

Sunday Service

March 19, 2023 - 8:30 AM & 10:15 AM
Livestream at 10:15 AM

The Way

Finding Meaning in the Gospel of John

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. 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

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: 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. ***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.

The Way: Finding Meaning In The Gospel of John

There are certain indicators that we are on The Way with Jesus: justice, spirituality, relationships, beauty, freedom, truth, and power. But what if we do not live up to these ideals? Our societies and individual lives become unbalanced, creating anger and frustration that divide us from ourselves and from God. Come and see how The Way seems broken but how Easter vision can bring many along the way of hope.

Today: Freedom

We can hear the cry of our hearts for freedom, but once we have freedom, it's so tempting to just curl in on ourselves. Jesus, however, constantly gives to us from his abundance.

---- THE OPENING HYMN

“Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed?” (LW 97 Vs. 1-3)

- 1. Alas! And did my Savior Bleed? And did my Sov'reign die?
Would He devote that sacred head For sinners such as I?*
- 2. Was it for sins that I had done He groaned upon the tree?
Amazing pity, Grace unknown, And love beyond degree!*
- 3. Well might the sun in darkness hide, And shut its glories in,
When God, the mighty Maker, died For man the creature's sin.*

--- Opening

So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed. - John 8:36

--- 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.

Loving Father, when we were captive in the darkness of sin and death, your Son rescued us and brought us back to you. Teach us to trust in him and to live as your people. 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

“Jesus Your Name is Power” (MM 213)

1. *Jesus Your name is power, Jesus Your name is might.
Jesus Your name will break ev'ry stronghold; Jesus Your name is life.*
2. *Jesus Your name is healing, Jesus Your name gives sight.
Jesus Your name will free ev'ry captive; Jesus Your name is life.*
3. *Jesus Your name is holy, Jesus Your name brings light.
Jesus Your name a-bove ev'ry other, Jesus Your name is life.*

THE FIRST LESSON

Ezekiel 36:24-30

For the restoration of his people, God is summoning them to true repentance and godly sorrow.

“For I will take you out of the nations; I will gather you from all the countries and bring you back into your own land. I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your impurities and from all your idols. I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my

Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws. Then you will live in the land I gave your ancestors; you will be my people, and I will be your God. I will save you from all your uncleanness. I will call for the grain and make it plentiful and will not bring famine upon you. I will increase the fruit of the trees and the crops of the field, so that you will no longer suffer disgrace among the nations because of famine.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: THANKS BE TO GOD

THE SECOND LESSON

Galatians 5:1-6, 13-15

As free people, the Spirit gives us the characteristics of Jesus; we, too, can freely love in joy and peace.

It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.

Mark my words! I, Paul, tell you that if you let yourselves be circumcised, Christ will be of no value to you at all. Again I declare to

every man who lets himself be circumcised that he is obligated to obey the whole law. You who are trying to be justified by the law have been alienated from Christ; you have fallen away from grace. For through the Spirit we eagerly await by faith the righteousness for which we hope. For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision has any value. The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: THANKS BE TO GOD

THE HOLY GOSPEL

John 8:31-38

For free persons, the title “slave” functioned as an insult, and so could generate resentment. Yet Jewish tradition recognized that Israel had been subject to multiple empires: Babylon, Persia, Greece, and now Rome.

To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, “If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”

They answered him, “We are Abraham’s descendants and have never been slaves of anyone. How can you say that we shall be set free?”

Jesus replied, “Very truly I tell you, everyone who sins is a slave to sin. Now a slave has no permanent place in the family, but a son belongs to it forever. So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed. I know that you are Abraham’s descendants. Yet you are looking for a way to kill me, because you have no room for my word. I am telling you what I have seen in the Father’s presence, and you are doing what you have heard from your father.”

