Sunday Service

MAY 21, 2023 - 8:30 AM & 10:15 AM

Livestream at 10:15 AM



Grace Lutheran Church

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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. 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.

Rise & Fall: Saul and David in Samuel

In a world where chaos has reigned, the people cry for the rule of a king, a king who will raise them into a bigger and brighter existence. However, as pride and the desire for power rise, so, too, come the falls.

Today: Projection

It seems as if much of the first book of Samuel is taken up with Saul trying to kill David and David escaping; and when David catches Saul in the most vulnerable position, his men urge him to kill Saul. It would be nothing more than self-defense. Wouldn't Saul kill David if Saul caught him with his pants down? Isn't Saul turning over every stone in the wilderness looking for David so he can kill him? Saul and David are both projecting: one a murderous rage and the other, the kingdom of God.

---- THE OPENING HYMN

"Christ the Lord Is Risen Today" (LW 142 Vs 1-6)

1. "Christ the Lord is risen today!"
All on earth with angels say;
Raise your joys and triumphs high;
Sing, ye heavens; and earth, reply.

2. Love's redeeming work is done,
Fought the fight, the battle won;
Lo! Our sun's eclipse is over.
Lo! He sets in blood no more.

3. Vain the stone, the watch, the seal;
Christ has burst the gates of hell.
Death in vain forbids his rise;
Christ has opened paradise.

4. Lives again our glorious king!
Where, O death, is now thy sting?
Once he died our souls to save;
Where the victory, O grave?

5. Hail the Lord of earth and heaven!
Praise to thee by both be given.
Thee we greet triumphant now;
Hail, the resurrection, thou!

6. King of glory, soul of bliss,
Everlasting life is this:
Thee to know, thy power to prove,
Thus to sing, and thus to love!

--- Opening

David said, "May God judge between us. Even if you meant for harm,
I will not take revenge against you." - 1 Samuel 24:12

--- 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.
Holy Father, your Son prayed for his disciples that they would be one, as you and he are one. Keep your whole church harmoniously together in faith and love, united by the one Spirit. 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**

--Baptism: Delizia Mia Poto (10:15 Service)

--THE HYMN OF PRAISE

"This is the Feast" (LW pg 161)

This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain,
Whose blood set us free to be people of God.
This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Power, riches, wisdom, and strength, and Honor, blessing, and glory are His.
This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Sing with all the people of God, And join in the hymn of all creation:
Blessing, honor, glory, and might be to God and Lamb forever. Amen.
This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

For the Lamb who was slain has begun His reign. Alleluia.
This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, al-le-lu-ia.

THE FIRST LESSON
1 Samuel 24:1-12

Saul is on a murderous rage against David, but when David catches Saul in the most vulnerable position, even against urging of his own men, David shows mercy.

After Saul returned from pursuing the Philistines, he was told, "David is in the Desert of En Gedi." So Saul took three thousand able young men from all Israel and set out to look for David and his men near the Crags of the Wild Goats.

He came to the sheep pens along the way; a cave was there, and Saul went in to relieve himself. David and his men were far back in the cave. The men said, "This is the day the Lord spoke of when he said to you, 'I will give your enemy into your hands for you to deal with as you wish.'" Then David crept up unnoticed and cut off a corner of Saul's robe.

Afterward, David was conscience-stricken

for having cut off a corner of his robe. He said to his men, "The Lord forbid that I should do such a thing to my master, the Lord's anointed, or lay my hand on him; for he is the anointed of the Lord." With these words David sharply rebuked his men and did not allow them to attack Saul. And Saul left the cave and went his way.

Then David went out of the cave and called out to Saul, "My lord the king!" When Saul looked behind him, David bowed down and prostrated himself with his face to the ground. He said to Saul, "Why do you listen when men say, 'David is bent on harming you'? This day you have seen with your own eyes how the Lord delivered you into my hands in the cave. Some urged me to kill you, but I spared you; I said, 'I will not lay my hand on my lord, because he is the Lord's anointed.' See, my father, look at this piece of your robe in my hand! I cut off the corner of your robe but did not kill you. See that there is nothing in my hand to indicate that I am guilty of wrongdoing or rebellion. I have not wronged you, but you are hunting me down to take my life. May the Lord judge between you and me. And may the Lord avenge the wrongs you have done to me, but my hand will not touch you.

Reader: *This is the Word of the Lord.*
PEOPLE: **THANKS BE TO GOD**

THE SECOND LESSON
Romans 10:5-13

Jesus comes to blaze a path defined by God's justice, not by our own sense of right and wrong.

Moses writes this about the righteousness that is by the law: "The person who does these things will live by them." But the righteousness that is by faith says: "Do not say in your heart, 'Who will ascend into heaven?'" (that is, to bring Christ down) "or 'Who will descend into the deep?'" (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). But what does it say? "The word is near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart," that is, the message concerning faith that we proclaim: If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved. As Scripture says, "Anyone who believes in him will never be put to shame." For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile—the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him, for, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."

Reader: *This is the Word of the Lord.*
PEOPLE: **THANKS BE TO GOD**

THE HOLY GOSPEL
Luke 6:32-36

Here is a concentrated summary of Jesus' teachings for His followers. Here He describes what life in the kingdom of God looks like.

"If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who are good to you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners do that. And if you lend to those from whom you expect repayment, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, expecting to be repaid in full. But love your enemies, do good to them, and lend to them without expecting to get anything back. Then your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High, because he is kind to the ungrateful and wicked. Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

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

--- PROFESSION

THE APOSTLES CREED

--- HYMN OF DAY

"Beautiful Savior" (LW 507 Vs. 1-4)

1. ***Beautiful Savior, King of creation, Son of God and Son of Man!***
   Truly I'd love thee, truly I'd serve thee, light of my soul, my joy, my crown.

