

Sunday Service with Communion

Build Together: Prepare in Faith

September 3, 2017

 **Let's** **BUILD** *something*
TOGETHER
The Story of Nehemiah in the Bible

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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. We encourage you to register your name on the fellowship pad which you will find at the end of the row where you are sitting. 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 Hour is held after the Worship Service, and we invite you to stay for a few minutes so we can get acquainted.

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION is celebrated in our Worship Service today. This meal is for Christ Followers who recognize their sinfulness and their need for Christ's forgiveness and strength, and desire to live a new life in Christ. We receive this meal recognizing the presence of Christ in, with, and under the bread and the wine. ***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.*** All those who commune are asked to indicate their participation by marking the appropriate column in the Red Attendance Books as they are passed at the beginning of the Worship Service.

IN THE DISTRIBUTION OF THE SACRAMENT, the wine is made available in both the individual glasses and the common cup. Following the distribution of the bread, the individual cups will be offered. Then the common cup will be offered to those who do not have an individual cup in their hand. The acolyte will then gather the individual glasses. ***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.

ATTENDANCE BOOKS PLEASE BE SURE TO PASS ALONG THE RED ATTENDANCE BOOKS IN YOUR ROW AND ENCOURAGE EVERYONE TO SIGN IT. THIS IS A VERY IMPORTANT PART OF OUR MINISTRY OF CARE. THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP.

Let's Build Something Together: The Story of Nehemiah in the Bible

Nehemiah feels a burden: a burden to rebuild his city, God's city. He cries out to God and goes down to Jerusalem and begins an incredible adventure of wall building and shaping people into Godly servants. But this book asks a difficult question, "What if Nehemiah's plans don't work out the way he hopes?"

Today: When we look out at the dangers all around us, we hear a call to prepare ourselves. But in what way should we prepare? In worldly power? Or should we prepare in Faith?

(Asterisks (**)) indicate that the people stand)

**** THE OPENING HYMN** “Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty”

*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!*

*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.*

*Holy, holy, holy! Though the darkness hide Thee,
Though the eye made blind by sin Thy glory may not see,
Only Thou art holy; there is none beside Thee,
Perfect in pow’r, in love and purity.*

*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!*

**** THE INVOCATION AND CALL TO WORSHIP**

Pastor: Lord, let those who believe speak honestly to You now.

PEOPLE: YOU ARE LISTENING TO YOUR PEOPLE.

Pastor: For then when the floods and all manner of danger comes,

PEOPLE: WE WILL NOT FEAR, FOR THEY WILL NOT TAKE US FROM YOU.

Pastor: Lord, You are our hiding place.

**PEOPLE: YOU KEEP US FROM TROUBLE AND COVER US WITH SONGS OF
YOUR FREEDOM.**

Taken from Psalm 32

**** THE PASSING OF THE PEACE**

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you all.

PEOPLE: AND ALSO WITH YOU.

*(We greet one another with the handshake of peace and with the words
“The Peace of the Lord be with you.”)*

**** THE HYMN OF PRAISE**

“He is Exalted”

*He is exalted, the King is exalted on high, I will praise Him.
He is exalted, forever exalted and I will praise His name.
He is the Lord, forever His truth shall reign.
Heaven and earth rejoice in His holy name.
He is exalted, the King is exalted on high.*

THE CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

During Confession we take time to slow down and realize how we have lost God's Great Story of goodness. We have served ourselves and our interests above God.

(Take a moment of silent reflection upon our need for God's forgiveness)

Pastor: O Almighty God,

PEOPLE: WE CONFESS THAT WE HEAR THE GOOD NEWS BUT DO NOT ALWAYS LIVE IT OUT. WE FAIL TO TRUST YOUR KINGDOM COMING. WE FAIL TO SPEAK OF YOUR LOVE. FORGIVE US LORD. OPEN OUR HEARTS AND MINDS TO RECEIVE THE GOOD NEWS OF JESUS CHRIST IN OUR DAILY LIVES, THAT WE MIGHT LIVE ETERNALLY. IN THE NAME OF OUR SAVIOR WE PRAY. AMEN.

Pastor: The Story of Jesus is

There is new life everywhere. There is Good News everywhere. There is nothing lost that cannot be found, no dark place where light cannot shine, no awful past that cannot lead to a bright future. You are God's beloved; you are a child of the resurrection. Live in the hope and promise of Christ. Your sins are forgiven, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

PEOPLE: AMEN.

**** THE PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Pastor: Almighty and eternal God, look in mercy on our weakness, and stretch out your mighty hand to help and protect us. 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.

