



Church of the Lutheran Confession  
501 Grover Rd  
Eau Claire, WI 54701  
[www.clclutheran.org](http://www.clclutheran.org)



## CHURCH OF THE LUTHERAN CONFESSION 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY MAY 16, 2010

### ABOUT THE ANNIVERSARY SERVICE

This anniversary service liturgy was designed for use at the local CLC anniversary celebrations on May 16th.

As an anniversary service, it looks to God in thankfulness for grace already given and also looks to Him for continued mercy and guidance in the days ahead. The service is based on the traditional parts of the liturgy such as Kyrie, Gloria, Credo, etc. Not only is it difficult to improve on these basic liturgical building blocks, but over the centuries millions of Christians have found comfort and joy in these worship elements.

The service begins with a “Gathering” which combines the key themes of the liturgy with a liturgical hymn reflecting those same thoughts. While those worshipping with this liturgy may not necessarily notice it, this section also includes text that is significant in the history of our own body. The Confession of Sins, for example, draws its expressions from Psalm 1 which was the text preached at the first opening service of Immanuel Lutheran High School in 1959. In the Gloria you will find 2 Peter 3:18 quoted, the text preached at the first graduation service of Immanuel Lutheran College. Also the familiar hymn “Christ is Our Cornerstone” appears as the Hymn of the Day, the verses being placed in the order which matches the version sung today at ILC should a congregation wish to use that particular arrangement in its service (the music from the hymnal may also be used). The Gradual uses “God’s Word is Our Great Heritage” which was originally coupled with Luther’s hymn “A Mighty Fortress” in the Danish translation by Nicolai Grundtvig.

These things are pointed out not to draw attention to ourselves and our own history as if it is something so great, but to draw attention to how the Lord’s Word has so guided us in the past and how that Word remains the same today as it was then. It also gives us a chance to give thanks in our hearts to God for the influence which past believers have had upon us. This is not an unscriptural idea either (2 Tim 1:5, Rev 14:13).

After the Invocation, the organist will introduce the melody of the liturgical hymn so the verses can be sung without subsequent introductions.

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### GRACE: ‘TIS A CHARMING SOUND’

Grace is a big word among us. It is a word that is spoken with reference to many gifts and circumstances in our personal life, as well as our church life as in this 50<sup>th</sup> year of the CLC: “We are celebrating 50 years of grace.” We testify to the grace of God and express our reliance on it in our confirmation. In fact, it is a word expressed so prevalently in our Christian life and preaching that unfortunately it may easily become a by-word that is used without understanding

It is a word nevertheless so rich in meaning that we want to treasure it and neither use it carelessly in our speech, nor abuse it through lack of appreciation of it in our life. In the Christian context it is a word that describes the loving-kindness, the good will, and the tender love of God to us. One lexicon says it is used at the beginning and end of the epistles because the apostles “craved for their readers the favor (grace) of God or of Christ to which all blessings, especially spiritual are due” (Thayer). We need not do more than urge you to look into your Scriptures to see this demonstrated. The word also “contains the idea of kindness which bestows upon one what he has not deserved.” Hence you hear the word defined as “undeserved love.” God the Father in loving kindness, determined in His own heart to save mankind. Already in eternity in His kindness and love He elected us to salvation, and in His grace brought to pass in time what He had determined in eternity. In His rich kindness toward fallen man He promised the Savior from sin and in the fullness of time the Savior Jesus Christ was born. Our Lord Jesus Christ obeyed His Father’s will and voluntarily came to earth to bear our sin and condemnation that we through His perfect righteousness and blood might be saved. Through the grace manifest in our baptism, the Father through the Spirit brought us to faith in Christ. By His grace He has preserved His Word to us. There is no limit to His grace through which He will receive into heaven all those who persevere in faith in Jesus unto the end.

The word is so rich in meaning and so expressive of all that we possess as children of God as well as hope for in time and for eternity that we cannot in a short commentary explain it all. But we can hardly speak of the subject without quoting the classic manifestation of grace: “For by *grace* you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast” (Ephesians 2: 8, 9). Our eternal salvation is by grace a gift of God’s undeserved love which comes to us through faith. It clearly excludes completely and totally the idea of or introduction of works into the article of salvation. We are “*justified freely by His grace* through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus” (Romans 3: 21 – 26).

Paul wrote, “I thank my God always concerning you for the grace of God which was given you by Christ Jesus” (! Corinthians 1:4). He also prayed, “We thank as workers with Him also plead with you not to receive the grace of God in vain” (2 Corinthians 6:1).

“Lord God, by your grace preserve us through all circumstances of life unto salvation. May we never abuse your grace or think of it lightly. Amen.”

