

Sunday Service

December 18, 2022 - 8:30 AM & 10:15 AM

Livestream at 10:15 AM



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.

BOOK OF ADVENTS

The Christmas season is filled with so much tradition, but so often we feel tired and frustrated by our attempts to fulfill our own desires. However, the Bible is the book of advents, the book of new beginnings when we see God come in a new way to save us all.

Today: The Promised Christmas

Joshua stands on the edge staring into the land filled with such promises for a perfect future. But what if you get your dream and desire and just shoot your eye out? Perhaps, then it will be a beautiful Christmas

---- THE OPENING HYMN

“O Little Town of Bethlehem” (LW 60 Vs. 1-4)

- 1. O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by;
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light.
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.**
- 2. For Christ is born of Mary, and, gathered all above
While mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wond’ring love.
O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth,
And praises sing to God the king, and peace to all the earth!**
- 3. How silently, how silently the wondrous gift is giv’n!
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of His heav’n
No ear may hear His coming; but in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive Him, still-the dear Christ enters in.**
- 4. O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin, and enter in, be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
Oh, come to us, abide with us, Our Lord Immanuel!**

--- Opening

Just as I was with Moses, so I will be with you. I will not leave you or forsake you. - Joshua 1:5

--- 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.

Stir up your power and come, Lord. Support and help us, so that what is hindered by our sins may be hastened by your great mercy. For you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. AMEN

--THE HYMN OF PRAISE

“O Come, Let Us Adore Him”

- 1. O come, let us adore him; O come, let us adore him;
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.**
- 2. We'll give him all the glory. We'll give him all the glory.
We'll give him all the glory, Christ the Lord.**
- 3. For he alone is worthy. For he alone is worthy.
For he alone is worthy, Christ the Lord. (Pause for key change)**
- 4. We'll praise his name forever. We'll praise his name forever.
We'll praise his name for ever, Christ the Lord.**

THE FIRST LESSON

Joshua 1:1-6

Joshua is following in the footsteps of Moses, who led the people of Israel out of Egypt. It is a journey that will lead them in the lands that God promised long ago to the descendants of Abraham.

After the death of Moses the servant of the Lord, the Lord said to Joshua the son of Nun, Moses' assistant, “Moses my servant is dead. Now therefore arise, go over this Jordan, you and all this people, into the land that I am giving to them, to the people of Israel. Every place that the sole of your foot

will tread upon I have given to you, just as I promised to Moses. From the wilderness and this Lebanon as far as the great river, the river Euphrates, all the land of the Hittites to the Great Sea toward the going down of the sun shall be your territory. No man shall be able to stand before you all the days of your life. Just as I was with Moses, so I will be with you. I will not leave you or forsake you. Be strong and courageous, for you shall cause this people to inherit the land that I swore to their fathers to give them.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: THANKS BE TO GOD

THE SECOND LESSON 1 Peter 1:3-9

Early Christians stand apart from the culture and suffer social stigmas and physical persecution at times. Peter challenges them to remain faithful to Jesus, who also suffered for not conforming.

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a

salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: THANKS BE TO GOD

THE HOLY GOSPEL Matthew 24:36-44

Here Jesus focuses on prophetic and apocalyptic themes of judgment and the end times.

“But concerning that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father only. For as were the days of Noah, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day when Noah entered the ark, and they were unaware until the flood came and swept them all away, so will be the coming

of the Son of Man. Then two men will be in the field; one will be taken and one left. Two women will be grinding at the mill; one will be taken and one left. Therefore, stay awake, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. But know this, that if the master of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.

Pastor: The Gospel of the Lord.

PEOPLE: PRAISE TO YOU, O CHRIST

--- PROFESSION

THE APOSTLES CREED

--- HYMN OF DAY

“What Child is This” (LW 61 Vs. 1-3)

- 1. What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mary’s lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet while shepherds watch are keeping.
This, this is Christ the king, whom shepherds guard and angels sing.
Haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary!**
- 2. Why lies He in such mean estate where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here the silent Word is pleading
Nails, spear shall pierce Him through, the cross be borne for me, for you;
Hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mary!**
- 3. So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh: Come, peasant, king, to own him.
The King of kings salvation brings; let loving hearts enthrone him.
Raise, raise the song on high, the virgin sings her lullaby;
Joy, joy, for Christ is born. The babe, the son of Mary.**

--- THE SERMON

BOOK OF ADVENTS - The Promised Christmas

--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

“Joy to the World” (LW 53 Vs 1 & 4)

**1. Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive its King;
Let ev'ry heart prepare Him room
And heav'n and nature sing,
and heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.**

**4. He rules the world with truth and grace,
and makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness
And wonders of His love,
and wonders of His love,
And wonders, wonders of His lov**

----- 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.

--- ADDITIONAL HYMNS (On Projection Screens)

“Infant Holy, Infant Lowly”

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“It Came Upon the Midnight Clear”

Copyright: Commissioned through the Michigan District, LCMS

“Lift Up Your Heads, You Mighty Gates”

Copyright: Commissioned through the Michigan District, LCMS

---- THIS WEEK AT GRACE

Today

December 18, 2022

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

December 19 - 24, 2022

Small Group Communion (Church)

Wednesday, 11:00 AM

Fellowship Meal (at Cracker Barrel)

Wednesday, 5:30 PM

Clara Creelman Memorial

Friday, 11:00 AM

Korean Church Prayer Gathering

Saturday, 6:00 AM

Christmas Eve Service

Saturday, 4 PM & 7 PM

Christmas Day Service with Communion

Sunday, 10:15 AM (ONLY)

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

***Meal & Fellowship at Cracker Barrel, US# 1 in Jensen Beach - Wednesday, December 21 - 5:30 PM
Sign up if you plan to come!***

Saturday, December 24th, Christmas Eve, 4 PM & 7 PM services

Sunday, Christmas Day with Communion and New Years Day - 10:15 services only (No 8:30 service)

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS THIS WEEK: Herb Schaus - 12/20 and Dayre Horton - 12/22

THE FLOWERS ADORNING THE ALTAR are given to the glory of God by Laura Peeler in celebration of our Lord's birth this Christmas season.

