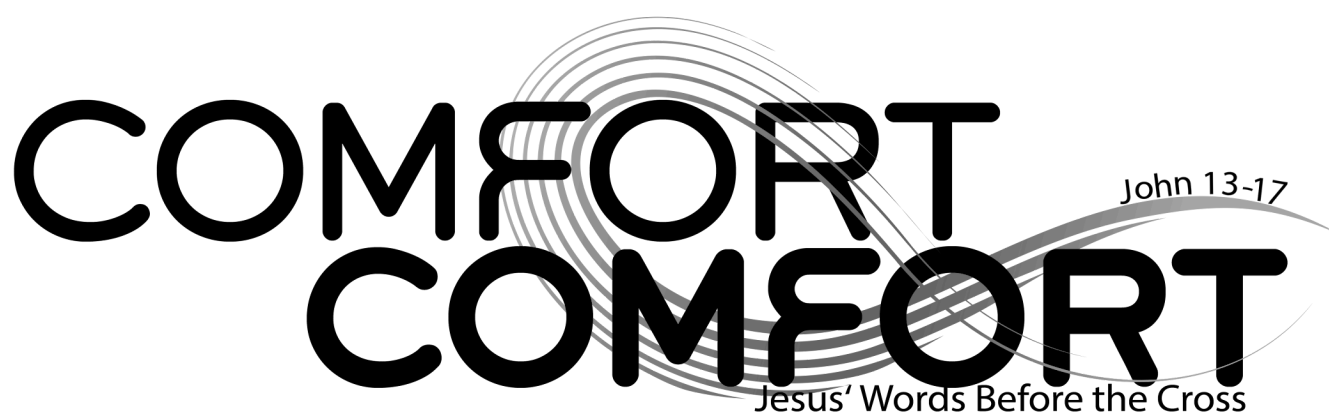


# Sunday Service

March 10, 2024 - 8:30 AM & 10:15 AM

Livestream at 10:15 AM



## Grace Lutheran Church

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

Office: 772-871-6599  
Gracelutheranpsl@gmail.com

[www.GraceLutheranPSL.com](http://www.GraceLutheranPSL.com)

Pastor Cris Escher

Email: [cris@gracelutheranpsl.com](mailto:cris@gracelutheranpsl.com)

Phone: (770) 328-5078

# 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](http://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.

## Comfort Comfort: Jesus' Words Before the Cross

Before Jesus is arrested and crucified, before all the pain and agony, before the disciples feel lost and alone, before our own confusion and heartache, Jesus speaks words of comfort as we go through the dark valley.

## Blind Joy

The world may boast victory in the face of our struggles, leaving us blind to the bigger picture. But Jesus, the one who illuminates our innermost being, whispers a promise of sight beyond the present darkness. Like the man born blind, our blurry vision will someday come into focus, revealing an unstoppable joy.

## ---- THE OPENING HYMN

### “Come, Thou Almighty King” (LW 169 Vs 1-4)

1. Come, O Almighty King, help us Your name to sing;  
Help us to praise.  
Father all glorious, in all victorious,  
Come and reign over us, Ancient of Days.
2. Come, O Incarnate Word, gird on Your mighty sword;  
Our prayer attend.  
Come and Your people bless, and give Your word success.  
And let your righteousness on us descend.
3. Come, Holy Comforter, Your sacred witness bear  
In this glad hour.  
Your sev’nfold gifts impart; rule now in every heart;  
Never from us depart, Spirit of pow’r.
4. To the, great One in Three, eternal praises be,  
Hence evermore!  
Thy sov’reign majesty may we in glory see,  
And to eternity love and adore.

