

Pentecost 15  
September 5, 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)

Network: GLC-Balcony

Password: AlphaOmega

### 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 follow 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.

**Masks** are required for everyone during worship.

### INTRODUCTION to worship

James tells us to stop showing favoritism in the assembly, treating the rich visitor with more honor than the poor one. Jesus himself seems to show partiality in his first response to the Syrophenician woman in today's gospel. Was he testing her faith in saying Gentiles don't deserve the goods meant for God's children? Or was he speaking out of his human worldview, but transcended those limits when she took him by surprise with her reply? Either way, the story tells us that God shows no partiality. Everyone who brings a need to Jesus is received with equal honor as a child and heir.

---

## GATHERING

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

---

### WELCOME

**PRELUDE:** Mignon, Op. 68 No. 35 - Robert Schumann (1810-1856)

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

*STAND*

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, whose teaching is life, whose presence is sure, and whose love is endless. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sins to the one who welcomes us with an open heart.

*Silence*

God our comforter:

like lost sheep, we have gone astray. We gaze upon abundance and see scarcity. We turn our faces away from injustice and oppression. We exploit the earth with our apathy and greed. Free us from our sin, gracious God. Listen when we call out to you for help. Lead us by your love to love our neighbors as ourselves. Amen.

All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. By the gift of grace in ✠ Christ Jesus, God makes you righteous. Receive with glad hearts the forgiveness of all your sins. **Amen.**

## GATHERING HYMN

### All People That on Earth Do Dwell



1 All peo - ple that on earth do dwell, sing to the  
2 Know that the Lord is God in - deed; with - out our  
3 Oh, en - ter then his gates with praise; ap - proach with  
4 For why? The Lord our God is good: his mer - cy  
5 To Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost, the God whom



Lord with cheer - ful voice; him serve with mirth, his  
aid he did us make. We are his folk, he  
joy his courts un - to; praise, laud, and bless his  
is for - ev - er sure; his truth at all times  
heav'n and earth a - dore, from us and from the



praise forth tell; come ye be - fore him and re - joice.  
doth us feed, and for his sheep he doth us take.  
name al - ways, for it is seem - ly so to do.  
firm - ly stood, and shall from age to age en - dure.  
an - gel host be praise and glo - ry ev - er - more.

Text: William Kethe, d. c. 1594

Music: OLD HUNDREDTH, Louis Bourgeois, 1510–1561

## 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.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Gracious God, throughout the ages you transform sickness into health and death into life. Open us to the power of your presence, and make us a people ready to proclaim your promises to the whole world, through Jesus Christ, our healer and Lord. **Amen.**

---

## WORD

*God speaks to us in scripture, preaching and song.*

---

SIT

First Reading: Isaiah 35:4-7a

*This reading offers a word of hope to the exiles in Babylon. Isaiah 34 portrays God's vengeance on Edom, Israel's age-old enemy, which makes the path from Babylon to Zion safe for the exiles' return. The desert itself will flow with water to give drink to the returning exiles.*

A reading from Isaiah:

<sup>4</sup>Say to those who are of a fearful heart,  
"Be strong, do not fear!

Here is your God.

He will come with vengeance,  
with terrible recompense.

He will come and save you."

<sup>5</sup>Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,  
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;

<sup>6</sup>then the lame shall leap like a deer,  
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.

For waters shall break forth in the wilderness,  
and streams in the desert;

<sup>7a</sup>the burning sand shall become a pool,  
and the thirsty ground springs of water.

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

Psalm: Psalm 146:1-6

Let us read responsively from Psalm 146:

<sup>1</sup>Hallelujah!

Praise the LORD, O my soul!

<sup>2</sup>**I will praise the LORD as long as I live;**

**I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.**

<sup>3</sup>Put not your trust in rulers,  
in mortals in whom there is no help.

<sup>4</sup>**When they breathe their last, they return to earth,  
and in that day their thoughts perish.**

<sup>5</sup>Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help,  
whose hope is in the LORD their God;

<sup>6</sup>**who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them;  
who keeps promises forever;**

Blessed indeed are they who put their trust in you, O God, our sure rock and refuge. Guard us from giving to any other the allegiance that belongs only to you. Shine upon us with the brightness of your light, that we may love you with a pure heart and praise you forever; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Second Reading: James 2:8-10, 14-17

*Faith does not pay mere lip service to God's will. Instead, a living Christian faith expresses itself in acts of compassion and mercy for those in need.*

A reading from James

<sup>8</sup>You do well if you really fulfill the royal law according to the scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." <sup>9</sup>But if you show partiality, you commit sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. <sup>10</sup>For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it... <sup>14</sup>What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? <sup>15</sup>If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, <sup>16</sup>and one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill," and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? <sup>17</sup>So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.

