

Sunday Service with Communion

To Change or Not to Change

Luke 16

March 24, 2019

the JESUS EXPERIENCE

Discover Luke's Story

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. 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. **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. If you are not a member of the LCMS, please talk with the pastor before communion.

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.

THE JESUS EXPERIENCE

Luke's Story of Jesus Luke wants to tell us a story; no, he wants to give us an experience. It's about someone who is doing something new, someone who is bringing miracles, healings, and parties, someone who defies expectations, someone whom everyone has an opinion about, and who will save the world.

TODAY: To Change or Not to Change

Have you thought about Kodak in the last 10 years? In the 70s they were one of the largest American companies. However now, they don't exist. Luke 16 is asking us if we will change, if we will adjust our behavior and actually follow God's way. But it asks a question at the end. What happens to us if we don't actually change?

-THE OPENING HYMN

God Himself is Present (LW 206)

1. *God himself is present;
let us now adore Him
And with awe appear before Him.
God is in His temple;
all within keep silence,
Prostrate lie with deepest rev'rence.
Him alone God we own,
Him, our God and Savior;
Praise His name for ever!*
2. *God himself is present;
hear the harps resounding;
See the hosts the throne surrounding!
"Holy, holy, holy!"
Hear the hymn ascending,
Songs of saints and angels blending.
Bow your ear to us here:
Hear, O Christ, the praises
that Your Church now raises.*
3. *Light of light eternal,
all things penetrating,
For Your rays our soul is waiting,
As the tender flowers,
willingly unfolding,
To the sun their faces holding:
Even so would we do,
light from You obtaining,
Strength to serve You gaining.*
4. *Come, celestial being,
make our hearts Your dwelling,
Ev'ry carnal thought dispelling.
By Your Holy Spirit sanctify us truly,
Teaching us to love You only.
Where we go here below,
let us bow before You
And in truth adore You.*

-- PSALM OF THE DAY Taken from Psalm 91

Pastor: *Those who dwell in the shelter of the Lord,*
PEOPLE: **THEY WILL BE PROTECTED DURING LIFE'S STORMS**

Pastor: *We will say to the Lord,*
PEOPLE: **"OUR REFUGE AND FORTRESS;
OUR GOD, IN WHOM WE TRUST."**

Pastor: *Under His wings you will find refuge,*
PEOPLE: **HIS FAITHFULNESS IS OUR SHIELD.**

Pastor: *Our Lord will deliver us.*
PEOPLE: **HE WILL SHOW US TRUE SALVATION.**

--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

Jesus, Name Above All Names

1. *Jesus, name above all names,
Beautiful Savior, glorious Lord.
Emmanuel, God is with us,
Blessed Redeemer, Living Word.*
2. *Jesus, loving Shepherd,
Vine of the branches, Son of God.
Prince of Peace, wonderful Counselor,
Lord of the universe, Light of the world.*
3. *Jesus, Way of salvation,
King of kings, Lord of lords,
The way the truth, and the Life,
Mighty creator, my Savior and friend.*

-- THE CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

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

Pastor: O Almighty God,

**PEOPLE: MERCIFUL FATHER, I CONFESS
THAT I HAVE SINNED AGAINST YOU.
I HAVE DONE THAT WHICH YOU
FORBID, I HAVE DONE WHAT IS
RIGHT IN MY OWN EYES.
IN THE WEARINESS OF A BUSY LIFE,
I HAVE YIELDED TO TEMPTATION.
I HAVE TRUSTED MYSELF MORE
THAN I HAVE TRUSTED YOU.
I HAVE FOLLOWED MY OWN PATHS**

**RATHER THAN YOURS.
FORGIVE ME, I PRAY. BY YOUR HOLY SPIRIT,
LEAD ME AND GUIDE ME
SO THAT I MAY TRULY BE YOUR SERVANT
IN YOUR GREAT REDEMPTIVE WORK ON
EARTH;
THROUGH JESUS CHRIST, YOUR SON,
OUR LORD.**

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.

