

Sunday Service

July 30, 2023 - 8:30 AM & 10:15 AM

Livestream at 10:15 AM



Grace Lutheran Church

555 SW Cashmere Blvd.
Port St. Lucie, FL 34986-2034

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Pastor Cris Escher

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Welcome...

We are so happy that you are here with us today. Our desire is to be like another home for you. If you are new to Grace or to the area and are looking for a church home, we hope you will consider joining our family here at Grace. A Fellowship Time is held after each Worship Service, and we invite you to stay for a few minutes so we can get acquainted.

To our many members and friends worshiping at home, whether near or far, we are so happy that you are sharing this worship with us from your homes. www.GraceLutheranPSL.com

Kids at Grace

By the entrance into the sanctuary, busy bags are available for children to use. During the 10:15 service, before the sermon, Ms. Coli will take children (3 and older) to the other building for an engaging lesson about our hope in Jesus. Children are returned to their families right after the prayers. There is also a quiet room outside the sanctuary with toys and the live stream, if families need a place for younger children throughout the service.

Holy Communion

This meal is weird and wonderful: weird because we actually believe that the bread and wine are the Body and Blood of Jesus the Christ; wonderful because Jesus is with us. We take this meal very seriously here at Grace. If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out and allow us to answer your questions. **Children** who have not been instructed in the meaning of the Sacrament may come to the Lord's Table with their parents for a blessing but are asked to fold their arms across their chests to indicate they are to receive a blessing.

THE DISTRIBUTION OF THE COMMUNION: After the closing hymn, Pastor Cris will pronounce the sending and then for those who wish to share in the celebration of communion shall remain. ***For those who have an intolerance to wine, grape juice is lighter colored on the tray, center.*** Those who find it difficult to walk to the altar can be communed at your seat. Please inform the usher of your need. After Pastor Cris has given your group the blessing at the altar, you may place your cup in the basket and depart from the Sanctuary down the center aisle, and enjoy fellowship in the hall.

Missio Dei: The Heart of God Part 2

From the beginning, God has been sending his spirit out to bring life and beauty in the universe. It's a great sending. In this sending, we can see the heart of God as we join in with God's mission.

Today: First You're Last

It's always amazing to see us, workers of God's kingdom, trying to maintain a pecking order of righteousness in the midst of such great generosity of our God.

---- THE OPENING HYMN

“This Is the Day the Lord Has Made” (LW 200 Vs 1-3)

1. This is the day the Lord has made;
He calls the hours his own.
Let heav'n rejoice, let earth be glad,
Let praise surround the throne.
2. Today Christ rose and left the dead,
And Satan's empire fell.
Today the saints his triumph spread,
They all his wonders tell.
3. Hosanna to the King of Kings,
To David's holy son!
He helps us, He descends and brings
Salvation from the throne.

--- Opening

The last will be first, and the first will be last. Matthew 20:16

--- THE CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

(Take a moment of silent reflection upon our need for God's forgiveness)

Pastor: *O Almighty God,*

PEOPLE: GOD, OUR LOVING FATHER,

WE CONFESS THAT WE ARE OFTEN IMPATIENT AND RUSH TO CRITICIZE.

WE TAKE OUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS FOR GRANTED.

WE ARE OFTEN UNGRATEFUL AND NOT GRACIOUS.

WE OFTEN EXPECT CHURCH TO MIRROR OUR OWN BIASES.

WE FORGET TO ASK FOR OUR CHURCH TO MIRROR YOU.

WE OFTEN USE YOUR SCRIPTURES TO SUPPORT OUR OPINIONS.

WE FORGET THAT THEY ARE A LAMP TO OUR FEET AND A LIGHT TO OUR PATH.

OUR HOPE IS CENTERED ON OURSELVES AND NOT ON YOU.

RENEW US, LORD, THAT WE MAY DELIGHT IN YOUR WILL

AND WALK IN YOUR WAYS, TO THE GLORY OF YOUR HOLY NAME. AMEN.

