



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

Opening Dialog

Jesus Christ is risen from the dead. **Alleluia!**

We are enlightened by the brightness of his rising. **Alleluia!**

Death's darkness has no power over us. **Alleluia!**

Introduction to Sunday

In this Sunday's readings the risen Christ ascends into heaven and his followers are assured that the Spirit will empower them to be witnesses throughout the earth. The disciples are told to not gaze up into heaven to look for Jesus, instead we find his presence among us in word and deed. We too long for the Spirit to enliven our faith and invigorate our mission. So, this week don't look up but look around for the presence of God in your life.

Prayer of the Day

Almighty God, your only Son was taken into the heavens and in your presence intercedes for us. Receive us and our prayers for all the world, and in the end bring everything into your glory, through Jesus Christ, our Sovereign and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Readings

Acts 1

¹⁰While Jesus was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. ¹¹They said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven?"

Where do you seek God in your life today? In the heavens or your neighbor in need?

Ephesians 1

²²And God has put all things under Jesus' feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, ²³which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

If Jesus is the head of the church then what are we? How will you fulfill that role this week?

Luke 24

⁵¹While Jesus was blessing the disciples, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. ⁵²And they worshiped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy; ⁵³and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

What joy has your faith given to you?

Reflection

“Ready, Set, Go”

On Ascension Day, Jesus is taken to heaven, but not without promises and plans for those who remain. The plan is known through three familiar words, “Ready, Set, Go”.

“Ready!” We will receive power to be witnesses throughout the whole earth. As we wait, we will receive a spirit of insight as we come to know God.

“Set!” We will receive an everlasting inheritance that gives us hope. This hope is to be shared with the world as we become the body of Christ for the world.

“Go!” As the body of Christ, we gather in worship to hear God’s promises so that we can share these promises with those around us. We become the Good News of what God has accomplished for the world through Christ.

So, watch for the presence of Christ, powerfully making the church his body. Watch for the presence of Christ, whenever the church pours itself out in love for others. As we come to know him and the hope to which he has called us, may we have open minds, enlightened hearts, and be clothed with power from on high.

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.