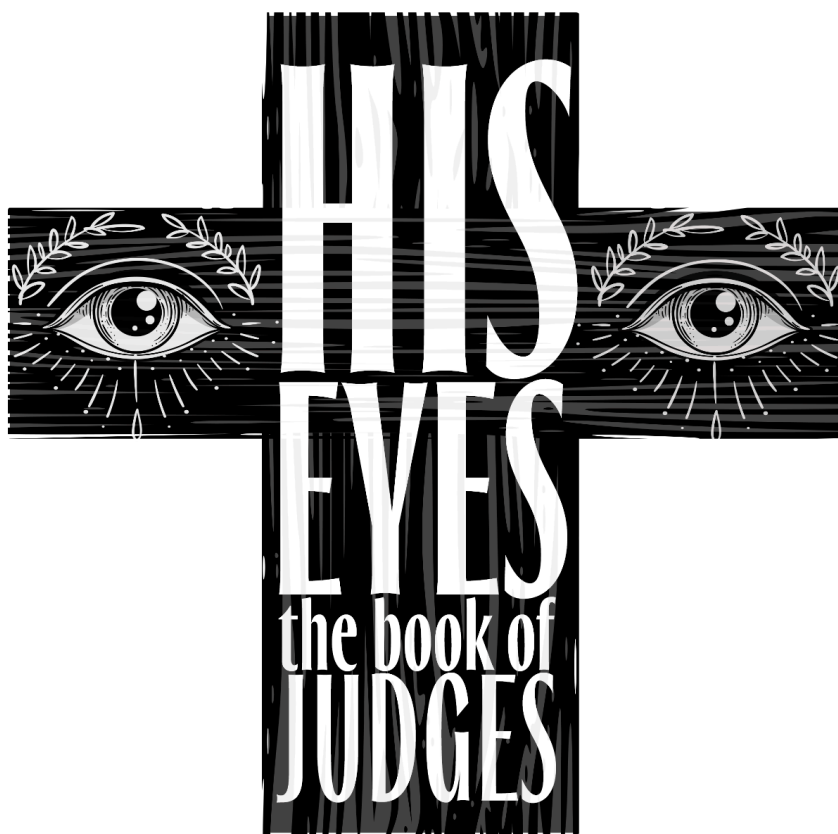


Sunday Service

May 12, 2024 - 8:30 AM & 10:15 AM

Livestream at 10:15 AM

HAPPY MOTHERS DAY!



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. 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. www.GraceLutheranPSL.com

Kids at Grace

By the entrance into the sanctuary, busy bags are available for children to use. During the 10:15 service, before the sermon, Ms. Coli will take children (3 and older) to the other building for an engaging lesson about our hope in Jesus. Children are returned to their families right after the prayers. There is also a quiet room outside the sanctuary with toys and the live stream, if families need a place for younger children throughout the service.

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.

His Eyes: The Book of Judges

In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was right in his own eyes, but they are never far from His eyes.

Blind Samson

Samson is set apart. He has a special diet and ways to groom himself. He is powerful and can defeat those who should be stronger than him. But even though he is blind to the ways of God, God is not blind of him.

---- THE OPENING HYMN

"Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds" (LSB 465 Vs. 1-4)

1. *Now all the vault of heav'n resounds in praise of love that still abounds:
"Christ has triumphed! He is living!" Sing, choirs of angels, loud and clear!
Repeat their song of glory here: "Christ has triumphed! Christ has triumphed!"
Allelulia, Allelulia, Allelulia!*
2. *Eternal is the gift He brings, therefore our heart with rapture sings:
"Christ has triumphed! He is living!" Now still He comes to give us life
And by His presence stills all strife. "Christ has triumphed! He is living!"
Allelulia, Allelulia, Allelulia!*
3. *Oh, fill us, Lord, with dauntless love; set heart and will on things above
That we conquer through Your triumph; grant grace sufficient for life's day
That by our lives we truly say: "Christ has triumphed! He is living!"
Allelulia, Allelulia, Allelulia!*
4. *Adoring praises now we bring and with the hea'vnly blessed sing:
"Christ has triumphed! Alleluia!" Be to the Father and our Lord,
To Spirit blest, most holy God, all the glory, never ending!
Allelulia, Allelulia, Allelulia!*

--- Opening

Pastor: But blessed are your eyes, for they see, and your ears, for they hear. Matthew 13:13-17

--- 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.