THE 2023 FLOWER CHART is now up and ready for you to fill in your special dates for next year!

Clara Creelman Memorial: Clara's Memorial will be on December 23rd at 11am.

SERVICES NEXT TWO SUNDAYS: We will be holding only one service next Sunday, Christmas Day and the following, New Years Day. The services on both days will be at 10:15 AM.

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.

OFFERING ENVELOPES FOR 2023: Your new offering envelopes are available on the table by the exit door in the Fellowship Room. If you are a visitor/potential member and have been giving lately there should be a box for you as well. If you would like a box, let me know, Kevin

ADVENT SEASON IS HERE!: THIS Wednesday, December 21st, will be the final 2022 Wednesday Advent event! Everyone is invited to the Jensen Beach Cracker Barrel on US # 1. This fellowship meal starts at 5:30 PM. Please let Pastor or Kevin know if you will be attending, so we will have tables set aside for us.

ALZHEIMER'S COMMUNITY CARE: Grace Lutheran Church Alzheimer's Community Care has been selected to receive \$1 from every \$2.99 Community Bag sold during the month of January 2023 at the Winn-Dixie, 281 Southwest Port St. Lucie Boulevard.

THURSDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY: Canceled this week, 12/22 and next 12/29

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.

PLEASE SEND CARDS TO PEOPLE We have several members who are immunocompromised and unable to participate with groups of other people. If you have not seen them in a service lately, please consider calling them or sending a card or letter. Isolation is a lonely situation!

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.

ENTERTAINMENT BOOKS: ARE HERE! These coupon books are chalked full of various discount coupons. The books sell for \$35.00 each, and \$10.00 will go to the church. They are available in the fellowship hall, or you can stop by the office, 9:00-Noon, during the week!

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.

PORT SAINT LUCIE EVENTS: To keep you up to date on some local community activities we will try to include them in your weekly bulletin when possible.

EVENT	DATE / TIME	WHERE
River Nights (October - April)	Second Tuesday of month	Veterans Memorial Park

12/18 *Worship assistants: 8:30 - Bob Fox & 10:15 - Dave V.
Scripture Readers: 8:30 - Hans V. & 10:15 - Nancy O.*

12/25 *Worship assistants: 10:15 - Phil F.
Scripture Readers: 10:15 - Judy F.
Readings: Isaiah 52:7-10, Titus 2:11-15, Matthew 1:18-25 (ESV)*

QUESTIONS FOR THE WEEK: *BOOK OF ADVENTS - The Promised Christmas*

1. What is the greatest gift you ever dreamed of receiving at Christmas?
2. Read Joshua 1:1-9. What is going wrong for Joshua at this time?
3. What do you think he was thinking as he looked into the promised land? What was he hoping for?
4. What does God promise He will do for Joshua? How do we see Jesus in this promise?
5. How has God brought beauty in the imperfections in your life?

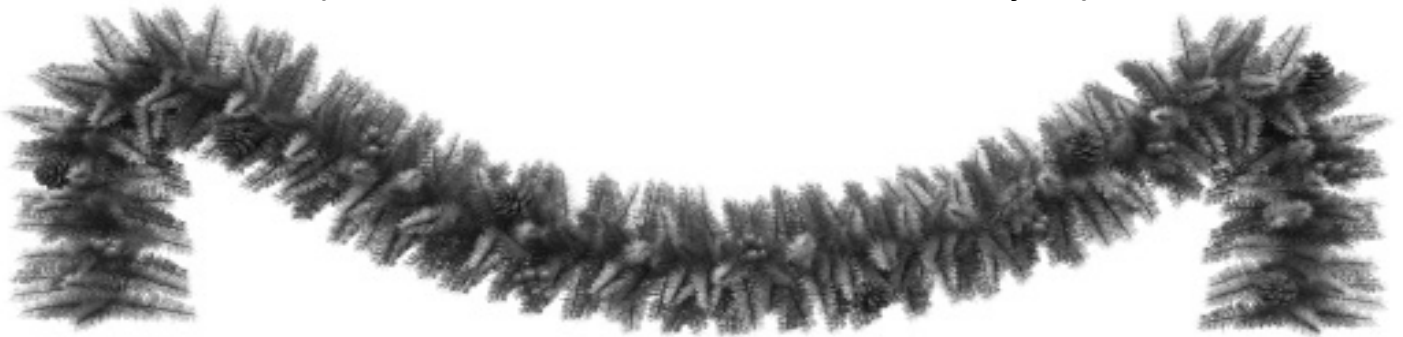
CHRISTMAS DÉCOR: Praise the Lord through your gift of a donation to purchase poinsettias and other decorations to decorate for our Christmas services. As in the past, you may designate your gift as a "memorial" or "in honor of." Fill out & place the form into the offering plate, or put it in the mail, along with your donation marked "Christmas Décor". Thank you.

P.S. You can also send in a check with a note. You don't need the form.



Saturday, December 24th, Christmas Eve
4 PM & 7 PM services

***Sunday, Christmas Day with Communion and New Years Day - 10:15 services only
(No 8:30 service on December 25th or January 1st)***



Christmas/Advent Fellowship Dinner at Cracker Barrel
This Wednesday, December 21st at 5:30 PM - Jensen Beach Location.
Let Pastor know you are coming so we can give Cracker Barrel a count.