

Sunday Service

March 26, 2023 - 8:30 AM & 10:15 AM
Livestream at 10:15 AM

The Way

Finding Meaning in the Gospel of John

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. 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.

The Way: Finding Meaning in the Gospel of John

There are certain indicators that we are on The Way with Jesus: justice, spirituality, relationships, beauty, freedom, truth, and power. But what if we do not live up to these ideals? Our societies and individual lives become unbalanced, creating anger and frustration that divide us from ourselves and from God. Come and see how The Way seems broken but how Easter vision can bring many along the way of hope.

Today: Truth

Of all the ways of Jesus, we expect truth to be the least broken. But, our relationship with truth isn't quite as straightforward as we might expect. We are invited to be ambassadors of truth, not by defending it but by embodying new creation, faithfully pointing people to Jesus, and showing that self-giving love is the most powerful force in the world.

---- THE OPENING HYMN

“Come to Calvary’s Holy Mountain” (LW 96 Vs. 1-4)

- 1. Come to Calv’ry’s holy mountain, sinner, ruined by the fall;
Here a pure and healing fountain flows for you, for me, for all,
In a full perpetual tide, opened when Our Savior died.**
- 2. Come in sorrow and contrition, wounded, impotent, and blind;
Here the guilty, free remission, here the troubled, peace may find.
Your true health it will restore, so that you need thirst no more.**
- 3. Come with hurts and guilts and meanness, come, however soiled within;
From the most ingrained uncleanness, from pollution by your sin,
Wash your robes and make them white; you shall walk with God in light.**
- 4. Take the life that lasts forever; trust this soul renewing flood.
God is faithful; God will never break His covenant of blood,
Signed when our Redeemer died, sealed when He was glorified.**

--- Opening

*Jesus said, “If you hold to my teaching,
then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.” - John 8:31-32*

--- 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.

Almighty God, look in mercy on your family. By your great goodness, guide and protect us forever in body and soul. 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 HYMN OF PRAISE

“Jesus Your Name is Power” (MM 213)

- 1. Jesus Your name is power, Jesus Your name is might.**
Jesus Your name will break ev'ry stronghold; Jesus Your name is life.
- 2. Jesus Your name is healing, Jesus Your name gives sight.**
Jesus Your name will free ev'ry captive; Jesus Your name is life.
- 3. Jesus Your name is holy, Jesus Your name brings light.**
Jesus Your name a-bove ev'ry other, Jesus Your name is life.

THE FIRST LESSON Psalm 25:1-7

This psalm is an acrostic, wherein each line or stanza begins with the successive letter of the Hebrew alphabet. The effect is beauty, order, memorability, and a sense of thoroughness.

In you, Lord my God, I put my trust.

I trust in you;

do not let me be put to shame,
nor let my enemies triumph over me.

No one who hopes in you

will ever be put to shame,
but shame will come on those

who are treacherous without cause.

Show me your ways, Lord,
teach me your paths.

Guide me in your truth and teach me,
for you are God my Savior,
and my hope is in you all day long.

Remember, Lord, your great mercy and love,
for they are from of old.

Do not remember the sins of my youth
and my rebellious ways;
according to your love remember me,
for you, Lord, are good.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: THANKS BE TO GOD

THE SECOND LESSON Ephesians 4:11-16

The building up of the body here is best understood primarily as growth in maturity rather than just numbers, for this is needed for unity, maturity, and Christlikeness.

So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of people

in their deceitful scheming. Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ. From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: THANKS BE TO GOD

THE HOLY GOSPEL John 18:33-40

Earthly kingdoms are defended by soldiers and fighting, but Jesus' kingdom is a spiritual kingdom over the hearts and lives of his people.

Pilate then went back inside the palace, summoned Jesus and asked him, "Are you the king of the Jews?"

"Is that your own idea," Jesus asked, "or did others talk to you about me?"

"Am I a Jew?" Pilate replied. "Your own people and chief priests handed you over to me. What is it you have done?"

