

Sunday Service with Communion

Life Together - This Is It

March 8, 2020

Second Sunday in Lent



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. 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.

HOLY COMMUNION

is celebrated in our worship service today. 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: 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

Life Together - Christian Community for Tough Times

Peter is writing to Christians facing tough times. He is writing to encourage them in the faith, not to just act any ol' way in this life when things get difficult but to act like Jesus, who, when faced with suffering, still shows love and restores our life together.

TODAY: This Is It

When we look at our own stories it can leave us with the feeling of "This is it?" One of the criminals on the cross looked over and yelled, "This is it?" But Jesus has shown us that he on the cross truly is.

---- THE OPENING HYMN

"God Himself is Present" (LW 206 Vs. 1-3)

1. God himself is present;
let us now adore Him
And with awe appear before Him.
God is in His temple;
all within keep silence,
Prostrate lie with deepest rev'rence.
Him alone God we own,
Him, our God and Savior;
Praise His name for ever!

2. God himself is present;
hear the harps resounding;
See the hosts the throne surrounding!
"Holy, holy, holy!"
Hear the hymn ascending,
Songs of saints and angels blending.
Bow your ear to us here:
Hear, O Christ, the praises
that Your Church now raises.

3. Light of light eternal, all things penetrating,
For Your rays our soul is waiting,
As the tender flowers, willingly unfolding,
To the sun their faces holding:
Even so would we do, light from You obtaining,
Strength to serve You gaining.

--RESPONSE OF THE DAY

Taken From Psalm 147

*Pastor: The Heavenly realms declare the
glory of God.*

**PEOPLE: ALL OF CREATION TESTIFY TO HIS
GREAT WORKS.**

*Pastor: The Lord's law is blameless and
revives my soul.*

**PEOPLE: THE COMMANDMENTS OF THE
LORD ARE PURE. MY HEART
REJOICES.**

*Pastor: We will love the Lord and his laws
more than gold.*

**PEOPLE: WE FIND OUR LORD'S WAYS
SWEETER THAN HONEY.**

*Pastor: Lord, let the words of my mouth be
acceptable to your ears.*

**PEOPLE: O LORD, YOU ARE OUR ROCK AND
REDEEMER.**

--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

"Jesus, Name Above All Names"

1. *Jesus, name above all names,
Beautiful Savior, glorious Lord.
Emmanuel, God is with us,
Blessed Redeemer, Living Word.*

2. *Jesus, loving Shepherd,
Vine of the branches, Son of God.
Prince of Peace, wonderful Counselor,
Lord of the universe, Light of the world.*

3. *Jesus, Way of salvation,
King of kings, Lord of lords,
The way the truth, and the Life,
Mighty creator, my Savior and friend*

--- THE CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

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

Pastor:  *O Almighty God,*

**PEOPLE: MERCIFUL FATHER,
I CONFESS THAT I HAVE SINNED
AGAINST YOU.
I HAVE DONE THAT WHICH YOU
FORBID, I HAVE DONE WHAT IS
RIGHT IN MY OWN EYES.
IN THE WEARINESS OF A BUSY LIFE,
I HAVE YIELDED TO TEMPTATION.
I HAVE TRUSTED MYSELF MORE
THAN I HAVE TRUSTED YOU.**

**I HAVE FOLLOWED MY OWN
PATHS RATHER THAN YOURS.
FORGIVE ME, I PRAY.
BY YOUR HOLY SPIRIT,
LEAD ME AND GUIDE ME
SO THAT I MAY TRULY BE
YOUR SERVANT IN YOUR GREAT
REDEMPTIVE WORK ON EARTH;
THROUGH JESUS CHRIST, YOUR SON,
OUR LORD. 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.*

Lord, we know that by ourselves we have no strength. Defend us from all calamities that may happen to the body, and cleanse us from all evil thoughts that may attack the soul. 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. AMEN.

THE FIRST LESSON

Psalm 66:8-15

God's awesome and righteous deeds evoke the praise of all creation on earth.

Bless our God, O peoples;
let the sound of his praise be heard,
who has kept our soul among the living
and has not let our feet slip.
For you, O God, have tested us;
you have tried us as silver is tried.
You brought us into the net;
you laid a crushing burden on our backs;
you let men ride over our heads;
we went through fire and through water;

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

yet you have brought us out to a place of abundance.

