

Pentecost 14  
September 6, 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

Conflict is a part of relationships and life in community. Jesus' words in today's gospel are often used in situations having to do with church discipline. The prophet Ezekiel tells of warning the wicked to turn from their ways, and Paul reminds us that love is the fulfilling of the law. We gather in the name of Christ, assured that he is present among us with gifts of peace and reconciliation.

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## GATHERING

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

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**PRELUDE** Godowsky - Three Dances, Part II

### 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 life through faith.

**C: Amen.**

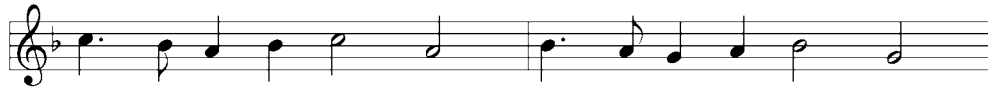
### GREETING

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.**

### KYRIE

## Enter, Holy Spirit!



1 En - ter, Ho - ly Spir - it! Come, en - joy our prais - es.  
2 Je - sus, be a - mong us. Bless us with your pres - ence.  
3 Mer - ci - ful Cre - a - tor, come, let us a - dore you.



Spir - it, you are wel - come here and now.  
Je - sus, you are wel - come here and now.  
Stay, for you are wel - come here and now.

Text: Rusty Edwards  
Music: Russian Orthodox  
Text © 1999 Augsburg Fortress.

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

O Lord God, enliven and preserve your church with your perpetual mercy. Without your help, we mortals will fail; remove far from us everything that is harmful, and lead us toward all that gives life and salvation, 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: Ezekiel 33:10-11

<sup>10</sup>Now you, mortal, say to the house of Israel, Thus you have said: "Our transgressions and our sins weigh upon us, and we waste away because of them; how then can we live?" <sup>11</sup>Say to them, As I live, says the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from their ways and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways; for why will you die, O house of Israel?

Psalms: Psalm 119:33-40

<sup>33</sup>Teach me, O Lord, the way of your statutes,  
and I shall keep it to the end.  
<sup>34</sup>**Give me understanding, and I shall keep your teaching;  
I shall keep it with all my heart.**  
<sup>35</sup>Lead me in the path of your commandments,  
for that is my desire.  
<sup>36</sup>**Incline my heart to your decrees  
and not to unjust gain.**

Second Reading: Romans 13:8-10

<sup>8</sup>Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. <sup>9</sup>The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet"; and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, "Love your neighbor as yourself." <sup>10</sup>Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.

Gospel: Matthew 18:15-20

[Jesus said to the disciples:] <sup>15</sup>"If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. <sup>16</sup>But if you are not

listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. <sup>17</sup>If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. <sup>18</sup>Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. <sup>19</sup>Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. <sup>20</sup>For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.”

## SERMON

### HYMN OF THE DAY ELW 836

#### Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee



1 Joy - ful, joy - ful we a - dore thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love!  
2 All thy works with joy sur-round thee, earth and heav'n re - flect thy rays,  
3 Thou art giv - ing and for - giv - ing, ev - er bless-ing, ev - er blest,



Hearts un - fold like flow'rs be - fore thee, prais-ing thee, their sun a - bove.  
stars and an - gels sing a-round thee, cen - ter of un - bro - ken praise.  
well-spring of the joy of liv - ing, o - cean-depth of hap - py rest!



Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness, drive the gloom of doubt a - way.  
Field and for - est, vale and moun-tain, flow-'ry mead-ow, flash - ing sea,  
Thou our Fa - ther, Christ our broth - er, all who live in love are thine;



Giv - er of im - mor - tal glad - ness, fill us with the light of day.  
chant-ing bird, and flow - ing foun - tain call us to re - joice in thee.  
teach us how to love each oth - er, lift us to the joy di - vine!

Text: Henry van Dyke, 1852–1922

Music: HYMN TO JOY, Ludwig van Beethoven, 1770–1827, adapt.

## 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

Drawn together in the compassion of God, we pray for the church, the world, and all those in need. *A brief silence.*

Unite your church, O God. Grant us the gifts of repentance and reconciliation. Strengthen ecumenical partnerships; guide the work of the Lutheran World Federation and the World Council of Churches. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Protect your creation, O God. Teach us ways that do not harm what you have entrusted to our care. Renew and enliven places suffering from drought, flood, storms, or pollution. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Turn nations and leaders from ways that lead to death. Shape new paths toward peace and cooperation, teaching us to recognize one another as neighbors. Guide legislators, civil servants, judges, and police toward laws that protect the well-being of all. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Tend to all in need of your compassion. Hear the cries of those awaiting justice and those yearning for forgiveness. Give community to the lonely and neighbors to the outcast. Shelter all who are vulnerable in body, mind, or spirit. Especially those we name before you now.... Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Sustain us in our work, O God, and give work to those who need it. Shape societies to ensure fair treatment for all who labor. Help us to love our neighbors in and through our work. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We remember with thanksgiving those who have died in faith. As you equipped them, equip us with your protection and power, until with them we see your salvation. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

All these things and whatever else you see that we need, we entrust to your mercy; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

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#### MEAL

*God feeds us with the presence of Christ.*

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## OFFERING *As the Grains of Wheat*

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)

## OFFERING HYMN ELW 522

### As We Gather at Your Table



1 As we gath-er at your ta - ble, as we lis - ten to your word,  
2 Turn our wor-ship in - to wit-ness in the sac - ra - ment of life;  
3 Gra-cious Spir - it, help us sum-mon oth-er guests to share that feast



help us know, O God, your pres-ence; let our hearts and minds be stirred.  
send us forth to love and serve you, bring-ing peace where there is strife.  
where tri - um-phant Love will wel-come those who had been last and least.



Nour-ish us with sa - cred sto - ry till we claim it as our own;  
Give us, Christ, your great com-pas-sion to for - give as you for - gave;  
There no more will en - vy blind us nor will pride our peace de - stroy,



teach us through this ho - ly ban-quet how to make Love's vic - t'ry known.  
may we still be - hold your im - age in the world you died to save.  
as we join with saints and an - gels to re - peat the sound-ing joy.

Text: Carl P. Daw Jr., b. 1944

Music: IN BABILONE, *Oude en Nieuwe Hollandse Boerenlities en Contradansen*, 1710

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## OFFERING PRAYER

God of goodness and growth, all creation is yours, and your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens.  
Water and word, wine and bread: these are signs of your abundant grace. Nourish us through these gifts,  
that we might proclaim your steadfast love in our communities and in the world, through Jesus Christ, our  
strength and our song. Amen.

## DIALOG

The Lord be with you.

**And also, with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

## PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should always and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the 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.**

## COMMUNION

The Body of Christ

The Blood of Christ

**COMMUNION MUSIC** *When We are Living*

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

God of the welcome table, in this meal we have feasted on your goodness and have been united by your presence among us. Empower us to go forth sustained by these gifts so that we may share your neighborly love with all, through Jesus Christ, the giver of abundant life. 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** *Godowsky - Three Dances, Part III*

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

**Thanks be to God.**

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**PRAYER CONCERN(S):**

All victims of the Covid-19 virus

Sick and Suffering

Refugees and Hostages

Disaster Victims

Our nation

**WORSHIP SERVANTS:**

Worship leader:

Rev. Eric Leshner

Organist/Pianist:

Anne Melang-Thoren

Jennifer Aliwarga-Carlson