

# Sunday Service

December 12, 2021 - 8:30 AM & 10:15 AM

Live Broadcast at 10:15 AM



3rd Sunday in Advent

Await: Daily Gifts from a Loving Father

**The Christmas Ham**

**Grace Lutheran Church**

555 SW Cashmere Blvd.

Port St. Lucie, FL 34986-2034

Office: 772-871-6599

Gracelutheranpsl@gmail.com

[www.GraceLutheranPSL.com](http://www.GraceLutheranPSL.com)

**Pastor Cris Escher**

Email: [cris@gracelutheranpsl.com](mailto: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. 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](http://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:** We have moved Holy Communion to the end of our worship service. 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.

The distribution of the bread by an Elder and the wine in individual cups will be by Pastor Cris. ***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.

## Await: Daily Gifts From a Loving Father

Remember being little and excitedly waiting for Christmas to come? As we await the coming messiah, it's like we are using a grand advent calendar to move us closer, each day, to the coming Christ. But waiting is hard and can feel like there is nothing good for us. In that struggle of waiting, God leaves us daily gifts, a foretaste of what is to come.

## Today: The Christmas Ham

Oh the humble Christmas ham. It's easier to cook than a turkey, but it's still tasty. In the nation of Israel the ham would never have been accepted as a gift. And yet the glory of the "ham nations" was given at the birth of the Hebrew messiah.

## ---- THE OPENING HYMN

### “Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful” (LW 41 Vs 1-3)

1. Oh, come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant!  
Oh, come ye, oh, come ye to Bethlehem;  
Come and behold him born the king of angels;  
Oh, come, let us adore him, Oh, come, let us adore him,  
Oh, come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!
2. Highest, most holy, Light of light eternal.  
Born of a virgin, a mortal He comes;  
Son of the Father Now in flesh appearing!  
Oh, come, let us adore him, Oh, come, let us adore him,  
Oh, come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!
3. Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,  
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!  
Glory to God in the highest;  
Oh, come, let us adore him, Oh, come, let us adore him,  
Oh, come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

## -- Opening

*Rejoice in the Lord always.*

*Again I will say, rejoice. (Phil 4:4 NRSV)*

## --- 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 and merciful God, each year you make us glad as we look forward to the birthday of your Son. May we who joyfully receive him as our redeemer confidently face him when he comes to be our judge. For he lives and reigns with you 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.**
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

### Isaiah 19:19-25

Though Egypt and Assyria are mortal enemies, God is about to do something new for them both. The God of peace always seeks to make peace among the nations.

In that day there will be an altar to the Lord in the midst of the land of Egypt, and a pillar to the Lord at its border. It will be a sign and a witness to the Lord of hosts in the land of Egypt. When they cry to the Lord because of oppressors, he will send them a savior and defender, and deliver them. And the Lord will make himself known to the Egyptians, and the Egyptians will know the Lord in that

day and worship with sacrifice and offering, and they will make vows to the Lord and perform them. And the Lord will strike Egypt, striking and healing, and they will return to the Lord, and he will listen to their pleas for mercy and heal them.

In that day there will be a highway from Egypt to Assyria, and Assyria will come into Egypt, and Egypt into Assyria, and the Egyptians will worship with the Assyrians.

In that day Israel will be the third with Egypt and Assyria, a blessing in the midst of the earth, whom the Lord of hosts has blessed, saying, "Blessed be Egypt my people, and Assyria the work of my hands, and Israel my inheritance."

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

**PEOPLE: THANKS BE TO GOD**

## THE SECOND LESSON

### Ephesians 2:11-22

The relationship between faith and works is often misunderstood. Some think that salvation is God's reward for good deeds. If that's true, then it can't possibly be a gift.

Therefore remember that at one time you Gentiles in the flesh, called "the uncircumcision" by what is called the circumcision, which is made in the flesh by hands— remember that you were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility by abolishing the law of commandments

expressed in ordinances, that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility. And he came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near. For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father. So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.

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

**PEOPLE: THANKS BE TO GOD**

---

## THE HOLY GOSPEL

### Luke 7:18-28

Jesus, realizing fully the kinds of expectations others have, gently reminds John and his disciples of the Scriptures, "The blind see, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead live, and the poor receive the good news."

