	S.S.: Online	B.Cl.: Online
Sun. Offering:	Grace:	\$3,670	CLC:	\$680		
Weekly Need:	Grace:	4,000	CLC:	950		
-Under / +Over:	Grace:	-330	CLC:	-270		
Year-to-Date Offering:	Grace:	\$85,172	CLC:	\$18,705		
Year-to-Date Need:	Grace:	80,000	CLC:	19,000		
Year-to-Date (+/-)	Grace:	+5,172	CLC:	-295		
GLC Other: 128	Living Faith: 5		Tuition Aid: 115			
SAF Endowment: 10	MDF: 5		Kinship: 7			
ILC Student Aid: 5	ILC Bldg. 105		IIF: 0 CEF: 0			
Current Balances:		Tuition Aid: \$1,485				

### 1 Timothy 3:16

And without controversy  
great is the mystery of godliness:  
God was manifested in the flesh,  
Justified in the Spirit,  
Seen by angels,  
Preached among the Gentiles,  
Believed on in the world,  
Received up in glory.