

Sunday Service with Communion
Unbelievable Faith - Battle and Baal Bluff
January 26, 2020
Third Sunday after the Epiphany

**UNBELIEVABLE
FAITH** ELIJAH AND ELISHA
CONFRONT UNBELIEF

Grace Lutheran Church

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

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

www.GraceLutheranPSL.com

Pastor Cris Escher

Email: 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. We encourage you to register your name on the fellowship pad which you will find at the end of the row where you are sitting. 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 Hour is held after the Worship Service, and we invite you to stay for a few minutes so we can get acquainted.

HOLY COMMUNION

is celebrated in our worship service today. 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: The wine is made available in both the individual glasses and the common cup. Following the distribution of the bread, the individual cups will be offered. Then the common cup will be offered to those who do not have an individual cup in their hand. The acolyte will then gather the individual glasses. ***For those who have an intolerance to wine, grape juice is lighter colored in the individual communion glasses.*** Those who find it difficult to walk to the altar can be communed in the pew. Please inform the usher of your need.

ATTENDANCE BOOKS: PLEASE BE SURE TO PASS ALONG THE RED ATTENDANCE BOOKS IN YOUR ROW AND ENCOURAGE EVERYONE TO SIGN IT. THIS IS A VERY IMPORTANT PART OF OUR MINISTRY OF CARE. THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP

UNBELIEVABLE FAITH - Elijah and Elisha Confront Unbelief

Times are dark. The kings and people have slowly gone after the gods of the countries around them. But when times are dark, God seems to move. Amazing prophets rise up to confront the bad kings and unbelief. But there is a lingering question behind all of this. Are these great prophets actually changing anything?

TODAY: Battle at Baal Bluff

Mt Carmel is a picturesque bluff overlooking the Sea. Over the years many of God's people have sacrificed to the LORD in that place, but now that altar is in disrepair. But Baal worshipers have built a new altar and the place is now known for worshiping the god of rain and fertility where the rain begins. One could say it's the home field advantage for Baal in a godly battle.

---- THE OPENING HYMN

"In Christ Alone" (Vs. 1 - 4)

1. In Christ alone my hope is found
He is my light, my strength, my song
This Cornerstone, this solid ground
Firm through the fiercest draught and storm
What heights of love, what depths of peace
When fears are stilled when strivings cease
My Comforter, my all in all
Here in the love of Christ I stand.
2. In Christ alone who took on flesh
Fullness of God in helpless Babe
This gift of love and righteousness
Scorned by the ones He came to save
'Till on that cross as Jesus died
The wrath of God was satisfied
For every sin on Him was laid
Here in the death of Christ I live.
3. There in the ground His body lay
Light of the world by darkness slain
Then bursting forth in glorious day
Up from the grave He rose again
And as He stands in victory
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me
For I am His and He is mine
Bought with the precious blood of Christ.
4. No guilt in life, no fear in death
This is the power of Christ in me
From life's first cry to final breath
Jesus commands my destiny
No power of hell, no scheme of man
Can ever pluck me from His hand
Till he returns or calls me home
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand.

--RESPONSE OF THE DAY

Pastor: Bless the Lord, O my soul,

**PEOPLE: WHO FORGIVES
ALL YOUR INIQUITY,**

*Pastor: who redeems your life
from the pit,*

**PEOPLE: WHO CROWNS YOU WITH
STEADFAST LOVE AND MERCY**

Taken From Psalm 103

*Pastor: The Lord is merciful
and gracious,*

**PEOPLE: SLOW TO ANGER AND
ABOUNDING
IN STEADFAST LOVE**

*Pastor: as far as the east is
from the west*

**PEOPLE: SO FAR HE REMOVES
OUR TRANSGRESSIONS
FROM US.**

--THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you all.

PEOPLE: AND ALSO WITH YOU.

(We greet one another with the handshake of peace and with the words
"The Peace of the Lord be with you.")