The disciples of John reported all these things to him. And John, calling two of his disciples to him, sent them to the Lord, saying, "Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?" And when the men had come to him, they said, "John the

Baptist has sent us to you, saying, 'Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?'" In that hour he healed many people of diseases and plagues and evil spirits, and on many who were blind he bestowed sight. And he answered them, "Go and tell John what you have seen and heard: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, the poor have good news preached to them. And blessed is the one who is not offended by me."

When John's messengers had gone, Jesus began to speak to the crowds concerning John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the

wind? What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who are dressed in splendid clothing and live in luxury are in kings' courts. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is he of whom it is written,  
“Behold, I send my messenger before your face,

who will prepare your way before you.’  
I tell you, among those born of women none is greater than John. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he.”

Pastor: The Gospel of the Lord.

PEOPLE: PRAISE TO YOU, O CHRIST

## --- PROFESSION THE APOSTLES CREED

## --- HYMN OF DAY

### “Away in the Manger” (LW 64 Vs. 1-3)

1. Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,  
The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head;  
The stars in the bright sky looked down where He lay,  
The little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.
2. The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,  
But little Lord Jesus, no crying He makes,  
I love Thee, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky,  
And stay by my side until morning is nigh.
3. Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask Thee to stay  
Close by me forever and love me, I pray.  
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care,  
And take us for heaven, to live with Thee there.

**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 SERMON

Await: [The Christmas Ham](#)

## --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**

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

## ----THE CLOSING HYMN

### “Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful” (LW 41 Vs 4)

4. Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;  
Jesus, to thee be glory giv’n!  
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing!  
Oh, come, let us adore him, Oh, come, let us adore him,  
Oh, come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

## ----- 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 Pastor Cris has concentrated 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 Pastor Cris 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

### “Lo, How a Rose E're Blooming”

Copyright: Commissioned through the Michigan District, LCMS

1. Lo, how a rose e'er blooming,  
From tender stem hath sprung.  
Of Jesse's lineage coming,  
As men of old have sung;  
It came, a flow'ret bright,  
Amid the cold of winter,  
When half spent was the night.

2. Isaiah 'twas foretold it,  
The Rose I have in mind,  
With Mary we behold it,  
The virgin mother kind;  
To show God's love aright,  
She bore to us a Savior,  
When half spent was the night.

3. This Flower, whose fragrance tender  
With sweetness fills the air,  
Dispels with glorious splendour  
The darkness everywhere;  
True man, yet very God,  
From Sin and death He saves us,  
And lightens ev'ry load.

4. O Savior, child of Mary,  
Who felt our human woe;  
O Savior, King of glory,  
Who dost our weakness know:  
Bring us at length we pray  
To the bright courts of heaven,  
And to the endless day.

## **"Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee"** (Time Ver 2:24)

Copyright: Commissioned through the Michigan District, LCMS

1. Joyful, joyful, we adore Thee, God of glory, Lord of love.  
Hearts unfold like flow'rs before Thee, Praising Thee, their sun above.  
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness; drive the gloom of doubt away.  
Giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day!
2. All Thy works with joy surround Thee, earth and heav'n reflect Thy rays.  
Stars and angels sing around Thee, center of unbroken praise.  
Field and forest, vale and mountain, flow'ry meadow, flashing sea,  
Chanting bird, and flowing fountain call us to rejoice in Thee!
3. Thou art giving and forgiving, ever blessing, ever blest,  
Well-spring of the joy of living, ocean-depth of happy rest!  
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, Fountainhead of love divine:  
Joyful, we Thy heav'n inherit! Joyful, we by grace are thine!

## **"Once in Royal David's City"**

Copyright: Commissioned through the Michigan District, LCMS

1. Once in royal David's city stood a lowly cattle shed,  
Where a mother laid her baby in a manger for His bed;  
Mary was that mother mild, Jesus Christ her little child.
2. He came down to earth from heaven who is God and Lord of all,  
And His shelter was a stable, and His cradle was a stall;  
With the poor and mean and lowly lived on earth our Savior holy.
3. For He is our childhood's pattern, Day by day like us he grew;  
He was little, weak, and helpless, Tears and smiles like us he knew;  
And He feels for all our sadness, And He shares in all our gladness.
4. And our eyes at last shall see Him through His own redeeming love,  
For that child so dear and gentle is our Lord in heav'n above,  
As He leads His children on to the place where He is gone

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

Worship Services  
Voter's Meeting  
Live-streamed on [www.gracelutheranpsl.com](http://www.gracelutheranpsl.com)  
Korean Church Worship