## --- Opening

*“You will grieve, but your grief will turn to joy.” - John 16:20*

## --- 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.*

*Loving Father, when we were captive in the darkness of sin and death, your Son rescued us and brought us back to you. Teach us to trust in Him and to live as your people. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen*

## --THE HYMN OF PRAISE

**"How Deep The Father's Love For Us"** (Stuart Townend #1558110)

**1. How deep the Father's love for us  
How vast beyond all measure  
That He should give His only Son  
To make a wretch His treasure  
How great the pain of searing loss  
The Father turns His face away  
As wounds which mar the Chosen One  
Bring many sons to glory**

**2. Behold the Man upon a cross  
My sin upon His shoulders  
Ashamed I hear my mocking voice  
Call out among the scoffers  
It was my sin that held Him there  
Until it was accomplished  
His dying breath has brought me life  
I know that it is finished.**

**3. I will not boast in anything  
No gifts no pow'r no wisdom  
But I will boast in Jesus Christ  
His death and resurrection  
Why should I gain from His reward?  
I cannot give an answer  
But this I know with all my heart  
His wounds have paid my ransom**

Ending.

**Why should I gain from His reward?  
I cannot give an answer  
But this I know with all my heart  
His wounds have paid my ransom**

---

## THE FIRST LESSON Isaiah 40:1, 21-26

Though empires rise and fall like fleeting grasshoppers, the One who stretches the heavens like a tent stands sovereign, calling forth countless stars, a testament to His unmatched power and everlasting presence.

Comfort, comfort my people,  
says your God.

(21-26) Do you not know? Have you not heard? Has it not been told you from the beginning?

Have you not understood since the earth was founded?

He sits enthroned above the circle of the earth, and its people are like grasshoppers.

He stretches out the heavens like a canopy, and spreads them out like a tent to live in.

He brings princes to naught and reduces the rulers of this world to nothing.

No sooner are they planted, no sooner are they sown, no sooner do they take root in the ground, than he blows on them and they wither, and a whirlwind sweeps them away like chaff.

"To whom will you compare me?  
Or who is my equal?" says the Holy

One.

Lift up your eyes and look to the heavens: Who created all these?

He who brings out the starry host one by one and calls forth each of them by name.

Because of his great power and mighty strength, not one of them is missing.

*Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.*

**PEOPLE: THANKS BE TO GOD**

---

## THE SECOND LESSON

### Ephesians 2:1-10

From deepest darkness, grace ignites a life anew, raising us to heavenly heights, not through merit, but through the unfathomable gift of love.

As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our flesh and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature deserving of wrath. But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us

alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved. And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

*Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.*

**PEOPLE: THANKS BE TO GOD**

---

## THE HOLY GOSPEL

### John 16:16-24

Though a brief separation looms, joy beyond measure awaits, born from reunion and the boundless love of the Father.

Jesus went on to say, "In a little while you will see me no more, and then after a little while you will see me."

At this, some of his disciples said to one another, "What does he mean by saying, 'In a little while you will see me no more,

and then after a little while you will see me,' and 'Because I am going to the Father?'" They kept asking, "What does he mean by 'a little while'? We don't understand what he is saying."

Jesus saw that they wanted to ask him about this, so he said to them, "Are you asking one another what I meant when I said, 'In a little while you will see me no more, and then after a little while you will see me'? Very truly I tell you, you will weep and mourn while the world rejoices. You will grieve, but your grief will turn to joy. A woman giving birth to a child has pain because her time has

come; but when her baby is born she forgets the anguish because of her joy that a child is born into the world. So with you: Now is your time of grief, but I will see you again and you will rejoice, and no one will take away your joy. In that day you will no longer ask me anything. Very truly I tell you, my Father will give you whatever you ask in my name. Until now you have not asked for anything in my name. Ask and you will receive, and your joy will be complete.

Pastor: The Gospel of the Lord.

**PEOPLE: PRAISE TO YOU, O CHRIST**

---

## --- PROFESSION

## THE APOSTLES CREED

## --THE OFFERTORY

**"Take My Life, O Lord, Renew"** (LW 404 Vs. 1 & 4)

- 1. Take my life, O Lord, renew, consecrate my heart to You;  
Take my moments and my days; let them sing Your ceaseless praise***
- 4. Take my silver and my gold, all is Yours a thousand fold;  
Take my intellect and use ev'ry pow'r as You shall choose.***

## --- THE SERMON

Comfort Comfort: Blind Joy

## --- HYMN OF DAY

**"I Danced In The Morning" (Lord Of The Dance)** (CCLI Song # 78529)

- 1. I danced in the morning When the world was begun  
And I danced on the moon And the stars and the sun  
And I came down from heaven And I danced on the earth  
At Bethlehem I had My birth***