---THE HYMN OF PRAISE

“Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee” (Vs. 1-2)

*1. Joyful, joyful, we adore Thee, God of glory, Lord of love.
Hearts unfold like flow'rs before Thee, op'ning to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness; drive the dark of doubt away.
Giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day!*

*2. All Thy works with joy surround Thee, earth and heav'n reflect Thy rays.
Stars and angels sing around Thee, center of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain, flow'ry meadow, flashing sea,
Chanting bird and flowing fountain call us to rejoice in Thee!*

--- THE CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

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

Pastor:  O Almighty God,

PEOPLE:

**WE CONFESS THAT
WE ARE IMPATIENT AND STUBBORN.
YOU HAVE CALLED US TO WAIT,
BUT WE HAVE RUN AHEAD.
WE CONFESS THAT WE DO NOT SEE
RIGHTEOUSNESS AS YOU DO.
WE CONFESS THAT WE HAVE LOST HOPE,
PUTTING OUR TRUST IN THE THINGS
AND LEADERS OF THIS WORLD,**

**LORD, YOU ARE THE ETERNAL HOPE.
YOU SENT US JESUS
AND PROMISED TO COME AGAIN.
HELP US TO KNOW YOUR FAITHFULNESS,
MERCY, AND STEADFAST LOVE,
AS WE WAIT FOR YOU.
COME, LORD JESUS, COME.
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 eternal God, look in mercy on our weakness, and stretch out your mighty hand to help and protect us. 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 FIRST LESSON

1 Kings 18:20-39

The word “limped” here, most likely indicates a frenzied dance, with music and chanting. This dancing, music and chanting was very common in their day, It was intended to get the attention of the god.

So Ahab sent to all the people of Israel and gathered the prophets together at Mount Carmel. And Elijah came near to all the people and said, “How long will you go limping between two different opinions? If the Lord is God, follow him; but if Baal, then follow him.” And the people did not answer him a word. Then Elijah said to the people, “I, even I only, am left a prophet of the Lord, but Baal's prophets are 450 men. Let two bulls be given to us, and let them choose one bull for themselves and cut it in pieces and lay it on the wood, but put no fire to it. And I will prepare the other bull and lay it on the wood and put no fire to it. And you call upon the name of your god, and I will call upon the name of the Lord, and the God who answers by fire, he is God.” And all the people answered, “It is well spoken.” Then Elijah said to the prophets of Baal, “Choose for yourselves one bull and prepare it first, for you are many, and call upon the name of your god, but put no fire to it.” And they took the bull that was given them, and they prepared it and called upon the name of Baal from morning until noon, saying, “O Baal, answer us!” But there was no voice, and no one answered. And they limped around the altar that they had made. And at noon Elijah mocked them, saying, “Cry aloud, for he is a god. Either he is musing, or he is relieving himself, or he is on a journey, or perhaps he is asleep and must be awakened.” And they cried aloud and cut themselves after their custom with swords and lances, until the blood gushed

out upon them. And as midday passed, they raved on until the time of the offering of the oblation, but there was no voice. No one answered; no one paid attention.

Then Elijah said to all the people, “Come near to me.” And all the people came near to him. And he repaired the altar of the Lord that had been thrown down. Elijah took twelve stones, according to the number of the tribes of the sons of Jacob, to whom the word of the Lord came, saying, “Israel shall be your name,” and with the stones he built an altar in the name of the Lord. And he made a trench about the altar, as great as would contain two seahs of seed. And he put the wood in order and cut the bull in pieces and laid it on the wood. And he said, “Fill four jars with water and pour it on the burnt offering and on the wood.” And he said, “Do it a second time.” And they did it a second time. And he said, “Do it a third time.” And they did it a third time. And the water ran around the altar and filled the trench also with water.

And at the time of the offering of the oblation, Elijah the prophet came near and said, “O Lord, God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, let it be known this day that you are God in Israel, and that I am your servant, and that I have done all these things at your word. Answer me, O Lord, answer me, that this people may know that you, O Lord, are God, and that you have turned their hearts back.” Then the fire of the Lord fell and consumed the burnt offering and the wood and the stones and the dust, and licked up the water that was in the trench. And when all the people saw it, they fell on their faces and said, “The Lord, he is God; the Lord, he is God.”

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

PEOPLE:  **THANKS BE TO GOD**

THE SECOND LESSON

Galatians 1:6-10

People are being deceived with an imitation of the true gospel, and they have bought into it. The words are nothing but twisted lies.