Jesus said, "My kingdom is not of this world. If it were, my servants would fight to prevent my arrest by the Jewish leaders. But now my kingdom is from another place."

"You are a king, then!" said Pilate.

Jesus answered, "You say that I am a king. In fact, the reason I was born and came into the world is to testify to the truth. Everyone on the side of truth listens to me."

"What is truth?" retorted Pilate. With this he went out again to the Jews gathered there and said, "I find no basis for a charge against him. But it is your custom for me to release to you one prisoner at the time of the Passover. Do you want me to release 'the king of the Jews'?"

They shouted back, "No, not him! Give us Barabbas!" Now Barabbas had taken part in an uprising.

Pastor: The Gospel of the Lord.

PEOPLE: PRAISE TO YOU, O CHRIST

--- PROFESSION

THE APOSTLES CREED

--- HYMN OF DAY

Jesus Refuge of the Weary (LW 90)

1. *Jesus, refuge of the weary, blest redeemer, whom we love,
Fountain in life's desert dreary, Savior from the world above:
Often have your eyes, offended, gazed upon the sinner's fall;
Yet upon the cross extended, You have borne the pain of all.*
2. *Do we pass that cross unheeding, breathing no repentant vow,
Though we see you wounded, bleeding, see Your thorn-ed circled brow?
Yet your sinless death has brought us life eternal, peace, and rest;
Only what your grace has taught us calms the sinner's deep distress.*
3. *Jesus, may our hearts be burning with more fervent love for you;
May our eyes be ever turning to behold your cross anew
Till in glory, parted never from the blessed Savior's side,
Graven in our hearts forever, dwell the cross, the Crucified.*

--- THE SERMON

The Way - Truth

--THE OFFERTORY

“We Give You But Thine Own” (LW 405 vs 1,2,6)

1. *We give you but your own,
In any gifts we bring;
All that we have is yours alone,
A trust from you our King.*
2. *May we your bounties thus
As stewards true receive,
And gladly, Lord as you bless us,
To you our first-fruits give.*
6. *And we believe Your Word,
Though dim our faith, it's true;
What we do for your people, Lord,
We do it all for you.*

--- 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

“Savior, Again to Your Dear Name” (tune LSB 917/text LW 221 Vs. 1-4)

- 1. Savior, again to Your dear name we raise
With one accord our parting hymn of praise;
Once more we bless You ere our worship cease,
Then, lowly bending, wait Your word of peace.**
- 2. Grant us Your peace upon our homeward way;
With You began, with You shall end the day;
Guard all the lips from sin, the hearts from shame,
That in this house have called upon Your name.**
- 3. Grant us Your peace, Lord, through the coming night;
For us transform its darkness into light.
Keep us from harm and danger till the dawn;
Your evening presence promise to Your own.**
- 4. Grant us Your peace throughout our earthly life,
Our balm in sorrow and our stay in strife;
Then, when Your voice shall bid our conflict cease,
Call us, O Lord, to Your eternal peace.**

----- 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)

“Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing”

Copyright: Commissioned through the Michigan District, LCMS

“Come, Let Us Join Our Cheerful Songs”

Copyright: Commissioned through the Michigan District, LCMS

“Savior When in Dust to Thee”

Copyright: Commissioned through the Michigan District, LCMS

---- THIS WEEK AT GRACE

Today

March 26, 2023

Worship Services

8:30 AM & 10:15 AM

Live-streamed on www.gracelutheranpsl.com

10:15 AM

Korean Church Worship

1:00 PM

Rest of the Week

March 26 - April 1, 2023

Olivet School

Tuesday, 8:30 AM - 3:00 PM

Heatherwood HOA

Tuesday, 7:00 PM

Individual Communion

Wednesday, 11:00 AM

Potluck Fellowship Meal

Wednesday 5:30 PM

Lenten Services

Wednesday, 6:30 PM

Bible Study, also live streamed

Thursday 11:00 AM

Korean Church Prayer Gathering

Saturday, 6:00 AM

Church Clean-Up Morning

Saturday, 9:00 AM

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

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS THIS WEEK: David Vik & Tim Glish - 3/27

ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS THIS WEEK: James & Evelyn Banie - 3/20/1982 (41 Years) (Missed last week)
Jim & Linda Doran - 3/30/1968 (55 Years) and David & Diane Belling - 3/30/1974 (49 Years)

THE FLOWERS ADORNING THE ALTAR are given to the glory of God by Sabina Sukhai.

