

# Sunday Service

August 20, 2023 - 8:30 AM & 10:15 AM

Livestream at 10:15 AM



## Grace Lutheran Church

555 SW Cashmere Blvd.  
Port St. Lucie, FL 34986-2034

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Pastor Cris Escher

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

## Titus: Honor Amongst Dishonor

This short letter has a huge goal. The church should be an agent of transformation - not through culture wars or assimilation, but through wise participation in culture, devotion to Jesus, and the common good. All of this helps us show the beauty of the message about our saving God.

## Today: Zeus' Cretans

Titus was called to the island of Zeus' birth, Crete. Those who lived on the island took great pride, even acting like their unhinged god. This wild behavior caused those in Greece frustration. The question is, how do you bring hope to a place that is filled with dishonor?

## ---- THE OPENING HYMN

### "Today Your Mercy Calls Us" (LW 347 Vs. 1-4)

1. Today your mercy calls us to wash away our sins.  
However great our trespass, whatever we have been,  
However long from mercy our hearts have turned away,  
Your precious blood can wash us, and make us clean today.
2. Today your gate is open, and all who enter in  
Shall find a Father's welcome and pardon for their sin.  
The past shall be forgotten, a present joy be giv'n,  
A future grace be promised, a glorious crown in heav'n.
3. Today our Father calls us; His Holy Spirit waits;  
His blessed angels gather around the heav'nly gates.  
No question will be asked us, how often we have come;  
Although we oft have wandered, it is our Father's home.
4. O all embracing mercy, O every open door,  
What should we do without You when heart and eye run o'er?  
When all things seem against us, to drive us to despair,  
We know one gate is open, one ear will hear our prayer.

## --- Opening

*Have eternal hope and rest easy, for our God does not lie. - Titus 1:2*

## --- 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, you have fulfilled our human longing for justice and peace in the coming of your Son as a human being. May he shine in our lives, so that all who see us are drawn to him as their only Savior. For he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. AMEN*

## --THE HYMN OF PRAISE

**"Jesus, Name Above All Names"** (TCH 86) (ccli 21291)

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>1. Jesus, name above all names,<br/>Beautiful Savior, glorious Lord.<br/>Emmanuel, God is with us,<br/>Blessed Redeemer, Living Word.</b>        | <b>2. Jesus, loving Shepherd,<br/>Vine of the branches, Son of God.<br/>Prince of Peace, wonderful Counselor,<br/>Lord of the universe, Light of the world.</b> |
| <b>3. Jesus, Way of salvation,<br/>King of kings, Lord of lords,<br/>The way the truth, and the Life,<br/>Mighty creator, my Savior and friend.</b> |   |

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## THE FIRST LESSON Leviticus 10:8-11

God demanded that the priests stay entirely sober while performing their ritual duties to ensure good judgment and orderly worship.

Then the Lord said to Aaron, "You and your sons are not to drink wine or other fermented drink whenever you go into the

tent of meeting, or you will die. This is a lasting ordinance for the generations to come, so that you can distinguish between the holy and the common, between the unclean and the clean, and so you can teach the Israelites all the decrees the Lord has given them through Moses."

*Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.*  
**PEOPLE: THANKS BE TO GOD**

## THE SECOND LESSON

### Titus 1:1-16

Paul is ready to defend the truth against this counter-truth filled with lusts and passions which tear down others and cause petty debates.

Paul, a servant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ to further the faith of God's elect and their knowledge of the truth that leads to godliness—in the hope of eternal life, which God, who does not lie, promised before the beginning of time, and which now at his appointed season he has brought to light through the preaching entrusted to me by the command of God our Savior,

To Titus, my true son in our common faith:  
Grace and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Savior.

The reason I left you in Crete was that you might put in order what was left unfinished and appoint elders in every town, as I directed you. An elder must be blameless, faithful to his wife, a man whose children believe and are not open to the charge of being wild and disobedient. Since an overseer manages God's household, he must be blameless—not overbearing, not quick-tempered, not given to drunkenness, not violent, not pursuing dishonest gain.

Rather, he must be hospitable, one who loves what is good, who is self-controlled, upright, holy and disciplined. He must hold firmly to the trustworthy message as it has been taught, so that he can encourage others by sound doctrine and refute those who oppose it.

