

Sunday Service

God's Greater Story - Slave to Son

June 7, 2020 At 9:00 AM

Holy Trinity Sunday



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

Email: cris@gracelutheranpsl.com

Phone: (770) 328-5078

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 worshipping at home, whether near or far:
We are so happy that you are sharing our worship with us from your homes today.

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: Due to social distancing and everyone's health we will move Holy Communion to the end of our worship service today and celebrate by family/sitting groups. After the closing hymn pastor will pronounce the sending and then for those who wish to share in the celebration of communion will remain and Pastor Cris will then do the "Order of Holy Communion"

Following the distribution of the bread, the individual cups will be offered. ***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.

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.

God's Greater Story

Paul in Romans is not speaking of a belief that is only for himself, a personal theology or a record of his personal spiritual journey. Paul is speaking of God and God's work among his people, a saving work that includes all nations and that extends throughout all time. Paul's words of faith are not for himself alone but for all peoples. Paul tells the Romans and us God's greater story.

TODAY: Slave to Son

Paul makes a curious point prior to chapter 8 here. He says we are no longer a slave to sin but a slave to Christ. But where is the freedom in that? It sounds like we have exchanged one slavery for another, but that was just a stopgap point. For Paul keeps moving forward and says we are not a slave to have been made into a child of God.

---- THE OPENING HYMN

Holy, Holy, Holy (Version 1)

Copyright: Commissioned through the Michigan District, LCMS

1. Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty
Early in the morning our song shall rise to Thee.
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty!
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!
2. Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore Thee,
Casting down their golden crowns around the
glassy sea.
Cherubim and seraphim falling down before Thee,
Which wert, and art, and evermore shalt be.
3. Holy, holy, holy! Though the darkness hide thee
Though the eye of sinful man thy glory may not see,
Only thou art holy, there is none beside thee,
Perfect in pow'r, in love and purity.
4. Holy, holy, holy! Lord God almighty!
All thy works shall praise thy name in earth, and
sky, and sea.
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty!
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

--RESPONSE OF THE DAY

*Holy, holy, holy, the Lord God Almighty,
who was and is, and is to come.*

--- 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.

Eternal God, you have revealed yourself as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and you live in the perfect unity of love. Give us a sure faith in you, so that we share in your holy fellowship and life as three Persons in one God, now and forever. AMEN.

---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

Isaiah 55:10-13

God's faithfulness to His covenant, His enduring love for His people, will stand for all time.

"For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

"For you shall go out in joy and be led forth in peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall break forth into singing, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.

Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress; instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle; and it shall make a name for the Lord, an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off."

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: THANKS BE TO GOD

THE SECOND LESSON

Romans 8:12-17

The Spirit breathes life into our mortal, sin-infested bodies—thanks to what Jesus has done for us. By sending His Son in “the likeness of sinful flesh,” God judges sin finally and completely.

So then, brothers, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. For all who

are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, “Abba! Father!” The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: THANKS BE TO GOD

THE HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

Our Father in heaven plants many seeds in order to ensure that some seeds bear fruit. The final harvest, however, is worth any amount of hard work.

(Vs. 1-9) That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. And great crowds gathered about him, so that he got into a boat and sat down. And the whole crowd stood on the beach. And he told them many things in parables, saying: “A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seeds fell along the path, and the birds came and devoured them. Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and immediately they sprang up, since they had no depth of soil, but when the sun rose they were scorched. And since they had no root, they withered away. Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Other seeds fell on good soil and produced grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. He who has ears, let him hear.”

(Vs. 18-23) “Hear then the parable of the sower: When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what has been sown in his heart. This is what was sown along the path. As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy, yet he has no root in himself, but endures for a while, and when tribulation or persecution arises on account of the word, immediately he falls away. As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and it proves unfruitful. As for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it. He indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty.”

Pastor: The Gospel of the Lord.

PEOPLE: PRAISE TO YOU, O CHRIST

--- THE APOSTLES CREED

--- THE SERMON - God's Greater Story Slave to Son

--THE OFFERTORY (LW Pg. 168)

***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 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

Copyright: Commissioned through the Michigan District, LCMS

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

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

1. 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.

2. 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 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 will remain and Pastor Cris will then do the "Order of Holy Communion."

