



Advent 1  
November 29, 2020

## 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)

### 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

Stir up your power, and come! The psalmist's plea has become familiar to us in the Advent prayers. Isaiah wants God to rip the heavens open. Both cry out for an apparently distant, angry God to show up, to save, to restore. When we hear Jesus describing the coming of the Son of Man with stars falling from heaven, it can sound dire and horrible, not like anything we would ever hope for. But when we really look at the suffering of people God loves, we can share the hope that God would tear open the heavens and come.

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## GATHERING

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

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**PRELUDE** "Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending", *Helmsley*, Thomas Olivers, 1725-1799

### LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

We praise you, O God, for this evergreen crown that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent. As we light the first candle on this wreath, rouse us from sleep, that we may be ready to greet our Lord when he comes with all the saints and angels. Enlighten us with your grace, and prepare our hearts to welcome him with joy. Grant this through Christ our Lord, whose coming is certain and whose day draws near. **Amen.**

### WELCOME

STAND

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be God, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, whose forgiveness is sure and whose steadfast love endures forever. **Amen.**

Together let us honestly and humbly confess that we have not lived as God desires. *Silence is kept for reflection.*

Loving and forgiving God,

**we confess that we are held captive by sin. Despite our best efforts, we have gone astray. We have not welcomed the stranger; we have not loved our neighbor; we have not been Christ to one another. Restore us, O God. Wake us up and turn us from our sin. Renew us each day in the light of Christ. Amen.**

People of God, hear this glad news: by God's endless grace your sins are forgiven, and you are free—free from all that holds you back and free to live in the peaceable realm of God. May you be strengthened in God's love, ☩ comforted by Christ's peace, and accompanied with the power of the Holy Spirit. **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

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection awaken us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and keep us blameless until the coming of your new day, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

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## WORD

God speaks to us in scripture, preaching and song.

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SIT

## First Reading: Isaiah 64:1-4

A reading from Isaiah:

<sup>1</sup>O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,  
so that the mountains would quake at your presence—  
<sup>2</sup>as when fire kindles brushwood  
and the fire causes water to boil—  
to make your name known to your adversaries,  
so that the nations might tremble at your presence!

<sup>3</sup>When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,  
you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.  
<sup>4</sup>From ages past no one has heard,  
no ear has perceived,  
no eye has seen any God besides you,  
who works for those who wait for him.

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

**Psalm: Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19**

Let us read responsively from Psalm 80:

<sup>1</sup>Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock;  
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.  
<sup>2</sup>**In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh,  
stir up your strength and come to help us.**  
<sup>3</sup>Restore us, O God;  
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.  
<sup>18</sup>**And so will we never turn away from you;  
give us life, that we may call upon your name.**  
<sup>19</sup>Restore us, O LORD God of hosts;  
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

**Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:3-9**

A reading from 1 Corinthians:

<sup>3</sup>Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>4</sup>I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, <sup>5</sup>for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind—<sup>6</sup>just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you—<sup>7</sup>so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>8</sup>He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>9</sup>God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

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

*STAND*

**Gospel: Mark 13:24-37**

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

<sup>33</sup>Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. <sup>34</sup>It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. <sup>35</sup>Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, <sup>36</sup>or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. <sup>37</sup>And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”

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

*SIT*

## **SERMON**

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

The text for today’s hymn is thought to have been written at Unna [the German congregation served by the Rev. Philipp Nicolai between 1596-1601] during the plague of 1597, when Nicolai, who witnessed the deaths and internments of many of in his congregation, was determined “to leave behind me (if God should call me from this world) as the token of my peaceful, joyful, Christian departure, or (if God should spare me in health) to comfort other sufferers whom He should also visit with the pestilence” (Julian, 805; quoted by Watson, n.p.).

Where do you find comfort in today’s hymn?

# Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying



1 Wake, a - wake, for night is fly - ing, the watch-men  
 2 Zi - on hears the watch-men sing - ing, and all her  
 3 Glo - ri - a! Let heav'n a - dore you! Let saints and



on the heights are cry - ing; a - wake, Je - ru - sa - lem, at last.  
 heart with joy is spring-ing. She wakes, she ris - es from her gloom.  
 an - gels sing be - fore you, with harp and cym-bal's clear-est tone.



Mid - night hears the wel - come voic - es, and at the  
 Her dear friend comes down, all glo - rious, the strong in  
 Gates of pearl, twelve por - tals gleam - ing, lead us to



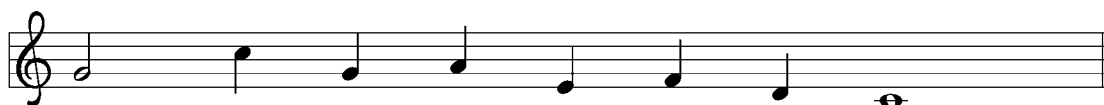
thrill-ing cry re - joic - es: "Come forth, you maid-ens! Night is past.  
 grace, in truth vic - to - rious: her star is ris'n; her light is come.  
 bliss be - yond all dream - ing, with an - gel choirs a - round your throne.



