

Sunday Service

February 5, 2023 - 8:30 AM & 10:15 AM

Livestream at 10:15 AM

VANISHING GRACE



BRINGING GOOD NEWS
TO A DEEPLY DIVIDED WORLD

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.

VANISHING GRACE

Christians have proclaimed the good news about Jesus for centuries. But the good news isn't sounding so good these days, at least to some. Let's acknowledge the problem and then explore how we can respond with both grace and truth.

Today: Beautiful News

What does beautiful news look like? Perhaps, it looks like ordinary, dare I say, small things, like providing for someone who's hungry, loving your spouse, and being a good neighbor. Perhaps these small things provide the cooling shade of a great tree for us to rest under.

---- THE OPENING HYMN

“ ” (LW 200 Vs 1-4)

1. This is the day the Lord has made;
He calls the hours his own.
Let heav'n rejoice, let earth be glad,
Let praise surround the throne.
2. Today Christ rose and left the dead,
And Satan's empire fell.
Today the saints his triumph spread,
They all his wonders tell.
3. Hosanna to the King of Kings,
To David's holy son!
He helps us, He descends and brings
Salvation from the throne.
4. Blest be the Lord, who comes to us
With messages of grace;
Who comes in God his Father's name
To save our sinful race.



--- Opening

How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news. - Isaiah 52:7

--- 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.

Faithful God, you have called us to be a light shining in the world. Make us reflect the light of Christ, so that people see your love and goodness in our words and actions. We ask this through your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. AMEN

--THE HYMN OF PRAISE

"Praise the Almighty" (LW 445 Vs 1 & 5)

**1 Praise the Al-might-y, my soul, a-dore Him!
Yes, I will laud Him until death;
With songs and anthems I come be-fore Him
As long as He al-lows me breath.
From Him my life and all things came;
Bless, O my soul, His ho-ly name.
Allelujah, allelujah!**

**5 Praise, all you people, the name so holy
Of Him who does such wondrous things!
All that has being, to praise Him solely,
With happy heart its amen sings.
Children of God, with angel host
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost!
Allelujah, allelujah!**

THE FIRST LESSON Isaiah 52:7-12

Isaiah pictured a city anxiously awaiting the news of the outcome of a battle. The feet of the runner who brought good news were beautiful.

How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news, who proclaim peace, who bring good tidings, who proclaim salvation, who say to Zion, "Your God reigns!" Listen! Your watchmen lift up their voices; together they shout for joy. When the Lord returns to Zion, they will see it with their own eyes. Burst into songs of joy together, you ruins of Jerusalem,

for the Lord has comforted his people, he has redeemed Jerusalem. The Lord will lay bare his holy arm in the sight of all the nations, and all the ends of the earth will see the salvation of our God.

Depart, depart, go out from there!
Touch no unclean thing!
Come out from it and be pure,
you who carry the articles of the Lord's house.
But you will not leave in haste
or go in flight;
for the Lord will go before you,
the God of Israel will be your rear guard.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: THANKS BE TO GOD

THE SECOND LESSON

Hebrews 13:1-16

By being with Jesus, we become citizens of another city, subjects of another king. As long as we are here, we should live as resident aliens longing to go home.

Keep on loving one another as brothers and sisters. Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it. Continue to remember those in prison as if you were together with them in prison, and those who are mistreated as if you yourselves were suffering.

Marriage should be honored by all, and the marriage bed kept pure, for God will judge the adulterer and all the sexually immoral. Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said,
“Never will I leave you;
never will I forsake you.”

So we say with confidence,
“The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid.
What can mere mortals do to me?”

Remember your leaders, who spoke the word of God to you. Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith.

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.

Do not be carried away by all kinds of strange teachings. It is good for our hearts to be strengthened by grace, not by eating ceremonial foods, which is of no benefit to those who do so. We have an altar from which those who minister at the tabernacle have no right to eat.

The high priest carries the blood of animals into the Most Holy Place as a sin offering, but the bodies are burned outside the camp. And so Jesus also suffered outside the city gate to make the people holy through his own blood. Let us, then, go to him outside the camp, bearing the disgrace he bore. For here we do not have an enduring city, but we are looking for the city that is to come.

Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise—the fruit of lips that openly profess his name. And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: THANKS BE TO GOD

THE HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 13:31-35

Yeast was a symbol for sin and had to be completely removed from the house before the festival of the Passover. The comparison of the kingdom with something that was symbolically negative would have been shocking.

He told them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his field. Though it is the smallest of all seeds, yet when it grows, it is the largest of garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds come and perch in its branches.”

He told them still another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed into about sixty pounds of flour until it worked all through the dough."

Jesus spoke all these things to the crowd in parables; he did not say anything to them without using a parable. So was fulfilled

what was spoken through the prophet:

"I will open my mouth in parables,
I will utter things hidden since the
creation of the world."

Pastor: The Gospel of the Lord.

PEOPLE: PRAISE TO YOU, O CHRIST

--- PROFESSION

THE NICENE CREED

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church.

I acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins. And I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

--- HYMN OF DAY

“ ” (LW 516 Vs 1-3)

1. What a friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry everything to God in prayer!
Oh, what peace we often forfeit; oh, what needless pain we bear.
All because we do not carry everything to God in prayer!
2. Have we trials and temptations? Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged, take it to the Lord in prayer!
Can we find a friend so faithful who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our ev'ry weakness, take it to the Lord in prayer.
3. Are we weak and heavy laden, cumbered with a load of care?
Precious Savior, still or refuge, take it to the Lord in prayer.
Do your friends despise, forsake you? Take it to the Lord in prayer.
In his arms he'll take and shield you, you will find a solace there.