Written by Rev. Daniel Fleischer, 5/16/2010

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## CLOSING HYMN

TLH 19, st. 1, 4-5: All Praise to God

All praise to God, who reigns above,  
The God of all creation,  
The God of wonders, power, and love,  
The God of our salvation!  
With healing balm my soul He fills,  
The God who every sorrow stills,~  
To God all praise and glory!

The Lord forsaketh not His flock,  
His chosen generation;  
He is their Refuge and their Rock,  
Their Peace and their Salvation.  
As with a mother's tender hand  
He leads His own, His chosen band,~  
To God all praise and glory!

Ye who confess Christ's holy name,  
To God give praise and glory!  
Ye who the Father's power proclaim,  
To God give praise and glory!  
All idols under foot be trod,  
The Lord is God! The Lord is God!  
To God all praise and glory! Amen.

## OPENING HYMN

Oh, Lord our God, We bless Your holy name.  
Who has through us, Your saving grace proclaimed.  
When the days seemed black, And our faith grew slack,  
You kept leading through the night.  
When our spirits failed, Then Your Word prevailed -  
Our one and only certain light.  
Lord guard Your Church. Set sinners free.  
Built on the Rock, Our Savior God, are we.  
Built on the Rock, Our Savior God, are we.

Oh, Lord our God, We bless Your holy name.  
Your Spirit send, Set all our hearts aflame.  
On this jubilee Open eyes to see  
All the blessings of Your grace.  
May we freely give All our lives we live,  
Your kingdom labors to embrace.  
Fill us with zeal. Let our hearts sing.  
As we rejoice To serve the King of kings.  
As we rejoice To serve the King of kings.

Oh, Lord our God, We bless Your holy name.  
Open the hearts Of souls Your grace will claim.  
Lord Your blessings send And Your Word defend  
While Your servants onward go.  
Give us courage Lord To proclaim Your Word,  
The soil prepare, the seed to sow.  
Lord send Your Word Throughout the earth.  
Your kingdom comes To souls who hear Your truth.  
Your kingdom comes To souls who hear Your truth.

Oh, Lord our God, We bless Your holy name.  
Who does through us Your saving grace proclaim.  
When the days seem black, And our faith grows slack,  
You will lead us through the night.  
When our spirits fail, Your Word will prevail -  
Our one and only certain light.  
Lord guard Your Church. Set sinners free.  
Built on the Rock, Our Savior God, are we.  
Built on the Rock, Our Savior God, are we.

## INVOCATION

M: We gather together in the name of the Father who created us; and of the Son who redeemed us; and of the Holy Spirit who sanctifies us.

C: Thanks be to God. Amen.



*Praise, my soul, the King of heaven;  
To His feet your tribute bring;  
Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,  
Evermore His praises sing:  
Alleluia, alleluia! Praise the everlasting King.*

## CONFESSION OF SINS AND ABSOLUTION

M. Blessed is the man Who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, Nor stands in the path of sinners, Nor sits in the seat of the scornful;

C. But his delight is in the law of the LORD, And in His law he meditates day and night.

M. He shall be like a tree Planted by the rivers of water, That brings forth its fruit in its season, Whose leaf also shall not wither; And whatever he does shall prosper.

C. The ungodly are not so, But are like the chaff which the wind drives away.

M. Therefore the ungodly shall not stand in the judgment, Nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous.

C. For the LORD knows the way of the righteous, But the way of the ungodly shall perish.

Heavenly Father, we come to You recognizing that in the past fifty years we have sinned against You in many and various ways. By our thoughts, words, and actions we have walked in the counsel of the wicked, stood in the way of sinners, and sat in the seat of mockers. We ask You to forgive us on account of the suffering, death, and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. May Your Holy Spirit lead us ever to delight in Your Word of salvation so that we may be as trees planted by streams of living water which yield their fruit in the proper season.

M. Keep in Your care, O Lord, all those we love, those who are close by and those far from home. Protect them from temptation and every spiritual evil.

C. Watch over those among us who are lonely or distressed, those who are afraid and facing danger, those who have pain of body or mind, and those who are at the hour of death.

ALL. Answer us according to your wisdom and grace, for Jesus' sake. Amen.

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

CHOIR

Seek His Word

(Music by Pastor Neal Radichel, Lyrics by Mrs. Jackie Radichel)

## THE BENEDICTION

M. May the God of peace, who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, equip you with everything good for doing His will, and may He work in us what is pleasing to Him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.

**ALL.** Sing to the Lord, for He has done marvelous things; let this be known to all the world.

M. Let this be the time, O Lord, when You renew us again by Word and Sacrament, when You reform our hearts and minds, and when You restore to us the joy of fellowship and service.