I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting him who called you in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel—not that there is another one, but there are some who trouble you and want to distort the gospel of Christ. But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach

to you a gospel contrary to the one we preached to you, let him be accursed. As we have said before, so now I say again: If anyone is preaching to you a gospel contrary to the one you received, let him be accursed.

For am I now seeking the approval of man, or of God? Or am I trying to please man? If I were still trying to please man, I would not be a servant of Christ.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: THANKS BE TO GOD

THE HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 7:1-10

The centurion understands how authority works: just as soldiers obey the centurion because he is backed by the authority of the empire, every earthly harm, including disease, must submit to Jesus because he is backed by God's authority

After he had finished all his sayings in the hearing of the people, he entered Capernaum. Now a centurion had a servant who was sick and at the point of death, who was highly valued by him. When the centurion heard about Jesus, he sent to him elders of the Jews, asking him to come and heal his servant. And when they came to Jesus, they pleaded with him earnestly, saying, "He is worthy to have you do this for him, for he loves our nation, and he is the one who built us our synagogue." And Jesus

went with them. When he was not far from the house, the centurion sent friends, saying to him, "Lord, do not trouble yourself, for I am not worthy to have you come under my roof. Therefore I did not presume to come to you. But say the word, and let my servant be healed. For I too am a man set under authority, with soldiers under me: and I say to one, 'Go,' and he goes; and to another, 'Come,' and he comes; and to my servant, 'Do this,' and he does it." When Jesus heard these things, he marveled at him, and turning to the crowd that followed him, said, "I tell you, not even in Israel have I found such faith." And when those who had been sent returned to the house, they found the servant well.

Pastor: The Gospel of the Lord.

PEOPLE: PRAISE TO YOU, O CHRIST

--- THE APOSTLES CREED

--- HYMN OF THE DAY

"Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus"

(LW 381 Vs. 1, 3 & 4)

1. Let us ever walk with Jesus,
follow His example pure,
Through a world that would deceive us
and to sin our spirits lure.
Onward in His footsteps treading,
pilgrims here, our home above,
Full of faith and hope and love,
let us do our Father's bidding.
Faithful Lord, with me abide;
I shall follow where you guide.
3. Let us gladly die with Jesus.
Since by death he conquered death,
He will free us from destruction,
Give to us immortal breath.
Let us mortify all passion
that would lead us into sin;
Then by grace we all may win
untold fruits of his creation.
Jesus, unto you I die,
There to live with you on high.
4. Let us also live with Jesus,
He has risen from the dead
That to life we may awaken.
Jesus, since You are our head,
We are Your own living members;
where You live, there we shall be
In your presence constantly
living there with You forever.
Jesus, let me faithful be,
life eternal grant to me.

The Apostles Creed
I believe in God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.
And 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 sits at the
right hand of God,
the Father, Almighty.
From thence
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.

--- THE SERMON

-- Battle at Baal Bluff

--THE OFFERTORY

*Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit with-in me.
Cast me not away from Your presence,
and take not Your Holy Spirit from me.
Restore unto me the joy of Your salvation,
and uphold me with Your free Spirit.*

--- PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

(after each petition)

Pastor: Lord, in your mercy,

PEOPLE: HEAR OUR PRAYER.

--- THE LORD'S PRAYER

--- 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

--- THE DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in heav'n
Hallowed be Thy name
Thy kingdom come
Thy will be done
On earth as it is in heav'n
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

“WHAT FEAST OF LOVE”

1. What feast of love is offered here,
what banquet come from heaven?
What food of everlasting life,
what gracious gift is given?
This, this is Christ the King,
the bread come down from heaven.
Oh, taste and see and sing!
How sweet the manna given!
2. What light of truth is offered here,
what covenant from heaven?
What hope of everlasting life,
what wondrous word if given?
This, this is Christ the King,

the sun come down from heaven.
Oh, see and hear and sing!
The Word of God is given.

3. What wine of love is offered here,
what crimson drink from heaven?
What stream of everlasting life,
what precious blood is given?
This, this is Christ the King,
the sweetest wine of heaven.
Oh, taste and see and sing!
The Son of God is given!

“Oh, that the Lord Would Guide My Ways” (LW 392 Vs. 1 - 4)

1. Oh, that the Lord would guide my ways
To keep his statutes still!
Oh, that my God would grant me grace
To know and do his will!

