

Sunday Service

APRIL 2, 2023 - 8:30 AM & 10:15 AM

Livestream at 10:15 AM

Palm Sunday



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: Power

God created the world and gave us dominion over it. However, we do not always use that dominion in a beneficial way, using too much sometimes, while other times not enough. Even Peter struggles to get this right, but Jesus still loves him to the end.

---- THE OPENING HYMN

“All Glory, Laud, and Honor” (LW 102 Vs. 1-5)

(REFRAIN)

**ALL GLORY, LAUD, AND HONOR TO YOU, REDEEMER, KING,
TO WHOM THE LIPS OF CHILDREN MADE SWEET HOSANNAS RING.**

- 1. You are the king of Israel and David’s royal Son,
Now in the Lord’s name coming, Our King and Blessed One. (REFRAIN)**
- 2. The company of angels are praising You on high;
Creation and all mortals in chorus make reply. (REFRAIN)**
- 3. The multitude of pilgrims with palms before You went,
Our praise and prayer and anthems before You we present. (REFRAIN)**
- 4. To You, before Your passion, they sang their hymns of praise.
To You, now high exalted, our melody we raise. (REFRAIN)**
- 5. Their praises you accepted; accept the prayers we bring
Great author of all goodness, oh good and gracious King. (REFRAIN)**



--- Opening

*Jesus knew that the hour had come, having loved his own who were in the world,
He loved them to the end. - John 13:1*

--- 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 of all, your only Son came as a servant and was obedient all the way to his death on the cross. Make us humble like Christ, and bring us to be with him in his glory. For he 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

1 Kings 3:4-9

The desire for a discerning heart indicates the ability to listen patiently to all sides of an issue in order to come to a true and wise decision. This is a characteristic traditionally associated with a good king.

The king went to Gibeon to offer sacrifices, for that was the most important high place, and Solomon offered a thousand burnt offerings on that altar. At Gibeon the Lord appeared to Solomon during the night in a dream, and God said, "Ask for whatever you want me to give you."

Solomon answered, "You have shown great kindness to your servant, my father David, because he was faithful to you and

righteous and upright in heart. You have continued this great kindness to him and have given him a son to sit on his throne this very day.

"Now, Lord my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David. But I am only a little child and do not know how to carry out my duties. Your servant is here among the people you have chosen, a great people, too numerous to count or number. So give your servant a discerning heart to govern your people and to distinguish between right and wrong. For who is able to govern this great people of yours?"

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: THANKS BE TO GOD

THE SECOND LESSON

2 Corinthians 12:5-10

Paul's thorn in the flesh is unknown, but we do know he prayed 3 times, like Jesus, for its removal. Ultimately Jesus surrendered to the will of the Father, and Paul does too, for "grace is enough."

I will boast about a man like that, but I will not boast about myself, except about my weaknesses. Even if I should choose to boast, I would not be a fool, because I would be speaking the truth. But I refrain, so no one will think more of me than is warranted by what I do or say, or because of these surpassingly great revelations.

Therefore, in order to keep me from becoming conceited, I was given a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me. Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: THANKS BE TO GOD

THE HOLY GOSPEL

John 18:2-12

The text does not explain what caused the soldiers to fall to the ground, but again the story alludes to the divine name "I am."

Now Judas, who betrayed him, knew the place, because Jesus had often met there with his disciples. So Judas came to the garden, guiding a detachment of soldiers and some officials from the chief priests and the Pharisees. They were carrying torches, lanterns and weapons.

Jesus, knowing all that was going to happen to him, went out and asked them, "Who is it you want?"

"Jesus of Nazareth," they replied.

"I am he," Jesus said. (And Judas the traitor was standing there with them.) When Jesus said, "I am he," they drew back and fell to the ground.

Again he asked them, "Who is it you want?"

"Jesus of Nazareth," they said.

Jesus answered, "I told you that I am he. If you are looking for me, then let these men go." This happened so that the words he had spoken would be fulfilled: "I have not lost one of those you gave me."

Then Simon Peter, who had a sword, drew it and struck the high priest's servant, cutting off his right ear. (The servant's name was Malchus.)

Jesus commanded Peter, "Put your sword away! Shall I not drink the cup the Father has given me?"

Then the detachment of soldiers with its commander and the Jewish officials arrested Jesus. They bound him

Pastor: The Gospel of the Lord.

