

All Saints Sunday
November 7, 2021

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Making Christ Known to all Through Grace

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

Network: GLC-Balcony

Password: AlphaOmega

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 follow 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.

Masks are required for everyone during worship.

Light a candle and place it in a window in memory of a loved one.

INTRODUCTION to worship

Of all three years of the lectionary cycle, this year's All Saints readings have the most tears. Isaiah and Revelation look forward to the day when God will wipe away all tears; in John's gospel, Jesus weeps along with Mary and all the gathered mourners before he demonstrates his power over death. On All Saints Day we celebrate the victory won for all the faithful dead, but we grieve for our beloved dead as well, knowing that God honors our tears. We bring our grief to the table and find there a foretaste of Isaiah's feast to come.

GATHERING

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

WELCOME

PRELUDE: "Be Still My Soul", arr. Sandra Eithun, 2017

ANNOUNCEMENTS

STAND

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another. *Silence*

Have mercy on us, O God.

We confess that we have sinned against you and against our neighbor. We have built walls instead of tables and have turned away the stranger. We have sought glory for ourselves and have treasured that which does not satisfy. Help us to love as you love, to welcome those you send, and to treasure mercy and justice. Turn us from our ways to your ways, and free us to serve those in need. Amen.

God, who makes all things new, forgives your sins for † Jesus' sake and remembers them no more. Lift up your heads and your hearts. Yours is the kingdom of God. **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN

Ye Watchers and Ye Holy Ones

1 Ye watch - ers and ye ho - ly ones, bright
2 O high - er than the cher - u - bim, more
3 Re - spond, ye souls in end - less rest, ye
4 O friends, in glad - ness let us sing, su -

ser - aphs, cher - u - bim, and thrones, raise the glad strain:
glo - rious than the ser - a - phim, lead their prais - es:
pa - tri - archs and proph - ets blest: "Al - le - lu - ia!
per - nal an - thems ech - o - ing: "Al - le - lu - ia!

"Al - le - lu - ia!" Cry out, do - min - ions, prince - doms,
"Al - le - lu - ia!" Thou bear - er of the e - ter - nal
Al - le - lu - ia!" Ye ho - ly twelve, ye mar - tyrs
Al - le - lu - ia!" To God the Fa - ther, God the

pow'rs, arch - an - gels, vir - tues, an - gel choirs:
Word, gra - cious, mag - ni - fy the Lord:
strong, all saints tri - um - phant, raise the song:
Son, and God the Spir - it, Three in One:

"Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!" Al - le -

lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Text: J. Athelstan Riley, 1858–1945

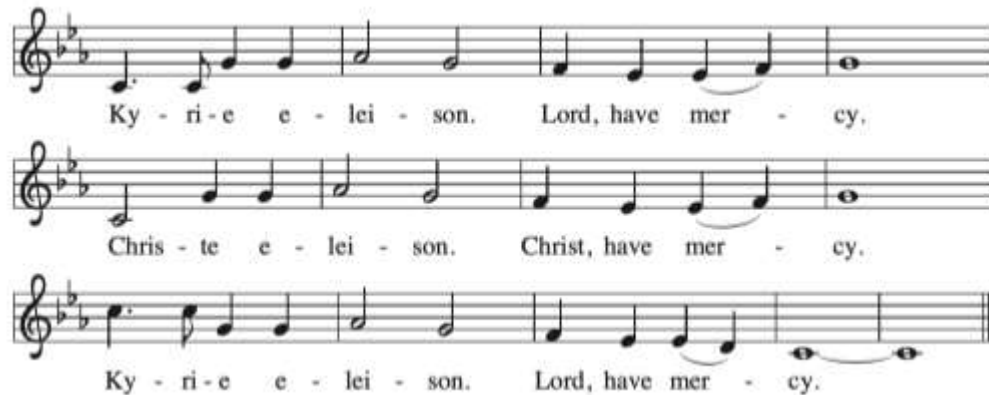
Music: LASST UNS ERFREUEN, *Geistliche Kirchengesänge*, Köln, 1623

Outside USA: Text from *The English Hymnal*, © Oxford University Press 1906. All rights reserved.

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.

KYRIE



Ky - ri - e e - lei - son. Lord, have mer - cy.
Chris - te e - lei - son. Christ, have mer - cy.
Ky - ri - e e - lei - son. Lord, have mer - cy.