--- THE SERMON

VANISHING GRACE - Beautiful News

--THE OFFERTORY

“ ” (LW 405 vs 1,2,6)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. <i>We give you but your own,
In any gifts we bring;
All that we have is yours alone,
A trust from you our King.</i> | 2. <i>May we your bounties thus
As stewards true receive,
And gladly, Lord as you bless us,
To you our first-fruits give.</i> |
| 6. <i>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.</i> | |

--- 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

“This Is the Day the Lord Has Made” (LW 200 Vs 5)

5. Hosanna in the highest strains

The church on earth can raise.

The highest heavens, where he reigns,

Will give him nobler praise.

----- 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)

"Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing"

Copyright: Commissioned through the Michigan District, LCMS

"Jesus Refuge of the Weary"

Copyright: Commissioned through the Michigan District, LCMS

"You Are the Way; Through You Alone"

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---- THIS WEEK AT GRACE

Today

February 5, 2023

Worship Services

8:30 AM & 10:15 AM

Live-streamed on www.gracelutheranpsl.com

10:15 AM

Korean Church Worship

1:00 PM

Rest of the Week

February 6 - 11

LWML

Monday, 1:00 PM

Olivet School

Tuesday, 8:45 AM - 3:00 PM

Community Group @ Liagre's

Tuesday, 2:00 PM

Small Group Communion (Church)

Wednesday, 11:00 AM

Community Group @ the Escher's

Wednesday, 7:00 PM

Bible Study (Zoomed & Recorded)

Thursday 11:00 AM

Foster GrandParents (Church Hall)

Friday, 9:45 AM - 2:30 PM

Tons of Fun Meeting (Grace Hall)

Friday 1:00 PM

Korean Church Prayer Gathering

Saturday, 6:00 AM

Second Sunday School

Sunday, 2/12, 11:45 AM

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

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS THIS WEEK: Chuck Harstad - 2/7, Joyce Strickler - 2/8,
Jenny Brendlinger - 2/10



THE FLOWERS ADORNING THE ALTAR are given to the glory of God by Laura Peeler in thankfulness for all of God's blessings.

COMMUNITY GROUPS: There are three community groups available, two will be led by Pastor Cris, one at his home on Wednesdays at 7:00 PM or at church on Thursdays at 11:00 AM. Another group will meet at Leigh & Gene Liagre's on Tuesdays at 2:00 PM. Join us to discuss "*Vanishing Grace*", or let Pastor Cris know if you'd like to start your own group!



LADIES: LWML will have their meeting Monday, **TOMORROW**, February 7, at 1:00 PM. All ladies are invited to attend for fellowship, fun, snacks and some Bible Study. Please pick up a copy of the Bible study in the narthex

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.

ALZHEIMER'S COMMUNITY CARE: Grace Lutheran Church Alzheimer's Community Care has been selected to receive \$1 from every \$2.99 community bag sold during the month of January 2023 at the Winn-Dixie, 281 Southwest Port St. Lucie Boulevard.

THURSDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY: Come and join us as we study the book *Vanishing Grace*. Join us either here at the church or on Zoom at 11 AM on Thursday. (also recorded)

CARENET PREGNANCY SERVICES: of the Treasure Coast, Cordially invites you to their 34th Annual Fundraising Banquet on Thursday, March 9, 2023, or Friday, March 10, 2023, at 7 PM. at the Midflorida Event Center. Contact: Pete & Pam Torell (772)708-8129 or Phil & Judy Fredrich (772)237-2626.

DESSERT WITH ELVIS: Tons of Fun Fellowship have a special night set aside on Valentine's Day, February 14th at 7:00 PM. There will be a special presentation by Darrell Dunhill, an Elvis impersonator along with desserts served at the conclusion. Sign-up sheet is in the Fellowship Room. A \$10 donation per person is suggested. See Chuck Strickler or Pam White for more info.

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.

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.



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 2022 we received \$2,612 from Thrivent Choice! Thank You!

2/5 ***Worship assistants:*** 8:30 - Phil F. & 10:15 - Ed B.

Scripture Readers: 8:30 - Jay H. & 10:15 - Nancy O.

02/12 ***Worship assistants:*** 8:30 - Bob Fox & 10:15 - Dave V.

Scripture Readers: 8:30 - Piper N. & 10:15 - Heather P.

Readings: Exodus 19:1-6, 1 Corinthians 9:19-27, Luke 4:1-13 (NIV)

Two upcoming Special Events:

1. ***"Black Ties" - a banquet meal & Bingo event for Family Meals on Saturday, February 11, see Pam Torell for information.***

2. ***"Life: Defend it, Treasure it Protect it" with guest speaker Ryan Bomberger. Care Net Banquet on Thursday, March 9 or Friday, March 10. See Judy Fredrich or Pam Torell for more information.***

QUESTIONS FOR THE WEEK: VANISHING GRACE - Beautiful News

1. When is a time when you have received good news?
2. Read Isaiah 52:7 and Hebrews 13:1-8. What does it look like when God's good news comes?
3. Read Matthew 13:31-35. How does good news come like a "mustard seed?"
4. What is a small "mustard seed" way God has used someone to bring good news to you that really affected you?
5. What might you do to bring a "mustard seed" of good news to someone this week?