



Easter 3  
April 18, 2021

## 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)

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** should be worn over both the **nose and mouth**.

Physically **distance** yourself from others.

**Sit** only with members of your household.

**Sanitize** your hands

Take your **bulletin** home with you.

### INTRODUCTION to worship

The gospel for the third Sunday of Easter is always one in which the risen Christ shares food with the disciples, meals that are the Easter template for the meal we share each Sunday. In today's gospel, Jesus both shares the disciples' food and shows them the meaning of his suffering, death, and resurrection through the scriptures, the two main elements of our Sunday worship.

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## GATHERING

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

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### WELCOME

**PRELUDE:** "Gather Us In", Marty Haugen, b. 1950

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

STAND

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, the keeper of the covenant, the source of steadfast love, our rock and our redeemer. **Amen.**

God hears us when we cry, and draws us close in Jesus Christ. Let us return to the one who is full of compassion. *Silence is kept for reflection.*

Fountain of living water,

**pour out your mercy over us. Our sin is heavy, and we long to be free. Rebuild what we have ruined and mend what we have torn. Wash us in your cleansing flood. Make us alive in the Spirit to follow in the way of Jesus, as healers and restorers of the world you so love. Amen.**

Beloved, God's word never fails. The promise rests on grace: by the saving love of Jesus Christ, the wisdom and power of God, your sins are ☩ forgiven, and God remembers them no more. Journey in the way of Jesus. **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.**

### OPENING DIALOG

Jesus Christ is risen from the dead. **Alleluia!**

We are enlightened by the brightness of his rising. **Alleluia!**

Death's darkness has no power over us. **Alleluia!**

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

Holy and righteous God, you are the author of life, and you adopt us to be your children. Fill us with your words of life, that we may live as witnesses to the resurrection of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you 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

### READINGS

## First Reading: Acts 3:12-13, 17-19

A reading from Acts:

<sup>12</sup>[Peter] addressed the people, "You Israelites, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we had made him walk?"<sup>13</sup>The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our ancestors has glorified his servant Jesus, whom you handed over and rejected in the presence of Pilate, though he had decided to release him....<sup>17</sup>"And now, friends, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. <sup>18</sup>In this way God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, that his Messiah would suffer. <sup>19</sup>Repent therefore, and turn to God so that your sins may be wiped out."

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

## Psalm: Psalm 4

A responsive reading from Psalm 4:

<sup>5</sup>Offer the appointed sacrifices, and put your trust in the LORD.

<sup>6</sup>**Many are saying, "Who will show us any good?" Let the light of your face shine upon us, O LORD.**

<sup>7</sup>You have put gladness in my heart, more than when grain and wine abound.

<sup>8</sup>**In peace, I will lie down and sleep; for you alone, O LORD, make me rest secure.**

O God, source of deliverance and help, do not let our hearts be troubled, but fill us with such confidence and joy that we may sleep in your peace and rise in your light; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

## Second Reading: 1 John 3:1-3

A reading from 1 John:

<sup>1</sup>See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. <sup>2</sup>Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is. <sup>3</sup>And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

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

## STAND

### Gospel: Luke 24:36b-48

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

<sup>36b</sup>Jesus himself stood among [the disciples] and said to them, “Peace be with you.” <sup>37</sup>They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. <sup>38</sup>He said to them, “Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? <sup>39</sup>Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have.” <sup>40</sup>And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. <sup>41</sup>While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, “Have you anything here to eat?” <sup>42</sup>They gave him a piece of broiled fish, <sup>43</sup>and he took it and ate in their presence. <sup>44</sup>Then he said to them, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.” <sup>45</sup>Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, <sup>46</sup>and he said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, <sup>47</sup>and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. <sup>48</sup>You are witnesses of these things.”

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

*SIT*

## SERMON

**HYMN OF THE DAY** (please remain seated and sing the hymn to yourself)

Rev. Jeffery W. Rowthorn wrote this text in 1978 while he was Chapel Minister at Yale Divinity School, New Haven, Connecticut. The text was first published in *Laudamus* (1980), a hymnal supplement edited by Rowthorn and used at the Yale Divinity School. Rowthorn is an Episcopalian priest. Now retired.

What spiritual gifts are mentioned in this hymn? Are any of them your gifts? Are some more important than others?

## Lord, You Give the Great Commission



1 Lord, you give the great com - mis-sion: "Heal the sick and  
 2 Lord, you call us to your ser - vice: "In my name bap -  
 3 Lord, you make the com - mon ho - ly: "This my bod - y,  
 4 Lord, you show us love's true mea-sure: "Fa - ther, what they  
 5 Lord, you bless with words as - sur - ing: "I am with you



preach the word." Lest the church ne - glect its mis - sion,  
 tize and teach." That the world may trust your prom - ise,  
 this my blood." Let us all, for earth's true glo - ry,  
 do, for - give." Yet we hoard as pri - vate trea - sure  
 to the end." Faith and hope and love re - stor - ing,



and the gos - pel go un - heard, help us wit - ness  
 life a - bun - dant meant for each, give us all new  
 dai - ly lift life heav - en - ward, ask - ing that the  
 all that you so free - ly give. May your care and  
 may we serve as you in - tend and, a - mid the



to your pur - pose with re - newed in - teg - ri - ty:  
 fer - vor, draw us clos - er in com - mu - ni - ty:  
 world a - round us share your chil - dren's lib - er - ty:  
 mer - cy lead us to a just so - ci - e - ty:  
 cares that claim us, hold in mind e - ter - ni - ty:



*Refrain*  
 With the Spir - it's gifts em - pow'r us for the work of min - is - try.

