

The Means of Grace

APRIL 18, 2021

Martin Luther's Speech at the Imperial Diet in Worms

Today is the 500th anniversary of Luther's speech – April 18, 1521.

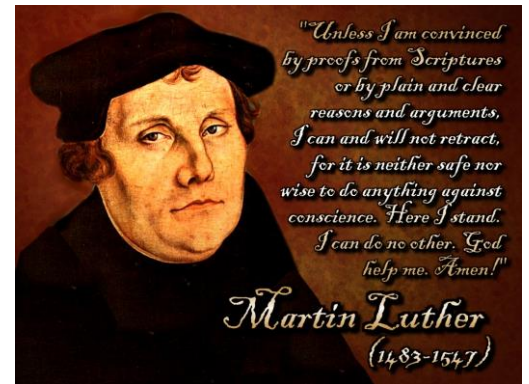
1 Most Serene Emperor, Illustrious Princes, Gracious Lords:

2 I this day appear before you in all humility, according to your command, and I implore your majesty and your august highnesses, by the mercies of God, to listen with favor to the defense of a cause which I am well assured is just and right. I ask pardon, if by reason of my ignorance, I am wanting in the manners that befit a court; for I have not been brought up in king's palaces, but in the seclusion of a cloister; and I claim no other merit than that of having spoken and written with the simplicity of mind which regards nothing but the glory of God and the pure instruction of the people of Christ.

3 Two questions were yesterday put to me by his imperial majesty; the first, whether I was the author of the books whose titles were read; the second, whether I wished to revoke or defend the doctrine I have taught. I answered the first directly, and I adhere to that answer: that these books are mine and published by me, except so far as they may have been altered or interpolated by the craft or officiousness of opponents. As for the second question, I am now about to reply to it; and I must first entreat your Majesty and your Highnesses to deign to consider that I have composed writings on very different subjects. In some I have discussed Faith and Good Works, in a spirit at once so pure, clear, and Christian, that even my adversaries themselves, far from finding anything to censure, confess that these writings are profitable, and deserve to be perused by devout persons. The pope's bull, violent as it is, acknowledges this. What, then, should I be doing if I were now to retract these writings? Wretched man! I alone, of all men living, should be abandoning truths approved by the unanimous voice of friends and enemies, and should be opposing doctrines that the whole world glories in confessing!

4 I have composed, secondly, certain works against the papacy, wherein I have attacked such as by false doctrines, irregular lives, and scandalous examples, afflict the Christian world, and ruin the bodies and souls of men. And is not this confirmed by the grief of all who fear God? Is it not manifest that the laws and human doctrines of the popes entangle, vex, and distress the consciences of the faithful, while the crying and endless extortions of Rome engulf the property and wealth of Christendom, and more particularly of this illustrious nation? Yet it is a perpetual statute that the laws and doctrines of the pope be held erroneous and reprobate when they are contrary to the Gospel and the opinions of the church fathers.

5 If I were to revoke what I have written on that subject, what should I do but strengthen this tyranny, and open a wider door to so many and flagrant impieties? Bearing down all resistance with fresh fury, we should behold these proud men swell, foam, and rage more than ever! And not merely would the yoke which now weighs down Christians be made more grinding by my retraction it would thereby become, so to speak, lawful, for, by my retraction, it would receive confirmation from your most serene majesty, and all the States of the Empire. Great God! I should thus be like to an infamous cloak, used to hide and cover over every kind of malice and tyranny.