I will come into your house with burnt offerings;

I will perform my vows to you,
that which my lips uttered

and my mouth promised when I was in trouble.

I will offer to you burnt offerings of fattened animals,

with the smoke of the sacrifice of rams;
I will make an offering of bulls and goats.

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

PEOPLE: THANKS BE TO GOD

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

"RETURN TO THE LORD YOUR GOD" - sing (LW pg. 165)

**Re-turn to the Lord, your God, for He is gra-cious and mer-ci-ful, slow to an-ger,
and a-bound-ing in stead-fast love, and a-bound-ing in stead-fast love.**

THE HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 22:39-46

We often speak of having faith in Jesus, but we seldom speak of the faith of Jesus. In a moment of agony, Jesus still trusted God, still yielded His will to God, and still approached God as Father.

And he came out and went, as was his custom, to the Mount of Olives, and the disciples followed him. And when he came to the place, he said to them, "Pray that you may not enter into temptation." And he withdrew from them about a stone's throw, and knelt down and prayed, saying, "Father,

if you are willing, remove this cup from me. Nevertheless, not my will, but yours, be done." And there appeared to him an angel from heaven, strengthening him. And being in agony he prayed more earnestly; and his sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground. And when he rose from prayer, he came to the disciples and found them sleeping for sorrow, and he said to them, "Why are you sleeping? Rise and pray that you may not enter into temptation."

Pastor: The Gospel of the Lord.

PEOPLE: PRAISE TO YOU, O CHRIST

--- THE APOSTLES CREED

--- CHOIR HYMN

10:15 Service: Choir Sings: "Take My Life and Let it Be"

--- THE SERMON

This Is It

--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.***

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.

--- 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: 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

--- THE DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

"Let Us Break Bread Together"

- 1. Let us break bread together on our knees, Let us break bread together on our knees;
When I fall on my knees with my face to the rising sun, O Lord, have mercy on me!**
- 2. Let us drink wine together on our knees, Let us drink wine together on our knees;
When I fall on my knees with my face to the rising sun, O Lord, have mercy on me!**

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

3. Let us bow 'round the altar on our knees, Let us bow 'round the altar on our knees
When I fall on my knees with my face to the rising sun, O Lord, have mercy on me!
4. Let us praise God together on our knees, Let us praise God together on our knees;
When I fall on my knees with my face to the rising sun, O Lord, have mercy on me!

How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds" (LW 279 Vs. 1-7)

1. How sweet the name of Jesus sounds
in a believer's ear!
It soothes our sorrows, heals our
wounds, and drives away all fear.
2. It makes the wounded spirit whole
and calms the heart's unrest;
It's manna to the hungry soul
and to the weary, rest.
3. Dear name! The rock on which I build,
my shield and hiding place;
My never failing trea-sury filled with
boundless stores of grace.
4. By you my prayers acceptance gain
although with sin defiled.
The devil charges me in vain,
and God calls me his child.
5. O Jesus, shepherd, guardian, friend,
my Prophet, Priest, and King,
My Lord, my life, my way, my end,
accept the praise I bring.
6. I praise in weakness from afar—
how cold my warmest thought!
But when I see you as you are,
I'll praise you as I ought.
7. Till then I would your love proclaim
with ev'ry fleeting breath;
And may the music of your name
refresh my soul in death!"

"O Savior, Precious Savior" (LW 282 Vs. 1-4)

1. O Savior, precious Savior,
whom yet unseen we love;
O name of might and favor,
all other names above:
We worship You, we bless You;
to You alone we sing;
We praise You and confess You,
our holy Lord and King.
2. O bringer of salvation,
so marvelously wrought,
Yourself the revelation
of love beyond our thought:
We worship You; we bless You;
to You alone we sing;
We praise You and confess You,
our holy Lord and King.

**4. Oh, grant the consummation
of this our song above
In endless adoration
and everlasting love;
Then shall we praise and bless You
where perfect praises ring
And evermore confess You,
our Savior and our King.**

Olivet Academy
MOPs
Pellin's Home Bible Study
Mahjong
Lenten Meager Potluck Meal
Lenten Services
Scripture Narration (Jeremiah)
Brownies
Choir Practice
C. Becker & J. Sauber wedding
Korean Prayer Service
Quarterly Voter's Meeting

Tuesday 9:00 am- 1:00 pm
Wednesday 9:00 am - Noon
Wednesday 10:30 am
Wednesday at Noon
Wednesday 5:30 pm
Wednesday 6:30 pm
Thursday 11:00 am
Thursday 6:30 pm
Friday 10:30 am
Friday, in Mims, FL
Saturday, 6:00 am
Sunday, March 15 at 9:40 am

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

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS Mr. Jan Lendak, Joe Gannon & Vivian Barto - 3/8 , Pam White 3/13

THE FLOWERS adorning the altar are given by Sherry Self in memory of her husband Ray.