PEOPLE: PRAISE TO YOU, O CHRIS

--- 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

“Hosanna, Loud Hosanna” (LW 106 Vs. 1-3)

- Hosanna, loud hosanna, the little children sang;
Through pillared court and temple the lovely anthem rang.
To Jesus, who had blessed them, close folded to His breast,
The children sang their praises, the simplest and the best.**
- From Olivet they followed mid an exultant crowd,
The victor palm branch waving and chanting clear and loud.
The Lord of men and angels rode on in lowly state
Nor scorned that little children should on His bidding wait.**
- “Hosanna in the highest!” that ancient song we sing,
For Christ is our Redeemer, the Lord of heav’n our King.
Oh, may we ever praise Him with heart and life and voice
And in His blissful presence eternally rejoice!**



--- THE SERMON

The Way - Power

--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

“Ride On, Ride On in Majesty” (LW 105 Vs. 1-5)

1. *Ride on, ride on in majesty! Hark! All the tribes hosanna cry.
O Savior meek pursue Thy road, with palms and scattered garments strewed.*
2. *Ride on, ride on in majesty! In lowly pomp ride on to die.
O Christ, Thy triumphs now begin o'er captive death and conquered sin.*



3. *Ride on, ride on in majesty! The angel armies of the sky
Looked down with sad and wond'ring eyes to see the approaching sacrifice.*
4. *Ride on, ride on in majesty! The last and fiercest strife is nigh.
The Father on His sapphire throne awaits His own anointed Son.*
5. *Ride on, ride on in majesty! In lowly pomp ride on to die.
Bow Thy meek head to mortal pain, then take, O God, Thy pow'r and reign.*

----- 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)

“Beautiful Savior”

Copyright: Commissioned through the Michigan District, LCMS

“O Perfect Life of Love”

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“By Grace I’m Saved”

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---- THIS WEEK AT GRACE

Today

April 2, 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

April 3 - 8 & 9th, 2023

LWML Meeting

Monday 1:00 PM

Olivet School

Tuesday, 8:30 AM - 3:00 PM

Communion Service

Thursday, 12:00 - Noon

Seder Meals at Members' Homes

Thursday afternoon & evening

Bible Study, also live streamed

Thursday 11:00 AM

Good Friday, Services

Noon & 7:00 PM

Korean Church Prayer Gathering

Saturday, 6:00 AM

Drop off Easter Breakfast Items

Saturday 10:00 AM - Noon

EASTER SERVICES

Sunday, 6:45, 8:30 & 10:15 AM

Easter Breakfast

Sunday 7:45 ish - 10:15 AM

Egg Hunt

Sunday, 9:55 AM

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

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS THIS WEEK: Annika VanDerlip - 4/2

ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS THIS WEEK: Dave & Judy Smith - 4/2/1966 (57 Years),
Hans & Jennine VanDerlip - 4/7/2001 (22 Years)

THE PALMS ADORNING THE ALTAR are given to the glory of God by Members and Friends of Grace Lutheran Church.

EGG HUNT: Next Sunday, 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.

EASTER BREAKFAST: If you would like to provide items for the Easter breakfast drop off time will be 10:00 to Noon on Saturday, April 8. Contact Judy at 772-237-2626



LADIES: LWML will have their meeting Monday, **TOMORROW**, April 3, at 1:00 PM. We have a special guest speaker, Kathy Blanton. March's Bible Study will be continued. Easter Breakfast and Mother's Day Tea will be discussed. All ladies are invited to attend for fellowship, fun, snacks and some Bible Study.

THANK YOU: Many thanks from Grace LWML for your contributions for our bake sale. All the money we raise goes back to our monthly mission giving.

COMING SOON: A "Mother's" Day Tea Party, Saturday, April 29th sign-up sheet 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.

THURSDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY: Has been canceled for this week, be sure to attend a Seder Meal. A brief Communion service with the "Stripping of The Altar" will occur at noon.



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 THURSDAY: Due to Holy Week scheduling and the Seder Meals on Thursday, Maundy Thursday, we will have a special Communion Service here at Grace on Thursday at NOON time. (no communion on Wednesday this week)

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:** Gardening Flower Kits needed by 04/14, Animal Crackers needed by 04/18, Seasonal Crafts/Decorations, Non-Toxic Washable Paint, Gift cards to Walmart for crafts, Assorted Bingo Prizes, Assorted Sugar Free Chocolate as well as any volunteer entertainment. Thank You

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

04/02 *Worship assistants: 8:30 - Bob Fox & 10:15 - Dave V.*
Scripture Readers: 8:30 - Bob F. & 10:15 - Cheryl N.

04/09 *Worship assistants: 6:45 - David V. / 8:30 - Bob Fox / 10:15 - Ed B.*
Easter *Scripture Readers: 6:45 - Hans V. / 8:30 - Judy F. / 10:15 - Coli E.*

Readings: Isaiah 65:17-25, 1 Corinthians 15:19-26, John 20:1-18 (NIV)

QUESTIONS FOR THE WEEK: *The Way- Power*

1. Where have you seen power misused in our world?
2. Read John 18:1-11. Who are the major people in this reading that misuse the power, and how do they misuse power?
3. In the midst of the misuse of power, how does Jesus respond? How does Jesus' sacrificial love show us a different use of power? Read John 13:34.
4. Jesus loves you to the end. How has he freed you to live?

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE!

April 6 - Maundy Thursday: Communion Service at 12:00 - Noon

Maundy Thursday: Seder Meal at various locations.

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