Sunday Service

Fifth Sunday in Lent

March 21, 2021 - 8:30 AM & 10:15 AM Live Broadcast at 10:15 AM



What Who

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

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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.

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

Seating with social distancing at the church is now available at the Bible Study on Thursday at 11:00 AM and on Sundays at 8:30 AM and 10:15 AM. Please remember, you will need to wear a face mask at Grace.

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: Due to social distancing and everyone's health we have moved Holy Communion to the end of our worship service and will celebrate by family/sitting groups. After the closing hymn pastor will pronounce the sending and then those who wish to share in the celebration of communion shall remain.

The distribution of the bread and wine in individual cups will be by an elder. Please wait for Pastor to proceed with the taking of the elements for your group. *For those who have an intolerance to wine, grape juice is lighter colored on the tray.* 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 church.

All Nations - Diversity of the Gospel

All throughout the Gospels, people's nationalities are mentioned. Why are the gospel writers spending precious ink telling us where some of these people are from? Perhaps, their nationality is part of the story and shows us another part of God's love for all nations.

TODAY: What Who

The man asked Jesus the same question many have asked throughout time. What do I have to do to get to heaven? Jesus tells us a story about a man who was beaten and robbed and the outcast who cared for him. Turning our questions of what to who?

---- THE OPENING HYMN

"Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise"

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- Immortal, invisible, God only wise.
 In light inaccessible hid from our eyes,
 Most blessed, most glorious, the ancient of days,
 Almighty, victorious, Thy great name we praise!
- Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,
 Not wanting nor wasting, Thou rulest in might;
 Thy justice like mountains high soaring above,
 Thy clouds which are fountains of goodness and love.
- To all life Thou givest to both great and small;
 In all life Thou livest, the true life of all.
 We blossom and flourish as leaves on the tree,
 And wither and perish, but naught changes Thee.
- 4. Great Father of glory, pure Father of light,
 Thine angels adore Thee, all veiling their sight.
 All laud we would render, oh, help us to see
 'Tis only the splendor of light that hides Thee.

-- Opening

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah.

--- 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.

Most merciful God, you saved humankind by the death and resurrection of your Son, Jesus Christ. Strengthen our faith in him who suffered on the cross, so that we may triumph in the power of his victory. For he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **AMEN**

----THE HYMN OF PRAISE "Jesus, Name Above All Names"

 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 FIRST LESSON Jeremiah 31:31-34

Jeremiah receives God's messages. This is a sweet comfort and a welcomed contrast to other messages of doom. But as we will see, God's message of consolation is not only a hope of restoration for one rebellious nation but a promise for all people.

"Behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah, not like the covenant that I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt,

my covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, declares the Lord. For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people. And no longer shall each one teach his neighbor and each his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord,' for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the Lord. For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more."

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: THANKS BE TO GOD

THE SECOND LESSON Revelotion 7:9-17

Here between the sixth and seventh seals, there is an interlude, an opportunity for people from every nation to enter into the people of God, to receive God's mark, and to take their places among the redeemed.

After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, and crying out with a loud voice, "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!" And all the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, saying, "Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen."

Then one of the elders addressed me,

saying, "Who are these, clothed in white robes, and from where have they come?" I said to him, "Sir, you know." And he said to me, "These are the ones coming out of the great tribulation. They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

"Therefore they are before the throne of God,

and serve him day and night in his temple;

and he who sits on the throne will shelter them with his presence.

They shall hunger no more, neither thirst anymore;

the sun shall not strike them,

nor any scorching heat.

For the Lamb in the midst of the throne will be their shepherd,

and he will guide them to springs of living water,

and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: THANKS BE TO GOD

THE HOLY GOSPEL Luke 10:25-37

The focus for Jesus is not on the kinds of sophisticated arguments preferred by the religious scholar; for Jesus, the kingdom of God is about living life, and in particular, living a life of love for God and for neighbor, whoever that neighbor may be.

And behold, a lawyer stood up to put him to the test, saying, "Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" He said to him, "What is written in the Law? How do you read it?" And he answered, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself." And he said to him, "You have answered correctly; do this, and you will live."

But he, desiring to justify himself, said to Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" Jesus replied, "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and he fell among robbers, who stripped him and beat him and departed, leaving him half dead. Now by chance a priest was going down that road, and when he saw him he passed by on the other side. So likewise a Levite, when he

came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan, as he journeyed, came to where he was, and when he saw him, he had compassion. He went to him and bound up his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he set him on his own animal and brought him to an inn and took care of him. And the next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper, saying, 'Take care of him, and

whatever more you spend, I will repay you when I come back.' Which of these three, do you think, proved to be a neighbor to the man who fell among the robbers?" He said, "The one who showed him mercy." And Jesus said to him, "You go, and do likewise."

