

Sunday Service

January 29, 2023 - 8:30 AM & 10:15 AM

Livestream at 10:15 AM

VANISHING GRACE



BRINGING GOOD NEWS
TO A DEEPLY DIVIDED WORLD

Grace Lutheran Church

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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.

To Everyone: Please check Grace Lutheran's website daily! www.GraceLutheranPSL.com

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.

VANISHING GRACE

Christians have proclaimed the good news about Jesus for centuries. But the good news isn't sounding so good these days, at least to some. Let's acknowledge the problem and then explore how we can respond with both grace and truth.

Today: Love Laid Down

This is how we know what love is, that He laid down his life for us. This love is like a cool breeze on a hot day, good news when surrounded by the bad, and liberty to the oppressed.

---- THE OPENING HYMN

"By Grace I'm Saved" (LSB 566 Vs. 1-4)

- 1. *By grace I'm saved, grace free and boundless;
My soul, believe and doubt it not.
Why stagger at this word of promise?
Has Scripture ever falsehood taught?
No! Then this word must true remain;
By grace you too will life obtain.***
- 2. *By grace! None dare lay claim to merit;
Our works and conduct have no worth.
God in His love sent our Redeemer,
Christ Jesus, to this sinful earth;
His death did for our sins atone,
And we are saved by grace alone.***
- 3. *By grace God's Son, our only Savior,
Came down to earth to bear our sin.
Was it because of your own merit
That Jesus died your soul to win?
No, it was grace, and grace alone,
That brought Him from His heav'nly throne.***
- 4. *By grace! This ground of faith is certain;
So long as God is true, it stands.
What saints have penned by inspiration,
What in His Word our God commands,
Our faith in what our God has done
Depends on grace--grace through His Son.***

--- Opening

We know what true love looks like. Jesus gave His life for us and calls us to give our lives for our brothers and sisters.. - 1 John 3:16

--- 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.

In all our doubts, dangers, and confusion, teach us, Lord, what we ought to say and do. Give to us, who can do nothing good without you, the power to speak the truth and do your will. 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

Father, I Adore You (MM 26) (ccli 26557)

Father, I adore You, lay my life before You, how I love You.

Jesus, I adore You, lay my life before You, how I love You.

Spirit, I adore You, lay my life before You, how I love you.

THE FIRST LESSON Deuteronomy 26:1-11

The fulfillment of God's promise to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob takes tangible form in the first crops from the new land.

When you have entered the land the Lord your God is giving you as an inheritance and have taken possession of it and settled in it, take some of the firstfruits of all that you produce from the soil of the land the Lord your God is giving you and put them in a

basket. Then go to the place the Lord your God will choose as a dwelling for his Name and say to the priest in office at the time, "I declare today to the Lord your God that I have come to the land the Lord swore to our ancestors to give us." The priest shall take the basket from your hands and set it down in front of the altar of the Lord your God. Then you shall declare before the Lord your God: "My father was a wandering Aramean, and he went down into Egypt with a few people and lived there and became a great nation, powerful and numerous. But the Egyptians mistreated us and made us suffer, subjecting us to harsh labor. Then we cried out to the Lord, the God of our ancestors, and the Lord heard

our voice and saw our misery, toil and oppression. So the Lord brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with great terror and with signs and wonders. He brought us to this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey; and now I bring the firstfruits of the soil that you, Lord, have given me." Place the basket before the Lord your God and bow down before him. Then you and the Levites and the foreigners residing among you shall rejoice in all the good things the Lord your God has given to you and your household.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: THANKS BE TO GOD

THE SECOND LESSON

1 John 3:11-18

When we feel like we are not good enough to be loved by God, we should remember that God's love is greater than our doubts.

For this is the message you heard from the beginning: We should love one another. Do not be like Cain, who belonged to the evil one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his own actions were evil and his brother's were righteous. Do not be surprised, my brothers and sisters, if the world hates you. We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love each other. Anyone who

does not love remains in death. Anyone who hates a brother or sister is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life residing in him.

This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters. If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person? Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: THANKS BE TO GOD

THE HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 4:16-21

Luke's audience doesn't divide the world into sacred vs. secular or religious vs. political. For them, life is integrated. And for them, these "religious" words from Isaiah have a powerful and "political" meaning.

He went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. Unrolling it, he found the place where it is written:

"The Spirit of the Lord is on me,
because he has anointed me
to proclaim good news to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the
prisoners
and recovery of sight for the blind,
to set the oppressed free,
to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

Then he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him. He began by saying to them, "Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing."

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

--- PROFESSION

THE APOSTLES CREED

--- HYMN OF DAY

"Hark, the Voice of Jesus Calling" (LW 318/LSB 827 Vs. 1-4)

- 1. Hark, the voice of Jesus calling, "Who will go and work today?
Fields are white and harvests waiting, who will bear the sheaves away?"
Loud and long the master calls you; rich reward He offers free.
Who will answer, gladly saying, "Here am I, send me, send me!"**
- 2. If you cannot speak like angels, if you cannot preach like Paul,
You can tell the love of Jesus; you can say He died for all.
If you cannot rouse the wicked with the judgment's dread alarms,
You can lead the little children to the Savior's waiting arms.**
- 3. If you cannot be a watchman, standing high on Zion's wall,
Pointing out the path to heaven, off'ring life and peace to all,
With your prayers and with your bounties you can do what God demands;
You can be like faithful Aaron, holding up the prophet's hands.**

4. Let none hear you idly saying, "There is nothing I can do,"
While the multitudes are dying and the Master calls for you.
Take the task He gives you gladly; Let His work your pleasure be.
Answer quickly when He calls you, "Here am I. Send me, send me!"