Text: Jeffery Rowthorn, b. 1934

Music: ABBOT'S LEIGH, Cyril V. Taylor, 1907-1991

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## 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**

Alive in the risen Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit, we bring our prayers before God who promises to hear us and answer in steadfast love. *A brief silence.*

Living God, amid Easter joy we are still filled with questions and wondering. Open our hearts and minds as we encounter the scriptures, so that the church embodies repentance and forgiveness in the name of Jesus to all nations. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Creating God, like a master artist you have fashioned the universe out of your love and delight. Heal your creation where it needs restoration. Provide all the inhabitants of earth a peaceful and sustainable home. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of all, the nations hunger and thirst for your righteousness. Many call on you for guidance and strength. Answer their hopes with the peace of Christ and give your lovingkindness to national, state, and local leaders of people. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Healing God, you hear the cries of those in need and answer them in their distress. Grant to those who are sick and suffering your compassion and nurse them back to health and wholeness. Especially those we name before you now.... Be close to the hearts of the lonely. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Loving Parent, you have given us such love that we should be called the children of God. Reveal yourself to us so that we in this community of faith will become more and more like you in our mutual love and bold witness. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of all times and ages, those who have died in you now see you as you are. We thank you for their lives among us. Especially those we name before you now.... Assure us of the peace you have promised, that we may join them in everlasting life. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

In the hope of new life in Christ, we raise our prayers to you, trusting in your never-ending goodness and mercy; through 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:** "You Are Holy", Per Harling, b. 1948

### OFFERING PRAYER

God of love, you call us beloved children and welcome us to your table. Receive our lives and the gifts we offer. Abide with us and send us in service to a suffering world; for the sake of your beloved Child, Jesus Christ. **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; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. 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

The risen Christ invites us to this table. Come, eat and be satisfied.

## COMMUNION

(pull back top seal) The Body of Christ

(pull back bottom seal) The Blood of Christ

## STAND

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Wellspring of joy, through this meal you have put gladness in our hearts. Satisfy the hunger still around us, and send us as joyful witnesses, that your love may bring joy to the hearts of all people, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

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## SENDING

*God sends us in mission to the world.*

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## BLESSING

May our glorious God grant you a spirit of wisdom to know and to love the risen Lord Jesus. The God of life, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

## DISMISSAL

Alleluia! Christ is risen. **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia! **Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

**POSTLUDE:** "Oh, Sing to the Lord", Cantad al Senhor, Brazilian folk tune

## WORSHIP SPACE:

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

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## WORSHIP SERVANTS:

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

## UPCOMING COMMEMORATIONS

**Olavus Petri, priest, died 1552; Laurentius Petri, Bishop of Uppsala, died 1573; renewers of the church**

**Monday, April 19, 2021**

These two brothers studied with Luther at the University of Wittenberg and then returned to their native Sweden to introduce the Lutheran reforms. Olavus published a catechism and hymnal; Laurentius was a professor who defended the office of bishop and later became one.

**Anselm, Bishop of Canterbury, died 1109**

**Wednesday, April 21, 2021**

This eleventh-century monk was one of the greatest theologians of the Middle Ages. He is remembered for emphasizing the maternal aspects of God, and for the theory that the Son of God became human in order to make the necessary payment for our sin.

**Day of the Creation (Día de la Creación) (LLC)**

**Thursday, April 22, 2021**

This observance invites us to notice and give God thanks for the wonders of the created universe. As stewards of that creation, we are also challenged to be careful in our use of it.

**Toyohiko Kagawa, renewer of society, died 1960**

**Friday, April 23, 2021**

Born in Kobe, Japan, Kagawa was orphaned as a young child. Later, when he became Christian, he was disowned by the rest of his family. Wishing to bring Christian principles into society, he worked among poor people, established schools and hospitals, and worked for peace.

## 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.
- 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 out loud**. 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.

### **Masks** in the building

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!

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **One Day Without Shoes**

Grace will once again be a collection site for “One Day Without Shoes” – an annual event hosted by Cornhusker Bank and The People’s City Mission. A collection receptacle is in the Atrium entrance and available to load with new or gently used shoes for men, women, and children until TODAY. If you wish to make a monetary donation, please write “One Day Without Shoes” in the memo line of your check.

### **Thanks!**

The members of Scouts BSA Troop 30 (Boys and Girls) would like to sincerely thank the members of Grace Lutheran Church for their generous donations for the troop camping fund. We were able to purchase twelve tents due to your generosity. We greatly appreciate your support.

### **Help our Scouts!**

Troop 30 is planning a garage sale on the Grace parking lot for May 8. If congregational members would like to donate 'treasures' for the sale, they should leave those items on the stage in the gym. Drop items off Monday through Friday, 9-3. Call ahead so we know you are coming.

**2021 Offering Envelope boxes** are available in the atrium after worship today or during the week.

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

**2019 Constitutions**, church-wide amendments, and “cross-out” version of the 2017 Constitution are available for your review in the narthex and main entrance. If you have any questions please contact our Synod Attorney, Mr. Bill Biggs, at 402-679-5758 or contact Pr. Eric.

**Altar Flowers** today have been donated by Irene Moore and the Moore family in memory of Barry.

**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**

**April 19:**

Boy Scouts	7:00 pm
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**April 20:**

Al-Anon	9:30 am
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Cub Scouts	6:30 pm
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WELCA 6	7:00 pm
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**April 21:**

WELCA 3	1:00 pm
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Confirmation	7:00 pm
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**April 22:**

Quilting	9:00 am
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Bell Quartet B	7:00 pm
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**April 23:**

Respite Care	5:45 pm
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**April 25:**

Worship	9:00 am
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Bell Quartet A	9:45 am
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Eagle Scouts	7:00 pm
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