Pastor: The Gospel of the Lord.

PEOPLE: PRAISE TO YOU, O CHRIST

--- PROFESSION --- Apostles Creed

--- THE SERMON -

All Nations - Diversity of the Gospel "What Who"

--THE OFFERTORY

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 the 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 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 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

"Savior, Again to Thy Dear Name We Raise"

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- Savior, again to Thy dear name we raise
 With one accord our parting hymn of praise;
 Once more we bless Thee ere our worship cease,
 Then, lowly bending, wait Thy word of peace.
- Grant us Thy peace upon our homeward way;
 With thee began, with Thee shall end the day;
 Guard all the lips from sin, the hearts from shame,
 That in this house have called upon Thy name.
- 3. Grant us Thy peace, Lord, through the coming night; Turn Thou for us its darkness into light. From harm and danger keep Thy children free; For dark and light are both alike to Thee.
- 4. Grant us Thy peace throughout our earthly life,
 Our balm in sorrow and our stay in strife;
 Then, when Thy voice shall bid our conflict cease,
 Call us, O Lord, to thine eternal peace.

---- SENDING

Pastor: Have peace knowing we are all with you.

Serve others knowing God walks before you.

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

THE DISTRIBUTION OF THE COMMUNION: Due to social distancing and everyone's health we will celebrate by family/sitting groups. After the "Sending" those who wish to share in the celebration of Holy Communion shall remain for the "Order of Holy Communion."

Pastor will signal groups up to the altar alternating between left and right sides. An elder will distribute the bread and wine for your side. Then Pastor Cris will direct your partaking of the elements, pronounce the blessing for your side, then you may place your cup in the basket on the side and depart in peace.

--- 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

--- ADDITIONAL HYMNS

"O Perfect Life of Love"

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- O Perfect Life of Love!
 All, all, is finished now,
 All that He left His throne above
 To do for us below.
- No work is left undone
 Of all the Father willed;
 His toil, His sorrows, one by one,
 The Scriptures have now fulfilled.
- 3. No pain that we can share
 But He has felt it smart;
 All forms of human grief and care
 Have pierced that tender heart.

- 4. All on His thorn-crowned head And on His sinless soul Our sins in all that guilt were laid That He might make us whole.
- In perfect love He dies;
 For me He dies, for me.
 O all-atoning Sacrifice,
 I cling by faith to Thee.
- 6. In every time of need,
 Before the judgement throne,
 Thy works, O Lamb of God, I'll plead,
 Thy merits, not mine own.

7. Yet work, O Lord, in me
As Thou for me hast wrought,
And let my love the answer be
To grace Thy love has brought

"Not All the Blood of Beasts"

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- Not all the blood of beasts on Jewish altars slain
 Could give the guilty conscience peace or wash away the stain.
- 2. But Christ, the heav'nly Lamb, takes all our sins away; A sacrifice of nobler name and richer blood than they.
- 3. My faith would lay its hand on that dear head of Thine While as a penitent I stand, And there confess my sin.
- 4. My soul looks back to see the burden Thou didst bear When hanging on the cursed tree; I know my guilt was there.
- 5. Believing, we rejoice to see the curse removed; We bless the Lamb with cheerful voice and sing his bleeding love.

"Glory Be to Jesus"

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- 1. Glory be to Jesus, who in bitter pains
 Poured for me the life blood from his sacred veins.
- 2. Grace and life eternal in that blood I find; Blest be his compassion, infinitely kind.
- 3. Blest through endless ages be the precious stream Which from endless torment did the world redeem.
- 4. Abel's blood for vengeance pleaded to the skies; But the blood of Jesus for our pardon cries.
- 5. Oft as earth exulting wafts its praise on high, Angel hosts rejoicing make their glad reply.
- 6. Lift we then our voices, swell the mighty flood; Louder still and louder praise the precious blood.

| <u>THIS WEEK AT GRACE - Today</u> | March 21 2021 |
|--|---------------|
| Worship Service | 8:30 AM |
| Second Worship Service and | |
| video service www.gracelutheranpsl.com | 10:15 AM |
| Zoom into Fellowship | 12:00 PM |
| Korean Church Worship | 1:00 PM |
| AA | 7:30 PM |

