

Pentecost 6  
July 12, 2020

## GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

*Making Christ Known to all Through Grace*

2225 Washington Street, Lincoln NE 68502 + 402-474-1505 + [www.egrace.org](http://www.egrace.org)

### WELCOME to worship

Grace Lutheran Church, a church of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, has been at the heart of the faith community in Lincoln since 1889.

- We are deeply committed to our mission: "Making Christ known to all through Grace."
- We celebrate our purpose: "That by God's grace we have been gathered to worship, called to witness, and sent to serve."
- We are excited about our vision: "To become a church with a passion for fostering a welcoming community that strives for peace and a sense of belonging."

Thank you for worshipping with us today and join our community at any time!

### INTRODUCTION to worship

The welcome of baptism is for all God's children. This baptismal gift sets us free from the power of sin and death. In today's gospel, Christ promises that the disciple who gives a cup of cold water to the little ones serves Christ himself. From worship we are sent on our baptismal mission: to serve the little ones of this world and to be a sign of God's merciful welcome.

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## GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

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### PRELUDE *What is the Place*

### WELCOME

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Let us confess our sins in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence*

Gracious God,

**C: we confess that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. Forgive us and give us strength to turn from sin and to serve you in newness of life. Amen.**

In the name of ✠ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

**C: Amen.**

### 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.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty God, we thank you for planting in us the seed of your word. By your Holy Spirit help us to receive it with joy, live according to it, and grow in faith and hope and love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

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## WORD

God speaks to us in scripture, preaching and song.

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First Reading: Isaiah 55:10-11

*God's word to Israel's exiles is as sure and effective as never-failing precipitation. Their return to the Holy Land in a new exodus is cheered on by singing mountains and by trees that clap their hands.*

<sup>10</sup>For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven,  
and do not return there until they have watered the earth,  
making it bring forth and sprout,  
giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,  
<sup>11</sup>so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth;  
it shall not return to me empty,  
but it shall accomplish that which I purpose,  
and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

Psalm: Psalm 65:9-12

<sup>9</sup>O God, you visit the earth and water it abundantly; you make it very plenteous; the river of God is full of water. You prepare the grain, for so you provide for the earth.

<sup>10</sup>**You drench the furrows and smooth out the ridges; with heavy rain you soften the ground and bless its increase.**

<sup>11</sup>You crown the year with your goodness, and your paths overflow with plenty.

<sup>12</sup>**May the fields of the wilderness be rich for grazing, and the hills be clothed with joy.**

Psalm Prayer

Lord God, joy marks your presence; beauty, abundance, and peace are the tokens of your work in all creation. Work also in our lives, that by these signs we may see the splendor of your love and may praise you through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Second Reading: Romans 8:1-5

*There is no condemnation for those who live in Christ. God sent Christ to accomplish what the law was unable to do: condemn sin and free us from its death-dealing ways. The Spirit now empowers proper actions and values in our lives and gives us the promise of resurrected life.*

<sup>1</sup>There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. <sup>2</sup>For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. <sup>3</sup>For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do: by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and to deal with sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, <sup>4</sup>so that the just requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. <sup>5</sup>For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit.

Gospel: Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

*In Matthew's gospel, both Jesus and his disciples "sow the seed" of God's word by proclaiming the good news that "the kingdom of heaven is near." Now, in a memorable parable, Jesus explains why this good news produces different results in those who hear.*

<sup>1</sup>That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. <sup>2</sup>Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. <sup>3</sup>And he told them many things in parables, saying: "Listen! A sower went out to sow. <sup>4</sup>And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. <sup>5</sup>Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. <sup>6</sup>But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away. <sup>7</sup>Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. <sup>8</sup>Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. <sup>9</sup>Let anyone with ears listen!"

## SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY ELW 516 Almighty God, Your Word is Cast

### Almighty God, Your Word Is Cast



1 Al-might - y God, your word is cast like seed in - to the ground;  
2 Let not the sly sa - tan - ic foe this ho - ly seed re - move,  
3 Let not the world's de - ceit - ful cares the ris - ing plant de - stroy,  
4 So when the pre - cious seed is sown, life - giv - ing grace be - stow,



now let the dew of heav'n de - scend and righ - teous fruits a - bound.  
but give it root in ev - 'ry heart to bring forth fruits of love.  
but let it yield a hun - dred - fold the fruits of peace and joy.  
that all whose souls the truth re - ceive its sav - ing pow'r may know.

Text: John Cawood, 1775–1852, alt.  
Music: ST. FLAVIAN, J. Day, *Psalter*, 1562

## APOSTLE'S CREED

**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 into heaven, 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.**

### **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Called into unity with one another and the whole creation, let us pray for our shared world.