3. Assist my soul, to apt to stray,
A stricter watch to keep;
If ever I forget your way,
Restore your wandr'ing sheep.

2. Order my footsteps by your Word
And make my heart sincere;
Let sin have no dominion, Lord,
But keep my conscience clear.

4. Make me to walk in your commands,
A most delightful road;
Nor let my head or heart or hands
Offend against my God.

I Am Trusting You, Lord Jesus (LW 408 Vs. 1-6)

1. I am trusting you, Lord Jesus,
Trusting only you;
Trusting you for full salvation,
Free and true.
2. I am trusting you for pardon;
At your feet I bow,
For your grace and tender mercy
Trusting now.

3. I am trusting you for cleansing
In the crimson flood;
Trusting you to make me holy
By your blood.
4. I am trusting you to guide me;
You alone shall lead,
Every day and hour supplying
All my need.

5. I am trusting you for power;
You can never fail.
Words which you yourself shall give me
Must prevail.

6. I am trusting you, Lord Jesus;
Never let me fall.
I am trusting you forever
And for all.

----- NUNC DIMITTIS

Lord, now let your servant depart in peace according to your word,
for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared before the face of all people,
a light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of your people Israel.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen

----- 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

“In Christ Alone” (Vs. 4)

No guilt in life, no fear in death
This is the power of Christ in me
From life's first cry to final breath
Jesus commands my destiny
No power of hell, no scheme of man
Can ever pluck me from His hand
Till he returns or calls me home
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand.

----- SENDING

Pastor: Go in peace. Serve the Lord. PEOPLE: THANKS BE TO GOD.

---- **THIS WEEK AT GRACE**

Today

January 26, 2020

Worship	8:30 & 10:15 am
Fellowship Time	After services
Korean Church Worship	1:00 pm
AA	7:30 pm

This Week

January 27 - February 1, 2020

Craft Group - (Now Forming)	Monday 9:00 am
Bible Study with Pastor Russ	Monday, 11:00 am
Olivet Academy	Tuesday 9:00 am- 1:00 pm
Mahjong	Wednesday at Noon
Scripture Narration (Matthew)	Thursday 11:00 am
Choir Practice (more voices needed)	Friday 10:30 am
Korean Prayer Service	Saturday, 6:00 am

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

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS Gloria Solack - 1/28

THE FLOWERS adorning the altar are from Cheryl Nolte in loving memory of Bill Nolte.



DON'T FORGET THE BACKPACK PROGRAM:

We now are serving over 118 students from this community. A list of needed items is posted on the bulletin board in the narthex and a collection box is in the narthex. **(We presently have plenty of crackers and cookies on hand.)** Cash donations earmarked "Backpack" may be placed in the offering plate as well. For more information contact Leigh Liagre.

Grace Choir will be meeting and practicing on Fridays at 10:30, all voices are welcome.

2019 OFFERING STATEMENTS are available on the table by the outside door in the Narthex.

SARAH'S KITCHEN Are you available on Monday evenings for a few hours to help? Grace volunteers are needed Monday evenings to help out, PLEASE contact Piper Neagles if you would like to know how you can help. (586)212-7626 or janpan18@yahoo.com

COMING UP TOMORROW! - a new forming "**CRAFT GROUP**" will be meeting tomorrow at 9 am. All crafty and uncrafty people are welcome and have a good time together. See Judy Fredrich for info.

YOUR HELP IS NEEDED with two services **we need ushers, readers, greeters and worship assistants.** If you are in the least bit interested or know someone who is, PLEASE, let Patti Williams, Leigh Liagre or Pastor know. Training and overwhelming support is provided.

One month from today, 2/26, is Ash Wednesday!

FEBRUARY'S GRACE NEWSLETTER, articles and Information is due to Phil by TOMORROW!

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 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.**

Questions to ponder this week.

1. Think about rivals (sports teams, etc). What is the biggest showdown you've seen between two rivals?
2. Read 1 Kings 18:1-19. What were king Ahab and Jezebel doing in response to the drought and famine? What was their focus on? How do we focus on similar things in tough times?
3. Read 1 Kings 18:20-46. Describe the rituals that the prophets of Baal go through vs. the prophet Elijah? What is the difference?
4. How do we see the power of the true God in this narrative?