**December 12, 2021**

8:30 AM & 10:15 AM  
9:40 AM  
10:15 AM  
1:00 PM

**Rest of the week**

Olivet School  
Pastor's Circuit Meeting (in sanctuary)  
Individual/Small Group Communion  
Potluck Meal (Church Hall)  
Advent Gathering/Service  
TCFGC (ACC Hall)  
Bible Study (also live streamed!)  
Korean Church Prayer Gathering

**December 13 - December 18, 2021**

Tuesday, 8:30 AM - 2:00 PM  
Tuesday, 8:30 AM - 1:00 PM  
Wednesday, 11:00 AM  
Wednesday, 5:30 PM  
Wednesday 6:15 PM  
Wednesday, 6:30 PM  
Thursday, 11:00 AM  
Saturday, 6:00 AM

***Christmas Eve 4 & 7 PM, Christmas Day - 10:15 with Communion, 12/26 & 1/2 10:15 only***

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

**BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS THIS WEEK:** Cheryl Berglund & Fred Kutschinski - 12/12,  
Pete Schultz & Cheryl Nolte - 12/13, Bernard Mullins - 12/14

**THE FLOWERS ADORNING THE ALTAR** are given to the glory of God by Cheryl Nolte in celebration of her birthday.

**PLEASE ~~CALL~~ SEND CARDS TO PEOPLE** Let's change it up! Have you considered sending Christmas cards this year? Why not grab a church directory or request an electronic version and send cards out this season to your Grace family?

**DECEMBER VOTER'S MEETING:** TODAY! We will be holding our annual Voter's meeting to elect the officers for our Board of Directors and approve a Ministry Budget Plan for 2022 at 9:40 AM. The following have been nominated for election to serve on the Board: President - Leigh Liagre, Vice-President - Phil Fredrich, Financial Director - Kevin Garbers, Head Elder - David Vik, Head Trustee - ???? and Board Secretary - ???. As you can see, we need someone to oversee the Board of Trustees and someone to take the minutes at our Board & Voter's meetings.

**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 our youth activity fund. They are available in the fellowship hall, or you can stop by the office, 9:00-Noon, during the week.

**ADVENT SEASON IS HERE:** This Wednesday will be the final Wednesday Advent event! Everyone is invited to the potluck meal starting at 5:30 PM followed by a casual service of singing and reminiscing of Christmas events and more Christmas carol singing at 6:15. For the meal, bring a favorite dish or two and enjoy sharing with fellow friends. Drinks, plates, utensils, and fellowship will be provided. **Everyone is invited**, even if you are not able to bring a favorite dish. (soups, salads, meats, and casseroles welcome!) Meal - 5:30 PM and Service 6:15 PM

**PARKING SPOTS:** Please remember the two parking spaces closest to the ACC center are for their use during the week. Their clients need close access for those with walkers and handicapped.

**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. This week we received \$216 through Thrivent Choice!

**MINIMUM IRA WITHDRAWAL?** Did you know you can make direct payments to Grace Lutheran from your IRA that can be beneficial for our church and lower your tax liability? Grace can accept transfers of stocks and bonds directly into our “AmeriTrade” account. See Kevin for info.

**THURSDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY:** This Thursday we will be studying 2nd Corinthians in person as well as live streamed at 11:00 AM. Everyone is invited to come, watch live or watch later!

**GIVING:** 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.

---

**12/12** ***Worship assistants:** 8:30 - Bob Fox & 10:15 - David V.*

***Readers:** 8:30 - Jennine V. & 10:15 - Shirley M.*

**12/19** ***Worship assistants:** 8:30 - Kevin G. & 10:15 - Ed B*

***Scripture Readers:** 8:30 - Piper N. & 10:15 - Heather P.*

***Readings:** Isaiah 25:4-9, Hebrews 10:5-10 & Luke 1:46-55 (ESV)*

**QUESTIONS FOR THE WEEK:** “Await: The Christmas Ham”

1. Describe a time when you messed up preparing a holiday dinner.
2. Read Isaiah 19:16-25. What do you find surprising about Egypt and Assyria? Why would they be able to worship just like Israel?
3. Think of a group of people that you dislike; how would it make you feel if they were part of God’s promise?
4. Through Christ, how does God make all the nations part of his promise? In regards to Christ, how are you no different than all the other nations?