Pastor: The story of Jesus is about life and forgiveness.... You are God's beloved; you are a child of the resurrection. Live in the hope of new life. God loves you, and God is the restorer of hope. Your sins are forgiven, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. AMEN

--THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray.

Almighty and merciful God, you have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless until they find their rest in you. Teach us to seek you and to rely on you in all our needs, so that our deepest desires may be satisfied, and we may finally see you face to face. We ask this through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. AMEN

--THE HYMN OF PRAISE

“My Jesus, I love Thee” (MM 137)

1. **My Jesus, I love thee, I know thou art mine;
for thee all the follies of sin I resign;
my gracious Redeemer, my Savior art thou;
if ever I loved thee, my Jesus, 'tis now.**
2. **I love thee because thou hast first loved me
and purchased my pardon on Calvary's tree;
I love thee for wearing the thorns on thy brow;
if ever I loved thee, my Jesus, 'tis now.**

THE FIRST LESSON Exodus 16:2-16

Manna sounds like “What is it?” in Hebrew. The surprise of the Israelites, some of whom were probably quite familiar with the desert as shepherds, is an indication that they had no idea what to make of it. Hence, manna.

In the desert the whole community grumbled against Moses and Aaron. The Israelites said to them, “If only we had died by the Lord’s hand in Egypt! There we sat around pots of meat and ate all the food we wanted, but you have brought us out into this desert to starve this entire assembly to death.”

Then the Lord said to Moses, “I will rain down bread from heaven for you. The people are to go out each day and gather enough for that day. In this way I will test them and see whether they will follow my instructions. On the sixth day they are to prepare what they bring in, and that is to be twice as much as they gather on the other days.”

So Moses and Aaron said to all the Israelites, “In the evening you will know that it was the Lord who brought you out of Egypt, and in the morning you will see the glory of the Lord, because he has heard your grumbling against him. Who are we, that you should grumble against us?” Moses also said, “You will know that it was the Lord when he gives you meat to eat in the evening and all the bread you want in the morning, because he has heard your grumbling against him. Who are we? You are not grumbling against us, but against the Lord.”

Then Moses told Aaron, “Say to the entire Israelite community, ‘Come before the Lord, for he has heard your grumbling.’”

While Aaron was speaking to the whole Israelite community, they looked toward the desert, and there was the glory of the Lord appearing in the cloud.

The Lord said to Moses, “I have heard the grumbling of the Israelites. Tell them, ‘At twilight you will eat meat, and in the morning you will be filled with bread. Then you will know that I am the Lord your God.’”

That evening quail came and covered the camp, and in the morning there was a layer of dew around the camp. When the dew was gone, thin flakes like frost on the ground appeared on the desert floor. When the Israelites saw it, they said to each other, "What is it?" For they did not know what it was.

Moses said to them, "It is the bread the Lord has given you to eat. This is what the Lord has commanded: 'Everyone is to gather as much as they need. Take an omer for each person you have in your tent.'"

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: THANKS BE TO GOD

THE SECOND LESSON

Philippians 1:20-24, 27

Paul remains faithful in prison because he realizes that the kingdom of Jesus is more important than any one messenger.

I eagerly expect and hope that I will in no way be ashamed, but will have sufficient courage so that now as always Christ will be exalted in my body, whether by life or by death. For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain. If I am to go on living in the body, this will mean fruitful labor for me. Yet what shall I choose? I do not know! I am torn

between the two: I desire to depart and be with Christ, which is better by far; but it is more necessary for you that I remain in the body.

(v27) Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ. Then, whether I come and see you or only hear about you in my absence, I will know that you stand firm in the one Spirit, striving together as one for the faith of the gospel

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: THANKS BE TO GOD

THE HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 20:1-16

God's glory and kingdom are His, so He is free to lavish goodness on anyone He pleases.

"For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire workers for his vineyard. He agreed to pay them a denarius for the day and sent them into his vineyard.

