



Open My Life, Lord

Lenten Midweek Service

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Making Christ Known to all Through Grace

2225 Washington Street, Lincoln NE 68502 + 402-474-1505 + www.egrace.org

stand

OPENING DIALOG

Open our hearts, Lord, to behold your ways.

Teach us to walk in your commandments.

Grant us grace to know and understand your will,

for all that we are in body and soul is a gift from you.

Lord, you are the everlasting Truth,

the one who speaks the words of eternal life.

Open our hearts, Lord, to behold your ways.

Teach us to walk in your commandments.

(Based on Thomas à Kempis, 1380–1471, The Imitation of Christ, trans. Richard Whitford, ca. 1530)

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

Open our hearts, Lord, and fill us with your love. Grant us strength and courage, remove our hard-heartedness, and turn us always to you. In Jesus' name we pray. **Amen.**

sit

READINGS

A reading from_____.

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

2 Corinthians 6:11-13, 16

Psalm 28

Acts 16:11-15

REFLECTION

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Hymn of the Day *ELW 800 Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart*

- 1 Spirit of God, descend upon my heart;
wean it from earth, through all its pulses move;
stoop to my weakness, strength to me impart,
and make me love you as I ought to love.
- 2 I ask no dream, no prophet ecstasies,
no sudden rending of the veil of clay,
no angel visitant, no op'ning skies;
but take the dimness of my soul away.

- 3 Have you not bid me love you, God and King;
all, all your own, soul, heart, and strength, and mind?
I see your cross; there teach my heart to cling.
Oh, let me seek you and, oh, let me find!
- 4 Teach me to love you as your angels love,
one holy passion filling all my frame:
the baptism of the heav'n-descended dove,
my heart an altar, and your love the flame.

Text: George Croly, 1780-1860

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CLOSING PRAYER

Lord of all life, when we cannot see the beauty of your creation,

open our eyes, that all living things thrive and grow.

When we neglect the poor, the sick, and the grieving,

open our hands to do your work in the world.

When we ignore the cries of injustice in our midst,

open our ears, that all will know your love.

When we are hardened against our neighbor,

open our hearts and heal our resentment.

When we are closed to the grace you long to give us,

open our lives and turn us to follow in the way of the cross.

Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER



Our Fa - ther in heav - en, hal - lowed be your name,
your king-dom come, your will be done, on earth as in heav - en.
Give us to - day our dai - ly bread. For - give us our sins as we
for-give those who sin a - gainst us. Save us from the time of tri - al
and de - liv - er us from e - vil. For the king - dom, the pow'r,
and the glo - ry are yours, now and for - ev - er. A - men.

BLESSING

Go into the world with eyes open to the transforming light of Christ, hands open to serve those you meet, ears open to the call of the Spirit, hearts open to the bountiful love of God, and lives open to follow Christ to the cross. The God who opened for us the way of everlasting life ✠ bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

Thanks be to God.

Offerings

Offerings can be mailed to the church, dropped off at the church or use our online giving page on our website at www.egrace.org

Worship Leaders:

Presiding Minister: Pr. Eric Leshner

Pianist: Anne Melang-Thoren/Jennifer Aliwarga-Carlson