--- THE SERMON

VANISHING GRACE - Love Laid Down

--THE OFFERTORY

"Let the vineyards be fruitful" (LW page 168/69)

Let the vineyards be fruitful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of blessing.
Gather a harvest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life.
Gather the hopes and dreams of all; unite them with the prayers we offer now.
Grace our table with Your presence, and give us a foretaste of the feast to come.

--- 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

“By Grace I’m Saved” (LSB 566 Vs. 5-6)

- 5. By grace to timid hearts that tremble,
In tribulation's furnace tried,
By grace, in spite of fear and trouble,
The Father's heart is open wide.
Where could I help and strength secure
If grace were not my anchor sure?**
- 6. By grace! On this I'll rest when dying;
In Jesus' promise I rejoice;
For though I know my heart's condition,
I also know my Savior's voice.
My heart is glad, all grief has flown
Since I am saved by grace alone.**

----- 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)

“From All That Dwell Below the Skies”

Copyright: Commissioned through the Michigan District, LCMS

“How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds”

Copyright: Commissioned through the Michigan District, LCMS

“Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”

Copyright: Commissioned through the Michigan District, LCMS

---- THIS WEEK AT GRACE

Today

January 29, 2023

Worship Services

8:30 AM & 10:15 AM

Live-streamed on www.gracelutheranpsl.com

10:15 AM

Korean Church Worship

1:00 PM

Rest of the Week

January 30 - February 4

Olivet School

Tuesday, 8:45 AM - 3:00 PM

Community Group @ Liagre's

Tuesday, 2:00 PM

Small Group Communion (Church)

Wednesday, 11:00 AM

Community Group @ the Escher's

Wednesday, 7:00 PM

Bible Study (Zoomed & Recorded)

Thursday 11:00 AM

Grace Hello

Friday, 5:30 PM

Korean Church Prayer Gathering

Saturday, 6:00 AM

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

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS THIS WEEK: Robert Decklever - 2/2, Phil Fredrich - 2/4

THE FLOWERS ADORNING THE ALTAR are given to the glory of God by Jon & Katie McNally in celebration of their Parents' birthdays.

GRACE HELLO: Over the past few months we have had many people who have expressed an interest in joining Grace Lutheran Church. This **FRIDAY, February 3rd, at 5:30** you are invited to come to our new member class and enjoy some food and fellowship then gain some insight to Grace Lutheran Church and what we are about.

COMMUNITY GROUPS: There are three community groups available, two are led by Pastor Cris, at his home on Wednesdays at 7:00 PM or Thursdays at church at 11:00 AM. Another group meets at Leigh & Gene Liagre's home on Tuesdays at 2:00 PM. Join us to discuss "*Vanishing Grace*", or let Pastor Cris know if you'd like to start your own group!

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.

ALZHEIMER'S COMMUNITY CARE: Grace Lutheran Church Alzheimer's Community Care has been selected to receive \$1 from every \$2.99 community bag sold during the month of January 2023 at the Winn-Dixie, 281 Southwest Port St. Lucie Boulevard.

THURSDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY: Come and join us as we study the book *Vanishing Grace*. Join us either here at the church or on Zoom at 11 AM on Thursday. (also recorded)

DESSERT WITH ELVIS: Tons of Fun Fellowship have a special night set aside on Valentine's Day, February 14th at 7:00 PM. There will be a special presentation by Darrell Dunhill, an Elvis impersonator along with desserts served at the conclusion. Sign-up sheet is in the Fellowship Room. A \$10 donation per person is suggested. See Chuck Strickler or Pam White for more info.

COMMUNION ON WEDNESDAY: 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 has set aside Wednesdays to celebrate the meal in small groups. Please come by on Wednesday at 11:00 AM and partake of this wonderful meal, or 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.

PLEASE SEND CARDS TO PEOPLE We have several members who are immunocompromised and unable to participate with groups of other people. If you have not seen them in a service lately, please consider calling them or sending a card or letter. Isolation is a lonely situation!

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, Kevin Garbers and on Fridays, 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.

BULLETIN AND PRINTED PRAYER REQUESTS: All information for the Sunday bulletin must be submitted by 10:00 AM Thursday to be printed. Prayer requests received after 10:00 AM on Thursday will be updated on the website ASAP and printed in the following Sunday's bulletin.

01/29 *Worship assistants: 8:30 - Phil F. & 10:15 - Ed B.*

Scripture Readers: 8:30 - Jennine V. & 10:15 - Jan L.

2/5 *Worship assistants: 8:30 - Phil F. & 10:15 - Ed B.*

Scripture Readers: 8:30 - Jay H. & 10:15 - Nancy O.

Readings: Isaiah 52:7-12, Hebrews 13:1-16, Matthew 13:31-35 (NIV)

QUESTIONS FOR THE WEEK: *VANISHING GRACE - Love Laid Down*

1. When are times that you've been able to share good news with someone?
 2. Read 1 John 3:11-18. Why did Cain kill his brother? How does a similar attitude prevent us from truly loving our neighbor?
 3. What does Jesus do to enable us to simply love our neighbor?
 4. What impact do you think Jesus' followers would have on the spiritually uncommitted people if we--pilgrims, activists, and artists, all united as a church community -- carried out John's charge to "not love with words or speech, but in actions and in truth?"
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**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 14TH
VALENTINES DAY!**

7:00 PM

ELVIS...

.... IS IN THE BUILDING!

SIGN-UP SHEET IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL

Darrell Dunhill, professional impersonator