PEOPLE: AMEN

--THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: *Let us pray.*

Lord God, our strength, the battle of good and evil rages within and around us. Keep us firm in our faith in your Son, and when we fall, raise and restore 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.

PEOPLE: **AMEN**

THE FIRST LESSON Psalm 33:8-22

Because of the creative might of Yahweh, the psalmist insists that not only Israel but all the world must worship him.

Let all the earth fear the Lord;
let all the inhabitants of the world stand
in awe of him!
For he spoke, and it came to be;
he commanded, and it stood firm.

The Lord brings the counsel of the nations
to nothing;
he frustrates the plans of the peoples.
The counsel of the Lord stands forever,
the plans of his heart to all generations.
Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord,
the people whom he has chosen as his
heritage!

The Lord looks down from heaven;
he sees all the children of man;
from where he sits enthroned he looks out

on all the inhabitants of the earth,
he who fashions the hearts of them all
and observes all their deeds.

The king is not saved by his great army;
a warrior is not delivered by his great
strength.

The war horse is a false hope for salvation,
and by its great might it cannot rescue.

Behold, the eye of the Lord is on those who
fear him,

on those who hope in his steadfast love,
that he may deliver their soul from death
and keep them alive in famine.

Our soul waits for the Lord;
he is our help and our shield.

For our heart is glad in him,
because we trust in his holy name.
Let your steadfast love, O Lord, be upon us,
even as we hope in you.

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

PEOPLE: **THANKS BE TO GOD.**

THE SECOND LESSON

1 Thessalonians 4:1-8

The phrase here “to walk” was a common Hebrew phrase which meant devotion to God. It was often used in Jewish literature as a metaphor for Torah observance.

Finally, then, brothers, we ask and urge you in the Lord Jesus, that as you received from us how you ought to walk and to please God, just as you are doing, that you do so more and more. For you know what instructions we gave you through the Lord Jesus. For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you abstain from sexual

immorality; that each one of you know how to control his own body in holiness and honor, not in the passion of lust like the Gentiles who do not know God; that no one transgress and wrong his brother in this matter, because the Lord is an avenger in all these things, as we told you beforehand and solemnly warned you. For God has not called us for impurity, but in holiness. Therefore whoever disregards this, disregards not man but God, who gives his Holy Spirit to you.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: THANKS BE TO GOD

Return to the Lord, Your God

*Re-turn to the Lord, your God,
for He is gra-cious and mer-ci-ful
slow to an-ger,
and a-bound-ing in stead-fast love,
and a-bounding in stead-fast love.*

THE HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 16:14-31

The rich man, who represents what most people wish they could become, turns out to be the one who is hopeless in God's judgment; he is rich in possessions but poor in compassion, and compassion is what God measures, not wealth.

The Pharisees, who were lovers of money, heard all these things, and they ridiculed him. And he said to them, “You are those who justify yourselves before men, but God knows your hearts. For what is exalted among men is an abomination in the sight of God.

“The Law and the Prophets were until John; since then the good news of the kingdom of God is preached, and everyone forces his

way into it. But it is easier for heaven and earth to pass away than for one dot of the Law to become void.

“Everyone who divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery, and he who marries a woman divorced from her husband commits adultery.

“There was a rich man who was clothed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. And at his gate was laid a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, who desired to be fed with what fell from the rich man's table. Moreover, even the dogs came and licked his sores. The poor man died and was carried by the angels to Abraham's side. The rich man also died and was buried, and in Hades, being in

torment, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham far off and Lazarus at his side. And he called out, 'Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the end of his finger in water and cool my tongue, for I am in anguish in this flame.' But Abraham said, 'Child, remember that you in your lifetime received your good things, and Lazarus in like manner bad things; but now he is comforted here, and you are in anguish. And besides all this, between us and you a great chasm has been fixed, in order that those who would pass from here to you may not be able, and none may cross from there to us.' And he said, 'Then I beg

you, father, to send him to my father's house—for I have five brothers—so that he may warn them, lest they also come into this place of torment.' But Abraham said, 'They have Moses and the Prophets; let them hear them.' And he said, 'No, father Abraham, but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent.' He said to him, 'If they do not hear Moses and the Prophets, neither will they be convinced if someone should rise from the dead.'"