HYMN OF PRAISE



1 Glo - ry to you, God, for yours is the earth;
2 Glo - ry to you, God, for yours is the earth;
3 Glo - ry to you, God, for yours is the earth;
yours is the prom - ise, the bless - ing, the birth.
yours the ho - san - nas, the dy - ing, re - birth.
yours the a - noint - ing, the ra - di - ant worth.
Ours the re - joic - ing for Word giv - en frame;
Ours the re - joic - ing for na - ture re - claimed;
Ours the re - joic - ing for spir - its a - flame;
ours the thanks - giv - ing to your ho - ly name.
Ours be the tell - ing of deeds great - ly done;
yours be the glo - ry, O God, yours a - lone.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty God, you have knit your people together in one communion in the mystical body of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Grant us grace to follow your blessed saints in lives of faith and commitment, and to know the inexpressible joys you have prepared for those who love you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, 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: Isaiah 25:6-9

Isaiah sees a vision of the end of days, when God will gather all people on God's holy mountain and will prepare for them a rich feast. At this banquet God will wipe the tears from all eyes. And there will be no more sorrow, for God will destroy death itself.

A reading from Isaiah:

⁶On this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for all peoples
a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines,
of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged wines strained clear.

⁷And he will destroy on this mountain
the shroud that is cast over all peoples,
the sheet that is spread over all nations;

⁸he will swallow up death forever.

Then the Lord GOD will wipe away the tears from all faces,
and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth,
for the LORD has spoken.

⁹It will be said on that day,
Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us.
This is the LORD for whom we have waited;
let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.

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

Psalm: Psalm 24:1-2, 9-10



Psalm 24:5

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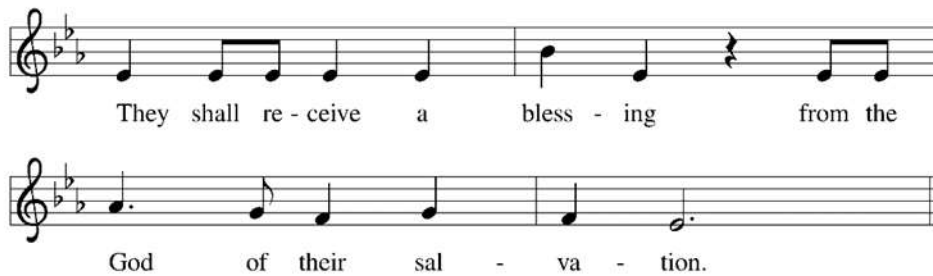
¹The earth is the LORD's and all ¹ that is in it,
the world and those who ¹ dwell therein.

²**For the LORD has founded it up- ¹ on the seas
and established it up- ¹ on the rivers. R**

⁹Lift up your heads, O gates; and be lifted up, O ever-¹ lasting doors,
that the King of glory¹ may come in.

¹⁰**Who is this¹ King of glory?**

Truly, the LORD of hosts is the¹ King of glory. R



Psalm 24:5

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Second Reading: Revelation 21:1-6a

Here is a vision of the new heaven and new earth in which God resides fully with God's people so that mourning, despair, and pain have been eradicated. These renewing words from the God who spans all of time are trustworthy and true.

A reading from Revelation:

¹I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. ²And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. ³And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,

“See, the home of God is among mortals.

He will dwell with them;

they will be his peoples,

and God himself will be with them;

⁴he will wipe every tear from their eyes.

Death will be no more;

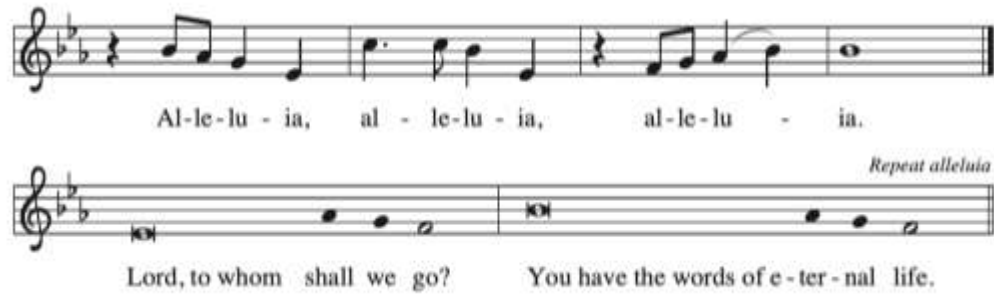
mourning and crying and pain will be no more,

for the first things have passed away.”

⁵And the one who was seated on the throne said, “See, I am making all things new.” Also he said, “Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true.” ^{6a}Then he said to me, “It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end.”