ADOPT-A-MILE is this Tuesday, **March 10, 2020 at 8:30 AM**

Our meeting place will be on the corner of Torino and Chesboro, that is only one street north on Torino. This is due to the construction on the corner of Torino and Cashmere Blvd.
For more information contact: Judy Fredrich (561) 315-9555 pjfred@outlook.com

QUARTERLY VOTER'S MEETING Next Sunday, March 15th at 9:40 am.

CARENET Volunteer Training Training for men and women to assist CareNet in "Making A Difference" will take place on two weekends, March 20/21 and March 27/28 and you must attend both weekends of training. For more information contact: Judy Fredrich (561) 315-9555

LWML Come and join us on Saturday, **March 21, 2020** for the Fall Rally at Redeemer Lutheran Church in Stuart, from 8:30 - 1:30. We will meet here at Grace at 7:45 am and will carpool. The cost is \$8.00 payable at the door. Looking forward to having you join us for a great time. Please contact Hatha Brown at (772) 302-7529 or Hathalee1@comcast.net to make your reservation to attend. March 15, is the last day for reservations. Gifts for the Heart are for CareNet and there is a list at the CareNet display.

BACKPACK PROGRAM: A list of needed items is posted on the bulletin board in the narthex and a collection box is in the narthex. Cash donations earmarked "Backpack" may be placed in the offering plate as well.
For more information contact Leigh Liagre.

LENTEN SERVICES this **Wednesday at 6:30** pm and will continue on March 18, 25 & April 1. A **Pot-Luck Meal will be served at 5:30 pm** with a service beginning at 6:30 pm. All are welcome at one or both!

GRACE CHOIR is meeting and practicing on Fridays at 10:30. All voices are welcome.

Habitat for Children Ministries, Meschac It is with great sadness that we have lost our only vehicle in Haiti. The truck was traveling back from getting serviced when it caught on fire. Without a fire department or access to water, there was no way to stop the fire from spreading and ultimately leading to an explosion. Thankfully, no one was injured.

We humbly ask for you to be on the lookout for anyone wanting to donate another truck which is desperately needed to transport missionaries and supplies to the needy areas in Le Juene and Pignon, Haiti. Monetary donations are also welcomed as there will be shipping fees as well. Thank you in advance for any assistance in this matter. Our phone number is 561-536-3177 meschac@habitatforchildrenministries.org
Information@habitatforchildrenministries.org

SARAH'S KITCHEN Are you available on Monday evenings for a few hours to help? Grace volunteers are needed Monday evenings to help out, PLEASE contact Piper Neagles if you would like to know how you can help. (586)212-7626 or janpan18@yahoo.com

REMEMBER THOSE ON THE PRAYER LIST In an effort to keep our prayer list up to date and be sure everyone is listed, please make your requests in writing or email.

- **place the** pink completed prayer form into the offering plate or on the office desk.
- **or by email** to: www.GraceLutheranPSL.com/pray

Your loved one/ones will remain on the list for three weeks. If you wish someone to remain longer, you will need to make another request. By doing this, we will also ensure that Pastor Cris is aware of updates to the status of everyone's needs.

***PINK PRAYER REQUEST FORMS CAN BE FOUND ON THE COUNTER IN THE NARTHEX.**

NEXT WEEK, March 15 - 21, (FYI) St. Lucie School's Spring Break, Crafters group will meet on Monday 3/16, Florida Presidential Primary on Tuesday 3/17 - Office will be closed, Lenten Potluck Meal and Service on Wednesday.

Questions to ponder this week.

1. Who is a celebrity who has died where you felt great loss? Why do you think you felt so much loss?
2. Read 1 Peter 1:3-5. According to Peter, what is our defining story made up of?
3. What about this story is contrary to what the world finds value in?
4. What do you find valuable about Peter's words in 1 Peter 1:3-5, as you live out your life and faith?