

Sunday Service with Communion
Minor Leagues: Nahum, Comfort in Chaos
July 23, 2017



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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. 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.

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION is celebrated in our Worship Service today. This meal is for Christ Followers who recognize their sinfulness and their need for Christ's forgiveness and strength, and desire to live a new life in Christ. We receive this meal recognizing the presence of Christ in, with, and under the bread and the wine. ***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.*** All those who commune are asked to indicate their participation by marking the appropriate column in the Red Attendance Books as they are passed at the beginning of the Worship Service.

IN THE DISTRIBUTION OF THE SACRAMENT, 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.

The Minor Leagues: Minor Prophets Throwing Strikes

Waiting for Redemption. The world is going away from God's People, the Assyrians to the north and Babylon to the south. They will either be destroyed or taken over if they don't watch out. But God calls in his minor league stars to proclaim His righteousness, grace, and favor to His people.

Today: Lives of the people of God have been filled with chaos. Assyria is threatening them everyday. but in the midst of this chaos, God comes with comfort for all of his people.

(Asterisks (**)) indicate that the people stand)

**** THE OPENING HYMN** *“Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty”*

*Open now thy gates of beauty, Zion, let me enter there,
Where my soul in joyful duty waits for God, who answers prayer.
Oh, how blessed is this place, filled with solace, light, and grace!*

*Gracious God, I come before Thee, come thou also unto me;
Where we find Thee and adore Thee, there a heav’n on earth must be.
To my heart, oh, enter Thou, let it be thy temple now!*

*Speak, O God, and I will hear Thee, let Thy will be done indeed;
May I undisturbed draw near Thee while Thou dost thy people feed.
Here of life the fountain flows; here is balm for all our woes.*

**** THE INVOCATION AND CALL TO WORSHIP**

Pastor: How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news,

PEOPLE: WHO ANNOUNCES PEACE AND BRINGS GOOD NEWS OF HAPPINESS

Pastor: Let our struggle and brokenness erupt into a never ending song.

PEOPLE: THE LORD HAS COMFORTED HIS PEOPLE AND HAS REDEEMED THE WORLD.

Pastor: How God has shown His true strength!

PEOPLE: EVERY NATION, PERSON, PLACE ON EARTH WILL SEE OUR GOD’S LOVE.

**** 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** *“In Moments Like These” (Sing twice)*

*In moments like these, I sing out a song;
I sing out a love song to Jesus.
In moments like these, I lift up my hands,
I lift up my hands to the Lord,
Singing, “I love You, Lord”.
Singing, “I love You, Lord.”
Singing, “I love You, Lord. I love You.”*

THE CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

During Confession we take time to slow down and realize how we have lost God's Great Story of goodness. We have served ourselves and our interests above God.

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

Pastor: O Almighty God,

PEOPLE: WE CONFESS THAT WE HEAR THE GOOD NEWS BUT DO NOT ALWAYS LIVE IT OUT. WE FAIL TO TRUST YOUR KINGDOM COMING. FORGIVE US LORD. OPEN OUR HEARTS AND MINDS TO RECEIVE THE GOOD NEWS OF JESUS CHRIST IN OUR DAILY LIVES, THAT WE MIGHT LIVE ETERNALLY. IN THE NAME OF OUR SAVIOR WE PRAY. AMEN.

Pastor: The Story of Jesus is

There is new life everywhere. There is Good News everywhere. There is nothing lost that cannot be found, no dark place where light cannot shine, no awful past that cannot lead to a bright future. You are God's beloved; you are a child of the resurrection. Live in the hope and promise of Christ. Your sins are forgiven, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

PEOPLE: AMEN.

**** THE PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Pastor: Almighty and merciful God, the Lord of heaven and earth, Your Son has opened for us a new and living way into Your presence. Give us pure hearts and a sure faith to draw near to You as our loving parent and to ask You for whatever we need. 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.