"About nine in the morning he went out and saw others standing in the marketplace doing nothing. He told them, 'You also go

and work in my vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.' So they went.

"He went out again about noon and about three in the afternoon and did the same thing. About five in the afternoon he went out and found still others standing around. He asked them, 'Why have you been standing here all day long doing nothing?'

"'Because no one has hired us,' they answered.

"He said to them, 'You also go and work in my vineyard.'

“When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, ‘Call the workers and pay them their wages, beginning with the last ones hired and going on to the first.’

“The workers who were hired about five in the afternoon came and each received a denarius. So when those came who were hired first, they expected to receive more. But each one of them also received a denarius. When they received it, they began to grumble against the landowner. ‘These who were hired last worked only one hour,’ they said, ‘and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the work and the heat of the day.’

“But he answered one of them, ‘I am not being unfair to you, friend. Didn’t you agree to work for a denarius? Take your pay and go. I want to give the one who was hired last the same as I gave you. Don’t I have the right to do what I want with my own money? Or are you envious because I am generous?’

“So the last will be first, and the first will be last.”

Pastor: The Gospel of the Lord.
PEOPLE: PRAISE TO YOU, O CHRIST

--- PROFESSION

THE APOSTLES CREED

--- HYMN OF DAY

“The Lord’s My Shepherd, I’ll Not Want” (LW 416/LSB 710 vs. 1-5)

- 1. The Lord’s my shepherd, I’ll not want; He makes me down to lie
In pastures green; He leadeth me the quiet waters by.**
- 2. My soul He doth restore again and me to walk doth make
Within the paths of righteousness, e’en for His own name’s sake.**
- 3. Yea, though I walk in death’s dark vale, yet will I fear no ill;
For thou are with me, and Thy rod and staff me comfort still.**
- 4. My table thou has furnished in presence of my foes;
My head thou dost with oil anoint, and my cup overflows.**
- 5. Goodness and mercy all my life shall surely follow me;
And I God’s house forevermore my dwelling place shall be.**

--- THE SERMON

Missio Dei: - First You’re Last

--THE OFFERTORY

“We Give You But Your Own” (LW 405 vs 1,2,6)

1. *We give you but your own,
In any gifts we bring;
All that we have is yours alone,
A trust from you our King.*
2. *May we your bounties thus
As stewards true receive,
And gladly, Lord as you bless us,
To you our first-fruits give.*
6. *And we believe Your Word,
Though dim our faith, it's true;
What we do for your people, Lord,
We do it all for you.*

--- PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

(after each petition)

Pastor: Lord, in your mercy,

PEOPLE: HEAR OUR PRAYER.

--- THE LORD'S PRAYER

----- THE BLESSING

*Pastor: May the Lord bless you and keep you.
May the Lord look upon you with grace and redemption.
May the Lord always walk before you and give you peace*

PEOPLE: AMEN

----THE CLOSING HYMN

“This Is the Day the Lord Has Made” (LW 200 Vs 4-5)

4. *Blest be the Lord, who comes to us
With messages of grace;
Who comes in God his Father's name
To save our sinful race.*
5. *Hosanna in the highest strains
The church on earth can raise.
The highest heavens, where he reigns,
Will give him nobler praise.*

----- SENDING

*Pastor: Have peace knowing we are all with you.
Serve others knowing God walks before you.*

Those who wish to share in the celebration of Holy Communion may be seated.

--- THE ORDER OF HOLY COMMUNION

Pastor: May the Lord be with you!

PEOPLE: AND ALSO WITH YOU.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

PEOPLE: WE LIFT THEM UP TO THE LORD.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

PEOPLE: IT IS RIGHT TO GIVE OUR THANKS AND PRAISE.



Pastor: The tree of life in the midst of the garden was the tree of our defeat. Christ was lifted up on the tree of victory; and where life was lost, there life has been restored. And so we praise you ..