Holy Father, your Son prayed for his disciples that they would be one, as you and he are one. Keep your whole church harmoniously together in faith and love, united by the one Spirit. 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 HYMN OF PRAISE

"This is the Feast" (LW pg 161)

This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain,

Whose blood set us free to be people of God.

This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Power, riches, wisdom, and strength, and Honor, blessing, and glory are His.

This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Sing with all the people of God, And join in the hymn of all creation:

Blessing, honor, glory, and might be to God and Lamb forever. Amen.

This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

For the Lamb who was slain has begun His reign. Alleluia.

This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, al-le-lu-ia.

THE FIRST LESSON

Judges 16:23-30

Drunk on victory, the Philistines parade a blinded Samson for amusement. In a blind act of vengeance, Samson brings the temple crashing down on them all.

Now the rulers of the Philistines assembled to offer a great sacrifice to Dagon their god and to celebrate, saying, "Our god has delivered Samson, our enemy, into our hands."

When the people saw him, they praised their god, saying,

"Our god has delivered our enemy into our hands, the one who laid waste our land and multiplied our slain."

While they were in high spirits, they shouted, "Bring out Samson to entertain us." So they called Samson out of the prison, and he performed for them.

When they stood him among the pillars, Samson said to the servant who held his hand, "Put me where I can feel the pillars that support the temple, so that I may lean against them." Now the temple was crowded with men and women; all the rulers of the Philistines were there, and on the roof were about three thousand men and women watching Samson perform. Then Samson prayed to the Lord, "Sovereign Lord, remember me. Please, God, strengthen me just once more, and let me with one blow get revenge on the Philistines for my two

eyes." Then Samson reached toward the two central pillars on which the temple stood. Bracing himself against them, his right hand on the one and his left hand on the other, Samson said, "Let me die with the Philistines!" Then he pushed with all his might, and down came the temple on the rulers and all the people in it. Thus he killed many more when he died than while he lived.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: THANKS BE TO GOD

THE SECOND LESSON Romans 11:28-32

God has a deep love for Israel despite their disobedience, which highlights His ultimate plan for mercy.

As far as the gospel is concerned, they are enemies for your sake; but as far as election is concerned, they are loved on account of the patriarchs, for God's gifts and his call are irrevocable. Just as you

who were at one time disobedient to God have now received mercy as a result of their disobedience, so they too have now become disobedient in order that they too may now receive mercy as a result of God's mercy to you. For God has bound everyone over to disobedience so that he may have mercy on them all.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: THANKS BE TO GOD

THE HOLY GOSPEL Matthew 22:34-46

Jesus silences both the Sadducees and Pharisees, laying down the core of all Law and exposing a contradiction in their own beliefs.

Hearing that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, the Pharisees got together. One of them, an expert in the law, tested

him with this question: "Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?"

Jesus replied: "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."

While the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them, "What do you think about the Messiah? Whose son is he?"

"The son of David," they replied.

He said to them, "How is it then that David, speaking by the Spirit, calls him 'Lord'? For he says,

"The Lord said to my Lord:

"Sit at my right hand
until I put your enemies
under your feet."

If then David calls him 'Lord,' how can he be his son?" No one could say a word in reply, and from that day on no one dared to ask him any more questions.

Pastor: The Gospel of the Lord.

PEOPLE: PRAISE TO YOU, O CHRIST

--- PROFESSION

THE APOSTLES CREED

--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.

