



**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 God, your sovereign purpose brings salvation to birth. Give us faith to be steadfast amid the tumults of this world, trusting that your kingdom comes and your will is done through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Readings

Daniel 12

³Those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the sky,...

Silence

How does your faith shine through you?

Psalm 16

⁹My heart, therefore, is glad, and my spirit rejoices; my body also shall rest in hope.

Silence

What rest do you find in hope?

Hebrews 10

²⁴And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, ²⁵not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

Silence

How are you encouraging people around you today?

Mark 13

¹As [Jesus] came out of the temple, one of his disciples said to him, "Look, Teacher, what large stones and what large buildings!"

Silence

Where do you find your inner strength? In what you have done? Or in what God is doing for you and through you?

Reflection

Real Strength

What makes something strong? Is steel strong because of its ability to withstand stress from many directions? Is wood strong because of its ability to absorb impact while remaining intact? Is the material of a spider's web strong because of its tensile strength-to-weight ratio? Things are strong for many reasons. The temple in Jerusalem was thought to be stronger and more permanent than anything, yet Jesus says in Mark, "Not one stone will be left here upon another; all will be thrown down" (Mark 13:2). Jesus shows hearers that true strength is not built upon the oppression of widows (Mark 12:41-44).

Many of the world's most prized structures are built on the shoulders of the poor and oppressed. How many homes in poorer areas of cities have been destroyed by the need for a new or wider highway? How many workers living in poverty died building the Golden Gate or Brooklyn Bridges, the Hoover Dam or the Empire State Building? In order for human beings to build structures of great strength, they must rely on sacrifice and compromise. Can any human standard of strength be achieved without making something else weak?

Real strength, however, is not shown in things built by human hands. Real strength is found in the hands themselves. True strength is shown in workers reporting to work day after day in impossible conditions because it's the only way to feed their family. It is shown by an entire community of God's people linking their trembling hands as they share the "confession of our hope without wavering" (Heb. 10:23). The new, true temple, Jesus' faithful strength, succumbs in weakness to human-made nails. While the nails lie rusting away, the wounded hands and body rise again to break bread with all on the journey down the path of life. Real strength is found in the lives of those who "hope without wavering".

Music Offering: My Lord, What a Morning - Lunasa

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.**