



Reformation Sunday
October 25, 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 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

Rooted in the past and growing into the future, the church must always be reformed to live out the love of Christ in an ever-changing world. We celebrate the good news of God's grace, that Jesus Christ sets us free every day to do this life-transforming work. Trusting in the freedom given to us in baptism, we pray for the church, that Christians will unite more fully in worship and mission.

GATHERING

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

PRELUDE "Erhalt uns, Herr", Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word, setting by Thomas Gieschen

WELCOME

STAND

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 life through faith.

C: 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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Gracious Father, we pray for your holy catholic church. Fill it with all truth and peace. Where it is corrupt, purify it; where it is in error, direct it; where in anything it is amiss, reform it; where it is right, strengthen it; where it is in need, provide for it; where it is divided, reunite it; for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior, who 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.

SIT

First Reading: Jeremiah 31:31-34

A reading from Jeremiah:

³¹The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ³²It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD. ³³But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ³⁴No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, “Know the LORD,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

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

Psalm: Psalm 46:1-3, 10-11

Let us read responsively Psalm 46:

¹God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in trouble.

²**Therefore we will not fear, though the earth be moved,
and though the mountains shake in the depths of the sea;**

³though its waters rage and foam,
and though the mountains tremble with its tumult.

¹⁰**“Be still, then, and know that I am God;
I will be exalted among the nations; I will be exalted in the earth.”**

¹¹The LORD of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

Second Reading: Romans 3:21-28

A reading from Romans:

²¹But now, apart from law, the righteousness of God has been disclosed, and is attested by the law and the prophets, ²²the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction, ²³since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; ²⁴they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, ²⁵whom God put forward as a sacrifice of atonement by his blood, effective through faith. He did this to show his righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over the sins previously committed; ²⁶it was to prove now that he himself is righteous and that he justifies the one who has faith in Jesus. ²⁷Then what becomes of boasting? It is excluded. By what law? By that of works? No, but by the law of faith. ²⁸For we hold that a person is justified by faith apart from works prescribed by the law.

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

STAND

Gospel: John 8:31-36

The holy gospel according to St. John. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

³¹Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, "If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; ³²and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free." ³³They answered him, "We are descendants of Abraham and have never been slaves to anyone. What do you mean by saying, 'You will be made free'?"

³⁴Jesus answered them, "Very truly, I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. ³⁵The slave does not have a permanent place in the household; the son has a place there forever. ³⁶So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed."

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

SERMON

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

Luther wrote some 36 hymns. "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God," however, is far and away the most well known.

Based on Psalm 46, the hymn is a celebration of the sovereign power of God over all earthly and spiritual forces, and of the sure hope we have in him because of Christ.

The hymn became closely associated with Luther himself, as it embodied in its words and melody so much of the character of its author. Bold, confident, and defiant in the face of opposition. It is believed that the hymn was written in October 1527 as the plague was approaching.

What does this hymn offer you as we face our own "plague" today?

"A Mighty Fortress is Our God", Martin Luther, c. 1527, arr. Dan Forrest, 2016 – sung by the Virtual Choir

A mighty fortress is our God, a bulwark never failing.
Our helper He, amid the flood of mortal ills prevailing.
For still our ancient foe now seeks to work us woe;
His wrath and power are great and armed with cruel hate,
Oh earth is not his equal.

Did we in our own strength confide, our striving would be losing.
Were not the right Man on our side the Man of God's own choosing.
Dost ask who that may be? Christ Jesus, it is He:
Lord Sabaoth His name, from age to age the same,
and He must win the battle.

And though this world, with devils filled, should threaten to undo us,
We will not fear, for God hath willed His truth to triumph through us.
The prince of darkness grim. we tremble not for him;
his rage we can endure, for lo, his doom is sure.
One little word shall fell him.

That Word above all earthly powers no thanks to them, abideth;
The Spirit and the gifts are ours through Him who with us sideth.
Let goods and kindred go, this mortal life also.
The body they may kill; God's truth abideth still.
His kingdom is forever!

