

Grace Lutheran Church, Ph. #920-682-7377 gracelutheran@tm.net
Pastor Tom Pankow - gracepastor@tm.net
19th Sunday After Pentecost - October 11, 2020

***“What is God Like? He is Authentic...
Looking for the Real Deal in Us—True Repentance!”***

The Lord knows the difference between authentic Christians and those who fake it because their hearts are far from Him. What He wants He can produce in us by his words. Bless us, Lord Jesus!

We live-stream our 8:00am service.

Go to our website www.gracelutheran-church.com and click on the “Live Stream Video” link. Livestreaming will begin about 5 minutes prior to the start of worship. This recording will also be archived for future viewing.

SERVICE OF THE WORD (*page 38 in hymnal*)

HYMN #351: “Hail, O Once-Despised Jesus” *ALL sing*

M: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

C: *And also with you.*

CONFESSION OF SINS

M: 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.*

M: 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.*

PRAYER AND PRAISE

In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

OH, TASTE AND SEE *ALL sing*

PRAYER OF THE DAY:

M: Let us pray; Mercifully grant, O God, that your Holy Spirit may in all things direct and rule our hearts, for without your help we are unable to please you; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: *Amen. ALL sing*

GOD’S WORD

FIRST LESSON: Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32

Ezekiel brings a strong warning for Christians who grow lax in their faith or dismissive of their sin. God wants real repentance that leads to true obedience. Israel had not given either. Instead of seeing their suffering as a result of their sin and as a call to repentance, they saw only injustice. With their favorite proverb, “The fathers eat sour grapes and the children’s teeth are set on edge,” they were saying that God should certainly punish sin, but they felt he was punishing the wrong people. “Repent!”, God says, “turn from your wickedness and live.” God promises not to judge us by our past, but by our present, and so he calls us to live anew.

PSALM 25 (*page 74*) *ALL sing REFRAIN and speak the verses responsively*

SECOND LESSON: Philippians 2:1-11

Real repentance leads us to the true obedience of imitating Christ. Jesus is the true son of his Father who not only said the words, “Not my will, but yours,” but also did the work, “obedient to death—even death on a cross.” When his work was complete, God the Father exalted his Son to the highest place and now calls every man to real repentance and the true obedience of bending the knee and confessing with joy that Jesus Christ is Lord.

VERSE OF THE DAY: *Alleluia.* At the name of Jesus every knee should bow, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Alleluia. (Philippians 2:10,11)

GOSPEL LESSON: Matthew 21:28-32

The great men of Israel had gathered against Jesus. These men knew all the words to say and ways to act, but the only “righteousness” they had was a self-righteousness that offended God. The parable Jesus spoke against them convicts every self-righteous person. True obedience is not merely saying what God wants to hear, but doing what God wants done. Even the vilest sinner that repents gives an obedience far more true than the seemingly upright man wallowing in his self-righteousness. What a stinging rebuke of our lukewarm Christianity! What a Spirit-filled opportunity to be cleansed and comforted and renewed in real, authentic obedience to our Savior’s glory. Repent, Christ says, and believe—true obedience will surely follow.

P: This is the gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise be to you, O Christ! ALL sing

HYMN #385: “Chief of Sinners Though I Be”

SERMON—based on Gospel Lesson Matthew 21:28-32

APOSTLES’ CREED

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

M: Lord God, our maker and preserver, we praise and thank you for all that you give us day after day.

C: We are not worthy of all the mercies you show us.

M: You have given us your precious Word to nourish our souls and to protect us from the temptations of the devil, the world, and our sinful nature.

C: We thank you for those who teach and preach your saving truth at this place and everywhere. Grant them a rich measure of patience, wisdom, and love.

M: Heavenly Father, we pray that you shield us from every kind of danger: sudden catastrophe, terrors of crime, and the pain of disease. Watch over those who travel by land, sea, and air. Keep our loved ones from whatever perils may threaten them.

C: Heal those who are sick, cheer those who are sad, calm those who are distressed, and comfort all who are old and infirm.

M: Bless our land, our people, and those who hold offices of high trust. Keep our government and schools upright and strong for the advancement of good citizenship and useful vocations, that we may enjoy your gifts of peace, security, and well-being.

C: Grant your blessing to every nation on earth. Where there are wars, may there be peace. Where there is hatred, let it be healed. Where there is poverty, danger, or disaster, come with your almighty power to help and restore.

M: Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

Silent prayer.

M: We bring these requests before you in the name of Jesus our Lord, and ask you to hear us. Take all that we have, our bodies and minds, our time and skills, our ministries and offerings, and use them to your glory.

C: We give ourselves to you that we may serve you in whatever way is pleasing in your sight. Amen.

LORD’S PRAYER

BENEDICTION

M: My brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness.

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace.

C: Amen. Amen. Amen. ALL sing

HYMN #370: “All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name” stanzas 1,3,5

Grace is holding a Food Drive for Peter’s Pantry—It starts today and goes through November 29. *Donations can be placed in the bin in the fellowship hall. There are fliers on the table there with suggested items needed.*

Bible Class Opportunities:

◆ “Christians in Conflict” themes for this week:

◆ Today 9:20am: “Blessed are the Peacemakers”

◆ Tuesday, 6:30pm & Wednesday, 1:30pm: “Peacemaking & Faith”

◆ “Politics is Driving Me Crazy” led by Pastor. Sat Oct 17, 8:00am, Sunday Oct 18, 6:30pm.