

# Sunday Service

God's Greater Story - Under Roman Roads

August 2, 2020 (Hurricane Weekend)

Live Broadcast at 10:15 AM

*Ninth Sunday after Pentecost*



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.

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](http://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 take one of each and 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.

### 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: Under Roman Roads

There they were, placing another Christian friend in the catacombs under the roads of Rome. They were facing persecution from all sides, and things looked bleak. They then looked at the new painting on the wall. It was Jesus the savior of all, encouraging them, too, to be servants of all.

## ---- THE OPENING HYMN

### “O Worship the King”

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1. **O worship the King, all glorious above,  
O gratefully sing His pow’r and His love;  
Our shield and defender, the ancient of days,  
Pavilioned in splendor, and girded with praise.**
2. **O tell of His might, O sing of His grace,  
Whose robe is the light, whose canopy space;  
His chariots of wrath the deep thunderclouds form,  
And dark is His path on the wings of the storm.**
3. **This earth with its store of wonders untold,  
Almighty, Thy pow’r has founded of old,  
Established it fast by a changeless decree,  
And round it hath cast, like a mantle, the sea.**
4. **Thy bountiful care what tongue can recite?  
It breathes in the air, it shines in the light,  
It streams from the hills, it descends to the plain,  
And sweetly distills in the dew and the rain.**

## -- Opening

*Everyone who thirsts, come to the waters,  
and you that have no money, come, buy and eat! (Isaiah 55:1)*

## --- 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.*

*Thank you, compassionate God, that your Son healed the sick and fed those who were hungry. Satisfy our hunger both for daily bread and for the life-giving bread that lasts forever. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. AMEN.*

## ----THE HYMN OF PRAISE

### "Father, I Adore You"

- 1. Father, I adore You, lay my life before You, how I love You.*
- 2. Jesus, I adore You, lay my life before You, how I love You.*
- 3. Spirit, I adore You, lay my life before You, how I love You*

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## THE FIRST LESSON Ezekiel 33:7-9

Everyone now knows that Ezekiel is a true prophet of God, and his years of suffering to bring his fellow exiles God's message are rewarded by the people fawning over him. But this will be short lived.

"So you, son of man, I have made a watchman for the house of Israel. Whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. If I say to the wicked, O wicked one, you shall surely die, and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from his

way, that wicked person shall die in his iniquity, but his blood I will require at your hand. But if you warn the wicked to turn from his way, and he does not turn from his way, that person shall die in his iniquity, but you will have delivered your soul.

I will deliver you out of the hand of the wicked, and redeem you from the grasp of the ruthless."

*Reader:      This is the Word of the Lord.*

**PEOPLE:      THANKS BE TO GOD**

## THE SECOND LESSON

### Romans 13:1-10

Minorities are often the subjects of rumors, suspicions, and innuendos. Christians don't need to add to the problem by developing a reputation as lawbreakers and rebels. So Kingdom citizens are not to dodge taxes or cheat on fees imposed by legitimate governing authorities.

Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God. Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment. For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad. Would you have no fear of the one who is in authority? Then do what is good, and you will receive his approval, for he is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword in vain. For he is the servant of God, an

avenger who carries out God's wrath on the wrongdoer. Therefore one must be in subjection, not only to avoid God's wrath but also for the sake of conscience. For because of this you also pay taxes, for the authorities are ministers of God, attending to this very thing. Pay to all what is owed to them: taxes to whom taxes are owed, revenue to whom revenue is owed, respect to whom respect is owed, honor to whom honor is owed.

Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. For the commandments, "You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet," and any other commandment, are summed up in this word: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

**PEOPLE: THANKS BE TO GOD**

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## THE HOLY GOSPEL

### Matthew 18:1-20

The disciples struggle with the concept of the kingdom of heaven. They do not yet understand that who is most important or most powerful is a contradiction in terms.

At that time the disciples came to Jesus, saying, "Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" And calling to him a child, he put him in the midst of them and said, "Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of

heaven.

"Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me, but whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to have a great millstone fastened around his neck and to be drowned in the depth of the sea.

"Woe to the world for temptations to sin! For it is necessary that temptations come, but woe to the one by whom the temptation comes! And if your hand or your foot causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life crippled or lame than with two hands or two feet to be thrown into the eternal fire. And if your eye causes

you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life with one eye than with two eyes to be thrown into the hell of fire.

“See that you do not despise one of these little ones. For I tell you that in heaven their angels always see the face of my Father who is in heaven. What do you think? If a man has a hundred sheep, and one of them has gone astray, does he not leave the ninety-nine on the mountains and go in search of the one that went astray? And if he finds it, truly, I say to you, he rejoices over it more than over the ninety-nine that never went astray. So it is not the will of my Father who is in heaven that one of these little ones should perish.

“If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If

he listens to you, you have gained your brother. But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church. And if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. Truly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. Again I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them.”

