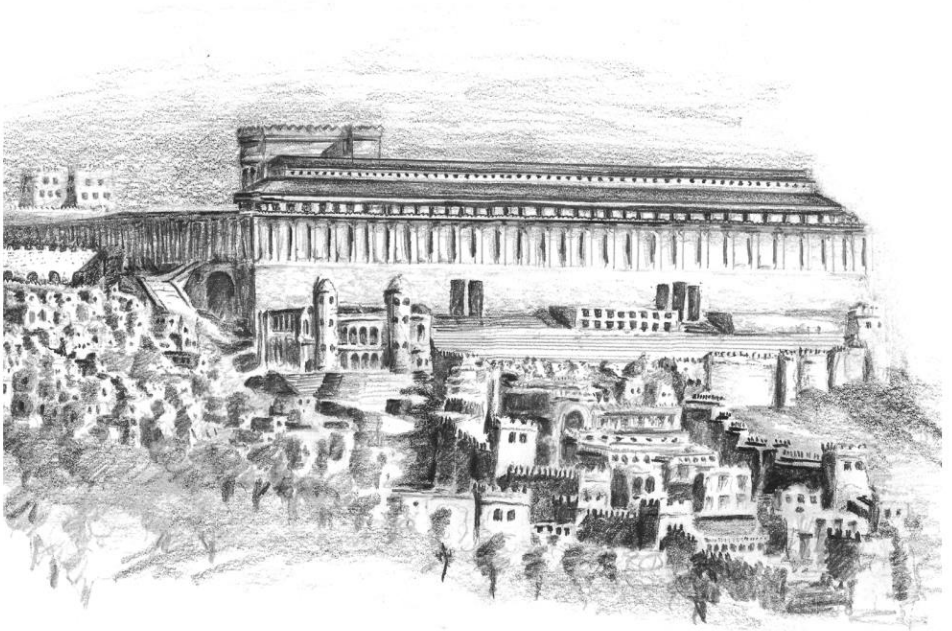


THE
MOUNTAIN
RANGE
OF THE LORD'S GLORY



MOUNT ZION

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: Lent 3

Date: March 20, 2022

✠ WORSHIP INFORMATION ✠

Hymns:

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

Sun. School: TLH 151: Christ, the Life of all the Living

TLH 469: Glorious Things of Thee are Spoken

TLH 479: Zion, Rise, Zion, Rise

TLH 474: Zion Stands by Hills Surrounded

Listening assistance is available. Please ask an usher.

Worship Prep:

Psalms 48, TLH p. 134

Liturgy:

TLH, p. 5 (Projected)

Gloria: TLH 466:1,4

Scripture Readings:

Psalms 48

Passion Harmony

Sermon: Hebrews 12:22-24

²² But you have come

to Mount Zion and

to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem,

to an innumerable company of angels,

²³ to the general assembly and church of the firstborn *who are* registered in heaven,

to God the Judge of all, to the spirits of just men made perfect,

²⁴ to Jesus the Mediator of the new covenant, and

to the blood of sprinkling that speaks better things than *that* of Abel. (NKJVTM)

**MOUNT ZION:
WHERE THE LORD BUILDS HIS CHURCH**

The Chosen are Called to Make a Choice

After the Lord had delivered the Israelites from Egyptian bondage, He would give them their own land, the land of Canaan. As they arrived at the border, the Lord spoke to Moses. "Send men to spy out the land of Canaan, which *I am giving* to the children of Israel" (Numbers 13:1). Twelve men, one from each tribe, were to reconnoiter to "see what the land is like" (v.18). Of the twelve, ten "gave the children of Israel a bad report" (v. 32). However, Joshua and Caleb gave a positive report. Caleb said, "Let us go up at once and take possession, for we are well able to overcome it" (v. 30). The people believed the majority. They rebelled and refused to take possession of what the Lord was giving them.

"The Lord is longsuffering and abundant in mercy, forgiving iniquity and transgression..." (Numbers 14:18). But mercy does not exclude discipline for disobedience. The Lord Who is faithful was going to give Israel the land, but first they must endure forty years of chastisement in the wilderness. No one twenty years old and above when they left Egypt would enter (v.29). Even Moses, the man of God and faithful leader of Israel, was denied entrance into the Promised Land because during the wilderness experience he had disobeyed the Lord out of weakness and likely out of some frustration with the forgetful, unthankful people (Numbers 20:8-12).