--- THE SERMON

His Eyes: The Book of Judges - Blind Samson

--- HYMN OF DAY

"Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise" (LW 451 Vs 1-4)

- 1. Immortal, invisible, God only wise.
In light inaccessible hid from our eyes,
Most blessed, most glorious, O ancient of days,
Almighty, victorious, your great name we praise!*
- 2. Unresting, unchanging, and silent as light,
Not wanting nor wasting, You rule in your might;
Your justice like mountains high soaring above,
Your clouds which are fountains of goodness and love.*

3. *All life you engender in great and in small;
To all life befriender, the true life of all.
We blossom and flourish in richness and range,
We wither and perish, but You never change.*
4. *Great Father of glory, pure Father of light,
Your angels adore You, enveiling their sight.
All laud we would render, oh, lead us to see
The light of Your splendor, Your love's majesty!*

--- 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

"Now Thank We All Our God" (LW 443 / LSB 895 Vs. 1-3)

1. *Now thank we all our God with hearts and hands and voices,
Who wondrous things has done, in whom His world rejoices;
Who from our mothers' arms has blest us on our way
With countless gifts of love and still is ours today.*
2. *Oh, may this bounteous God through all our life be near us,
With ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us
And keep us in His grace and guide us when perplexed
And free us from all harm in this world and the next!*

3. *All praise and thanks to God the Father now be given,
The Son, and Him who reigns with them in highest heaven,
The one eternal God, whom earth and heav'n adore;
For thus it was, is now, and shall be ever-more.*

----- 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)

"JESUS LIVES! THE VICTORY'S WON "

Copyright: Commissioned through the Michigan District, LCMS

"O SONS AND DAUGHTERS OF THE KING"

Copyright: Commissioned through the Michigan District, LCMS

"CHRIST THE LORD IS RISEN TODAY"

Copyright: Commissioned through the Michigan District, LCMS

---- THIS WEEK AT GRACE

Today

May 12, 2024

Services

8:30 & 10:15 AM

Live-streamed on www.gracelutheranpsl.com

10:15 AM

Second Sunday School Reception

11:30 AM

Korean Church Worship

1:00 PM

Rest of the Week

May 13 - 18

12 Step AA Meeting

Monday, 6:30 PM - 9:00 PM

Olivet School

Tuesday, 8:30 AM - 3:30 PM

Adopt-A-Street

Tuesday, 8:30 AM

Pastor at Circuit Meeting

Tuesday, 9:00 - 3:00 PM

Korean Bible Study

Thursday, 10:30 AM

Grace Bible Study

Thursday, 11:00 AM

Heatherwood HOA (Grace Hall, ACC)

Thursday, 7:00 PM

AA Meeting (Church Hall)

Thursday, 7:15 PM - 9:30 PM

Korean Church Prayer Gathering

Saturday, 6:00 AM

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

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS THIS WEEK: Vivian Hines - 5/13, Deborah Lemke - 5/15, Glenn Swiston, Victoria Thomason & Diane Heinz - 5/16, Joyce Matte - 5/18

ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS THIS WEEK: Chuck & Joyce Strickler - 5/15/1965 (59 Years).

THE FLOWERS ADORNING THE ALTAR are given to the glory of God by the Stricklers in thanksgiving and celebration of their 59th wedding anniversary, and from the LWML in celebration of Mothers Day.

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION! Congratulations to D.J. Vik who will graduate high school this Friday!

SECOND SUNDAY SCHOOL: Join us **today** for a brief Second Sunday School. Kids will share snacks, crafts, and a song with their families in the ACC Hall immediately following the 10:15 service to celebrate Mother's Day.

OFFICE HOURS: The "Church Office" is open in the ACC Complex from 9:00 AM through 12:00 (Noon) daily, Monday - Friday. The office is overseen on Monday by Diane Heinz, Tuesday - Thursday by Kevin Garbers and by Vance Ablott on Friday. Please feel free to stop by or call anytime during those hours. Office phone is 772 - 871 - 6599 After hours you can contact Kevin at 772-971-9200 or Pastor Cris at 770-328-5078.



ADOPT-A-STREET will be **THIS Tuesday, May 14th at 8:30 AM!** The meeting place will be on the corner of Torino and Conus. For more information contact: Judy Fredrich (561) 315-9555 or retslvnlg@outlook.com

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. Thanks for your Support: GraceLutheranPSL.com/give

THRIVENT FINANCIAL MEMBER? This month, May, Grace received another \$35.00 from Thivent members. So far this year Grace Lutheran has received \$1,003 from Thivent Choice! Thank You! All "Choice Dollars" that are received go to paying down our mortgage on the new building. Thank you! Thank you Judy, Phil, Karen, Carol, Peter, Ed, Vance, Kevin, Leona, Shirley, Cheryl, Bertha, Victoria, Ed, Betsy and Bernard for directing your dollars to Grace.



THURSDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY: THIS Thursday at 11:00 AM. Come here to the church or watch the Live Streamed for those at home as we study the book of Matthew.

CARE NET BABY BOTTLE Mothers - Fathers Day Fundraising campaign is starting today and ends on Fathers Day! (June 16th)

You may return your bottle anytime!

See Judy Fredrich or Pam Torell for more information.



COMMUNION: 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 is happy to celebrate the meal in a small group with you. **Please 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 and partake of this wonderful meal.

BASEBALL ANYONE????: Coming up on Thursday, May 23rd, for those who would like to go to a Mets game here in PSL ... Let's gather at the stadium at 5:30 PM and watch a game together. See Pastor for more details.

FROM THE ALZHEIMER'S COMMUNITY CARE CENTER! There is a wish list of needs to assist in the operation of this center to help provide care for our clients. If you could help, it would be greatly appreciated. **Wish list:**, Fruit Cocktail Cups - 05/13, Donuts - 06/07

(Store Bought Items Only) (Dates listed indicate a special celebration on that day)

These items are needed regularly: Seasonal Crafts/Decorations, Balloons, Wild Bird Feed, Gift cards to Walmart for crafts, Assorted Bingo Prizes, Assorted Sugar Free Chocolate and Decaf Coffee. Thank you for your support!

5/12 ***Worship assistants:*** 8:30 Bob F. / 10:15 Dave V.
 Scripture Readers: 8:30 Judy F./ 10:15 Nancy O..

5/19 ***Worship assistants:*** 8:30 Phil F. / 10:15 Ed B.
 Scripture Readers: 8:30 Jennine V./ 10:15 Coli E.

Readings: Judges 18:1a, 26-31, Romans 11:33-36, Matthew 23:2-12 (NIV)

QUESTIONS FOR THE WEEK: *His Eyes: The Book of Judges - Blind Samson*

1. We connected Samson's struggles to our own tendency to be blind to God's work. Can you think of a time when you relied on your own strength instead of trusting in God?
2. Read Judges 15:11-16 and Judges 16:23-30. What evidence is there that Samson had selfish motivation to fight the Philistines?
3. Skim over all of Samson's story from Judges 14-16. In what ways is Samson just like the people of Israel? How is Samson blind to what God is doing? In what ways are we similar?
4. Jesus comes to fulfill Israel. How is Jesus a true and better judge for us?



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.**

PRAYERS ON BEHALF OF...

Susan Becker (Port St. Lucie Rehabilitation and Healthcare)

Gerald (Jerry) Davis (Harbor Place, Senior Living Community)

Diane Fox (Port St. Lucie Rehabilitation and Healthcare)

Debra Lemke (A Touch of Class Adult Care)

Norm Neuberger (Palms of St. Lucie West)

Al & Doris Vollmann

Nancy Oldham

Thomas & Marilyn Piotrowicz

Claren Kerstner

Jenny Brendlinger

Joe Gannon

Judie Hunter

Friends and Family

Evelyn Scott (Surgery, Pastor Scott's mother)

Sarah Dowell Garcia and Fred Reynolds (cancer, friends of Lois Danzo)

Valerie Race (very sick, Gloria's niece in NY)

William Lemke (nephew of Victoria Thomason Diagnosed with bladder and pancreatitis cancer)

Donna Winters (Sister of Claren Kerstner)

Steven Zarrillo and family (who lost his wife Theresa, cousin of Leigh Liagre)

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

The lost and lonely people in the world that the message of Christ's love and forgiveness will be shared with them and they are able to find peace and joy in the knowledge of His resurrection

The men and women who are deployed. Pray for their safety, their health, and their spiritual care. Pray also for their families who live their lives without their loved ones with them.

For the people of Haiti and the safety of our Christian brothers and sisters there. Continue to watch over Meschac and the Habitat For Children's Ministries. Pray that the lost in Haiti will be brought to a knowledge of the truth of hope of Christ.