



Epiphany 5  
February 7, 2021

## 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 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 seek 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!

### WORSHIP notes

Remember your response is marked in **BOLD** font.

**Hearing enhancement devices** are available in the entry space. Ask an usher to assist you.

**Restrooms** are located next to our chapel on the other side of the courtyard.

### INTRODUCTION to worship

In Isaiah the one God who sits above the earth and numbers the stars also strengthen the powerless. So, in Jesus' healing work we see the hand of the creator God, lifting the sick woman to health and service (*diakonia*). Like Simon's mother-in-law, we are lifted and healed to serve. Following Jesus, we strengthen the powerless; like Jesus, we seek to renew our own strength in quiet times of prayer.

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## GATHERING

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

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**PRELUDE:** "As with Gladness Men of Old" - from "The Parish Organist", Part One, Setting by Henry J. Markworth (1900-1953)

### WELCOME

#### STAND

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, whose voice is upon the waters, whose mercy is poured out upon all people, whose goodness cascades over all creation.

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin, trusting in the abundant grace of God.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Holy God,  
you search us and know us. You are acquainted with all our ways. We confess that our hearts are burdened by sin—our own sins and the broken systems that bind us. We turn inward, failing to follow your outward way of love. We distrust those who are not like us. We exploit the earth and its resources and fail to consider generations to come. Forgive us, gracious God, for all we have done and left undone. Even before the words are on our tongues, you know them; receive them in your divine mercy. **Amen.**

How vast is God's grace! Through the power and promise of ✠ Christ Jesus, our sins are washed away and we are claimed as God's own beloved. Indeed, we are forgiven. In the wake of God's forgiveness, we are called to be the beloved community living out Christ's justice and the Spirit's reconciling peace. **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.**

### OPENING DIALOG

Behold, now is the acceptable time;  
**now is the day of salvation.**  
Turn us again, O God of our salvation,  
**that the light of your face may shine on us.**  
May your justice shine like the sun;  
**and may the poor be lifted up.**

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

Everlasting God, you give strength to the weak and power to the faint. Make us agents of your healing and wholeness, that your good news may be made known to the ends of your creation, 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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*SIT*

**First Reading: Isaiah 40:28-31**

A reading from Isaiah:

<sup>28</sup>Have you not known? Have you not heard?  
The LORD is the everlasting God,  
the Creator of the ends of the earth.

He does not faint or grow weary;  
his understanding is unsearchable.

<sup>29</sup>He gives power to the faint,  
and strengthens the powerless.

<sup>30</sup>Even youths will faint and be weary,  
and the young will fall exhausted;

<sup>31</sup>but those who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength,  
they shall mount up with wings like eagles,  
they shall run and not be weary,  
they shall walk and not faint.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

### **Psalm: Psalm 147:1-6**

Let us read responsively from Psalm 147:

<sup>1</sup>Hallelujah! How good it is to sing praises to our God!  
How pleasant it is to honor God with praise!

<sup>2</sup>**The LORD rebuilds Jerusalem,  
and gathers the exiles of Israel.**

<sup>3</sup>The LORD heals the brokenhearted  
and binds up their wounds.

<sup>4</sup>**The LORD counts the number of the stars  
and calls them all by their names.**

<sup>5</sup>Great is our LORD and mighty in power;  
there is no limit to God's wisdom.

<sup>6</sup>**The LORD lifts up the lowly,  
but casts the wicked to the ground.**

### **Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 9:16-23**

A reading from 1 Corinthians:

<sup>16</sup>If I proclaim the gospel, this gives me no ground for boasting, for an obligation is laid on me, and woe to me if I do not proclaim the gospel! <sup>17</sup>For if I do this of my own will, I have a reward; but if not of my own will, I am entrusted with a commission. <sup>18</sup>What then is my reward? Just this: that in my proclamation I may make the gospel free of charge, so as not to make full use of my rights in the gospel.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

STAND

**Gospel: Mark 1:29-39**

The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>29</sup>As soon as [Jesus and the disciples] left the synagogue, they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. <sup>30</sup>Now Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told him about her at once. <sup>31</sup>He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up. Then the fever left her, and she began to serve them.

<sup>32</sup>That evening, at sunset, they brought to him all who were sick or possessed with demons. <sup>33</sup>And the whole city was gathered around the door. <sup>34</sup>And he cured many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him.