Moses, the servant of God saved by the grace of God, was given the privilege to see the Promised Land from Mount Nebo before the Lord called him to Himself. That Israel would not be leaderless, the Lord instructed Moses to appoint Joshua, "a man in whom is the Spirit" (Numbers 27:18). Joshua as an assistant to Moses had been prepared for the task to which he was called. He is prominently mentioned in Exodus as a faithful servant of the Lord. Joshua, whose name means "Jehovah is salvation," led Israel into the Promised Land. Though Israel was frequently disobedient to the Lord, by the grace of God it had rest from its enemies during Joshua's tenure.

As Joshua drew near to the end of his life he exhorted the people to faithfulness. In his farewell address he reminded them of how the Lord had led them from Egypt, cared for them in the wilderness, and blessed them in the land He had given them. To the elders, judges, and officers he said, "Behold, this day *I am* going the way of all the earth. And you know in all your hearts and in all your souls that not one thing has failed of all the good things which the LORD your God spoke concerning you. All have come to pass for you; not one word of them has failed" (Joshua 23:2,14).

Further, he alerted them, "Therefore it shall come to pass, that as all the good things have come upon you which the LORD your God promised you, so the LORD will bring upon you all harmful things, until He has destroyed you

from this good land which the Lord your God has given you. When you have transgressed the covenant of the LORD your God, which He commanded you, and have gone and served other gods, and bowed down to them, then the anger of the LORD will burn against you, and you shall perish quickly from the good land which He has given you” (vv.15-16).

In his reminder of the Lord’s goodness and in his exhortation, Joshua called upon Israel to make a choice. He gathered all the tribes and said, “Now therefore, fear the LORD, serve Him in sincerity and in truth, and put away the gods which your fathers served on the other side of the River and in Egypt. Serve the LORD! And if it seems evil to you to serve the Lord, choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods which your fathers served that *were* on the other side of the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD” (Joshua 24:1, 14-15).

Neither Old Testament Israel was what it was nor are Christ-believers today what they are because neither in their time chose the Lord. Unregenerate man does not choose God, does not choose to believe in Jesus Christ. The dead in sin cannot make decisions for Christ. Jesus said, “**You did not choose Me, but I chose you** and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and *that* your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you” (John 15:16). As a result of the call to faith, *children of God (believers)* in the Old Testament who knew the Lord and His will, as well as we, must make choices.

Every day, Christ-believers are confronted with choices between God and the world, between good and evil. Scripture defines the difference. The desire and power to make the right decision lies not in our natural will but is generated by the goodness, faithfulness, and mercy of God. Notice how Joshua in his farewell address prefaced his exhortation to choose whom they would serve. Neither they nor we should forget what the consequences are of wrong choices!

To Joshua’s call to make a choice, the people answered, “Far be it from us that we should forsake the LORD to serve other gods” (Joshua 24:17).

The book of Judges now records one of the saddest times in the history of Israel.

After Joshua’s death, “When all that generation had been gathered to their fathers, *another generation arose after them who did not know the LORD nor the work which He had done for Israel...* Then the *children of Israel did evil* in the sight of the LORD, and served the Baals; and they forsook the LORD God of their fathers, who had brought them out of the land of Egypt; and they followed other gods from *among* the gods of the people who *were* all around them, and they bowed down to them; and they provoked the LORD to anger. They forsook the LORD and served Baal and the Ashtoreths. And the

anger of the Lord was hot against Israel. So He delivered them into the hands of plunderers who despoiled them; and He sold them into the hands of their enemies all around, so that they could no longer stand before their enemies. Wherever they went out, the hand of the LORD was against them for calamity, as the LORD had said, and as the LORD had sworn to them. And they were greatly distressed” (Judges 2: 10-15).

Nevertheless, the Lord Who chastised them severely did not give up on them as the people with penitent hearts cried unto the Lord in the depth of the misery they had brought upon themselves. He raised up judges—among them Deborah, Gideon, and Samson—and raised up the prophet Samuel, people of God, who fought for them against their enemies and through whom the Lord reclaimed Israel for His own.