- 6 In the third and last place, I have written some books against private individuals, who had undertaken to defend the tyranny of Rome by destroying the faith. I freely confess that I may have attacked such persons with more violence than was consistent with my profession as an ecclesiastic: I do not think of myself as a saint; but neither can I retract these books. Because I should, by so doing, sanction the impieties of my opponents, and they would thence take occasion to crush God's people with still more cruelty.
- 7 Yet, as I am a mere man, and not God, I will defend myself after the example of Jesus Christ, who said: "I have spoken evil, bear witness against me; but if well, why doest thou strike me?" (John xviii:23). How much more should I, who am but dust and ashes, and so prone to error, desire that every one should bring forward what he can against my doctrine. Therefore, most serene emperor, and you illustrious princes, and all, whether high or low, who hear me, I implore you by the mercies of God to prove to me by the writings of the prophets and apostles that I am in error. As soon as I shall be convinced, I will instantly retract all my errors, and will myself be the first to seize my writings, and commit them to the flames.
- 8 What I have just said will, I think, clearly show that I have well considered and weighed, not only the dangers to which I am exposing myself, but also the parties and dissensions excited in the world by means of my doctrine, of which I was yesterday so gravely admonished. But far from being dismayed by them, I rejoice exceedingly to see the Gospel this day, as of old, a cause of disturbance and disagreement; for such is the character and destiny of God's word. "I came not to send peace unto the earth, but a sword," said Jesus Christ. "For I am come to set a man at variance against his father, and the daughter against her mother, and the daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law; and a man's foes shall be those of his own household." (Matthew x:34-36)
- 9 God is wonderful and terrible in His counsels. Let us have a care, lest in our endeavors to arrest discords, we be bound to fight against the holy word of God and bring down upon our heads a frightful deluge of inextricable dangers, present disaster, and everlasting desolations. Let us have a care that the reign of the young and noble prince, the Emperor Charles, on whom, next to God, we build so many hopes, should not only commence, but continue and terminate its course, under the most favorable auspices.
- 10 I might cite examples drawn from the oracles of God. I might speak of Pharaohs, of kings of Babylon, or of Israel, who were never more contributing to their own ruin than when, by measures in appearances most prudent, they thought to establish their authority! God removeth the mountains and they know not (Job ix:5). In speaking thus, I do not suppose that such noble princes have need of my poor judgment; but I wish to acquit myself of a duty whose fulfillment my native Germany has a right to expect from her children. And so commending myself to your august majesty, and your most serene highnesses, I beseech you in all humility, not to permit the hatred of my enemies to rain upon me an indignation I have not deserved. I have done.

[Having delivered this speech in German, Luther was now asked to repeat it in Latin. After some hesitation, he did so. He was then reminded that he should answer a simple question: whether he would retract or not. Thus he continued:]

- 11 Since your most serene majesty and your high mightiness's require of me a simple, clear and direct answer, I will give one, and it is this: I cannot submit my faith either to the pope or to the council, because it is as clear as noonday that they have fallen into error and even into glaring inconsistency with themselves. If, then, I am not convinced by proof from Holy Scripture, or by cogent reasons, if I am not satisfied by the very text I have cited, and if my judgment is not in this way brought into subjection to God's word, I neither can nor will retract anything; for it cannot be either safe or honest for a Christian to speak against his conscience. Here I stand; I cannot do otherwise; God help me! Amen.

THIS WEEK AT GRACE CHURCH AND SCHOOL

Sunday April 18, 2021 Flowers for the Altar-Iris Schaumburg

8:30 AM Adult Bible Study in person

9:30 AM Worship Service in person

and livestream grace-wels.net/worship or facebook.com/GraceWELS

OFFERINGS CAN BE MAILED TO THE CHURCH - 7610 NE FREMONT



A Family of Ministries For Christian
Worship, Education and Care

Monday April 19, 2021

Tuesday April 20, 2021

Pastor in office

10:00 AM Circuit Meeting in Eugene, OR

Wednesday April 21, 2021

Pastor in office

8:00 AM 7-8 Confirmation Class

1:00 PM Distance Learning Confirmation Class

6:00 PM **Google Bible Study – This We Believe!**
Class restarting following Lent.

Thursday April 22, 2021

Pastor in office

Friday April 23 2021

Pastor in office

Saturday April 24, 2021

Sermon Preparation

9:00 - 12:00. GRACE LUTHERAN SCHOOL WORK DAY

Sunday April 25 2021

8:30 AM Adult Bible Study in person

9:30 AM Worship Service in person

and livestream grace-wels.net/worship or facebook.com/GraceWELS

OFFERINGS CAN BE MAILED TO THE CHURCH - 7610 NE FREMONT

PRAYER REQUESTS

Dori Abernathy, Cara Luke, Joe Belter all who continue to rehab and heal from recent surgeries for cancer and a stroke. We pray for complete healing and recovery.