*A brief silence.*

Gracious God, your word has been sown in many ways and places. We pray for missionaries and newly planted congregations around the world. Inspire us by their witness to the faith we share. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Creating God, the mountains and hills burst into song and the trees and fields clap their hands in praise. We pray for the birds and animals who make their home in the trees, and for lands stripped bare by deforestation. Empower us to sustainably use what you have given. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Reigning God, we pray for our nation's leaders. Increase their desire for justice and equality. We pray for our enemies. Bridge the chasms that divide us and guide authorities to a deep and lasting peace. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Abiding God, care for all who are in need. For those who are doubting, renew faith. For those who are worrying, provide release. For those who are struggling, ease burdens. For those in fear, give hope. For those we name before you now.... Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Renewing God, revive your church in this place. Nourish and nurture the seeds you have planted, that we might grow as disciples. Replace what has been depleted. Sustain our ministries and deepen our relationships with the wider community. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Eternal God, we give thanks for all who have died. Comfort us in the sure and certain hope of the resurrection. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Receive these prayers, O God, and those too deep for words; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

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### **MEAL**

*We share Christ with each other.*

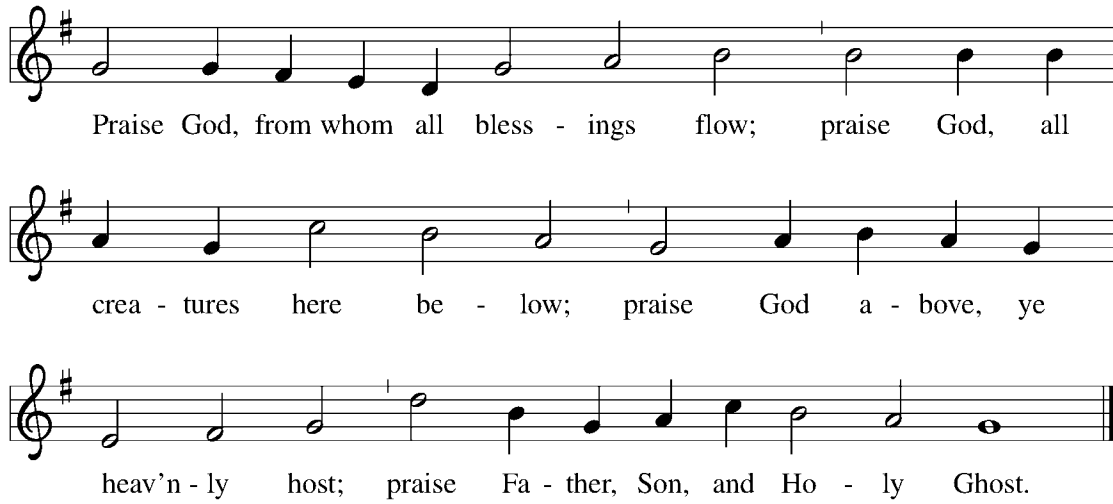
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### **OFFERING**

You can mail in your offering, drop it off at church (please call ahead) or use our online giving page on our website: [www.egrace.org](http://www.egrace.org)

### **HYMN OF THANKSGIVING**

## Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow



Text: Thomas Ken, 1637–1711, alt.  
Music: OLD HUNDREDTH, Louis Bourgeois, 1510–1561

### PRE-COMMUNION PRAYER

Merciful God, we do not trust in our own righteousness, but in your abundant mercy. Grant us, therefore, gracious Lord, the presence of your Son Jesus Christ, that we may live in him and he in us, now and forever. Amen.

### READING

1 Corinthians 11:23-25 (NEB)

23 For I, Paul, received from the Lord what I also handed on to you, that the Lord Jesus, on the night he was handed over, took bread, 24 and, after he had given thanks, broke it and said, "This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." 25 In the same way also the cup, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

### LORD'S PRAYER

**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.**

**Distribution of each element** (bread and wine preferred but not necessary)

Say "The body of Christ" and then distribute the element

Say "The blood of Christ" and then distribute the element

### POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Almighty God, you provide the true life from heaven, your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. May we abide in him and he in us, so that we may be filled with the power of his endless life, now and forever. Amen.

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**SENDING**

*God sends us in mission to the world.*

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**BLESSING**

God, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, + bless you all, now and forever. **Amen.**

**POSTLUDE** “Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty”

**DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

**Thanks be to God.**

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**PRAYER CONCERN(S):**

Our creation.

**WORSHIP SERVANTS:**

Worship leader: Rev. Eric Leshner

Organist/Pianist: Anne Melang-Thoren

Jennifer Aliwarga-Carlson