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

APOSTLES CREED

HYMN OF THE DAY

My Faith Looks Trustingly (LW 378)

1. *My faith looks trustingly
To Christ of Calvary,
My Savior true!
Lord, hear me while I pray,
Take all my guilt away,
Strengthen in every way
My love for you!*
2. *May your rich grace impart
Strength to my fainting heart,
My zeal inspire;
As you have died for me,
My love, adoringly,
Pure, warm, and changeless be,
A living fire!*
3. *While life's dark maze I tread
And griefs around me spread,
Oh, be my guide;
Make darkness turn to day,
Wipe sorrow's tears away,
Nor let me ever stray
From you a side.*
4. *When ends life's transient dream,
When death's cold, sullen stream
Rolls over me,
Blest Savior, then in love
Fear and distrust remove;
Oh, bear me safe above,
Redeemed and free*

--- THE SERMON

To Change or Not to Change

--- THE OFFERTORY

*Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within 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

Soul, Adorn Thyself With Gladness (LW 239 vs. 1, 3, 4 & 6)

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| <p>1. <i>Soul, adorn yourself with gladness, leave
the gloomy haunts of sadness,
Come into the daylight's splendor, there
with joy Your praises render.
Bless the one whose grace unbounded
this amazing banquet founded;
He though heav'nly, high, and holy,
deigns to dwell with You most lowly.</i></p> <p>3. <i>Now in faith I humbly ponder over this
surpassing wonder
That the bread of life is boundless
though the souls it feeds are countless:
With the choicest wine of heaven
Christ's own blood to us is given.
Oh, most glorious consolation, pledge
and seal of my salvation.</i></p> | <p>4. <i>Jesus, source of lasting pleasure,
truest friend, and dearest treasure,
Peace beyond all understanding,
joy into all life expanding:
Humbly now, I bow before You;
love incarnate, I adore You;
Worthily let me receive You and,
so favored, never leave You.</i></p> <p>6. <i>Jesus, Bread of Life, I pray You,
let me gladly here obey You.
By Your love I am invited,
by Your love with love requited;
By this Supper let me measure, Lord,
how vast and deep love's treasure.
Through the gift of grace You give me as
Your guest in heaven receive me.</i></p> |
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Jesus, Your Blood and Righteousness (LW 362)

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| <p>1. <i>Jesus, your blood and righteousness
My beauty are, my glorious dress;
Mid flaming worlds, in these arrayed,
With joy shall I lift up my head.</i></p> <p>2. <i>Bold shall I stand in that great day,
Cleansed and redeemed,
no debt to pay;
For by your cross absolved I am
From sin and guilt, from fear and
shame.</i></p> | <p>3. <i>Lord, I believe your precious blood,
Which at the mercy seat of God
Pleads for the captives' liberty,
Was also shed in love for me.</i></p> <p>4. <i>Lord, I believe, were sinners more
Than sands upon the ocean shore,
You have for all a ransom paid,
For all a full atonement made.</i></p> |
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5. When from the dust of death I rise
To claim my mansion in the skies,
This then shall be my only plea:
Christ Jesus lived and died for me.

6. Then shall I praise you and adore
Your blessed name forevermore,
Who once, for me and all you made,
An everlasting ransom paid.

What a Friend We Have in Jesus (LW 516)

1. *What a friend we have in Jesus,
all our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry
everything to God in prayer!
Oh, what peace we often forfeit;
oh, what needless pain we bear.
All because we do not carry
everything to God in prayer!*

2. *Have we trials and temptations?
Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged,
take it to the Lord in prayer!*

*Can we find a friend so faithful
who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our ev'ry weakness,
take it to the Lord in prayer.*

3. *Are we weak and heavy laden,
cumbered with a load of care?
Precious Savior, still our refuge,
take it to the Lord in prayer.
Do your friends despise, forsake
you? Take it to the Lord in prayer.
In his arms he'll take and shield you,
you will find a solace there*

----- 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

God Himself is Present (LW 206)

*Come, celestial being, make our hearts Your dwelling,
Ev'ry carnal thought dispelling.
By Your Holy Spirit sanctify us truly,
Teaching us to love You only.
Where we go here below, let us bow before You
And in truth adore You.*

----- SENDING

Pastor: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

PEOPLE: THANKS BE TO GOD.