The Usher will send groups up to the altar alternating between left and right sides. After receiving the body and blood of Christ, Pastor Cris will pronounce the blessing for your side, you then 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

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

Copyright: Commissioned through the Michigan District, LCMS

- 1. Love divine, all loves excelling,
Joy of Heav'n to earth come down!
Fix in us thy humble dwelling,
All thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesus, thou art all compassion,
Pure, unbounded love thou art;
Visit us with thy salvation,
Enter ev'ry trembling heart.**
- 2. Breathe, oh, breathe thy loving Spirit
Into ev'ry troubled breast;
Let us all in thee inherit;
Let us find thy promised rest.
Take away the love of sinning;
Alpha and Omega be;
End of faith, as its beginning,
Set our hearts at liberty.**
- 3. Come, Almighty, to deliver;
Let us all thy life receive;
Suddenly return, and never,
Nevermore thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing,
Serve thee as thy hosts above,
Pray and praise thee without ceasing,
Glory in thy perfect love.**
- 4. Finish then thy new creation,
Pure and spotless let us be;
Let us see thy great salvation
Perfectly restored in thee,
Changed from glory into glory,
Till in heav'n we take our place,
Till we cast our crowns before thee,
Lost in wonder, love, and praise.**

O Blessed, Holy Trinity

Copyright: Commissioned through the Michigan District, LCMS

- 1. O blessed, holy Trinity,
Devine, eternal, Unity,
O Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,
This day Your name be uppermost.**
- 2. My soul and body keep from harm,
And over all extend your arm;
Let Satan cause me no distress
Nor bring me shame and wretchedness.**
- 3. The Father's love shield me this day;
The Son's pure wisdom cheer my way;
The Holy Spirit's joy and light
Drive from my heart shades of night.**
- 4. My Maker, hold me in Your hand;
O Christ, forgiven let me stand;
Blest Comforter, do not depart;
With faith and love enrich my heart.**

5. Lord, bless and keep me as your own;
Lord, look in kindness from Your throne,
Lord, shine unfailing peace on me
By grace surrounded set me free.

Holy God, We Praise Thy Name

Copyright: Commissioned through the Michigan District, LCMS

1. Holy God, we praise Thy name; Lord of all, we bow before Thee.
All on earth thy scepter claim, all in heav'n above adore Thee.
Infinite Thy vast domain, everlasting is Thy reign.
2. Hark! The glad celestial hymn angel choirs above are raising;
Cherubim and seraphim, in unceasing chorus praising,
Fill the heav'ns with sweet accord: "Holy, holy, holy Lord!"
3. Lo, the apostles' holy train join Thy sacred name to hallow;
Prophets swell the glad refrain, and the white-robed martyrs follow;
And from morn to set of sun through the Church the song goes on.
4. Thou are King of Glory, Christ; Son of God, yet born of Mary.
For us sinners sacrificed, as to death a tributary,
First to break the bars of death, Thou hast opened heav'n to faith.
5. Holy Father, Holy Son, Holy Spirit, three we name Thee,
Though in essence only one; Undivided God we claim Thee
And, adoring, bend the knee While we own the mystery.

---- **THIS WEEK AT GRACE**

Today - Sunday **June 7, 2020**

Worship Service and video service www.gracelutheranpsl.com	9:00 AM
Small group Communion	10:30 - 11:30 AM

Rest of the week **June 8 - 13**

ZOOM Bible Study www.gracelutheranpsl.com	Thursday, 11:00 AM
--	--------------------

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

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS THIS WEEK: Linda Doran - 6/8, Austin Blizzard - 6/13

WEDDING ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS THIS WEEK: Bob and Melissa Baily - 6/11 (32 Years)

THE FLOWERS ADORNING THE ALTAR are given to the glory of God in thanksgiving for our many blessings these past few months, especially through the chaotic and lonely times.

PLEASE CALL PEOPLE I realize I take for granted that people just come to the church on a regular basis. So that we all don't descend into madness, let's call and talk to each other regularly. Phone directories are available at the church for your convenience.

SEE YOUR GRACE FAMILY ON ZOOM! Starting at 10:30 AM, Sunday, you are welcome to join us in a virtual fellowship gathering on ZOOM. On your computer go to our website which is: www.GracelutheranPSL.com and click on the link.

BIBLE STUDY FOR ALL Pastor Cris is conducting a "live" Bible study online for you to participate in on Thursdays at 11:00 AM. Directions for participating can be found on the web page www.GracelutheranPSL.com. Check it out, and if you need assistance, please call the phone number listed.

AND.... even if you are not computer savvy or do not have computer access, you can participate over your phone.

GIVING - Changing over to a social distance model of ministry has been quite challenging. We needed to purchase new equipment and the overall church's expenses did not go down even though we were not meeting in person. 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.

Online Giving We have now added Paypal for online donations. We have been approved as a trusted non profit organization. If you would like to give through Paypal, please go to: www.GraceLutheranPSL.com and click the "GIVE" button on the upper right side of the page.

Questions to Ponder This Week

1. Describe a time from your childhood where you had to be forgiven by a parental figure. What did that mean to you?
2. Read Romans 8:12-17. In the previous chapter Paul has talked about how we are slaves to righteousness. He has now progressed his idea to say that we are free. What illustration does Paul use to describe what this freedom looks like?
3. According to Paul, how do we become sons (and daughters) of God?
4. Paint a picture with your words of what it looks like for us to live as family members of God?