EASTER / PALM SUNDAY DECOR: If you would like to donate for the Easter/Palm Sunday decor that adorns the altar area, there is a form in today's bulletin or on the counter in the narthex. Thanks!

APRIL 1 - CLEAN UP: 9:00 AM for cleaning inside the buildings and outdoor chapel. If you would prefer to work during the week, there is a "Work List" on the kitchen counter.

EGG HUNT: On Easter, we'll host an egg hunt at 9:55 AM. If you're available to provide prizes or candy, there is a donation table in the church hall.

LOTS OF BENEFITS: Would you consider becoming a "Liaison for Samaritan's Purse?" Please Call Judy at 772-237-2626 for full details. No previous experience needed.

MOTHERS DAY TEA COMING: All ladies are invited on April 29th at 2PM to a special tea for mothers. See Vickie K. or Judy F. for details, sign-up sheet in the Narthex.

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.

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.

WEEKLY POTLUCK MEALS: This Wednesday, 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!



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. In January and February we received \$449, In March we received \$290 from Thrivent Choice!

Thank you Shirley, 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. **Wish list:** Walmart gift cards to purchase craft materials, Assorted Bingo prizes, Jumbo/Large coloring books, Paper towels, Assorted sugar free chocolate, Peppermint patties, Fresh strawberries, Frozen sugar-free yogurt as well as any volunteer entertainment. Thank You

BULLETIN AND PRINTED PRAYER REQUESTS: All information for the Sunday bulletin must be submitted by 10:00 AM Thursday to be printed. Prayer requests received after 10:00 AM on Thursday will be updated on the website ASAP and printed in the following Sunday's bulletin.

The Soroptimist of St. Lucie non-profit will hold its Annual Fashion Show Fundraiser on Saturday, April 15, 2023, at Noon at the Pelican Yacht Club, 1120 Seaway Drive in Fort Pierce. Fashions will be by Cato's Fashions, with a silent auction and raffles, plus scholarship awards for women. Tickets are \$50, See Cheryl Nolte for details

QUESTIONS FOR THE WEEK: *The Way- Truth*

1. How would you have defined truth?
 2. Read John 18:28-40. Why do you think Pilate questioned truth?
 3. Read John 8:31-32. How would you define the truth that brings freedom here?
 4. How can you live in the truths of the kingdom of God?
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03/26 *Worship assistants: 8:30 - Bob Fox & 10:15 - Dave V.
Scripture Readers: 8:30 - Ruth R. & 10:15 - Jan L.*

04/02 *Worship assistants: 8:30 - Bob Fox & 10:15 - Dave V.
Scripture Readers: 8:30 - Bob F. & 10:15 - Cheryl N.
Readings: 1 Kings 3:4-9, 2 Corinthians 12:5-10, John 18:2-12 (NIV)*

2023 LENTEN SEASON

The Seder - Remembering Bitterness to the Lamb

Lenten Wednesdays: March 29

Fellowship / Potluck Meal: 5:30 PM till 6:30 PM

Service Time: 6:30 PM (will be livestreamed)

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE! APRIL 2 THROUGH APRIL 9, 2023

April 1 - Clean Up: 9:00 AM for cleaning inside the buildings and outdoor chapel area.

April 2 - Palm Sunday: 8:30 AM & 10:15 AM (10:15 AM will be livestreamed)

April 6 - Maundy Thursday: Communion Service at 12:00 - Noonish.....

Maundy Thursday: Seder meal at various locations. Please sign up today!

April 7 - Good Friday: 12:00 (Noon) and 7:00 PM

(Noon service will be livestreamed and broadcast)

April 9 -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 10:15 AM
Egg Hunt at 9:55 AM