C. Grant to us in this age and in this place the courage of the apostles, the steadfastness of the reformers, and the dedication of the leaders of our past.

**ALL.** May the Lord our God be with us as He was with our fathers. May He never leave us or forsake us.

M. Let this be a time, O Lord, for confession and repentance. For Jesus' sake forgive us whenever we love ourselves more than You and whenever we serve ourselves instead of Your people. Forgive us for the apathy that harms our faith and hinders our work.

C. Forgive us for boasting of our past achievements and for blaming others for our present problems. Rid us of indifference toward public worship and grant us continued growth in Your Word, destroy all distrust that may plague us, and shatter every thought and word which harms the unity of the Spirit and the bond of peace.

**ALL.** Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.

M. Let this be the time, O Lord, when we recommit and re-consecrate ourselves to the ministry of the Gospel of Your Son. Let us find joy in our unity, zeal for our work, and, if it is Your will, success in our labor.

C. And give us faith, O Lord, to truly be, in our thoughts, words, and actions, what You have called us to be – witnesses of Your grace!

**ALL.** May God be gracious to us and bless us and make His face shine upon us, that Your ways may be known on earth, Your salvation among all nations.

M. In Christ we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace which He made to abound toward us in all wisdom and prudence. Amen.



*Praise Him for his grace and favor  
To His people in distress;  
Praise Him still the same as ever,  
Slow to chide and swift to bless:  
Alleluia, alleluia! Glorious in His faithfulness.*

## KYRIE

M. O Lord, as You have had mercy on us in our spiritual need, look upon us also in our bodily distress.

C. **Have mercy upon us, O Lord.**

M. As You healed the blind man who called out to You for mercy, reach down with Your powerful hand to restore us and preserve us while we live our lives in this fallen world.

C. **Have mercy upon us, O Christ .**

M. Strengthen us each hour that we might serve You all our days.

C. **Have mercy upon us, O Lord.**



*Fatherlike He tends and spares us;  
Well our feeble frame He knows;  
In His hand He gently bears us,  
Rescues us from all our foes.  
Alleluia, alleluia! Widely yet His mercy flows.*

## GLORIA IN EXCELSIS

M. We praise You, O God; we acknowledge You to be the Lord.

C. **Heaven and earth are full of the majesty of Your glory.**

M. You are the King of Glory, O Christ.

C. **When You had overcome the sharpness of death, You opened the kingdom of heaven to all believers.**

M. Now grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

C. To Him be glory both now and forever! Amen.



*“Glory in the highest glory!”  
Shout the angels in the skies,  
Bringing earth the wondrous story:  
God is come He meets our eyes.  
Alleluia, alleluia! “Peace to you,” the Lamb now cries!*

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

M. Heavenly Father, we rejoice that You have made us one with You and with each other through faith in Christ our Lord. We thank You for the abundant blessings You have bestowed upon our church body during the past fifty years, especially the Word and work in which You have enabled us to share. Confirm us in the faith we confess with those who have gone before us and those who have spoken Your Word to us. Empower us by Your Spirit to meet the challenges of our day as we take the Word of Christ to those in need. Continue to sustain us with Word and Sacrament until we come at last to our eternal home. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## THE LESSONS

### OLD TESTAMENT

Leviticus 25:1-17

God gives instructions to the Israelites regarding the Year of Jubilee.

### DAY SCHOOL CHILDREN

Rejoice

### EPISTLE

Romans 5:1-11

We have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

## THE OFFERING

## THE RESPONSIVE PRAYER

M. Almighty and eternal God, when the time was right, You sent Your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, to take our place under the demands of the law and to endure the just punishment for our sins.

C. **You accepted His sacrifice on the cross. You raised Him from death in glorious splendor. For His sake, You richly and daily forgive the sins of all who put their trust in You.**

**ALL. Praise the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits.**

M. When the time was right, You bestowed Your Holy Spirit on Your people as a testimony that You had called them to proclaim the Gospel to every creature.

C. **Equipped and encouraged, they carried the story of salvation into all the world.**

**ALL. The Lord reigns, let the earth be glad; let the distant shores rejoice.**

M. When the time was right, You raised up Your servant Martin Luther to destroy the idols of the medieval age and to restore the pure teaching of Your Holy Word.

C. **You renewed Your people with the light of Your love, You granted power and success to the proclamation of the Gospel, and Your holy Church grew and prospered throughout the world.**

**ALL. God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble.**

M. When the time was right, You brought together the founders and builders of our churches. Guided by Your Spirit, they took hold of the truth and abandoned an apathetic allegiance to Your Word.