### **Chorus**

*Dance then wherever you may be I am the Lord of the Dance said He  
I'll lead you all Wherever you may be  
I'll lead you all In the Dance said He*

2. *I danced for the scribe And the Pharisee  
But they would not dance And they wouldn't follow Me  
I danced for the fishermen For James and John  
They came with Me And the dance went on (Chorus)*
3. *I danced on the Sabbath And I cured the lame  
The holy people said it was a shame They whipped and they stripped  
And they hung Me high And they left Me there  
On a Cross to die (Chorus)*
4. *I danced on a Friday When the sky turned black  
It's hard to dance With the devil on your back  
They buried My body And they thought I'd gone  
But I am the dance And I still go on (Chorus 2 times)*

### **--- 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**

## **"Come, People Of The Risen King"**

(Keith Getty, Kristyn Getty and Stuart Townend Copyright © 2007")

1. **Come, people of the risen King,  
Who delight to bring Him praise.  
Come, all and tune your hearts to sing  
To the Morning Star of grace.**

**From the shifting shadows of the earth  
We will lift our eyes to Him,  
Where steady arms of mercy reach  
To gather children in.**

**(Refrain) Rejoice! Rejoice! Let every tongue rejoice!**  
**One heart, one voice, O Church of Christ, rejoice!**

**2. Come, those whose joy is morning sun  
And those weeping through the night.  
Come, those who tell of battles won,  
And those struggling in the fight.  
For His perfect love will never change,  
And His mercies never cease,  
But follow us through all our days  
With the certain hope of peace. (Refrain)**

**3. Come, young and old from every land,  
Men and women of the faith.  
Come, those with full or empty hands,  
Find the riches of His grace.  
Over all the world, His people sing,  
Shore to shore we hear them call  
The Truth that cries through every age;  
'Our God is all in all'. (Refrain, 2 times)**

## ----- 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)

### "Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise"

Copyright: Commissioned through the Michigan District, LCMS

### "By Grace I'm Saved"

Copyright: Commissioned through the Michigan District, LCMS

### "Jesus, I Will Ponder Now"

Copyright: Commissioned through the Michigan District, LCMS

---

## ---- THIS WEEK AT GRACE

### Today

**March 10, 2024**

Services

8:30 & 10:15 AM

Live-streamed on [www.gracelutheranpsl.com](http://www.gracelutheranpsl.com)

10:15 AM

Second Sunday School

11:45 PM

Korean Church Worship

1:00 PM

### Rest of the Week

**March 11 - 16**

12 Step AA Meeting

Monday, 6:30 PM - 9:00 PM

Adopt-A-Street

Tuesday, 8:30 AM

Olivet School

Tuesday, 8:30 AM - 3:30 PM

Pastor's Circuit Meeting

Tuesday, 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Crafter's Club

Wednesday, 10:00 AM

ACC Meeting

Wednesday, 11:45 AM

Fellowship Meal

Wednesday 5:30 PM

Lenten Service

Wednesday, 6:30 PM

Korean Bible Study

Thursday, 10:30 AM

Grace Bible Study

Thursday, 11:00 AM

AA Meeting (Church Hall)

Thursday, 7:15 PM - 9:30 PM

Foster GrandParents

Friday, 9:15 AM - 3:00 PM

Korean Church Prayer Gathering

Saturday, 6:00 AM

For complete calendar information, go to [www.gracelutheranpsl.com/calendar](http://www.gracelutheranpsl.com/calendar)

**BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS THIS WEEK:** Vickie Kerstner - 3/10, Pam White 3/1

**THE FLOWERS ADORNING THE ALTAR** are given to the glory of God by Leigh Liagre in celebration of Gene's 80th birthday on March 6th.

**EGG HUNT REQUESTS:** If you would like to contribute Easter eggs, prizes, crafts, or candies, there is a box labeled "Egg Hunt" by the front door in the Church Hall. Candy for the eggs should be individually wrapped (please limit chocolate with the Florida heat).

