



Easter Sunday  
April 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

This is the day the Lord has made! Christ is risen, and through him all creation is made new! Indeed, "God shows no partiality" (Acts 10:34): Christ's resurrection truly brings life to everyone. We sing hymns of praise, gather around sacred words, and proclaim God's faithfulness, power, and love in the feast of holy communion. With the women at the tomb, we are astonished, elated, and grateful. We depart with joy to proclaim the good news of God's endless love.

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## GATHERING

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

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### PRELUDE

### 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

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Gracious God, Jesus has become the Lord of life. Increase in our lives the risen life we share with Christ, and help us to grow as your people toward the fullness of eternal life with you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

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## **WORD**

God speaks to us in scripture, preaching and song.

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## **READINGS**

Jeremiah 31:1-3

1At that time, says the Lord, I will be the God of all the families of Israel, and they shall be my people.

2Thus says the Lord:

The people who survived the sword

found grace in the wilderness;

when Israel sought for rest,

3the Lord appeared to him from far away.

I have loved you with an everlasting love;

therefore I have continued my faithfulness to you.

Colossians 3:1-4

1If you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. 2Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth, 3for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. 4When Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory.

Matthew 28:1-10

1After the sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. 2And suddenly there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. 3His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. 4For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. 5But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. 6He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. 7Then go quickly and tell his disciples, 'He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him.' This is my message for you." 8So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. 9Suddenly Jesus met them and said, "Greetings!" And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshiped him. 10Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me."

## **SERMON**

**HYMN OF THE DAY** ELW 365 Jesus Christ is risen today!

## Jesus Christ Is Risen Today



1 Je - sus Christ is ris'n to - day, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 2 Hymns of praise then let us sing, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 3 But the pains which he en - dured, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 4 Sing we to our God a - bove, Al - le - lu - ia!



our tri - um - phant ho - ly day, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 un - to Christ, our heav'n - ly king, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 our sal - va - tion have pro - cured; Al - le - lu - ia!  
 praise e - ter - nal as his love; Al - le - lu - ia!



who did once up - on the cross, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 who en - dured the cross and grave, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 now a - bove the sky he's king, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 praise him, all you heav'n - ly host, Al - le - lu - ia!



suf - fer to re - deem our loss. Al - le - lu - ia!  
 sin - ners to re - deem and save. Al - le - lu - ia!  
 where the an - gels ev - er sing. Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. Al - le - lu - ia!

Text: Latin carol, 14th cent., sts. 1-3; tr. J. Walsh, *Lyra Davidica*, 1708, alt.; Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, st. 4  
 Music: EASTER HYMN, J. Walsh, *Lyra Davidica*, 1708

### 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

Uplifted by the promised hope of healing and resurrection, we join the people of God in all times and places in praying for the church, the world, and all who are in need. *A brief silence.*

God of resurrection, from the very beginning you give the church the gift of women as your witnesses: as preachers, teachers, and leaders. Open our ears to their proclamation this day and always. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

All your creation praises you—the earth hums, the seas pulse, the stars shine, and the galaxies whirl in glorious harmonies to honor you. Let us hear and blend our voices in the song. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

The countries of the world experience disunity and conflict; we set our minds on fear and greed rather than on your rule of justice and steadfast love. Build up all countries on your cornerstone of peace. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We still weep with those who weep, and mourn with those who mourn. Cradle the fearful, the suffering, and the dying, assuring them of your loving presence. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Bless the creative and helpful service of worship leaders this day: musicians, ushers, greeters, worship assistants, preachers, readers, and all others who provide welcome and hospitality in our midst. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Risen Lord, you went ahead of us into the grave and defeated the powers of evil. We remember those who have died. Inspire us to live our lives in this resurrection hope and draw us to you in our final days. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

With bold confidence in your love, almighty God, we place all for whom we pray into your eternal care; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

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#### THANKSGIVING

*We give thanks for who God is for us.*

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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)

## Be Not Afraid

The musical score for 'Be Not Afraid' is presented in two systems. Each system consists of a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The key signature has one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are: 'Be not a-fraid, sing out for joy! Christ is ris-en, al-le - lu - ia!'. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with the piano accompaniment providing a steady harmonic support.

Text: Matthew 28:5; Taizé Community

Music: BE NOT AFRAID, Jacques Berthier, 1923–1994

Text and music © Les Presses de Taizé, GIA Publications, Inc., agent, 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638, [www.giamusic.com](http://www.giamusic.com), 800.442.3358.

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### PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Holy is the Lord, the Almighty,

**He was, he is, and he is to come.**

He is worthy of glory and honor and power.

**He created all things. By his will they came to be.**

Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain;

**worthy to take the scroll and break its seals.**

By his blood he purchased for God

**people of every race and tongue, of every folk and nation.**

Christ made of them a kingdom

**and priests to serve our God.**

And they shall reign on earth forever.

**Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

### 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.

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## SENDING

*God sends us in mission to the world.*

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### BLESSING

May the One who brought forth Jesus from the dead raise you to new life, fill you with hope, and turn your mourning into dancing. Almighty God, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

### DISMISSAL

Christ is risen, just as he said. Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia!

**Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

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### PRAYER CONCERN(S):

All victims of the Covid-19 virus

Syrian Refugees

Bob Anderson (healing)

### WORSHIP LEADERS:

Worship leader: Rev. Eric Leshner

Organist/Pianist: Ms. Anne Melang-Thoren/Jennifer Aliwarga-Carlson

### HOME COMMUNION SERVICE

We will not be celebrating Holy Communion online. It's a real time event. So here is a short service you can use to commune yourself or others in your home at the time.

#### Opening Prayer

Merciful God, we do not presume to come to your table trusting in our own righteousness, but in your abundant mercy. Grant us, therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat and drink the body and blood of your dear Son, Jesus Christ, that we may live in him and he in us, now and forever.

Amen.

#### 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."

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

#### Closing Prayer

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

## **FLOWER DONATIONS**

Thanks to the following folks for their Easter flower donations:

Cara and Dan Spitzer in memory of Norman and Jill Christiansen

Jon and Connie Thorson and Sons in memory of their Parents and Grandparents

Lee and Kiley Schumacher in memory of Frank and Vernell Schumacher and Doris Arneson

Jo Miller in memory of Delmar Miller

Janice Walker in memory of Paul Smith, Albert Stotts, and Debra Stotts

Kurt and Cindy Eberspacher in memory of Mom, Dad and Bruce Beach

Dean and Beth Dumler in honor of loved ones and their families

Chris and Wendy Apple in honor of our parents Alex and Susan Kufeldt, Gale Apple, and the late Dan Apple, the Music Ministry at Grace and to the glory of God.

Eric and Julene Lesher in memory of Jim and Amy Lesher and Lyle Jepsen.