Warren Widman as he continues to struggle with health issues at home. We pray for healing and also for courage and strength during these difficult days.

Zack DeLong who was the officer involved in the shooting on Friday at Lents Park.





SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

**In Person & Live Streamed on Facebook
Starts Sunday, October 11th
8:30 – 9:15 AM Grace Church**



GOD'S FAITHFULNESS
ENDURES *Forever*

**Bible History Lessons
With Applications
From Luther's Catechism**



Sunday School Lessons for Remote Learning

Attention Parents! In light of current challenges related to classroom gathering, our church is introducing a new approach to Sunday school!

This year Sunday School lessons will be taught by experienced WELS teachers and will be available free via YouTube. The engaging and age appropriate Lesson Videos will tie to printed Student Lessons that our church will provide to you at no cost. This new approach presents an easy yet meaningful way for you to encourage your child's faith in Christ.

Each week, you will receive an email from Pastor containing all the lessons and the YouTube links. Simply print the appropriate lesson and click on the appropriate You Tube link for your child and bring Sunday School into your home!

Each week we will also feature a book of the bible. In the announcements we will include the book from the previous week and the new book feature for this week.

We will also include the YouTube link for the previous week's Chapel Chat from Grace School with Pastor Bitter or Mr. Eternick.

May God bless your child as we together continue to share His love with the next generation!

Pastor Bitter



This week – Eschatology – The Last Day and the End Times

Wednesday Evenings at 6PM

Online via Google Meet

(invite will be sent via email)

**ALSO ... starting this week you
can join in person at Grace
Church if you prefer at 6:00 PM.**

For the next few weeks, as a trial run, we will offer the class in person at Grace Church to see if there is enough interest in adding in person to our Google Meet.



Mary and Martha are collecting old medication bottles for use in the Africa Medical Mission. Please bring them to church by June 6th. You may leave the medication bottle in the church kitchen.

If you have any questions please contact Faye Rutstein at 360-931-9020

Next Mary and Martha meeting is May 11th at 10:00-12:00 in the fellowship hall. All COVID-19 precautions will apply. That said, there will be coffee and treats! Bible study and lots to discuss! Hosting is Cathy Gillespie

GRACE LUTHERAN SCHOOL WORK DAY-APRIL 24TH



Come and
Join Us!

We're looking for some help in making our school look cheerful and welcoming on Saturday, April 24th.

We hope to do weeding, putting in new bark chips, trimming bushes/trees, edging the driveways/sidewalks, etc. Please bring your own gloves, wheelbarrows, rakes, shovels, pitchforks, clippers, trimmers, edger's, brooms & any tools you might need – the school does not have yard tools.

Come any time that works into your schedule, between 9:00 and 12:00. If you aren't able to assist in this way, could you purchase some flowering plants for the planter next to the front door? Thank you - a little bit of beauty goes a long way.



The Eagle Message

Grace Lutheran School

DECLARE *His* PRAISES

April 13, 2021

God is Good!

Many of our classes are beginning to fill up. Please be sure to complete your re-enrollment in [Gradelink](#) to secure your place for next year. If you know someone who is thinking about applying, please encourage them to apply soon.

Precious Lambs Preschool NOW ENROLLING

Our Preschool is now accepting students for the 2021-2022 school year. Please contact the Preschool Director, Mrs. Tammy Godish, at tgodish@grace-wels.net or 503-312-4230 for more information or to register.

Bottle and Can Collection Fundraiser

Help us add funds to our [BottleDrop](#) account starting on Earth Day, April 22nd through the end of April to **receive a 20% match** from [BottleDrop](#).

Gather up your cans and plastic/glass bottles and bring them in to school to support this fundraiser between now and the end of April! [Blue collection bags](#) will be available during drop off and pick up times - just ask for them. Thank you to everyone who has already brought us over 30 bags of cans!

Construction Work on I-205 and SE Division St.