PEOPLE: AMEN

THE FIRST LESSON

Nahum 1:9-15

Similar to the scary images in the story of Job 38, God visits the afflicted and impoverished through these images, and the impressive power He displays in His storms benefits the oppressed. Despite unspeakable horrors the Assyrians committed against the Israelites, His people still understand that their God is good.

What do you plot against the Lord?

He will make a complete end;

trouble will not rise up a second time.

For they are like entangled thorns,
like drunkards as they drink;
they are consumed like stubble fully dried.
From you came one
who plotted evil against the Lord,
a worthless counselor.
Thus says the Lord,
“Though they are at full strength and many,
they will be cut down and pass away.
Though I have afflicted you,
I will afflict you no more.
And now I will break his yoke from off you
and will burst your bonds apart.”
The Lord has given commandment about you:
“No more shall your name be perpetuated;
from the house of your gods I will cut off
the carved image and the metal image.
I will make your grave, for you are vile.”
Behold, upon the mountains, the feet of him
who brings good news,
who publishes peace!
Keep your feasts, O Judah;
fulfill your vows,
for never again shall the worthless pass through you;
he is utterly cut off.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: THANKS BE TO GOD.

THE SECOND LESSON

Romans 11:17-24

The cultivated olive tree provides Paul with a beautiful image of how believing Jews and non-Jews were organically connected in the plan of God. Pride and arrogance are completely out of place for those grafted branches. They will bear fruit only as they remain connected by faith to the stock.

But if some of the branches were broken off, and you, although a wild olive shoot, were grafted in among the others and now share in the nourishing root of the olive tree, do not be arrogant toward the branches. If you are, remember it is not you who support the root, but the root that supports you. Then you will say, “Branches were broken off so that I might be grafted in.” That is true. They were broken off because of their unbelief, but you stand fast through faith. So do not become proud, but fear. For if God did not spare the natural branches, neither will he spare you. Note then the kindness

and the severity of God: severity toward those who have fallen, but God's kindness to you, provided you continue in his kindness. Otherwise you too will be cut off. And even they, if they do not continue in their unbelief, will be grafted in, for God has the power to graft them in again. For if you were cut from what is by nature a wild olive tree, and grafted, contrary to nature, into a cultivated olive tree, how much more will these, the natural branches, be grafted back into their own olive tree.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: THANKS BE TO GOD.

**** THE HOLY GOSPEL**

Luke 6:43-49

Here is Luke's most concentrated summary of Jesus' teachings for His followers. Here he describes what life in the kingdom of God looks like.

"For no good tree bears bad fruit, nor again does a bad tree bear good fruit, for each tree is known by its own fruit. For figs are not gathered from thorn bushes, nor are grapes picked from a bramble bush. The good person out of the good treasure of his heart produces good, and the evil person out of his evil treasure produces evil, for out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks.

"Why do you call me 'Lord, Lord,' and not do what I tell you? Everyone who comes to me and hears my words and does them, I will show you what he is like: he is like a man building a house, who dug deep and laid the foundation on the rock. And when a flood arose, the stream broke against that house and could not shake it, because it had been well built. But the one who hears and does not do them is like a man who built a house on the ground without a foundation. When the stream broke against it, immediately it fell, and the ruin of that house was great."

Pastor: The Gospel of the Lord

PEOPLE: PRAISE TO YOU, O CHRIST.

**** THE APOSTLES' CREED**

SERMON HYMN

"Because He Lives"

Solo by Janice Kamrath

THE SERMON

Pastor Cris Escher

Minor Leagues: Nahum, Comfort in Chaos

**** THE OFFERTORY** *“Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful”*

*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 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: *The Lord be with you.*

PEOPLE: AND ALSO WITH YOU.

Pastor: *Lift up your hearts.*

PEOPLE: WE LIFT THEM TO THE LORD.

Pastor: *Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.*

PEOPLE: IT IS RIGHT TO GIVE HIM 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 IN THE HIGHEST.**

**** THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

THE DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

"We Remember You" (sing twice)"

In broken bread and the cup that we share;

We remember You.