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

STAND



Gospel: John 11:32-44

Through the raising of Lazarus, Jesus offers the world a vision of the life to come, when death and weeping will be no more.

The Holy Gospel according to St. John. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

³²When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." ³³When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. ³⁴He said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see." ³⁵Jesus began to weep. ³⁶So the Jews said, "See how he loved him!" ³⁷But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?" ³⁸Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. ³⁹Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days." ⁴⁰Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?" ⁴¹So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, "Father, I thank you for having heard me. ⁴²I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me." ⁴³When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" ⁴⁴The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go."

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

SIT

SERMON

STAND

HYMN OF THE DAY

Give Thanks for Saints

1 Give thanks for those whose faith is firm when all a -
 2 Give thanks for those whose hope is clear, be - yond mere
 3 Give thanks for those whose love is pure, a spar - kling
 4 Give thanks for saints of a - ges past and saints a -

round seems bleak: on God's good prom - ise they re - ly, so
 mor - tal sight: who seek the cit - y God has planned, the
 pre - cious stone: they show by what they say and do an
 live to - day: though of - ten by this world de - spised, their

while they live and when they die how force - ful -
 true, e - ter - nal prom - ised land, and steer on
 in - ward beau - ty, warm and true, for God's con -
 hearts by God are rich - ly prized. Give thanks that

ly they speak— the strong, who once were weak!
 toward that light, a bea - con ev - er bright.
 cerns they own— God's love through them is known.
 we may say we share their pil - grim way.

Text: Martin E. Leckebusch, b. 1962
 Music: REPTON, C. Hubert H. Parry, 1848–1918
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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

Eternal God, you hold firm amid the changes of this world. Hear us now as we pray for the church, the world, and everyone in need. *Silence*

Merciful God, we give thanks for all missionaries who have brought your message of hope to new communities and wiped tears away. Continue to raise up courageous missionaries to share your gospel of hope. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Creating God, we praise you for abundant harvests and the goodness of creation. Create communities of care for your earth so that all land, water, and soil will be celebrated and cherished by future generations of saints. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of peace, we give you thanks for nations of peace that serve as a refuge for all whose homelands are afflicted with violence. Strengthen those who continue to work for peace and support all veterans who carry the scars of war. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of healing, we give you thanks for health care workers who labor around the clock to answer cries for help. Bring wholeness to all who struggle with post-traumatic stress disorder, anxiety, depression, addiction, and all who long for healing in any way. Especially those we name before you now.... Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of justice, we praise you for the feeding ministries and for all meals that bring people together for nourishment and fellowship. Bless chefs, bakers, servers, dishwashers, communion assistants, and meal ministry coordinators. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of the ages, we give you thanks for the saints of this congregation who have inspired, challenged, loved, and taught us. We especially remember Doug, Marlan, Robert, Carol, Bonnie, Glen, Edward, Marilyn, Barry, Marjorie, John, Wayne, Betty, Rodney and all those who have died from the Coronavirus disease. Wipe away our tears and lead us by their example until we feast together on your holy mountain. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God our protection and strength, we entrust to you all for whom we pray. Remain with us always, through Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Christ.

SIT

MUSIC OFFERING: "Eternal Gifts", St. Ambrose of Milan, tr. J. M. Neale, 15th century English ballad, arr. John Becker, 2016

*The eternal gifts of Christ the King, the apostles' glorious deeds we sing;
and all, with hearts of gladness, raise due hymns of thankful love and praise.*

*Their faith in Christ the Lord prevailed; their hope, a light that never failed;
their love a blaze over pathways trod to lead them to the eternal God.*

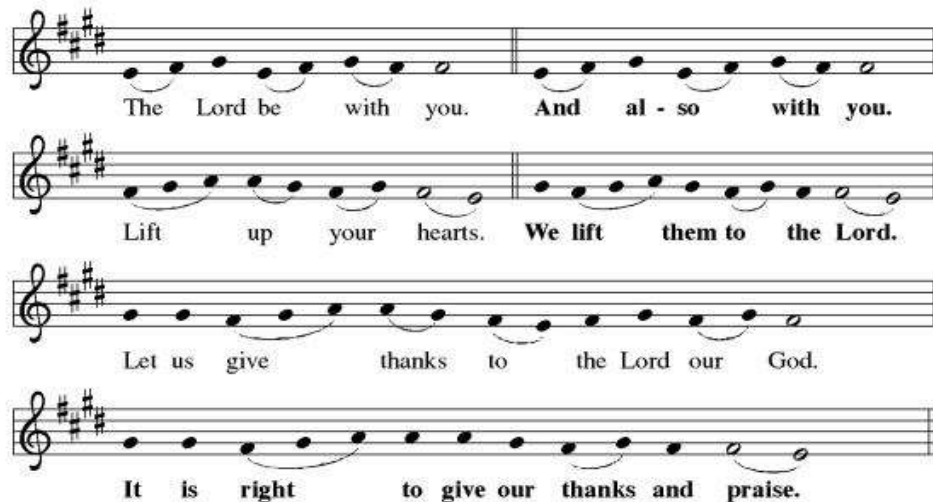
*In them the Father's glory shone, in them the will of God the Son,
in them exults the Holy Ghost, through them rejoice, with them rejoice, the Heavenly host.*