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

STAND

### Alleluia. Lord, to Whom Shall We Go?



Text: John 6:68, adapt. *Lutheran Book of Worship*  
Music: Richard W. Hillert, b. 1923  
Text and music © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress

Gospel: Mark 7:24-37

*In Mark's gospel, encounters with women usually signify turning points in Jesus' ministry. Here, a conversation with a Syrophoenician woman marks the beginning of his mission to the Gentiles.*

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

<sup>24</sup>[Jesus] set out and went away to the region of Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know he was there. Yet he could not escape notice, <sup>25</sup>but a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit immediately heard about him, and she came and bowed down at his feet. <sup>26</sup>Now the woman was a Gentile, of Syrophoenician origin. She begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter. <sup>27</sup>He said to her, "Let the children be fed first, for it is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." <sup>28</sup>But she answered him, "Sir, even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs." <sup>29</sup>Then he said to her, "For saying that, you may go—the demon has left your daughter." <sup>30</sup>So she went home, found the child lying on the bed, and the demon gone. <sup>31</sup>Then he returned from the region of Tyre, and went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis.

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

SIT

**SERMON**

# Light Dawns on a Weary World

1 Light dawns on a wea - ry world when eyes be - gin to  
 2 Love grows in a wea - ry world when hun - gry hearts find  
 3 Hope blooms in a wea - ry world when crea-tures, once for -

see all peo - ple's dig - ni - ty. Light dawns on a  
 bread and chil - dren's dreams are fed. Love grows in a  
 lorn, find wil - der - ness re - born. Hope blooms in a

wea - ry world: the prom-ised day of jus - tice comes.  
 wea - ry world: the prom-ised feast of plen - ty comes.  
 wea - ry world: the prom-ised green of E - den comes.

*Refrain*  
 The trees shall clap their hands; the dry lands, gush with springs;  
 the hills and moun-tains shall break forth with sing - ing!  
 We shall go out in joy, and be led forth in peace,  
 as all the world in won-der ech - oes sha - lom.

Text: Mary Louise Bringle, b. 1953

Music: TEMPLE OF PEACE, William P. Rowan, b. 1951

Text © 2002 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358.

All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Music © 2000 William P. Rowan, admin. GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638.  
www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

## APOSTLES 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.

#### **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Made children and heirs of God's promise, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.  
*A brief silence.*

Holy One, you bring your people together in worship. Enliven your church. Guide all evangelists, preachers, prophets, and missionaries who seek to share your love through word and deed. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You provide water for thirsty ground and sunshine to feed hungry plants. Bless all who advocate for healthy forests, unpolluted air, and clean waterways. Inspire all people to show care for the world you have made. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You show no partiality. Increase justice in all nations. Encourage leaders and governments to work with one another for the good of our common world. As we celebrate Labor Day unite us in seeking the health, safety, and dignity of all. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You accompany those who are most in need. Shelter all fleeing violence or persecution, protect any who are in danger, and sustain them through uncertain and unstable times. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You support the work of your disciples. Continue to nurture the leadership and ministries of this congregation. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You embrace all who have died in the faith and brought them into your glorious presence. We thank you for their example and rejoice in their lives. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**  
Receive these prayers, O God, and those in our hearts known only to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

---

#### **MEAL**

*God feeds us with the presence of Christ.*

---

*SIT*

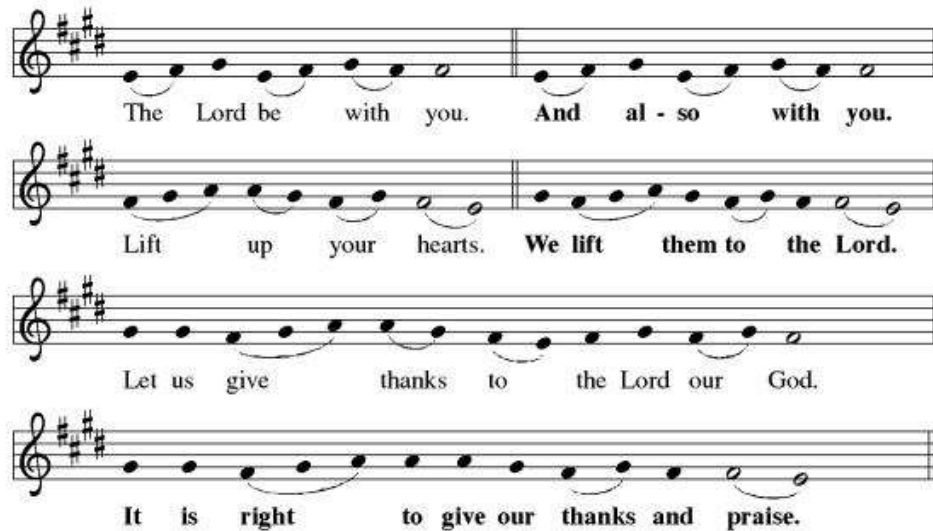
**MUSIC OFFERING:** Change My Heart, O God - Eddie Espinosa

## STAND

### OFFERING PRAYER

God of abundance, you cause streams to break forth in the desert and manna to rain from the heavens. Accept the gifts you have first given us. Unite them with the offering of our lives to nourish the world you love so dearly; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

## DIALOG



## 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

All who hunger and thirst, come. The table is ready.