Rest of the weekMarch 22 - 27, 2021Olivet School8:30 AM - 1:30 PMIndividual - Small Group CommunionWednesday, 11AM - NoonFellowship Brown Bag MealWednesday, 5:30- 6:30 PMLenten Service (In-person & Livestreamed)Wednesday, 6:30 PMBible Study (also on Zoom)Thursday, 11 AM

Foster Grandparents Friday. 9 AM - 1 PM
Korean Church Prayer Gathering Saturday, 6 AM

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

HOLY WEEK! MARCH 28 THROUGH APRIL 4, 2021

3/28 - Palm Sunday: 8:30 AM & 10:15 AM

4/1 - Maundy Thursday: 7:00 PM with Communion 4/2 - Good Friday: 12:00 (Noon) and 7:00 PM

4/4 - 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 (7:45 ish) and will end at 10:15 AM (ongoing)

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS THIS WEEK: Greg Schultz - 3/25, David Vik & Tim Glish - 3/27

<u>THE FLOWERS ADORNING THE ALTAR</u> are given to the glory of God by Sherry Self in memory of Ray.

FELLOWSHIP BROWN BAG MEAL: Our last one this year! Come and join your Grace friends this Wednesday between 5:30 and 6:30 PM for some socially distanced fellowship time. Bring a meal for yourself and join us. You don't need to be right on time at 5:30, however the service will start at 6:30. This past Wednesday we had 7 for the meal and 20 attended the service. Come and share in the Fellowship!

<u>FAMILY MEALS!</u> Collection is underway! For a list of needs, please check the bulletin board in the narthex, or place a check in the offering plate marked "Family Meals". Family Meals, provides the food, families provide the memories. We need your help to provide Easter meal bags to these Saint Lucie families. Family Meals has set a goal of helping 2300 Treasure Coast families this Easter! This is the last week for the EASTER collection.

<u>CARENET "WALK FOR LIFE"</u> Date: April 17, 2021 at 9:00 am, Place: Mid Florida Civic Center. Those desiring to walk and get pledges and win prizes -pick up your "Pledge sheet" near the front door in Fellowship Hall. Just sign up with name, email, phone number and amount of pledge, plus how you plan to pay (check, cash, bill me later).

For more information or to contribute cash contact Phil or Judy Fredrich 772-237-2626.

PLEASE CALL PEOPLE: The COVID quarantines began in March 2020 and many of our members have health conditions which have kept them isolated at home for 9 months. So that we all don't descend into madness, let's call and talk to each other regularly as well as sending cards or notes through the mail. Phone and address directories are available for your convenience on the counter by the office door.

<u>COMMUNION ON WEDNESDAY:</u> If you, or someone you know, would like to celebrate Holy Communion but prefer a small group or unable to attend Sunday service, Pastor Cris has set aside Wednesday's to celebrate the meal in small/family groups. Please come by on Wednesday at: 11:00, 11:20, 11:40 or 12:00 (noon) and partake of this wonderful meal.

<u>BIBLE STUDY FOR ALL!</u> Pastor Cris is conducting a Bible Study on Thursday's at 11 AM and you are welcome to attend in person! Seating is with social distancing along with wearing a mask. The Bible Study is also "live streamed" through ZOOM as well for you to participate from home. (<u>www.GracelutheranPSL.com</u>) Also, recorded for your future viewing if you would like.

SEE YOUR GRACE FAMILY ON ZOOM: Coli, along with Pastor, will be hosting Zoom to Coffee at NOON, TODAY, for those who would like to join in fellowship "virtually" to see and chat with Grace members and friends. All are welcome! www.GraceLutheranPSL.com

<u>GIVING:</u> We are here to provide "Grace and Peace in this Chaotic and Lonely Time" to those in our church and community. Thank you for your past and continual prayers and financial support to Grace and your community. We have added Paypal for online donations. If you would like to give through Paypal, please go to: <u>www.GraceLutheranPSL.com</u> and click the "GIVE" button on the upper right side of the page.

Questions to Ponder This Week - All Nations - Diversity of the Gospel -- "What Who"

- 1. In culture today, what lesson does the parable of the Good Samaritan teach us?
- 2. Read Luke 10:25-37. What question is asked of Jesus that he uses the parable to answer?
- 3. How does Jesus move the story from "what" you must do in your faith, to "who" you are serving?
- 4. Who is your neighbor that God calls you to show mercy to this week?

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE! MARCH 28 THROUGH APRIL 4, 2021

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