PEOPLE: HOLY, HOLY, HOLY LORD, GOD OF POWER AND MIGHT, HEAVEN AND EARTH ARE FULL OF YOUR GLORY. HOSANNA, HOSANNA, HOSANNA IN THE HIGHEST. BLESSED IS HE THAT COMES IN THE NAME OF THE LORD. HOSANNA IN THE HIGHEST

---- THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

After the pastor has consecrated the elements you are invited to come to the altar and receive communion. Please use the right or left aisle as you come forward to the altar. After the pastor has pronounced the blessing for your side, you may place your cup in the basket and depart the sanctuary down the center aisle. Go in peace, Serve the Lord.

(Please remember that as you are leaving the sanctuary, others are still communing, please refrain from talking to others until you are in the Fellowship Hall, Thank You.)

--- ADDITIONAL HYMNS (On Projection Screens)

“By Grace I'm Saved”

Copyright: Commissioned through the Michigan District, LCMS

“Dearest Jesus We Are Here”

Copyright: Commissioned through the Michigan District, LCMS

“My Faith Looks Up to Thee”

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---- THIS WEEK AT GRACE

Today

July 30, 2023

Services

8:30 & 10:15 AM

Live-streamed on www.gracelutheranpsl.com

10:15 AM

Korean Church Worship

1:00 PM

Rest of the Week

July 31 - August 5, 2023

Summer Kids Bible Club

Tuesday, 6:00 PM

Bible Study, also live streamed

Thursday 11:00 AM

Sr. Walther League

Friday, 1:00 PM

Korean Church Prayer Gathering

Saturday, 6:00 AM

For complete calendar information, go to www.gracelutheranpsl.com/calendar

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS THIS WEEK: Kenneth White - 7/30, John Linderman - 8/4,
Alexia Tsikoudis - 8/5

ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS THIS WEEK: Richard & Marie Harms - 7/31/1976 (47 Years)

THE FLOWERS ADORNING THE ALTAR are given to the glory of God by Richard & Marie Harms in celebration of their wedding anniversary.

SUMMER KIDS CLUB: "Summer Kids' Bible Club" called "God's Living Water - Covered in Jesus' Grace! **Tuesday evening** from 6:00 PM - 7:15 PM. Contact Coli Escher for more details.

VOTER'S MEETING: The BOD has canceled the September Voter's Meeting due to vacations and no pressing business unless someone feels it is necessary to have the meeting (All financial information through September will be available for those interested). Our next Voter's meeting would then be held in December for elections and budget approval.

OFFICE HOURS: The "Church Office" is open in the ACC Complex from 9:00 AM through 12:00 (Noon) daily, Monday - Friday. The office is overseen on Monday by Diane Heinz, Tuesday - Thursday by Kevin Garbers, and on Fridays by Pam White. Please feel free to stop by or call anytime during those hours. Office phone is 772 - 871 - 6599 After hours you can contact Kevin at 772-971-9200 or Pastor Cris at 770 - 328 - 5078.

GIVING: We are here to provide "Grace and Peace in a Confusing and Trying Time" to those in our church and community. Thank you for your past and continual prayers and financial support to Grace and your community.

THRIVENT FINANCIAL MEMBER? \$44.00 more came in on July 7th!! Thank You! If you have “Choice Dollars” available, please consider directing them to Grace Lutheran Church. All “Choice Dollars” that are received go to paying down our mortgage on the new building. For the seven months this year we have received \$1,790 from Thrivent Choice! Thank you: Joe, Shirley, Vance, Bernard, Bertha, Sandra, Robert Z., Carol, Jacqueline, Leona, Kevin and Robert B. for your Grace designation of Choice Dollars.

THURSDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY: THIS Thursday at 11:00 AM, we will be studying Judges. Come here to the church or watch the Live Streamed for those at home.

COMMUNION: If you, or someone you know, would like to celebrate Holy Communion but prefer a small group or are unable to attend Sunday service, Pastor Cris is happy to celebrate the meal in a small group with you. **Please call the church at (772) 871-6599**, and Pastor Cris would be happy to set aside a time for you to come in and receive communion and partake of this wonderful meal.