## COMMUNION

*Come forward by way of the center aisle to receive the wafer (Body of Christ). Gluten free is available upon request. Move to the next station to receive the cup (Blood of Christ). Red grape juice is available. Return to your pew by way of the side aisle. Please dispose your used cup into the basket at the head of the side aisle.*



STAND

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Lord of life, in the gift of your body and blood you turn the crumbs of our faith into a feast of salvation. Send us forth into the world with shouts of joy, bearing witness to the abundance of your love in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

---

SENDING

*God sends us in mission to the world.*

---

SENDING HYMN

O Christ, Your Heart, Compassionate



- 1 O Christ, your heart, com - pas - sion - ate, bore ev - 'ry hu - man pain.  
2 As once you wel - comed those cast down and healed the sick, the blind,  
3 O Christ, cre - ate new hearts in us that beat in time with yours,  
4 O Love that made the dis - tant stars, yet marks the spar-row's fall,



Its beat - ing was the pulse of God; its breadth, God's vast do - main.  
so may all bruised and bro - ken lives through us your help still find.  
that, joined by faith with your great heart, be - come love's o - pen doors.  
whose arms stretched wide up - on a cross em - brace and bear us all:



The heart of God, the heart of Christ com - bined in per - fect rhyme  
Lord, join our hearts with those who weep that none may weep a - lone,  
We are your bod - y, ris - en Christ; our hearts, our hands we yield  
come, make your church a ser - vant church that walks your ser - vant ways,



to write God's love in hu - man deeds, e - ter - ni - ty in time.  
and help us bear an - oth - er's pain as though it were our own.  
that through our life and min - is - try your love may be re - vealed.  
whose deeds of love rise up to you, a sac - ri - fice of praise!

Text: Herman G. Stuempfle Jr., 1923–2007

Music: ELLACOMBE, German melody, 18th cent.; adapt. X. L. Hartig, *Melodien zum Mainzer Gesangbuche*, 1833

Text © 2000 GIA Publications, Inc. 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638 [www.giamusic.com](http://www.giamusic.com)

800.442.3358. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

## **BLESSING**

People of God, you are Christ's body, bringing new life to a suffering world. The holy Trinity, ☩ one God, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

## **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. The living Word dwells in you. **Thanks be to God.**

## **POSTLUDE:** O Day of Rest and Gladness - Setting by Donald Johns (b. 1926)

Copyright © 2021 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SAS012714.

New Revised Standard Version Bible, Copyright © 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Revised Common Lectionary, Copyright © 1992 Consultation on Common Texts, admin Augsburg Fortress. Used by permission.

## **WORSHIP LEADERS:**

Worship leader:	Rev. Eric Leshner
Organist/Pianist:	Ms. Jennifer Aliwarga-Carlson

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Coffee and cookies** in the gym following worship. Please sign up outside the office to host a coffee hour.

**Green attendance cards** can be filled out and returned to the Offering basket in the front of the church or the Welcome Table basket in the back of the church.

### **2021 CROP Hunger Walk**

The Lincoln CROP Hunger Walk is October 10<sup>th</sup>. To sign up or to donate, go to:

<https://events.crophungerwalk.org/2021/event/lincolne>

If someone would like to start a Grace Lutheran Team, please let Pr. Eric know.

**UNL Campus Ministry** is looking for volunteers from local congregations to cook a meal for the student congregation at the Lutheran Center following the 11am Sunday service.

They cook for about 40-60 people. You can bring the food prepared or prepare it here at the Lutheran Center (new commercial kitchen!) the Saturday before or Sunday morning, and you can attend worship with us as well. You can also provide your own ingredients, or we can purchase them for you with a \$100 budget. We do have members who are vegetarian, gluten free, and dairy free, so we ask that you could accommodate them in the meal also. We hope to hear back from you soon. Here is the sign-up link:

<https://forms.gle/CiKrZa2hZHxK4qJy6>

Sincerely,

Melissa Graue

[mgraue0121@gmail.com](mailto:mgraue0121@gmail.com)

**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 atrium during the week.

**Flower chart** is available in the atrium. You can sign up for flowers there and leave through the east main entrance.

**Prayers** for those impacted by Hurricane Ida.

Prayers of healing for Phyllis Holmstrom, Ken's mother, as she undergoes treatment for lung cancer.

Prayer of healing for Emma Cecava, a friend of Anne Melang-Thoren, as she struggles with seizures.

## CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK

### September 6:

Boy Scouts 7:00 pm

### September 7:

Al-Anon 9:30 am

Lessons 4:00 pm

Cub Scouts 6:30 pm

Committees 7:00 pm

### September 8:

Bell Choir A 6:00 pm

Bell Choir B 7:00 pm

### September 9:

Quilting 9:00 am

### September 11:

Worship 5:30 pm

### September 12:

Worship 9:00 am

Adult Choir 10:15 am

## 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.
- **Masks are required for everyone during worship.**
- We will enter the building through the **North doors**. The doors will be locked at 9:10. All other doors will be locked.
- There will **hand sanitizers** in the narthex. If you wish you can sanitize your hands prior to entering the worship space.
- 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.
- The presiding minister will **greet** you in the narthex after the postlude.
- There will be **no** reader, or acolyte
- There will be **no nursery** available.