STAND

OFFERING PRAYER

Holy God, the earth is yours and everything in it, yet you have chosen to dwell among your creatures. Come among us now in these gifts of bread and wine, and strengthen us to be your body for the world through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

DIALOG



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; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. Amen.

SANCTUS



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and
God of might, heav - en and earth are full of your
glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is the one who comes in the name of the
Lord. Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.
Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

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

A feast of love is offered here for you and for all the saints.

AGNUS DEI



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on
us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

COMMUNION

Come forward by way of the center aisle to receive the wafer (Body of Christ). Gluten free is available upon request. Move to the next station to receive the cup (Blood of Christ). Red grape juice is available. Return to your pew by way of the side aisle. Please dispose your used cup into the basket at the head of the side aisle.

COMMUNION HYMN

Sing with All the Saints in Glory



1 Sing with all the saints in glo - ry, sing the res - ur - rec - tion song!
2 Oh, what glo - ry, far ex - ceed - ing all that eye has yet per - ceived!
3 Life e - ter - nal! heav'n re - joic - es: Je - sus lives who once was dead.

Death and sor - row, earth's dark sto - ry, to the for - mer days be - long.
Ho - liest hearts for a - ges plead - ing nev - er that full joy con - ceived.
Shout with joy, O death - less voic - es! Child of God, lift up your head!

All a - round the clouds are break - ing, soon the storms of time shall cease;
God has prom - ised, Christ pre - pares it, there on high our wel - come waits.
Life e - ter - nal! Oh, what won - ders crowd on faith; what joy un - known,

in God's like - ness we a - wak - en, know - ing ev - er - last - ing peace.
Ev - 'ry hum - ble spir - it shares it, Christ has passed the e - ter - nal gates.
when, a - mid earth's clos - ing thun - ders, saints shall stand be - fore the throne!

STAND

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Blessed Jesus, at this table, you have been for us both host and meal. Now send us forth to extend our tables and to share your gifts until that day when all feast together at your heavenly banquet. **Amen.**

SENDING

God sends us in mission to the world.

SENDING HYMN

For All Your Saints, O Lord



1 For all your saints, O Lord, who strove in you to live,
2 For all your saints, O Lord, who strove in you to die,
3 They all in life and death, with you, their Lord, in view,
4 For this, your name we bless and hum - bly pray a - new
5 To God, the Fa - ther, Son, and Spir - it, ev - er blest,



who fol - lowed you, o - beyed, a - dored, our grate - ful hymn re - ceive.
who count - ed you their great re - ward, ac - cept our thank - ful cry.
learned from your Ho - ly Spir - it's breath to suf - fer and to do.
that we like them in ho - li - ness may live and die in you.
the One in Three, the Three in One, be end - less praise ad - dressed.

Text: Richard Mant, 1776–1848, alt.
Music: FESTAL SONG, William H. Walter, 1825–1893

BLESSING

God, the beginning and the end, who has written your name in the book of life, ✠ bless and keep you in grace and peace from this time forth and forevermore. **Amen.**

DISMISSAL

Led on by the saints before us, go in peace to serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE: “How Firm A Foundation”, arr. Sandra Eithun, 2017

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WORSHIP Contributors:

Worship leader:	Eric Leshner
Organist/Pianist:	Anne Melang-Thoren/Jennifer Aliwarga-Carlson
Bell Choirs:	Wendy & Chris Apple, Miles & Madeleine Melang-Thoren, Dave Ripa, Bev Madison. Lisa Holmstrom, Dave Rathjen, Jillian Jensen, Isabel Kuebler, Peter Schnake, Jennifer Aliwarga-Carlson.
Chancel Choir:	Julene Leshner, Madeleine and Miles Melang-Thoren, Wendy & Chris Apple, Bev Madison, Peter Schnake, Brendan Elam, Dave Rathjen.
Reader:	Charlyne Berens
Communion Assistants:	Jan Branting and Roger Potts
Bread:	Chris and Wendy Apple
Altar Guild:	Jon and Connie Thorson
Wine:	Kathy Remington, Larry and Sharon Genthe
Ushers:	Kurt and Cindy Eberspacher, Lori Drake