Fast forward to 2022. We do not equate the Israelites to whom Joshua spoke with the nation of Israel today, nor with the United States. But there are similarities we can draw from the nature of natural man, living in a world that for the most part has forsaken the Lord God to walk in their own ways. In this milieu of evil, Christ-believers can easily be snared if they forsake the Lord and, unlike faithful parents, pastors, and teachers, become another generation *who did not know the LORD nor the work which He had done for Israel.*



We live in what is known as the age of millennials. Millennials were born between the early 1980's and late 1990's. Among definitions we found on line: "Millennials tend to pay attention to public opinion, criticism and remarks and thus believe that organizations have a responsibility to respond to reasonable requests."

Such an attitude carried to extreme is spiritually harmful, if not spiritually fatal, to individuals. It also presents a challenge to churches which in our dying culture are not measuring up to the task which is defined by Scripture: "Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears...they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables" (2 Timothy 4:2-4). Who among us is going to deny we are in such times?! Of the millennials, whom we suggest are a good mirror of society in general, we read these disturbing conclusions:

- Almost one-half of young adults prefer socialism to capitalism.
- Foundation of absolute truth has been replaced by relativism, with feelings and friends forming one's worldview.

- 9 of 10 are syncretists, picking a mixture of beliefs from different religions so as not to appear “intolerant.”
- Being “born again” doesn’t result from repentance and faith in Christ’s sacrificial, substitutionary death and Resurrection but refers to being a good person, doing good deeds to merit one’s salvation.
- Only 28% believe the Bible is the Word of God.
- The overwhelming majority reject the concept of an all-knowing, all-powerful Creator and do not accept the biblical/historical view of Scripture, sin and salvation (Dr. George Barna, *Millennials in America*—Published on line, WND, 2/22/22).

Surrounded by heathen nations, Israel of old, despite its favored status, often chose to walk with the world and adapt itself to the heathen gods and life. The Lord then used the oppression of the same heathen to call Israel to repentance.

Like the Lord’s intent for ancient Israel, living in the midst of a heathen world Christ-believers are called to be lights—reflectors of divine truth through confession of the truth and of the Lord Jesus Christ—in teaching and life. While the Church is not called to save society, but souls for whom Jesus died, society does benefit when the Church is faithful to its call because the Lord blesses nations for the sake of His children who are the salt of the earth (Matthew 5:13). If millennials are to be reclaimed and society returned to a semblance of order it will only come to pass by the Spirit working through the Word of truth, the means of grace!

But why is Christianity under increasing oppression by the ungodly? Is it because Christians have been faithful to the truth in which case the Lord will deliver His own? Or might it be because within Christendom many have departed from the Lord, accommodating themselves to the world and exchanging God’s truth for Satan’s lies, and the oppressors are the Lord’s tool to call the church to repentance? Just asking!

Our merciful and gracious Father hears the cries of the penitent. He will redeem His promise, sealed by the Lord Jesus, to save for heaven those who in faith call on Him.

We speak not to the world, but to ourselves, and to all Christians who have recognized and enjoyed the manifold blessings of God and who care about their eternal welfare—and society--“Choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve.”

“God, our Father in heaven, help Your children in their faith and life to make the right choice, and keep it. Amen.”



✠ THE ANNOUNCEMENTS ✠

- ➔ **Midweek Lenten Services:** Our midweek services continue this Wednesday, March 23, 7 pm. Our theme is "The Mountain Range of the LORD's Glory," meditations based on biblical events occurring at mountains. The service is preceded by a soup supper at 6 pm to which anyone is invited to attend.
- THE
MOUNTAIN
RANGE
OF THE LORD'S GLORY
- ➔ **Nomination Slate:** Given the vacancy on the Board of Education, the nomination committee functioned to provide the following slate of candidates to consider at the Voters Meeting on April 24: James Bomber, Larry Nelson, and Bob Vandever.
 - ➔ **Have You Considered ILC?** Our Immanuel Lutheran College in Eau Claire, Wisconsin, offers an academically excellent, Christ-centered college education. There are four-year degree programs in Education (BS) and Pre-Theology (BA), as well as a two-year Associate of Arts program. ILC offers a range of student aid to help you finance your education; apply by the May 1 deadline to receive priority consideration. If you are a high school junior or senior (or older) thinking about college, check out our academic and registration information at ILC.edu, or contact our CLC recruiter, Pastor Sam Rodebaugh, at sam.rodebaugh@gmail.com, cell (414) 534-7279.
 - ➔ **CLC News:** Pastor Mark Bernthal of Peace Thru Christ in Middleton, WI (Madison area) has planned for his retirement on July 31, 2022. Lord willing, he plans to make himself available for vacancy work and other service to the Lord in his retirement. † Pastor Mark Tiefel of Redemption Lutheran in Lynnwood, WA (Seattle area), has received the call to Peace Thru Christ Lutheran in Middleton, WI. † Teacher Rebecca Lillo of St. Stephen's Lutheran in Mountain View, CA, has received the 3rd-5th Grade Teacher call at Faith Lutheran in Markesan, WI. † Allison Brown, a member of Faith Lutheran in Markesan, WI, has received the congregation's call to be Part-Time Preschool Teacher.
 - ➔ **Sunday School Memory Work:** #22 – Review of the Three Articles