PEOPLE: AMEN

THE FIRST LESSON

Nehemiah 4:7-16

It is hard to imagine the intense pressures and various points of opposition that Nehemiah has to deal with. He has an internal struggle with those Judeans who have married foreign wives and have adopted their religious and cultural behaviors that are quite distinct from what is laid forth for Israel in the law of Moses.

But when Sanballat and Tobiah and the Arabs and the Ammonites and the Ashdodites heard that the repairing of the walls of Jerusalem was going forward and that the breaches were beginning to be closed, they were very angry. And they all plotted together to come and fight against Jerusalem and to cause confusion in it. And we prayed to our God and set a guard as a protection against them day and night.

In Judah it was said, "The strength of those who bear the burdens is failing. There is too much rubble. By ourselves we will not be able to rebuild the wall." And our enemies said, "They will not know or see till we come among them and kill them and stop the work." At that time the Jews who lived near them came from all directions and said to us ten times, "You must return to us." So in the lowest parts of the space behind the wall, in open places, I stationed the people by their clans, with their swords, their spears, and their bows. And I looked and arose and said to the nobles and to the officials and to the rest of the people, "Do not be afraid of them. Remember the Lord, who is great and awesome, and fight for your brothers, your sons, your daughters, your wives, and your homes."

When our enemies heard that it was known to us and that God had frustrated their plan, we all returned to the wall, each to his work. From that day on, half of my servants worked on construction, and half held the spears, shields, bows, and coats of mail. And the leaders stood behind the whole house of Judah,

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: THANKS BE TO GOD.

THE SECOND LESSON

Ephesians 6:10-17

Paul knows that the real battles and dangers we face are not against flesh and blood. The enemies we see are real enough, but they are animated by spiritual forces of darkness that stay strategically hidden from view. These powers often reveal themselves in institutional evils, racism, genocide, terror, tyranny, and oppression: but the weapons needed to combat them are not earthly weapons at all. What is needed, is to stand firm in God's power and to suit up in the full armor of God.

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm. Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace. In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming

darts of the evil one; and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God,

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: THANKS BE TO GOD.

**** THE HOLY GOSPEL**

Matthew 18:1-9

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. This is the fourth of the five great sermons in Matthew.

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.

Pastor: The Gospel of the Lord

PEOPLE: PRAISE TO YOU, O CHRIST.

**** THE APOSTLES' CREED**

SERMON HYMN

“It Is Well With My Soul”

Solo by Janice Kamrath

THE SERMON

Pastor Cris Escher

Build Together: Prepare in Faith

**** THE OFFERTORY** “Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful”

*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.*

**** THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH**

(After each petition)

Pastor: . . . Lord, in your mercy,

PEOPLE: HEAR OUR PRAYER.

**** THE LORD’S PRAYER**

THE ORDER OF HOLY COMMUNION

Pastor: 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 IN THE HIGHEST.**

**** THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

THE DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

"We Remember You"

***In broken bread and the cup that we share;
We remember You.***

***In broken bread and the cup that we share;
We Remember You.***

We remember You, Jesus.

We remember your love for us.

We remember the blood You shed.

We remember You.

"Great is Thy Faithfulness"

***Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father,
There is no shadow of turning with Thee;
Thou changest not, Thy compassions, they fail not;
As Thou hast been Thou forever wilt be.***

CHORUS

***GREAT IS THY FAITHFULNESS! GREAT IS THY FAITHFULNESS!
MORNING BY MORNING NEW MERCIES I SEE;
ALL I HAVE NEEDED THY HAND HATH PROVIDED
GREAT IS THY FAITHFULNESS, LORD, UNTO ME!***

***Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,
Sun, moon and stars in their courses above
Join with all nature in manifold witness
To Thy great faithfulness, mercy and love. (CHORUS)***

***Pardon for sin, and a peace that endureth;
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide.
Strength for today, and bright hope for tomorrow;
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside. (CHORUS)***

"Chief of Sinners Though I Be"

***Chief of sinners though I be, Jesus shed his blood for me,
Died that I might live on high, lives that I might never die.
As the branch is to the vine, I am his, and he is mine.***

***Oh, the height of Jesus' love, higher than the heav'ns above,
Deeper than the depths of sea, lasting as eter-nit-y!
Love that found me - wondrous thought – found me when I sought him not.***

***Only Jesus can impart balm to heal the wounded heart;
Peace that flows from sin forgiv'n, joy that lifts the soul to heav'n,
Faith and hope to walk with God in the way that Enoch trod.***

***Chief of sinners though I be, Christ is all in all to me;
All my wants to him are known, all my sorrows are his own.
He sustains the hidden life, safe with him from earthly strife.***

***O my Savior, help afford by your Spirit and your word!
When my wayward heart would stray, keep me in the narrow way;
Grace in time of need supply while I live and when I die.***

*** THE BLESSING**

Pastor: *May the Lord bless you and keep you, that He would bless you with
patience and love for all your neighbors and loved ones.*

PEOPLE: AMEN.

