



**Midweek Service of Word, Song and Prayer  
Grace Lutheran Church  
Lincoln, Nebraska**

## Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

## Opening Dialog

God is our light and our salvation,

**our refuge and our stronghold.**

From the rising of the sun to its setting,

**we praise your name, O God.**

For with you is the fountain of life,

**and in your light we see our salvation.**

## Prayer of the Day

Sovereign God, you have created us to live in loving community with one another. Form us for life that is faithful and steadfast, and teach us to trust like little children, that we may reflect the image of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

## Readings

Genesis 2

<sup>18</sup>The Lord God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper as his partner."

What does this verse say about our need to form human community where all are partners in ministry?

Psalms 8

<sup>1</sup>O Lord our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

How does the earth give praise to God's majesty?

Hebrews 1

<sup>3</sup>He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word.

What does this verse say about Jesus? Why is this important?

Mark 10

<sup>9</sup>Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate."

What does this verse say about how God is present in a marriage and why is this important?

## **Reflection**

Let the Children Come to Me

Psalm 8 takes a sweeping view of creation with awe and wonder. The psalmist marvels at the cosmos and wonders at humanity's place in it. Lest listeners misunderstand the use of the word *dominion* in this text, we must distinguish it from *dominate*. The Hebrew word for *dominion* conveys a sense of responsibility of all humanity to care for that which has been entrusted to us.

Sometimes we have violated that trust, as the present ecological state of our world attests. Climate change created by our own lack of responsibility in caring for the earth. Yet, "out of the mouths of infants and children" God is using our youth to speak words of accountability.

Consider, for example, teen climate activists. Their actions in their local communities are now mobilizing a worldwide movement of young people to fight for the planet they are inheriting because as Jesus remarks in the gospel of Mark, "For it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs".

**Music Offering:** *Let the Whole Creation Sing* – Brent Lamb

## **Lord's Prayer (together)**

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

## **Apostle's Creed (together)**

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended to the living, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

## **Responsive Prayer**

Show us your mercy, O God,  
**and grant us your salvation.**  
Give us the joy of your saving help again,

**and sustain us with your bountiful Spirit.**

Give peace in all the world;

**for only in you can we live in safety.**

Keep the nations under your care,

**and guide us in the way of justice and truth.**

Let your way be known upon earth;

**your saving health among all nations.**

Let not the needy be forgotten,

**nor the hope of the poor be taken away.**

Create in us a clean heart, O God,

**and sustain us with your Holy Spirit.**

Lord, hear my prayer,

**and let my cry come before you.**

### **Closing Prayer**

O God, in you we live and move and have our being. Guide and govern us every day by your Holy Spirit, that in all the cares and occupations of our life we may not forget you, but remember that always we are walking in your promises; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### **Dismissal**

Go in peace. Serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

### **Blessing**

Almighty God (+) bless us, defend us from all evil, and bring us to everlasting life. **Amen.**