Last Week's Stats: Mar. 13, 2022 Sun.: 75 S.S.: 11 B.Cl.: 31 Wed.: 41

Sun. Offering:	Grace:	\$8,782*	CLC:	\$1,260	
Wed. Offering:	Grace:	\$6,499	CLC:	\$3,220	
Weekly Need:	Grace:	4,250	CLC:	1,020	
-Under / +Over:	Grace:	+11,031	CLC:	+3,460	
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Year-to-Date Offering:	Grace:	\$49,067	CLC:	\$11,920	
Year-to-Date Need:	Grace:	46,750	CLC:	11,220	
Year-to-Date (+/-)	Grace:	+2,317	CLC:	+700	
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GLC Other:	255	Living Faith:	5	Tuition Aid:	165
SAF Endowment:	0	MDF:	10	Kinship:	1,015
ILC Student Aid:	15	ILC Bldg.	0	IIF:	0
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Current Balances:	Tuition Aid: \$492		Organ: \$49,277		

*\$5,700 in school tuition.

† TODAY AT GRACE †

Organist: Sue Nelson

Elder: Benno Sydow

Ushers: Gary Gunther; Bob Maki; Bill Rust; David Stifter;
Jeff Stifter; Joel Stifter; Bob Vandever

Counting Team 4: James Bomber; Roger Ochsner; Al
Rosendahl; Dave Rust

Hospitality Team 4: Bonnie Baker; Nick & Miranda
Duehlmeier; Jenny Kleifgen; Pat & Dawn Paplow

Church Cleaners: Fleischer

† NEXT WEEK AT GRACE †

Ushers: Gary Gunther; Bob Maki; Bill Rust; David Stifter;
Jeff Stifter; Joel Stifter; Bob Vandever

Counting Team 1: Dale Enns; Larry Nelson; Ryan Oman; Pat
Paplow; Phil Radichel

Church Cleaners: Fleischer

School: Rinne



† OUR SCHEDULE †

- Sun., Mar. 20:** 8:30 am – Choir Practice
9:00 am – Bible Class
10:00 am – Worship Service (Lent 3)
11:00 am – Hospitality
- Mon. Mar. 21:** Grace School Resumes from Spring Break
- Wed., Mar. 23:** 4:30-6:15 pm – Catechism for Public School Students
6:00 pm – Lenten Soup Supper
7:00 pm – Midweek Lenten Worship
- Sun., Mar. 27:** 8:30 am – Choir Practice
9:00 am – Bible Class
10:00 am – Worship Service (Lent 4)
6:30 pm – ILC Tour Choir Concert @ Messiah in Eau Claire
- Sun., Apr. 3:** 12:00 pm – Council Meeting
- Fri., Apr. 8:** 7:00 pm – Grace School Fair on “Art”
- Sun., Apr. 10:** **PALM SUNDAY**
10:00 am – Worship Service w/Grace School Concert
- Thu., Apr. 14:** **MAUNDY THURSDAY** (No Worship Service)
- Fri., Apr. 15:** **GOOD FRIDAY**
7:00 pm – Good Friday Worship Service w/Lord’s Supper
- Sun., Apr. 17:** **EASTER** (S.S., Bible Class, Hospitality Suspended)
7:30 am – Easter Breakfast
9:00 am – Easter Festival Worship Service
- Sun., Apr. 24:** Voters & Dorcas Guild Meetings (week later due to Easter)
- Fri., Apr. 29:** Kindergarten Roundup at Grace Lutheran School
Immanuel Lutheran High School Visitors’ Day
- July 25-29:** Vacation Bible School