2. ***Fair are the meadows, fair are the woodlands, robed in flow'rs of blooming spring;***
   Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer, He makes our sorr'wing spirit sing.

3. ***Fair is the sunshine, fair is the moonlight, bright the sparkling stars on high;***
   Jesus shines brighter, Jesus shines purer than all the angels in the sky.

4. ***Beautiful Savior, Lord of the nations, Son of God and Son of Man!***
   Glory and honor, praise, adoration now and forever more be thine!

--- THE SERMON

Rise & Fall - Projection

--THE OFFERTORY

"Create in me a clean heart" (LW pg 143)

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 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

"Now Thank We All Our God" (LW 443 / LSB 895 Vs. 1-3)

1. **Now thank we all our God with hearts and hands and voices,**
   Who wondrous things has done, in whom His world rejoices;
   Who from our mothers' arms has blest us on our way
   With countless gifts of love and still is ours today.

2. **Oh, may this bounteous God through all our life be near us,**
   With ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us
   And keep us in His grace and guide us when perplexed
   And free us from all harm in this world and the next!

3. **All praise and thanks to God the Father now be given,**
   The Son, and Him who reigns with them in highest heaven,
   The one eternal God, whom earth and heav'n adore;
   For thus it was, is now, and shall be ever-more.

----- 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)

"On What Has Now Been Sown"
Copyright: Commissioned through the Michigan District, LCMS

"God Loves Me Dearly"
Copyright: Commissioned through the Michigan District, LCMS

"Christ is Our Cornerstone"
Copyright: Commissioned through the Michigan District, LCMS

---- THIS WEEK AT GRACE

Today	***May 21, 2023***
Services	*Sunday, 8:30 & 10:15 AM*
Live-streamed on www.gracelutheranpsl.com	*10:15 AM*
Korean Church Worship	*1:00 PM*

Rest of the Week	***May 22 - 27, 2023***
Communion Service	*Wednesday, 11:00 AM*
Bible Study, also live streamed	*Thursday 11:00 AM*
Korean Church Prayer Gathering	*Saturday, 6:00 AM*
Tons of Fun Set-up	*Saturday 9:00 AM*
Picnic & Crab Races	*Next Sunday, 5/28, 4:00 PM*

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

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS THIS WEEK: Pam Torell - 5/23, Rod Kerstner - 5/25, Gertrude Behrens - 5/26

ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS THIS WEEK: Raquel & James Thomson - 5/21/1976 (47 Yrs), Pam & Chuck Harstad - 5/22/1977 (46 Yrs), Ed & Jo Anne Furniss - 5/26/1990 (33 Yrs) Cris & Coli Escher - 5/27/2006 (17 yrs)

THE FLOWERS ADORNING THE ALTAR are given to the glory of God by Ed & Jo Anne Furniss in celebration of their 33rd wedding anniversary.

COMING NEXT SUNDAY: Memorial Day Weekend! It's PICNIC TIME!! A great weekend for racing, we will be featuring our own "NASCRAB Race." Brats, burgers, and drinks will be provided. Bring a salad or dessert to share, if you would like. Time: 4 PM till 8ish….. Date: Sunday, May 28.

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. www.GraceLutheranPSL.com/give

THURSDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY: THIS Thursday at 11:00 AM, we will be studying 1 & 2 Samuel. Come here to the church or watch the Live Streamed for those at home.

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.

THRIVENT FINANCIAL MEMBER? If you have "Choice Dollars" available, please consider directing them to Grace Lutheran Church. All "Choice Dollars" that are received go to paying down our mortgage on the new building. For the first four months this year we have received **$1,746** from Thrivent Choice! Thank you: Vance, Bernard, Shirley, Bertha, Sandra, Robert Z., Carol, Jacqueline, Leona, Kevin and Robert B. for your Grace designation of Choice Dollars.

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.

FROM THE ALZHEIMER'S COMMUNITY CARE CENTER! There is a wish list of needs to assist in our operation of this center to help provide care for our clients. If you could help it would be greatly appreciated. **MAY Wish list:** decaf coffee, seasonal crafts / decorations, wild bird feed/ nail polish/nail polish remover, gift cards for Walmart for crafts, assorted Bingo prizes, and assorted sugar free chocolate.

05/21 ***Worship assistants:*** *8:30 - Phil F. / 10:15 - Ed B*
Scripture Readers: *8:30 - Vance A. & 10:15 - Coli E.*

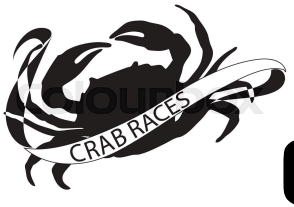
05/28 ***Worship assistants:*** *8:30 - Bob Fox & 10:15 - Dave V.*
Scripture Readers: *8:30 - Hans V. / 10:15 - Cheryl N.*
Readings: 2 Samuel 1:1-6, Romans 10:14-21, Matthew 14:13-21 *(NIV)*

QUESTIONS FOR THE WEEK: *Projection*

Read 1 Samuel Chapters 20-26.

1. Think of someone who has done wrong to you. How does revenge towards this person negatively affect you?
2. Read 1 Samuel 24:1-22. Describe what happens when Saul goes into the cave where David is. Why did David only cut the corner of Saul's robe?
3. How does Jesus do a similar thing as David for you?
4. How does forgiveness free us from the need for revenge? What benefit does forgiving others have in your life?

COMING! NEXT SUNDAY - MAY 28 from 4 - 8 PM!



MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND.....

GRACE CRAB RACE and PICNIC!