**** THE CLOSING HYMN**

"For the Fruits of His Creation"

***For the fruits of His creation, thanks be to God.
For His gift to ev-'ry nation, thanks be to God.
For the plowing, sowing, reaping, silent growth while we are sleeping,
Future needs in earth's safekeeping, thanks be to God.***

***For the harvests of the Spirit, thanks be to God.
For the good we all inherit, thanks be to God.
For the wonders that astound us, for the truths that still confound us,
Most of all, that love has found us, thanks be to God.***

SENDING

Pastor: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

PEOPLE: THANKS BE TO GOD.

Today

Sunday School & Adult Bible Study
Worship
Korean Church Worship
Women's Community Group @ Weaver's home
AA

September 3, 2017

8:45 pm
10:00 am
1:00 pm
7:00 pm
7:30 pm

This Week

Labor Day
Weekly Revelation Bible Study
Surviving Spouses
Mahjong
Bible Study @Perkin's Restaurant
Scripture Narration (Sanctuary)
Game Night
Korean Church Prayer Meeting
Worship Team

9/4 Monday, All Day
9/5, Tuesday, 11:00 am
9/5, Tuesday, 12:30 pm
9/6, Wednesday, 12:00 pm
9/7, Thursday, 7:00 am
9/7, Thursday, 11:00 am
9/8, Friday, 6:00 pm
9/9, Saturday, 6:00 am
9/9, Saturday, 10:30 am



MARK YOUR CALENDARS

**NEXT GRACE LUTHERAN
QUARTERLY VOTERS MEETING
IS**

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2017
(IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE WORSHIP SERVICE)
MARK YOUR CALENDAR**

**NEXT BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2017
5:15 PM**

BIBLE STUDY ON REVELATION: THE STORY BEHIND THE STORY

Pastor Russ Johnson is teaching a class on Revelation on Tuesdays at 11am.
This study takes place at the church. All are welcome.

SUNDAY SCHOOL AND ADULT BIBLE CLASS will begin at 8:45 am. Students from grades 4 through 7 will be together in one class taught by Barbara Ruzicka. We will be using the children's room. Friends are welcome. And of course, all adults are invited to participate in the Sunday Morning Adult Bible Class.

WOMEN'S COMMUNITY GROUP On *Sunday, September 3* at 7:00 pm the group will meet at the home of Eleanor Weaver (**5561 NW N. Crisona Circle, Port St. Lucie, FL 3496**). Eleanor and Coli will host the women's Bible study, fellowship, and prayer group these two weeks. Email coliescher@gmail.com if you would like more information. **ALL OTHER WEEKS WILL CONTINUE TO BE AT LEIGH'S HOUSE.**

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS Norm Timinski & Eleanor Weaver, Dena Davey, 9/6; Jerry Davis & Barbara Young, 9/7.

ANNIVERSARIES: Ed & Barbara Bock, 9/8 (55).

If we have missed your anniversary or birthday, please drop us a note in the office or email us at Gracelutheranpsl@gmail.com.

THE FLOWERS adorning the altar this morning are given to the glory of God by Paul & Sarah Yoo.

WORSHIPERS NEEDED! If you love to worship our Lord, you are needed by Grace Lutheran Worship Team. We are going to begin meeting on Saturday mornings in hopes of adding a few new people to our group. Our purpose is twofold: to help and support the congregation when new hymns are sung and to sing during services as a choir. I hope I speak for the current members when I say we also have a lot of fun. Please prayerfully consider joining us on September 9, 23, 30 and beyond. We will meet at 10:30 a.m. for about an hour. If possible please let us know of your interest by calling or texting me at 402-850-1786; my email is cindylynch817@yahoo.com. A call to the church office will also work. I hope to see you on September 9!

MOPS ARE COMING BACK! Mothers of PreSchoolers start back on Wednesday, September 13, 2017 from 9:15 to 11:15 am. They meet on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday each month. If you'd like to participate please contact Danielle Ryle at (954)205-8128.

www.GraceLutheranpsl.com

Remember to check out our website and follow us on Facebook. They're both "works-in-progress", but the calendar and information on our website is updated constantly.