C. **They joined hands with other believers and worked together in ministry as members of the Church of the Lutheran Confession. You have blessed their sons and daughters during the fifty years past and enabled us to preserve and proclaim the saving Gospel of Your Son.**

TLH 293, st. 1-2: O Holy Spirit, Grant Us Grace

O Holy Spirit, grant us grace  
That we our Lord and Savior  
In faith and fervent love embrace  
And truly serve Him ever,  
So that when death is drawing nigh,  
We to His open wounds may fly  
And find in them salvation.

Help us that we Thy saving Word  
In faithful hearts may treasure;  
Let e'er that Bread of Life afford  
New grace in richest measure.  
Yea, let us die to every sin,  
For heaven create us new within  
That fruits of faith may flourish.

## THE HYMN OF RESPONSE

All: Christ is our Corner-stone, on Him alone we build;  
With His true saints alone the courts of heaven are filled.  
On His great love our hopes we place  
Of present grace And joys above.

Women: Here, gracious God, do Thou forevermore draw nigh;  
Accept each faithful vow and mark each suppliant sigh.  
In copious shower on all who pray  
Each holy day, Thy blessing pour.

Men: Here may we gain from heaven the grace which we implore,  
And may that grace, once given, be with us evermore  
Until that day when all the blest  
To endless rest are called away!

All: Oh, then, with hymns of praise these hallowed courts shall ring;  
Our voices we will raise the three in One to sing  
And thus proclaim in joyful song,  
Both loud and long that glorious name. Amen.

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## GRADUAL

(The Gradual is sung to the tune of A Mighty Fortress.)



*God's Word is our great heritage  
And shall be ours forever;  
To spread its light from age to age  
Shall be our chief endeavor.  
Through life it guides our way,  
In death it is our stay.  
Lord, grant, while worlds endure,  
We keep its teachings pure.  
Throughout all generations.*

## GOSPEL

Luke 10:13-20

Rejoice that your names are written in heaven!

## THE APOSTLES' CREED

(The Church of the Lutheran Confession has, with all her Lutheran forbears, made this primary Christian confession of faith the first of her confessions.)

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.

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## HYMN MEDLEY OF GRACE

Grace! 'Tis a charming sound,  
Harmonious to the ear;  
Heav'n with the echo shall resound,  
And all the earth shall hear. (TLH 374:1)

Nothing in my hand I bring, Simply to Thy cross I cling;  
Naked, come to Thee for dress; Helpless, look to Thee for grace;  
Foul, I to the fountain fly – Wash me, Savior, or I die! (TLH 376:3)

God would not have the sinner die,  
His Son with saving grace is nigh,  
His Spirit in the Word doth teach  
How man the blessed goal may reach. (TLH 245:3)

The Gospel shows the Father's grace,  
Who sent His Son to save our race,  
Proclaims how Jesus lived and died  
That man might thus be justified. (TLH 297:1)

Amazing grace – how sweet the sound –  
That saved a wretch like me!  
I once was lost but now am found,  
Was blind but now I see. (WS 777:1)

By grace I'm saved, grace free and boundless;  
My soul, believe and doubt it not.  
Why stagger at this word of promise?  
Hath Scripture ever falsehood taught?  
Nay, then this word must true remain:  
By grace thou, too, shalt heav'n obtain. (TLH 373:1)

When darkness veils His lovely face,  
I rest on His unchanging grace;  
In ev'ry high and stormy gale  
My anchor holds within the veil.  
On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand;  
All other ground is sinking sand. (TLH 370:2)

## THE SERMON

Ephesians 2:11-13

(11) Therefore remember that you, once Gentiles in the flesh; who are called Uncircumcision by what is called the Circumcision made in the flesh by hands; (12) that at that time you were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. (13) But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

### “Our Anniversary Jubilee – A Celebration of Freedom”

1. The cost of freedom
2. The blessings of freedom
3. The responsible use of freedom

Guest Speaker: Former Grace Pastor and CLC President, Rev. Daniel Fleischer

### HYMNS DURING SERMON

TLH 340, st. 1-2, 4: Awake, My Soul, to Joyful Lays

Awake, my soul, to joyful lays  
And sing Thy great Redeemer's praise.  
He justly claims a song from me,~  
His loving-kindness, oh, how free!

He saw me ruined in the Fall,  
Yet loved me notwithstanding all.  
He saved me from my lost estate,~  
His loving-kindness, oh, how great!

Through mighty hosts of cruel foes,  
Where earth and hell my way oppose,  
He safely leads my soul along,~  
His loving-kindness, oh, how strong!