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

--- PROFESSION

THE APOSTLES CREED

--- HYMN OF DAY

“The Lord’s My Shepherd, I’ll Not Want” (LW 416/LSB 710 vs. 1-5)

- 1. The Lord’s my shepherd, I’ll not want; He makes me down to lie
In pastures green; He leadeth me the quiet waters by.**
- 2. My soul He doth restore again and me to walk doth make
Within the paths of righteousness, e’en for His own name’s sake.**
- 3. Yea, though I walk in death’s dark vale, yet will I fear no ill;
For thou are with me, and Thy rod and staff me comfort still.**
- 4. My table thou has furnished in presence of my foes;
My head thou dost with oil anoint, and my cup overflows.**
- 5. Goodness and mercy all my life shall surely follow me;
And I God’s house forevermore my dwelling place shall be.**

--- THE SERMON

The Way - Freedom

--THE OFFERTORY

“We Give You But Thine Own” (LW 405 vs 1,2,6)

1. *We give you but your own,
In any gifts we bring;
All that we have is yours alone,
A trust from you our King.*
2. *May we your bounties thus
As stewards true receive,
And gladly, Lord as you bless us,
To you our first-fruits give.*
6. *And we believe Your Word,
Though dim our faith, it's true;
What we do for your people, Lord,
We do it all for you.*

--- 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

“Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed?” (LW 97 Vs. 4-5)

4. *Thus might I hide my blushing face While His dear cross appears,
Dissolve my heart in thankfulness, And melt my eyes to tears.*
5. *But tears of grief cannot repay The debt of love I owe:
Here, Lord, I give myself away, It's all that I can do.*

----- 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 the pastor has consecrated 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 the pastor 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.

(Please remember that as you are leaving the sanctuary, others are still communing, please refrain from talking to others until you are in the Fellowship Hall, Thank You.)

--- ADDITIONAL HYMNS (On Projection Screens)

“Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise”

Copyright: Commissioned through the Michigan District, LCMS

“God Loved The World So That He Gave”

Copyright: Commissioned through the Michigan District, LCMS

“God Himself is Present”

Copyright: Commissioned through the Michigan District, LCMS

---- THIS WEEK AT GRACE

Today

March 19, 2023

Worship Services

8:30 AM & 10:15 AM

Voter's Meeting

9:35 ish (after first service)

Live-streamed on www.gracelutheranpsl.com

10:15 AM

Korean Church Worship

1:00 PM

Rest of the Week

March 20 - 25, 2023

Olivet School

Tuesday, 8:30 AM - 3:00 PM

Heatherwood HOA

Tuesday, 7:00 PM

Individual Communion

Wednesday, 11:00 AM

Potluck Fellowship Meal

Wednesday 5:30 PM

Lenten Services

Wednesday, 6:30 PM

Bible Study, also live streamed

Thursday 11:00 AM

Tons of Fun Meeting

Friday 1:00 PM

Korean Church Prayer Gathering

Saturday, 6:00 AM

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

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS THIS WEEK: Evelyn Banie - 3/23, Greg Schultz - 3/25

THE FLOWERS ADORNING THE ALTAR are given to the glory of God by Pam White for the many blessings that abound!

EGG HUNT: On Easter, we'll host an egg hunt at 9:55 AM. If you're available to provide prizes or candy, there is a donation table in the church hall.

VOTERS' MEETING: We will have a quarterly voters' meeting TODAY between services. All members are welcome to attend.

GIVING: We are here to provide "Grace and Peace in a Confusing and Trying Time" to those in our church and community. Thank you for your past and continual prayers and financial support to Grace and your community.

THURSDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY: THIS Thursday at 11:00 AM, we will be studying 1 & 2 Samuel. Come here to the church or watch the Live Streamed for those at home.

WEEKLY POTLUCK MEALS: This Wednesday, we will be sharing a meal together at 5:30 PM and then a Lenten service at 6:30 PM. Everyone is invited to the potluck meal, even if you don't have a dish to bring. We always have plenty of food! Come one and all for some friendly fellowship. Meat, vegetables, soups and salad dishes are welcomed, oh and dessert!