INTERESTED IN READING? If you would be interested in reading the first and second readings on Sunday mornings please send an email to the church GraceLutheranPSL@gmail.com letting us know, be sure to indicate which service you would like to read in.

FROM THE ALZHEIMER’S COMMUNITY CARE CENTER! There is a wish list of needs to assist in the operation of this center to help provide care for our clients. If you could help, it would be greatly appreciated. **August & September Wish list:** Ice cream sandwiches by 08/02, Chocolate chip cookies by 08/04, Creamsicles by 08/14, Peach pie by 08/24, Peanuts by 09/13, Crème filled Donuts by 09/14, Pecan cookies by 09/21, Ice cream cones by 09/22 (Dates listed above indicate a special celebration on that day)

These items are needed regularly: Seasonal Crafts/Decorations, Wild Bird Feed, Gift cards to Walmart for crafts, Assorted Bingo Prizes, Assorted Sugar Free Chocolate and Decaf Coffee.

Thank you for your support!

SENIOR WALTHER LEAGUE: This **FRIDAY at 1:00 PM**, we will have the church fellowship open for everyone to come and socialize in a cool place. We will provide some snacks, drinks and air conditioning. You can come to socialize, play cards or games you may have at home. Anything can happen! Let’s try it! Leigh Liagre is setting it up. If you would like more information or to help, call or text Leigh at 772-418-4298.

07/30 ***Worship assistants:*** 8:30 - Bob Fox & 10:15 - Dave V.
Scripture Readers: 8:30 - Hans V. & 10:15 - Jan L.

08/06 ***Worship assistants:*** 8:30 - Bob Fox & 10:15 - Dave V.
Scripture Readers: 8:30 - Piper N. & 10:15 - Nancy O.
Readings: **Isaiah 40:1-11, Acts 11:15-18, Mark 1:1-8 (NIV)**

REMEMBER THOSE ON THE PRAYER LIST In an effort to keep our prayer list up to date and be sure everyone is listed, please make your requests in writing or email.



- **place** the pink completed prayer form into the offering plate or on the office desk.

- **or by email** to: www.GraceLutheranPSL.com/pray

Your loved one/ones will remain on the list for three weeks. If you wish someone to remain longer, you will need to make another request. By doing this, we will also ensure that Pastor Cris is aware of updates to the status of everyone's needs.

***PINK PRAYER REQUEST FORMS CAN BE FOUND ON THE COUNTER IN THE NARTHEX.**

PRAYERS ON BEHALF OF...

Susan Becker (Port St. Lucie Rehabilitation and Healthcare)
Gerald (Jerry) Davis (Harbor Place, Senior Living Community)
Diane Fox (Port St. Lucie Rehabilitation and Healthcare)
Debra Lemke (Harbor Place, Port St. Lucie)
Norm Neuberger (Palms of St. Lucie West)

Al & Doris Vollmann
Jenny Brendlinger
Thomas & Marilyn Piotrowicz

Richard & Marie Harms
Claren Kerstner

Friends and Family

Claudia Napololli (Mother of Claudette Scott)
Sherrie Fox (Friend of MaryAnn Roksvold)
Darlene Medlin (knee issues, cousin of Cheryl Nolte)
Don Medlin, (melanoma, undergoing tests, C-I-L of Cheryl Nolte)

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

The lost and lonely people in the world that the message of Christ's love and forgiveness will be shared with them and they are able to find peace and joy in the knowledge of His resurrection.

QUESTIONS FOR THE WEEK: First You're Last

1. When do you feel the pressure to be first or the best? When has that backfired on you?
2. Read Matthew 20:1-16. What is the danger of thinking this parable is about compensation for work completed?
3. What is the danger of thinking you deserve something special if you're a diligent worker?
4. What does it look like for you to rejoice in the "denarius" that God gives to you this week?