STAND

NICENE CREED

We believe in one God,
 the Father, the Almighty,
 maker of heaven and earth,
 of all that is, seen and unseen.
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
 the only Son of God,
 eternally begotten of the Father,
 God from God, Light from Light,
 true God from true God,
 begotten, not made,
 of one Being with the Father;
 through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
 he came down from heaven,
 was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
 and became truly human.
 For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;

he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

With confidence in God's grace and mercy, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need. *A brief silence.*

Renew and inspire the church in the freedom of the gospel, O God. Where the church is in error, reform it. Where the church speaks your truth, strengthen it. Where the church is divided, unify it. Ignite in us the working of the Holy Spirit. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

As the earth changes, as mountains shake and the waters roar, may we care for this planet as a holy habitation for all living things. Sustain all peoples and lands recovering from natural disasters of any kind. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Guide areas of the world divided or traumatized by conflict, especially in our own land. Free all from slavery and human trafficking, and protect all in harm's way. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Release those living in bondage to debts, chronic pain, or addiction. Grant healing touch to those who are ill. Especially those we name before you now, Marian,.... Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

In this family of faith, we give thanks for courageous voices that have remained firm in their commitment to the one who frees us from sin and death. We pray especially for Erin Krueger as she affirms her faith today. Stir up in her the gift of your Holy Spirit; confirm her faith, guide her life, empower her serving, give her patience in suffering, and bring her to everlasting life. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Even in death, you free us and give us a place in your house. We give thanks for our ancestors who have shown us truth and freedom, especially Martin Luther and those who work for the renewal of the church. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Listen as we call on you, O God, and enfold in your loving arms all for whom we pray, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Christ.

SIT

MUSIC OFFERING: "Adoro te Devote", Eternal Spirit of the Living Christ, Processionale, Paris, 1697, arr. Anne Krentz Organ, 2019

OFFERING PRAYER

God of goodness and growth, all creation is yours, and your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens. Water and word, wine and bread: these are signs of your abundant grace. Nourish us through these gifts, that we might proclaim your steadfast love in our communities and in the world, through Jesus Christ, our strength and our song. 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. 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.

COMMUNION (remove the silver tab and then peel back each seal to access the wafer and grape juice)
(pull back top seal) The Body of Christ
(pull back bottom seal) The Blood of Christ

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

God of the welcome table, in this meal we have feasted on your goodness and have been united by your presence among us. Empower us to go forth sustained by these gifts so that we may share your neighborly love with all, through Jesus Christ, the giver of abundant life. Amen.

SENDING

God sends us in mission to the world.

BLESSING

God, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, + bless you all, now and forever. **Amen.**

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is with you. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE "Ein Feste Burg", A Mighty Fortress is Our God, setting by Johann Gottfried Walther

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WORSHIP SERVANTS:

Worship leader:	Rev. Eric Leshner
Organist/Pianist:	Anne Melang-Thoren Jennifer Aliwarga-Carlson
Bell Quartet:	Wendy Apple, Dave Ripa, Bev Madison, Chris Apple

WORSHIP SPACE:

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

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.

We especially pray this day, prayers of healing, for Marian Vermeline, mother of Connie Whyrick.

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. 12 feet is recommended.
- 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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today

Today in our prayers we recognize the Affirmation of Baptism for Erin Krueger. She has opted out of a public ceremony due to the pandemic.

All Saints Sunday

Tea lights will be available for you to light next week and place in a window sill in memory of a loved one who has joined the saints triumphant!

Lincoln Food Pantry List

Listed below are items most needed by the Pantry at this time:

- Canned fruit--especially peaches and pears
- Tomato soup
- Cream of chicken soup
- Pork and beans
- Canned chicken and/or Spam
- Dry noodles
- Jelly

As always, personal care items (shampoo, bath soap, toothbrushes/tooth paste) are always needed.

Thank you for your continued support of the Lutheran Food Pantry located at St. Andrew Lutheran Church.

- *Tom & Lynn Ochsner, Coordinators*

Reminder: St. Andrew's office hours are currently 8-12 Tuesday through Friday. You can drop off food donations during these hours. Requests for a food box must be made through the Grace Lutheran office.

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!

CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK

October 26:

Lincoln Literacy	9 am
Boy Scouts	7 pm

October 27:

Al-Anon	9:30 am
Cub Scouts	6:30 pm

October 28:

Confirmation	7 pm
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October 22:

Men's Bible study	6:30 am
Quilting	9 pm
Lincoln Literacy	9-11am
Narcotics Anonymous	7 pm
Bell Quartet B	7 pm

November 1:

Worship	9 pm
Bell Quartet A	9:45 am