The bride - groom comes! A - wake; your lamps with glad - ness take!"  
 Now come, O Bless - ed One, Lord Je - sus, God's own Son.  
 No eye has caught the light, no ear the thun-d'ring might



Al - le - lu - ia! Rise and pre - pare the feast to share;  
 Sing ho - san - na! Oh, hear the call! Come one, come all,  
 of such glo - ry. There we will go: what joy we'll know!



go, meet the bride - groom, who draws near.  
 and fol - low to the ban - quet hall.  
 There sweet de - light will ev - er flow.

STAND

## 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 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.

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

God of power and might, tear open the heavens and come quickly to this weary world. Hear our prayers for everyone in need. *A brief silence.*

We pray for the ministry we share in Christ's name. Open our hearts to your call for justice, peace, and healing. Attune us to the needs of the world as you draw near. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We pray for this planet in need of restoration: for devastated habitats, polluted waters, thawing ice, blazing fires, swelling floods, and long-lasting droughts. Renew the face of the earth and our relationship to it. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We pray for all people who care for others in our community and around the world. Fill them with compassion and the power to respond with justice for those who are oppressed, with welcome for those who are excluded, and with relief for those who suffer. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We pray for people who are in crisis as the seasons change: for those without homes facing severe weather, for those who are unemployed or underemployed, and for those in poverty or

facing food insecurity. Relieve their burdens, sustain their bodies, and ease their minds. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We pray for the people in our families and congregation who live with depression, anxiety, chronic pain, addiction, and other invisible illnesses. Especially those we name before you now, Glen and Bonnie, .... Ease their suffering and support them when they struggle. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We give thanks for the lives and witness of those who died while waiting for justice, peace, or healing, those whose names we know and those whose names are known only to you. Sustain all who still yearn for the completion of your redeeming work. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Draw near to us, O God, and receive our prayers for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

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### MEAL

*God feeds us with the presence of Christ.*

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*SIT*

**MUSIC OFFERING:** "Veni, Emmanuel", French processional, 15th century, arr. J. Bert Carlson, 2000

### OFFERING PRAYER

Generous God, you have created all that is, and you provide for us in every season. Bless all that we offer, that through these gifts the world will receive your blessing. In the name of Jesus, Emmanuel, we pray. **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.**

### **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

Even as we watch and wait, Christ is here as we eat and drink.

**COMMUNION** (remove the plastic 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

### **STAND**

### **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Gracious and abundant God, you have done great things for us, and we rejoice.

In this bread and cup, you give us life forever. In your boundless mercy, strengthen us and open our hearts to the world's needs, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

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### **SENDING**

*God sends us in mission to the world.*

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### **BLESSING**

The Creator of the stars bless your Advent waiting, the long-expected Savior fill you with love, the unexpected Spirit guide your journey, ☩ now and forever. **Amen.**

### **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE** ""Wake, Awake for Night is Flying", Wachet Auf, Philipp Nicolai, setting by Johann

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**WORSHIP SERVANTS:**

Worship leader: Rev. Eric Leshner  
Organist/Pianist: Anne Melang-Thoren  
Jennifer Aliwarga-Carlson

**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.

Please remember Glen and Bonnie Drohman as they recover from Covid-19.

Please remember Myron Loseke as he undergoes chemotherapy and radiation for bladder cancer.

Please remember Doug Allen as he recovers from blood clot surgery.

## 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

Advent Midweek Services will be held in-person and online on December 2, 9 and 16 starting at 7:00 pm in the nave. This year’s theme is “Prepare the Royal Highway”

Christmas Eve service will be held in-person and online beginning at 6:00 pm in the nave. Due to health restrictions the attendance will be limited to 50. You will need to make a reservation for this service. Contact Pr. Eric via voicemail at 402-474-1505 ext. 3 or email at [pr.eric@egrace.org](mailto:pr.eric@egrace.org) with your name and number attending.

Christmas Day service will be held in-person and online beginning at 10:00 am in the nave.

Lessons and Carols service will be held in-person and online on December 27 at 9:00 am in the nave.

## 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

### November 30:

Lincoln Literacy	9 am
Boy Scouts	7 pm

### December 1:

Al-Anon	9:30 am
Cub Scouts	6:30 pm
Committees	7:00 pm

### December 2:

Worship	7 pm
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### December 3:

Men's Bible Study	6:30 am
Quilting	9:00 am
Lincoln Literacy	9:00 am
NA	7:00 pm
Bell Quartet B	7:00 pm

### December 4:

YWCA	5:45 pm
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### December 5:

Danish Sisterhood	11:30 am
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### November 6:

Worship	9 pm
Bell Quartet A	9:45 am