For there are many rebellious people, full of meaningless talk and deception, especially those of the circumcision group. They must be silenced, because they are disrupting whole households by teaching things they ought not to teach—and that for the sake of dishonest gain. One of Crete's own prophets has said it: "Cretans are always liars, evil brutes, lazy gluttons." This saying is true. Therefore rebuke them sharply, so that they will be sound in the faith and will pay no attention to Jewish myths or to the merely human commands of those who reject the truth. To the pure, all things are pure, but to those who are corrupted and do not believe, nothing is pure. In fact, both their minds and consciences are corrupted. They claim to know God, but by their actions they deny him. They are detestable, disobedient and unfit for doing anything good.

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

**PEOPLE: THANKS BE TO GOD**

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## THE HOLY GOSPEL

### Matthew 23:23-28

Jesus, with the Pharisees listening, uses them as an example of the pious but actually unrighteous.

"Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You give a tenth of your spices—mint, dill and cumin. But

you have neglected the more important matters of the law—justice, mercy and faithfulness. You should have practiced the latter, without neglecting the former. You blind guides! You strain out a gnat but swallow a camel.

"Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You clean the outside of the cup and dish, but inside they

are full of greed and self-indulgence. Blind Pharisee! First clean the inside of the cup and dish, and then the outside also will be clean.

“Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You are like whitewashed tombs, which look beautiful on the outside but on the inside are full of

the bones of the dead and everything unclean. In the same way, on the outside you appear to people as righteous but on the inside you are full of hypocrisy and wickedness.

Pastor: The Gospel of the Lord.

**PEOPLE: PRAISE TO YOU, O CHRIST**

## --- PROFESSION

## THE APOSTLES CREED

## --- HYMN OF DAY

**“Just As I Am, Without One Plea”** (LW 359 Vs. 1-3,5-6)

1. Just as I am, without one plea but that Thy blood was shed for me  
And that Thou bidd'st me come to Thee. O Lamb of God, I come, I come.
2. Just as I am and waiting not to rid my soul of one dark blot,  
To Thee, whose blood can cleanse each spot, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.
3. Just as I am, though tossed about with many a conflict, many a doubt,  
Fightings and fears within, without, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.
5. Just as I am, Thou wilt receive, wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;  
Because Thy promise I believe, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.
6. Just as I am; Thy love unknown has broken ev'ry barrier down;  
Now to be Thine, yea, Thine alone, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

## --- THE SERMON

Honor Amongst Dishonor: - Zeus' Cretans

## --THE OFFERTORY

**“Let the vineyards be fruitful”** (LW page 168/69)

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 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.

## --- 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

**“Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing”** (LW 218 Vs. 1-3)

- 1. Lord, dismiss us with Your blessing, fill our hearts with joy and peace;  
Let us each, Your love possessing, triumph in redeeming grace,  
Oh, refresh us; oh, refresh us, trav-‘ling through this wilderness.**
- 2. Thanks we give and adoration for Your Gospel’s joyful sound.  
May the fruits of Your salvation in our hearts and lives abound.  
Ever faithful, ever faithful to Your truth may we be found.**
- 3. Savior, when Your love shall call us from our struggling pilgrim way,  
Let not fear of death appall us, glad Your summons to obey.  
May we ever, may we ever reign with You in endless day.**

## ----- 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)

“Spread the Reign of God the Lord”

Copyright: Commissioned through the Michigan District, LCMS

“Joyful Joyful We Adore”

Copyright: Commissioned through the Michigan District, LCMS

“On What Has Now Been Sown”

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## ---- THIS WEEK AT GRACE

**Today**

**August 20, 2023**

*Services*

*8:30 & 10:15 AM*

*Live-streamed on [www.gracelutheranpsl.com](http://www.gracelutheranpsl.com)*

*10:15 AM*

*Korean Church Worship*

*1:00 PM*



### **Rest of the Week**

Olivet School  
Bible Study, also live streamed  
AA Meeting  
Sr. Walther League  
Korean Bible Study

### **August 21 - 26, 2023**

Tuesday, 9:00 AM - 3:30 PM  
Thursday 11:00 AM  
Thursday, 7:15 - 9:30 PM  
Friday, 1:00 PM  
Saturday, 6:00 AM

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



**BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS THIS WEEK:** Micki Tomasch - 8/21,  
Mary Anne Roksvold - 8/23,  
Tom Potter, Jerry Freudenburg & Rochelle Fiebelkorn - 8/26

**ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS THIS WEEK:** Bill & Wilanne Kimball - 8/20/1966 (57 Years)

**THE FLOWERS ADORNING THE ALTAR** are given to the glory of God by Dayre Horton  
in loving memory of DeWitt Merritt.

**WERE YOU BORN?:** Then set aside Sunday, **September 17th at 4 PM** to celebrate! Our "Tons Of Fun Committee" is going to celebrate EVERYONE'S birthday that day with a special party!