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. In January and February we received \$449, This week we received \$290 from Thrivent Choice!

Thank you Shirley, Robert Z., Carol, Jacqueline, Leona, Kevin and Robert B. for your Grace designation of Choice Dollars.

COMMUNION ON WEDNESDAY: If you, or someone you know, would like to celebrate Holy Communion but prefer a small group or are unable to attend Sunday service, Pastor Cris has set aside Wednesdays to celebrate the meal in small groups. Please come by on Wednesday at 11:00 AM and partake of this wonderful meal, or call the church at (772) 871-6599, and Pastor Cris would be happy to set aside a time for you to come in and receive communion.

FROM THE ALZHEIMER’S COMMUNITY CARE CENTER!

There is a wish list of needs to assist in our operation of this center to help provide care for our clients. If you could help it would be greatly appreciated. **Wish list:** Walmart gift cards to purchase craft materials, Assorted Bingo prizes, Jumbo/Large coloring books, Paper towels, Assorted sugar free chocolate, Peppermint patties, Fresh strawberries, Frozen sugar-free yogurt as well as any volunteer entertainment. Thank You

BULLETIN AND PRINTED PRAYER REQUESTS: All information for the Sunday bulletin must be submitted by 10:00 AM Thursday to be printed. Prayer requests received after 10:00 AM on Thursday will be updated on the website ASAP and printed in the following Sunday’s bulletin.

The Soroptimist of St. Lucie non-profit will hold its Annual Fashion Show Fundraiser on Saturday, April 15, 2023, at Noon at the Pelican Yacht Club, 1120 Seaway Drive in Fort Pierce. Fashions will be by Cato’s Fashions, with a silent auction and raffles, plus scholarship awards for women. Tickets are \$50, See Cheryl Nolte for details.

THANK YOU FROM CARE NET: Thank you to those who attended or contributed to the Care Net Banquet. Their total raised exceeded \$360,000. Thank You, Judy, Phil and Pam.

03/19 *Worship assistants: 8:30 - Phil F. & 10:15 - Ed B.*
Scripture Readers: 8:30 - Jay H. & 10:15 - Heather P.

03/26 *Worship assistants: 8:30 - Bob Fox & 10:15 - Dave V.*
Scripture Readers: 8:30 - Ruth R. & 10:15 - Jan L.

Readings: Psalm 25:1-7, Ephesians 4:11-16, John 18:33-40 (NIV)

QUESTIONS FOR THE WEEK: *The Way- Freedom*

1. How would you define freedom? How do you maintain freedom?
 2. Read John 8:31-38. What does Jesus say will give us freedom?
 3. What is ironic about how the Jews respond?
 4. What are some times you might fail to acknowledge the slavery of your sin?
 5. How does Jesus free us? What are we freed to do?
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2023 LENTEN SEASON

The Seder - Remembering Bitterness to the Lamb

Lenten Wednesdays: March 22 & 29

Fellowship / Potluck Meal: 5:30 PM till 6:30 PM

Service Time: 6:30 PM (will be livestreamed)

The Way
Finding Meaning in the Gospel of John

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE! **APRIL 2 THROUGH APRIL 9, 2023**

April 2 - Palm Sunday: 8:30 AM & 10:15 AM (10:15 AM will be livestreamed)

April 6 - Maundy Thursday: Seder Meal at various locations. PLEASE use the Sign-up Sheet.

April 7 - Good Friday: 12:00 (Noon) and 7:00 PM

(Noon service will be livestreamed and broadcast)

April 9 -Easter Sunday: 6:45 AM (*outside*), 8:30 AM & 10:15 AM

(10:15 AM will be livestreamed)

Easter Breakfast & Fellowship: starts after Sunrise Service (7:45ish) serving will end at 10:15 AM
Egg Hunt at 9:55 AM