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

### --- THE APOSTLES CREED

### --- THE SERMON - God's Greater Story Under Roman Roads

### --THE OFFERTORY

***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 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

### "Oh, Bless the Lord, My Soul"

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<p><b>The Lord's Prayer</b> 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</p>
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1. **Jesus loves me! This I know,  
For the Bible tells me so.  
Little ones to Him belong;  
They are weak, but He is strong. (Refrain)**

2. **Jesus loves me! He who died.  
Heaven's gates to open wide.  
He has washed away my sin,  
Lets His little child come in. (Refrain)**

**Refrain: Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!  
Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.**

## ----- SENDING

*Pastor: Have peace knowing we are all with you.*

*Serve others knowing God walks before you.*

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**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**

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### **--- ADDITIONAL HYMNS**

#### **“What a Friend We Have in Jesus” (LW 516 Vs 1-3)**

- 1. What a friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear!  
What a privilege to carry everything to God in prayer!  
Oh, what peace we often forfeit; oh, what needless pain we bear.  
All because we do not carry everything to God in prayer!**
- 2. Have we trials and temptations? Is there trouble anywhere?  
We should never be discouraged, take it to the Lord in prayer!  
Can we find a friend so faithful who will all our sorrows share?  
Jesus knows our ev'ry weakness, take it to the Lord in prayer.**
- 3. Are we weak and heavy laden, cumbered with a load of care?  
Precious Savior, still or refuge, take it to the Lord in prayer.  
Do your friends despise, forsake you? Take it to the Lord in prayer.  
In his arms he'll take and shield you, you will find a solace there.**

#### **“It Is Well With My Soul” (Vs. 1 - 4)**

- 1. When peace, like a river attendeth my way,  
When sorrows like sea billows roll;  
Whatever my lot, Thou hast taught me to say,  
“It is well, it is well with my soul.” (REFRAIN)**

#### **REFRAIN**

**IT IS WELL, WITH MY SOUL,  
IT IS WELL, IT IS WELL WITH MY SOUL.**

- 2. Though Satan should buffet, tho' trials should come,  
Let this blest assurance control,  
That Christ has regarded my helpless estate,  
And hath shed His own blood for my soul. (REFRAIN)**

3. He lives - O, the bliss of this glorious thought,  
My sin not in part, but the whole,  
Is nailed to the cross and I bear it no more,  
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul! (REFRAIN)
4. And Lord, haste the day when my faith shall be sight.  
The clouds be rolled back as a scroll,  
The trumpet shall sound and the Lord shall descend,  
Even so it is well with my soul. (REFRAIN)

## “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!

### --- **THIS WEEK AT GRACE - Today**   **August 2, 2020**

Worship Service	8:30 AM
Second Worship Service and video service <a href="http://www.gracelutheranpsl.com">www.gracelutheranpsl.com</a>	10:15 AM
Zoom into Fellowship	12:00 PM - Noon
Korean Church Worship	1:00 PM
AA	7:30 PM

### **Rest of the week**

	<b><u>August 3 - August 8</u></b>
Grace Crafters	Monday, 10:30 AM - 2:00 PM
Individual/Family Communion	Wednesday 11:00, 11:20, 11:40 & Noon
ZOOM Bible Study <a href="http://www.gracelutheranpsl.com">www.gracelutheranpsl.com</a>	Thursday, 11:00 AM
Korean Church Prayer	Saturday, 6:00 AM

For complete calendar information, go to [www.gracelutheranpsl.com/calendar](http://www.gracelutheranpsl.com/calendar)

**BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS THIS WEEK:** John Linderman - 8/4, and Alexia Tsikoudis - 8/5

**WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES THIS WEEK:** Brian & Shari Blizzard (27 Yrs)

**THE FLOWERS ADORNING THE ALTAR** are given to the glory of God by Laura Peeler.

**AWESOME SUPPORT!** **\$436.59** has been collected for the CareNet baby bottles! A huge thank you for all who have participated. Last Sunday was the final day for the fund drive, however, if you still have a bottle please bring it in or if you would like to make an additional donation to CareNet we will accept them anytime.

**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 for your convenience.

**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](http://www.GraceLutheranPSL.com) and click the **"GIVE"** button on the upper right side of the page.

**CRAFTERS' GROUP** Will meet **Tomorrow**, Monday, August 3, from 10:30 AM till 2:00 PM (lunch provided!). Please wear your mask, and we will keep safe distance while enjoying fellowship and will "craft" new and enjoyable items. Contact Judy Fredrick [pjfred@outlook.com](mailto:pjfred@outlook.com) for info. (We will also be meeting next Monday, August 10th.)

**CALLING ALL BOOKBAGS, PENCILS, AND OTHER SCHOOL SUPPLIES!** "Habitat for Children's Ministry" led by Meschac St. Amour is looking for school supplies to be used by students in Haiti this coming school year.

**COMMUNION ON WEDNESDAY:** 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.

**SEE YOUR GRACE FAMILY ON ZOOM!** Pastor and Coli will be hosting Zoom to Coffee at **NOON** on Sunday for those who are worshipping at home, or in person, who would like to join in fellowship "virtually" to see and chat with Grace members and friends safely. All are welcome!

**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](http://www.GracelutheranPSL.com). **\*\* You are also welcome to attend the Bible Study at church, in person!** \*\* Seating with social distancing along with wearing your mask is now happening, at the Bible Study on Thursday and at Worship on Sundays at 8:30 AM and 10:15 AM.

**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.

## Questions to Ponder This Week

1. What do you think makes a good political leader?
2. Read Romans 13:1-14. How does Paul offer a different perspective of our leaders? Who ultimately is in charge?
3. What does knowing that “there is no authority except from God and those that exist have been instituted by God” (Romans 13:1b) enable you to do?
4. What would the world look like if Christians focused more on loving our neighbors, one on one, rather than fighting over politics?