**SECOND SUNDAY SCHOOL:** Children ages 3 and above, please stay after fellowship time today for Second Sunday School. We'll have fun with Bible themed activities from 11:45 AM to 12:45 PM every second Sunday of the month.

**QUARTERLY VOTER'S MEETING:** Will be held next Sunday, March 17th, between the services from 9:35 - 10:05.

**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 Vance Ablott on Friday. 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.



**ADOPT-A-STREET** will be THIS Tuesday, **March 12th at 8:30 AM!** The meeting place will be on the corner of Torino and Conus. For more information contact: Judy Fredrich (561) 315-9555 or [retslvnlg@outlook.com](mailto:retslvnlg@outlook.com)

**THURSDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY:** THIS Thursday at 11:00 AM. Come here to the church or watch the Live Streamed for those at home as we study the book of Matthew.

**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.



**WEEKLY FELLOWSHIP MEALS:** This Wednesday, **March 13th**, we will be sharing a meal together at 5:30 PM and then a Lenten service at 6:30 PM. Everyone is invited to the potluck meal, even if you don't have a dish to bring. We always have plenty of food! Come one and all for some friendly fellowship. Meat, vegetables, soups, and salad dishes are welcomed, oh and dessert!

**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. **Wish list:** Potato Chips - 03/14, Bananas - 04/17, Oatmeal Cookies - 04/30

(Store Bought Items Only) (Dates listed indicate a special celebration on that day)

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

---

**3/10**    ***Worship assistants:*** 8:30 -Bob F. & 10:15 - Dave V.  
***Scripture Readers:*** 8:30 - Jennine V. & 10:15 - Jan L.

**3/17**    ***Worship assistants:*** 8:30 - Phil F. & 10:15 - Ed. B  
***Scripture Readers:*** 8:30 - Judy F. & 10:15 - Pam H.

***Readings:*** *Isaiah 40:1, 27-31, Hebrews 5:1–10, John 16:25 -- 17:5 (NIV)*

---

**QUESTIONS FOR THE WEEK:** *Comfort Comfort - Blind Joy*

1. Describe a time Jesus said something confusing, that was difficult to understand.
2. Read John 16:16-24. As the disciples are confused, what does Jesus promise?
3. What illustration does Jesus use to show sorrow and confusion turning to joy?
4. How does Jesus meet us in sorrow and bring joy?

---

### **Lenten Season 2024**

**Wednesday's: March 13, and March 20**  
**Fellowship Meal at 5:30 PM and Service at 6:30 PM**

**March 24 - Palm Sunday:** 8:30 AM & 10:15 AM (10:15 AM will be livestreamed)

**March 28 - Maundy Thursday:** 6:00 PM with Communion (Live Streamed)  
(Fellowship Meal will follow afterwards, IHOP?)

**March 29 - Good Friday:** 12:00 (Noon) and 7:00 PM  
(Noon service will be livestreamed and broadcast)

**March 31 -Easter Sunday:** 6:45 AM (*outside*), 8:30 AM & 10:15 AM  
(10:15 AM will be livestreamed)

**Easter Breakfast & Fellowship:** starts after Sunrise Service (7:45ish)  
serving will end at 10:00 AM (Egg hunt: 9:50AM)

**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](http://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*

*Norm Neuberger (Palms of St. Lucie West)*

Melville Mills

Al & Doris Vollmann

Richard & Marie Harms

Joe Gannon

Phil Fredrich

Thomas & Marilyn Piotrowicz

Claren Kerstner

Jenny Brendlinger

Ron Phelps

Karen Albano

Marita Albano

Suzette Hudson

### **Friends and Family**

*Carolyn Howe (friend of Jim & Piper Neagles and Bob & Vivian B.)*

*Steve Potashnik (Brother of Jan L.)*

*Sue Walls (Surgery Recovery, Coli's Aunt)*

*The Pellicone Family (For the death of their father, friend of Leigh & Gene L.)*

*Betty Cisterino (friend of Jim & Piper Neagles and Bob & Vivian B.)*

### **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***

***Meschac and the Habitat For Children's Ministries. May those who work with Habitat Ministries in Haiti remain safe and healthy while assisting those in need on this island nation.***