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.
- Masks are required for everyone during worship.
- We will enter the building through the North doors. The doors will be locked at 9:10. All other doors will be locked.
- There will hand sanitizers in the narthex. If you wish you can sanitize your hands prior to entering the worship space.
- 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.
- The presiding minister will greet you in the narthex after the postlude.
- There will be no acolyte.
- There will be no nursery available.



This week's Gospel is intended to remind us that God helps. The name Lazarus is a shortened form of Eleazar, which is Hebrew for "God helps." And Lazarus is from a village whose name, Bethany, which means "House of Affliction."

Names like this are characteristic of John's highly symbolic gospel. Which we can read as a cosmological tale—unconstrained by time and space—about the human dilemma and the persistent love of God. When the gospel tells us that Lazarus—the suffering one whom God helps—is also the "one Jesus loves," he represents all those whom Jesus loves. Including all of us: we who suffer, die, know the potential for new life, and—when we're stuck—need others to take away the stone that holds us back, and unwind the cloths of our pain.

God has done, is doing and will do miracles; and we know that God also asks us to participate in the miracles. Sometimes by taking away the stone, sometimes by unbinding a friend, and sometimes even by filling out a pledge card.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Coffee and Halloween candy in the gym following worship. Sign-up list to host a coffee hour is outside the office. Today's host is Lorraine James. Who's next?

Green attendance cards can be filled out and returned to the Offering basket in the front of the church or the Welcome Table basket in the back of the church.

2022 Budget copies are in the narthex.

The Social Ministry Committee will be having our annual food drive for the Thanksgiving boxes we assemble and deliver. Items to donate are canned vegetables/fruits, canned cranberries – jellied or whole, boxes of Jello, boxes of stuffing mixes, boxes of instant potatoes, envelopes/jars/cans of gravy, and cash donations to purchase the perishable items – turkeys, hams, pumpkin pies, rolls, and butter. **There will be a container available in the narthex and by the church office to collect your donations starting the first weekend of November.** We will also need some boxes - something sturdy and about 18" x 11" x 9 1/2".

If you have any questions or would like to volunteer to pack the boxes and/or deliver them, please send an email to: ldrake3@neb.rr.com or phone/text Lori at 402-310-8386 (leave a voice message if I'm unable to answer).

We Say Their Names!

Today we remember the following members who have entered the church triumphant: Doug Allen, Marlan Anderson, Robert Anderson, Carol Disney, Bonnie Drohman, Glen Drohman, Edward Hoffman, Marilyn Holmquist, Barry Moore, Marjorie Nolte, John Plambeck, Wayne Remington, Betty Shaw, Rodney Wood and all those who have died in the Coronavirus Pandemic. Candles are available in the narthex for you to light and place in a window to remember your own loved ones.

Thrivent

As the fall season progresses and perennial plants are losing leaves heading into winter, **Grace's Thrivent Financial group** will be emerging from dormancy. A meeting is planned for **today**, in the staff conference room, following the worship service. Masks will be expected if the Lincoln/Lancaster County mask mandate is still in effect. Anyone is welcome to attend.

The Lutheran magazine and **Daily Devotionals** are available in the narthex after worship or in the atrium during the week.

Flower chart is available in the atrium. You can sign up for flowers there and leave through the east main entrance.

CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK

November 8:

Lincoln Literacy	9:15 am
Lessons	4:00 pm
Scouts BSA	7:00 pm

November 9:

Al-Anon	9:30 am
Lessons	4:00 pm
Cub Scouts	6:30 pm
Wildlife Rescue	7:00 pm
Council	7:00 pm

November 10:

Lincoln Literacy	9:15 am
Bell Choir A	6:00 pm
Confirmation	7:00 pm
Bell Choir B	7:00 pm

November 11:

Quilting	9:00 am
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November 12:

Waffleman Event	5:00 pm
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November 13:

Danish Sisterhood	1:00 pm
Worship	5:30 pm

November 14:

Worship	9:00 am
Table Fellowship	10:00 am
Adult Choir	10:15 am
Adult Class	10:30 am

