



**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

Almighty and ever-living God, you anointed your beloved Son to be priest and sovereign forever. Grant that all the people of the earth, now divided by the power of sin, may be united by the glorious and gentle rule of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Readings

Daniel 7

¹⁴To him (Jesus) was given dominion and glory and kingship, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve him.

Why is it significant in today's world that the reign of Jesus has no borders?

Revelation 1

⁸"I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.

Why is it important that our life has God at the beginning and end?

John 18

³⁶Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not from this world. If my kingdom were from this world, my followers would be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not from here."

No armed conflict here but only submission to the will of God. Why is this important in understanding the Christian way of life?

Reflection

Love Redefines Power and Dominion

In fairy tales, kings live in a castle, usually located on a hill (a safe place), surrounded by a moat for the utmost protection for the king and family. Modern political leaders often have technologically advanced means to provide a similar level of safety against would-be attackers.

Because of these preconceived notions of what kings are, hearers will need to be reminded that Jesus redefined the title “king.” The appointed psalm says, “The waters have lifted up, O Lord, ... the waters have lifted up their pounding waves. Mightier than the sound of many waters, mightier than the breakers of the sea, mightier is the Lord who dwells on high” (Ps. 93:3-4). While a king might have the ability to sail atop a roaring, chaotic sea, Christ the King is one who stills the waves (Mark 4:35-41).

In John’s gospel for today, Jesus says “For this I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth” (John 18:37). Perhaps the ‘this’ Jesus is referring to is a motioning with his hands to the cross, the most clear demonstration of God’s love for humanity and the truest definition of kingship. Jesus redefines what power is and what people think God’s power looks like to fight evil and suffering in the world. Jesus does not resist the way of the cross with force.

Rather than protecting himself from harm in any way, the vulnerable King Jesus dares to demonstrate God’s love for all people. Jesus does not run from pain, anguish, or suffering. Rather, the risen Jesus, “the ruler of the kings of the earth” (Rev. 1:5), rushes to the places of disaster and suffering in the world. Jesus goes where storms are ravaging and have ravaged lives and brings life and calm into the chaos.

Music Offering: Soon and Very Soon – Andrea Crouch and the Disiples

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 (*brief silence after each petition*)

Show us your mercy, O God, **and grant us your salvation.**

silence

Give us the joy of your saving help again, **and sustain us with your bountiful Spirit.**

silence

Give peace in all the world; **for only in you can we live in safety.**

silence

Keep the nations under your care, **and guide us in the way of justice and truth.**

silence

Let your way be known upon earth; **your saving health among all nations.**

silence

Let not the needy be forgotten, **nor the hope of the poor be taken away.**

silence

Create in us a clean heart, O God, **and sustain us with your Holy Spirit.**

silence

Lord, hear my prayer, **and let my cry come before you.**

silence

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.**