



Easter 3
April 26, 2020

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Making Christ Known to all Through Grace

2225 Washington Street, Lincoln NE 68502 + 402-474-1505 + 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

Today's gospel begins with two disciples walking to Emmaus, overcome with sadness, loss, and disappointment. They had hoped Jesus, who was crucified, would be the one to redeem Israel! They don't understand that His suffering was the path to His glory.

GATHERING

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

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.

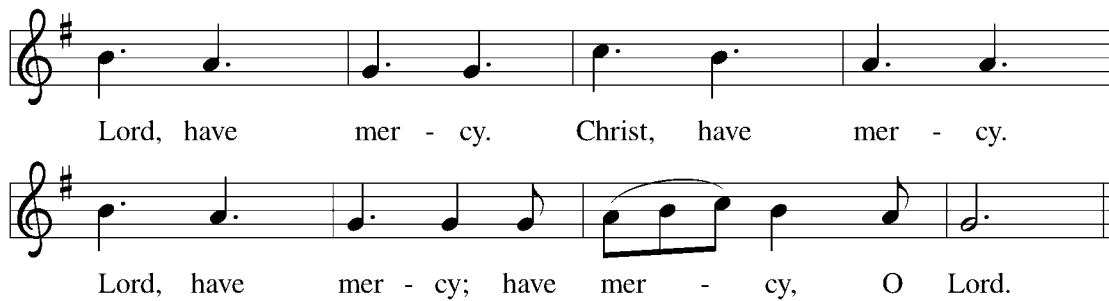
GREETING

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

KYRIE

Kyrie



Music: *Mass No. 1*, Avon Gillespie
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PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God, open the eyes of our faith, that we may see Jesus' redeeming work in our uncertainty, for He lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture, preaching and song.

READINGS

First Reading: Acts 2:14a, 37-38, 41

^{14a}Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed [the crowd], ³⁶"Therefore let the entire house of Israel know with certainty that God has made him both Lord and Messiah, this Jesus whom you crucified."

³⁷Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and to the other apostles, "Brothers, what should we do?" ³⁸Peter said to them, "Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit... ⁴¹So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added.

Second Reading: 1 Peter 1:18-23

¹⁸You know that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your ancestors, not with perishable things like silver or gold, ¹⁹but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without defect or blemish.

²⁰He was destined before the foundation of the world, but was revealed at the end of the ages for your sake.

²¹Through him you have come to trust in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are set on God.

²²Now that you have purified your souls by your obedience to the truth so that you have genuine mutual love, love one another deeply from the heart. ²³You have been born anew, not of perishable but of imperishable seed, through the living and enduring word of God.

Gospel: Luke 24:13-25

¹³Now on that same day [when Jesus had appeared to Mary Magdalene,] two [disciples] were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, ¹⁴and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. ¹⁵While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, ¹⁶but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. ¹⁷And he said to them, “What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?” They stood still, looking sad. ¹⁸Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, “Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?” ¹⁹He asked them, “What things?” They replied, “The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, ²⁰and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. ²¹But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. ²²Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, ²³and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. ²⁴Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but they did not see him.” ²⁵Then he said to them, “Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! ²⁶Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?”

SERMON

Christ Is Alive! Let Christians Sing



1 Christ is a - live! Let Chris - tians sing. The cross stands
2 Christ is a - live! No long - er bound to dis - tant
3 In ev - 'ry in - sult, rift, and war, where col - or,
4 Wom - en and men, in age and youth, can feel the
5 Christ is a - live, and comes to bring good news to



emp - ty to the sky. Let streets and homes with
years in Pal - es - tine, but sav - ing, heal - ing,
scorn, or wealth di - vide, Christ suf - fers still, yet
Spir - it, hear the call, and find the way, the
this and ev - 'ry age, till earth and sky and



prais - es ring. Love, drowned in death, shall nev - er die.
here and now, and touch - ing ev - 'ry place and time.
loves the more, and lives, where e - ven hope has died.
life, the truth, re - vealed in Je - sus, freed for all.
o - cean ring with joy, with jus - tice, love, and praise.

Text: Brian A. Wren, b. 1936

Music: TRURO, T. Williams, *Psalmody Evangelica*, 1789

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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.*

For those whose hearts are fervent with love for your gospel, that they are empowered to tell the story of your love in their lives and to show hospitality in response to this love. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For the diverse natural world: for jungles, prairies, forests, valleys, mountains, and for all the wild and endangered animals who call these spaces home, that they are nurtured and protected. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For broken systems we have inherited and that we continue to perpetuate, forgive us. Restrain the nations from fighting over limited resources. Redeem us from the cycles of scarcity and violence. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For all who call upon your healing name, give rest. Stay with us, and walk with all those who are hungry, friendless, despairing, and desiring healing in body and spirit. We especially pray for those we now name before.... Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Create in our hearts a yearning to rest in your promise of eternal and resurrected life. Give us thankful hearts for those who have died, even as we look forward to the hope of new life with you. 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.**

THANKSGIVING

We give thanks for who God is for us.

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

HYMN OF THANKSGIVING ELW 823 Praise the Lord! O Heavens

Praise the Lord! O Heavens



- 1 Praise the Lord! O heav'ns, a - dore him; praise him, an - gels, in the height;
2 Praise the Lord, for he is gra - cious; nev - er shall his prom - ise fail.



sun and moon, re - joice be - fore him; praise him, gleam - ing stars and light.
God has made his saints vic - to - rious; sin and death shall not pre - vail.



Praise the Lord, for he has spo - ken; worlds his might - y voice o - beyed;
Praise the God of our sal - va - tion; hosts on high, his pow'r pro - claim;



laws which nev - er shall be bro - ken for their guid - ance he has made.
heav'n and earth, and all cre - a - tion, laud and mag - ni - fy his name!

Text: *Foundling Hospital Collection*, London, 1796
Music: AUSTRIA, Franz Joseph Haydn, 1732–1809

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.

SENDING

God sends us in mission to the world.

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.**

POSTLUDE:

DISMISSAL

Christ is risen. 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), Janet Jodais (comfort), Steve and Tricia Rosno (hope), Robert Stimbert (healing)

WORSHIP LEADERS:

Worship leader: Rev. Eric Leshner

Organist/Pianist: Ms. Anne Melang-Thoren

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 this time. This is a "blessed" event because Pr. Eric is giving you permission to celebrate the meal during an abnormal time. But remember there have been Christian communities who existed for decades without the Eucharistic for reasons beyond their control. In other words, we've been through this before.

Opening Prayer

Merciful God, we do not trust in our own righteousness, but in your abundant mercy. Grant us, therefore, gracious Lord, the presence of your Son Jesus Christ, that we may live in him and he in us, now and forever. Amen.

Reading

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. May we abide in him and he in us, so that we may be filled with the power of his endless life, now and forever. Amen.