In broken bread and the cup that we share;

We Remember You.

We remember You, Jesus.

We remember your love for us.

We remember the blood You shed.

We remember You.

"He Knows My Name"

I have a Maker

He formed my heart

Before even time began

My life was in His hands

Chorus

HE KNOWS MY NAME

HE KNOWS MY EVERY THOUGHT

HE SEES EACH TEAR THAT FALLS

AND HEARS ME WHEN I CALL

I have a Father

He calls me his own

He'll never leave me

No matter where I go

Chorus (sing twice)

"When Peace Like a River"

When peace, like a river, attendeth my way;

When sorrows, like sea bellows, roll; whatever my lot,

Thou has taught me to say, it is well, it is well with my soul.

It is well with my soul, it is well, it is well with my soul.

Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come,

Let this blest assurance control, that Christ has regarded my helpless estate

And hath shed His own blood for my soul!

It is well with my soul, it is well, it is well with my soul.

*He lives—oh, the bliss of this glorious thought; my sin, not in part,
But the whole, is nailed to His cross, and I bear it no more.
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!
It is well with my soul, it is well, it is well with my soul.*

*And, Lord, haste the day when our faith shall be sight,
The clouds be rolled back as a scroll, the trumpet shall sound
And the Lord shall descend; even so it is well with my soul.
It is well with my soul, it is well, it is well with my soul.*

**** THE BLESSING**

Pastor: May God bless you this week, that you may know that God is with you in
the midst of your chaos and God will lead you through it.

PEOPLE: AMEN.

**** THE CLOSING HYMN “Abide with Us, Our Savior”**

**Abide with us, our Savior, nor let Your mercy cease;
From Satan’s might defend us, and give our hearts Your peace.**

**Abide with us, our Helper, sustain us by Your Word;
Let us and all Your people to living faith be stirred.**

SENDING

Pastor: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

PEOPLE: THANKS BE TO GOD.

Today

Sunday School & Adult Bible Study
Worship
Welcome, Baby Gunnrik
Korean Church Worship
Women’s Bible Study @ Liagre’s
AA

July 23, 2017

8:45 pm
10:00 am
11:00 am
1:00 pm
7:00 pm
7:30 pm

This Week

Bible Study @Perkin’s Restaurant
Scripture Narration (Sanctuary)
Korean Church Prayer Meeting

7/27, Thursday, 7:00 am
7/27, Thursday, 11:00 am
7/29, Saturday, 6:00 am

SARAH'S KITCHEN AT THE BALLPARK

The \$7.00 St. Lucie Mets game on Thursday, July 27 at 6:30 pm is an event where proceeds are going to support the Sarah's Kitchen mission. Contact Sherry Evans (772 626-9425) for tickets.

SUNDAY SCHOOL AND ADULT BIBLE CLASS will begin at 8:45 am. Students from grades 4 through 7 will be together in one class taught by Barbara Ruzicka. We will be using the children's room. Friends are welcome. And of course, all adults are invited to participate in the Sunday Morning Adult Bible Class.

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS Kimberly Birtwell, 7/23; Barbara Morgan, 7/27; Lucille Mills, 7/28.

ANNIVERSARIES Erwin and Elma Woschnik, 7/23 (60).

*If we have missed your anniversary or birthday, **please** drop us a note in the office or email us at Gracelutheranpsl@gmail.com.*

THE FLOWERS adorning the altar this morning are given to the glory of God.

FLOWER CHART The flower chart continues to be posted on the bulletin board in the narthex. If you would like to order flowers to adorn the altar for a specific Sunday, please write your name on the appropriate line. The cost per Sunday is \$27.00. We thank you for your help.



www.GraceLutheranpsl.com

Remember to check out our website and follow us on Facebook. They're both "works-in-progress", but the calendar and information on our website is updated constantly.