<sup>35</sup>In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed. <sup>36</sup>And Simon and his companions hunted for him. <sup>37</sup>When they found him, they said to him, "Everyone is searching for you." <sup>38</sup>He answered, "Let us go on to the neighboring towns, so that I may proclaim the message there also; for that is what I came out to do." <sup>39</sup>And he went throughout Galilee, proclaiming the message in their synagogues and casting out demons.

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

*SIT*

**SERMON**

**HYMN OF THE DAY** (please remain seated and hum or sing the hymn to yourself or reflect on the following:)

Taylor, Sarah Ellen. (England, 1883--October 5, 1954). She was born in an English parsonage, the daughter of a Primitive Methodist clergyman. At nine years of age she came to America. In 1904 she was graduated from Women's College, Brown University. In 1949 she retired after nearly a half century of teaching, which included six years in mission schools at Talladega, Alabama, and Richmond, Virginia.

How might her "mission" work in the deep south impacted the lyrics of this hymn?

## O God of Light



1 O God of light, your word, a lamp un - fail - ing,  
2 From days of old, through blind and will - ful a - ges,  
3 Un - dimmed by time, those words are still re - veal - ing  
4 To all the world your sum - mons you are send - ing,



shall pierce the dark - ness of our earth - bound way  
though we re - belled, you gent - ly sought a - gain,  
to sin - ful hearts your jus - tice and your grace;  
through all the earth, to ev - 'ry land and race,



and show your grace, your plan for us un - veil - ing,  
and spoke through saints, a - pos - tles, proph - ets, sa - ges,  
and quest - ing spir - its, long - ing for your heal - ing,  
that myr - iad tongues, in one great an - them blend - ing,



and guide our foot - steps to the per - fect day.  
who wrote with ea - ger or re - luc - tant pen.  
see your com - pas - sion in the Sav - ior's face.  
may praise and cel - e - brate your gift of grace.

Text: Sarah E. Taylor, 1883–1954, alt.  
Music: ATKINSON, H. Barrie Cabena, b. 1933  
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Music © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

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### STAND

### 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 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.

### PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Guided by Christ made known to the nations, let us offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all people in need. *A brief silence.*

For the church: for ministries of healing and wholeness, for hospital, hospice, and military chaplains, for those serving in prison ministry, for all who proclaim freedom and release in the name of Christ, let us pray. **Have mercy, O God.**

For creation: for insects in the grass, clouds on the mountaintops, for cattle and the rainwater they drink, for the humility to take our place among all creatures of the earth, let us pray. **Have mercy, O God.**

For the nations: for all who lead in cities and towns, states and countries; for community organizers, school officials, and CEOs; for international health organizations, that in times of trial, fear, or hopelessness, they find freedom in service to those most in need, let us pray. **Have mercy, O God.**

For all wearied by life's burdens: for those who are poor, for those lacking supportive relationships, for those crushed by debt, for those struggling with chronic pain or other sickness, for those exhausted from overwork or stress, and for all who cry out to you. Especially those we name before you now..., let us pray. **Have mercy, O God.**

In thanksgiving for the faithful departed, who were called by name and now rest from their labors, that their lives serve as witnesses to the goodness of God, let us pray. **Have mercy, O God.**

Merciful God, hear the prayers of your people, spoken or silent, for the sake of the one who dwells among us, your Son, Jesus Christ our Savior.  
**Amen.**

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## MEAL

*God feeds us with the presence of Christ.*

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*SIT*

**MUSIC OFFERING:** “Shine”, Pelle Karlsson. (virtual choir)

### OFFERING PRAYER

O God, receive these gifts as you receive us: like a mother receives her child, with arms open wide. Nourish us anew in your tender care, and empower us in faithful service to tend to others with this same love, through Jesus Christ, our saving grace. 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; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. 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.**

### INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Beloved: here is bread; here is wine. Here is Jesus. Come and be fed.



**COMMUNION** (Cup with wafer is NOT gluten-free. Cup with square bread IS gluten-free)  
(pull back top seal) The Body of Christ  
(pull back bottom seal) The Blood of Christ

*STAND*

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Christ Jesus, at this table we have feasted on your very life and are strengthened for our journey. Send us forth from this banquet nourished in body and in spirit to proclaim your good news and serve others in your name. **Amen.**

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**SENDING**

*God sends us in mission to the world.*

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**BLESSING**

God the creator strengthen you; Jesus the beloved fill you; and the Holy Spirit the comforter ☩ keep you in peace. **Amen.**

**DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Be the light of Christ. **Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE:** "All Praise to You, O Lord" - Tune: by permission of Brookville Church of Scotland, Glasgow, Setting by Thomas Gieschen (1931-2006)

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**WORSHIP SERVANTS:**

Worship leader:	Rev. Eric Leshner
Organist/Pianist:	Anne Melang-Thoren Jennifer Aliwarga-Carlson
Virtual Cantor:	Julene Leshner

**WORSHIP SPACE:**

After worship we will need four volunteers to sanitize the nave. Remain up front for further instructions.