**VOTER'S MEETING:** The BOD has canceled the September Voter's Meeting due to vacations and no pressing business unless someone feels it is necessary to have the meeting (All financial information through September will be available for those interested). Our next Voter's meeting would then be held in December for elections and budget approval.

**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 on Fridays by Pam White. 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.

**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 Judges. Come here to the church or watch the live stream for those at home.

**THRIVENT FINANCIAL MEMBER?** \$66.00 more was received on August 8th!! Thank you! 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. For the eight months this year, we have received \$1,856 from Thrivent Choice! Thank you: Joe, Shirley, Vance, Bernard, Bertha, Sandra, Robert Z., Carol, Jacqueline, Leona, Kevin, Robert, Elizabeth and Cheryl for your Grace designation of Choice Dollars.

**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.

**INTERESTED IN READING?** If you would be interested in reading the first and second readings on Sunday mornings, please send an email to the church [GraceLutheranPSL@gmail.com](mailto:GraceLutheranPSL@gmail.com) letting us know, be sure to indicate which service you would like to read in.

**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. **August & September Wish list:** Peach pie by 08/24, Peanuts by 09/13, Crème filled Donuts by 09/14, Pecan cookies by 09/21, Ice cream cones by 09/22 (Dates listed above indicate a special celebration on that day)

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

Thank you for your support!

**SENIOR WALTHER LEAGUE:** This **Friday at 1:00 PM**, we will have the church fellowship open for everyone to come and socialize in a cool place. We will provide some snacks, drinks and air conditioning. You can come to socialize, play cards or games you may have at home. Anything can happen! Let’s try it! Leigh Liagre is setting it up. If you would like more information or to help, call or text Leigh at 772-418-4298.

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**08/20** ***Worship assistants:*** 8:30 - Bob F. & 10:15 - Dave V.  
***Scripture Readers:*** 8:30 - Judy F. & 10:15 - Harry D.

**08/27** ***Worship assistants:*** 8:30 - Phil F. & 10:15 Ed B.  
***Scripture Readers:*** 8:30 - Vance A. & 10:15 - Coli E.  
***Readings:*** **Isaiah 61:10- 62:3, Titus 2:1-15, Luke 6:46-49 (NIV)**

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**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](http://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 ( )*

*Norm Neuberger (Palms of St. Lucie West)*

Gloria Solack

Bradley Lynch

Al & Doris Vollmann

Thomas & Marilyn Piotrowicz

Richard & Marie Harms

Claren Kerstner

Jenny Brendlinger

### **Friends and Family**

*Claudia Napololli (Mother of Claudette Scott)*

*Sherrie Fox (Friend of MaryAnn Roksvold)*

*Darlene Medlin (knee issues, cousin of Cheryl Nolte)*

*Don Medlin, (melanoma, Surgery on 8/7, C-I-L of Cheryl Nolte)*

### **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.***

**QUESTIONS FOR THE WEEK:** Zeus' Cretans

1. Titus does ministry in Crete, the epicenter of the worship of the Greek gods. What advice would you give someone doing ministry in that type of culture?
2. How is that culture similar to today?
3. Read Titus 1:1-16. What advice does Paul give to Titus ministering in Crete?
4. After reading Titus, how can you follow the way Paul is beginning to lay out and bring peace in a chaotic world?

**Coming soon!**

Grace Lutheran is participating in the Samaritan's Purse/Operation Christmas Child shoebox ministry. We are asking members to either fill a shoebox for a boy or girl, ages 2-14.... OR you can donate items or money. The boxes will be packed on November 11th. Please contact Elizabeth Ablott: [ablott4@yahoo.com](mailto:ablott4@yahoo.com) or (703) 371-4614, for information.