Today **March 24, 2019**

Sunday School & Adult Bible Study	8:45 am
Worship	10:00 am
Korean Church Worship	1:00 pm
AA	7:30 pm

This Week

MOPS	Wednesday, 9:15 am
Mahjongg	Wednesday, 12:00 noon
Potluck	Wednesday 6:00 pm
Midweek Worship	Wednesday 7:00 pm
Bible Study @ Perkins Restaurant	Thursday, 7:00 am
Scripture Narration	Thursday, 11:00 am
Olivet Private School Testing Day	Friday, 9:30 am
Korean Prayer Service	Saturday, 6:00 am

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS David Vik, 3/27.

ANNIVERSARIES Jim and Linda Doran, 3/30 (51)

THE FLOWERS adorning the altar are given to the glory of God by Sherry Self in memory of Ray, husband and father.

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.*** You can make your request by email either to Midge Watts, meowatts@bellsouth.net or to the church website, www.GraceLutheranPSL.com/pray. Also, your loved one 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 needs.

A Big Thank You to All who help support Backpack Ministry this year with your food and monetary support.



We have only five more deliveries to make to Manatee and our pantry is significantly full. Please do not make any donations till September when the school term resumes. This has been one great year for our ministry as your donations covered all our needs and we did not have to rely on any support from Grace Lutheran's budget. Your hearts are full of the love for others in need. We are grateful for your generous support.

Carol C., Barbara R. and Leigh L.



HELP! We're still looking for someone willing to act as the secretary to the Board of Directors. If interested, contact Ed Watts, Board President.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR It is time for the Annual Walk for Life Fundraiser on Saturday, March 30, 2019, 9:00 am at Jensen Beach High School. Help rescue the life of an unborn child. Sign up today at the Walk Display table at the entrance of the church. If you are unable to walk, donations are welcome. CareNet needs your donations to help save a child. Let's do our church proud.

FAMILY MEALS--EASTER FOOD DRIVE

Please help us with the following items: canned vegetables, chicken gravy packets, boxed dessert mixes, cornbread mixes. Any (unexpired) non-perishable food will assist our families beyond Easter. We also accept gift cards. **Food drive ends on April 8.**

Facebook <http://www.familymealsinc.org/>

email--familymealsfl@gmail.com

Call us--(772)210-0900

ARE YOU RETIRED? Or, do you need community service hours? Are you free Wednesday mornings? Do you enjoy hanging out with children?! If so, please read on...

MOPS PSL (moms of Pre-Schoolers in Port Saint Lucie) is looking for volunteers who are interested in watching our kiddos during mommy group time. We are a Christian based organization that meets 1-2 times a month at Grace Lutheran Church for a devotion and brunch. We are looking to fill a couple babysitting spots so that we, moms, may have this time with each other. This is a volunteer position and you will need to pass a background check. Your help would be greatly appreciated. Please contact Nicole at 314-791-0461, if you are interested. Thank you!

QUESTIONS TO REFLECT ON DURING THE WEEK

1. Describe a time when you gave someone good advice and they didn't listen to you. Why do you think they didn't change their behavior based on your advise?
2. Read Luke 16:19-31. How is the rich man's attitude towards Lazarus? How do we often act the same way?
3. The rich man asks that he might send Lazarus to go warn his brothers. How does Abraham respond in this story? What warning does this bring to you?
4. On a scale of 1-5, how have the Pharisees been in listening to and changing to follow God's way? Why do you think Jesus says in verse 31 that even in someone rises from the dead, they wouldn't listen to him?
5. Read Luke 24:13-35. This is a post resurrection account of Jesus. If you were to ask the two men who met Jesus on the road to Emmaus, "why did Jesus rise from the dead?", how do you think they would respond?