A construction project has begun at the interchange of **I-205, SE Division Street and 96th Avenue** to improve safety and reduce crashes in this busy intersection. Those of you who drive through this area may be impacted by some of the construction being done. See the [attachment](#) for more details on this project which will continue through late 2021. Thank you for your patience



Openings available for Recess Helpers

We are looking for more daily Recess Supervisors to oversee our students during the noon recess time - **11:30 to 12:30**. If you, or someone you know, can assist our school for one day or more per month, or even on an "on call" basis, we'd surely appreciate it. Please contact Mrs. Kraklow in the school office (503-777-8628 or lkraklow@grace-wels.net) if you can help us out. Thanks!



School WORK DAY Saturday April 24th

We're looking for some help in making our school look cheerful and welcoming on **Saturday, April 24th**. We hope to do weeding, putting in new bark chips, trimming bushes/trees, edging the driveways/sidewalks, etc. Please bring your own gloves, wheelbarrows, rakes, shovels, pitchforks, clippers, trimmers, edgers, brooms & any tools you might need - the school does not have yard tools. Come any time that works into your schedule, **between 9:00 and 12:00**. If you aren't able to assist in this way, could you purchase some flowering plants for the planter next to the front door? Thank you - a little bit of beauty goes a long way.

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH IS EXCITED TO ANNOUNCE A NEW MISSION PARTNERSHIP WITH:



The dawning of another Easter morning
reminds us that the Victory is won!

We Worship

This past month at Cruz de Cristo we have been feverishly working towards completing the building project enough to have our inauguration service there on Easter Sunday. Many are excited to be a part of the cleaning, decorating, food prep, etc. Invitations are going out to all the community via paper flyers, WhatsApp, and Facebook. The gathering will be the culmination of nearly a year of construction and food assistance during Covid-19.

We will share the message of triumph through the risen Jesus with so many as they come to see the church and new community center! Praise God with us for this opportunity as we also ask blessings on your Easter meditation. Below are song lyrics of a piece that will be played at our English/Spanish service. Following the lyrics, you will see our invitations and an Easter banner from former years.

Join us at our YouTube channel. Click on the link below.



<https://youtu.be/GUwRTZJVKXc>

Online donations may be made at www.Costamayaministries.org
or by check payable to
Costa Maya Ministries
c/o Fred Starck
2818 Jennifer Lane
Johnsburg, IL 60051

DEVOTIONAL THOUGHTS FOR THE WEEK OF EASTER 3 2021

Sunday Acts 9:1-8

- What was Saul's purpose in going to Damascus?
- How did this fit into his current life-style?
- Describe what happened as Saul approached Damascus.
- Did Saul seem to understand all of this? Explain Acts 13:50

Monday Acts 9:9-16

- How did Saul spend the next three days? What was God's purpose in this?
- Discuss God's vision to Ananias. What was Ananias to do?
- How did Ananias respond? Explain God's purpose in converting Saul/Paul.
- What is one purpose for which God has converted us? Matthew 28:16-20

Tuesday Acts 9:19a

- How did Ananias respond to God's directive?
- What lesson is there for us when God allows something distasteful enter our lives?
- How was Paul moved to receive Ananias?
- How is what happened next the key to all of this?
- How did Paul respond to the Word, Baptism and God's instructions? Romans 15:13-19

Wednesday Revelation 5:11-12

- Describe John's vision. In essence where is John?
- What do you suppose is God's purpose in showing all of this to John?
- How do you and I fit into this equation and purpose? Romans 8:28
- Whom do the angels honor in their song? What lesson is there for us in this?
Revelation 4:11

Thursday Revelation 5:13-14

- Who joins the chorus in John's vision of what is to come?
- Explain the text of the hymn we will one day sing and already have.
- How do we participate in this kind of activity already? Isaiah 42:10

Friday John 21:1-8

- What instructions were the disciples following as they awaited Jesus in Galilee?
- Read Mt.28:7
- What did the disciples do while they waited?
- What miracle did Jesus duplicate for them?
- Why might Peter have reacted as he did? What did Peter realize through the miracle?
- How do the resurrection miracle and all of Jesus' miracles reinforce our faith?
- Read John 6:40

Saturday John 21:9-14

- What did the disciples see when they arrived on shore?
- Why didn't they ask where the fish came from?
- What was the purpose of Jesus' appearance and miracle?
- What else did Jesus do during this appearance? See following verses.
- What is Jesus' message to us in these verses?