## WORSHIP RESTRICTIONS

The following *temporary* changes will occur for the foreseeable future:

- As always, if you are ill or at risk, **please stay at home** and watch the service online.
- Wearing a **face covering that covers the mouth and nose is required** while you are in the building. A disposable mask will be provided if you do not have one.
- We will enter the building through the **North doors**. The doors will be locked at 9:10. All other doors will be locked.
- At the north door you will be given a **bulletin**. You will **take this home with you** after worship. Do not leave it in the building.
- There will hand sanitizers at the entrance door to the sanctuary. **Sanitize your hands** prior to entering the worship space.
- **Sit** only with persons from **your own household**.
- During worship we ask you to **refrain from physical contact** especially as you greet one another. Practice good “physical distancing”. Use a wave in place of a hand shake. 6 feet is the minimum.
- There will be **no offering**. There will be an offering basket located at the entrance door to the sanctuary.
- There will be **no sharing** of the peace.
- There will be **no singing**. You can hum or sing quietly to yourself.
- The presiding minister will **not greet** you after worship.
- There will be **no** assisting minister, reader, or acolyte
- There will be **no nursery** available.

## PRAYER CONCERN(S):

All victims of the Covid-19 virus, sick and suffering, refugees, natural disaster victims, climate change, social injustice, our nation and all of creation.

Irene Moore and family as they grieve the loss of husband and father Barry Moore.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**2021 Offering Envelope boxes** are available in the atrium after worship today or during the week.

**The Lutheran** magazine and **Daily Devotionals** are available in the narthex after worship or in the main entrance during the week. Only a few left!

## CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK

### February 8:

Boy Scouts 7:00 pm

### February 9:

Al-Anon 9:30 am

Cub Scouts 6:30 pm

Wildlife Rescue 7:00 pm

Council 7:00 pm

### February 10:

Confirmation 7:00 pm

### February 11:

Quilting 9:00 am

Bell Quartet B 7:00 pm

### February 12:

YWCA Respite Care 5:45 pm

### February 13:

Danish Sisterhood 1:00 pm

### February 14:

Worship 9:00 am

Bell Quartet A 9:45 am

## Masks

If you need to be in the church building please contact the office ahead of time so we know you are in the building and/or need access to the building. When you are here and within six feet of others then please wear a mask. Thanks!

## UPCOMING COMMEMORATIONS

**Cyril, monk, died 869; Methodius, bishop, died 885; missionaries to the Slavs  
Sunday, February 14, 2021**

These two brothers from Thessalonika, Greece, were monks and were sent to bring Christianity to the Slavic people. In the course of their work they created a written language, inventing the Cyrillic alphabet for it, and translated the Bible and the liturgy.

## **PRAYER VENTURES FOR FEBRUARY 2021**

- 7** Illness, oppression, desperation and spiritual darkness are no match for the healing and redemptive power of Jesus Christ, the Son of God and our Savior. Praise God!
- 8** Pray for all those who experience food insecurity across our nation and around the world. Ask God to help us envision how we can work together to bring relief and hope and to address the root causes of hunger and poverty.
- 9** Give thanks to God for people of all ages, cultures, races, life experiences and perspectives who are new to the ELCA. Pray that, as siblings in Christ, we will nurture and equip one another for participating in God's work in the world.
- 10** Give thanks and praise to God for God's abundant love, which "heals the brokenhearted, and binds up their wounds."
- 11** Pray for our outdoor ministry organizations and their leaders as they continue to discern and plan for adapting their ministries during the pandemic — especially as they envision what this summer might bring.
- 12** Thank God for our special relationship with The Episcopal Church, a full communion partner with the ELCA since 1999. Pray for the church, its members and its leaders, and pray that together we will find strength and new resources for the work of sharing the gospel and serving our neighbor, especially in these uncertain and challenging times.
- 13** When have you felt proud, boastful or self-congratulatory for your ministry, witness or service to others? Ask God to forgive you and to refocus your attention on the good news and blessings of grace given to us through Jesus Christ, which we are called to share without bias, hesitation or expectation of recognition or reward.