

Lent 4  
March 27, 2022

## 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 near the welcome table. Ask an usher to assist you.

**Restrooms** are located next to our chapel on the other side of the courtyard.

**Masks** are no longer required or recommended for everyone during worship. If you need to or want to wear a mask then please do so.

Please remember to **enter** the building through the **Atrium doors**. These doors will be locked at fifteen minutes past the hour. All other **doors will be locked**.

### INTRODUCTION to worship

The psalm sets the tone this day: "Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven, and whose sin is put away!" Happy are those who have "become the righteousness of God" in the merits of Christ Jesus. Happy are those for whom the forgiveness of God has "rolled away . . . the disgrace" of former times. Happy is the father at the return of his prodigal son. Happy are we that our sins are forgiven for Jesus' sake. Rejoice!

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### GATHERING

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

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### WELCOME

**PRELUDE** "Who'll Be a Witness", African-American spiritual, arr. Sondra K. Tucker, 2019

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

*STAND*

### **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

In the name of God, who makes a way in the wilderness, walks with us, and guides us in our pilgrimage. **Amen.**

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Holy One, **we confess that we have wandered far from you: we have not trusted your promises, we have ignored your prophets in our own day, we have squandered our inheritance of grace, we have failed to recognize you in our midst. Have mercy on us! Forgive us and turn us again to you. Teach us to follow in your ways, assure us again of your love, and help us to love our neighbor. Amen.**

Beloved in Christ, the Word draws near to you, and all who call out to God shall be saved. In Jesus, God comes to you again and again and gathers you under wings of love. In ✠ Jesus' name, your sins are forgiven. God journeys with you and teaches you how to live in love. **Amen.**

# O Christ, Our Light, O Radiance True



1 O Christ, our light, O Ra - diance true, shine forth on  
 2 Fill with the ra - diance of your grace the wan - d'ers  
 3 Lord, o - pen all re - luc - tant ears and take a -  
 4 Lord, let your mer - cy's gen - tle ray shine down on  
 5 Make theirs with ours a sin - gle voice up - lift - ed,



those es - tranged from you, and bring them to your home a -  
 lost in er - ror's maze. Set free all those whose hearts and  
 way the need - less fears of those who trem - ble to ex -  
 oth - ers strayed a - way. To those in con - science wound - ed  
 ev - er to re - joice with wond - 'ring grat - i - tude and



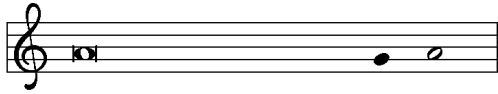
gain, where their de - light shall nev - er end.  
 minds some deep de - lu - sion haunts and binds.  
 press the faith their in - most hearts con - fess.  
 sore show heav - en's wait - ing, o - pen door.  
 praise to you, O Lord, for bound - less grace.

Text: Johann Heermann, 1585–1647; tr. composite  
 Music: O JESU CHRISTE, WAHRES LICHT, *Gesangbuch*, Nürnberg, 1676  
 Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress

## 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** (next page)



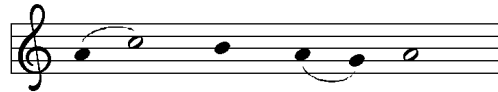
In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



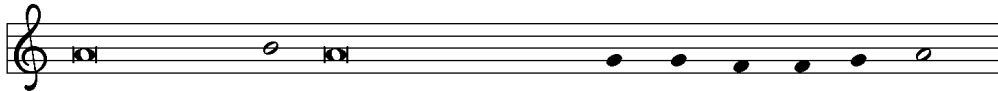
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord.

Lord have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de-fend us, gra-cious Lord. A - men.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

God of compassion, you welcome the wayward, and you embrace us all with your mercy. By our baptism clothe us with garments of your grace, and feed us at the table of your love, through 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

First Reading: Joshua 5:9-12

*By celebrating the Passover and eating the produce of the promised land instead of the miraculous manna that had sustained them in the desert, the Israelites symbolically bring their forty years of wilderness wandering to an end at Gilgal.*

A reading from Joshua:

<sup>9</sup>The LORD said to Joshua, “Today I have rolled away from you the disgrace of Egypt.” And so that place is called Gilgal to this day.

<sup>10</sup>While the Israelites were camped in Gilgal they kept the passover in the evening on the fourteenth day of the month in the plains of Jericho. <sup>11</sup>On the day after the passover, on that very day, they ate the produce of the land, unleavened cakes and parched grain. <sup>12</sup>The manna ceased on the day they ate the produce of the land, and the Israelites no longer had manna; they ate the crops of the land of Canaan that year.

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

Psalm: Psalm 32:1-2, 10-11



Be glad, you righ-teous, and re-joice in the LORD.

Psalm 32:11

Psalm refrain reproduced from *Psalter for Worship Year C* © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.  
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<sup>1</sup>Happy are they whose transgressions <sup>1</sup>are forgiven,  
and whose sin is <sup>1</sup>put away!

<sup>2</sup>**Happy are they to whom the LORD im- <sup>1</sup>putes no guilt,  
and in whose spirit there <sup>1</sup>is no guile!**

<sup>10</sup>Great are the tribulations <sup>1</sup>of the wicked;  
but mercy embraces those who trust <sup>1</sup>in the LORD.

<sup>11</sup>**Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice <sup>1</sup>in the LORD;  
shout for joy, all who are <sup>1</sup>true of heart. R**

Second Reading: 2 Corinthians 5:17-19

*One way to understand the gospel, what God has done for the world through Jesus, is the promise that in Christ everything has become new. This is Paul's strong message to the congregation in the city of Corinth.*

A reading from 2 Corinthians:

<sup>17</sup>So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! <sup>18</sup>All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; <sup>19</sup>that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us.

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

STAND

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**



Gospel: Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

*Jesus tells a parable about a son who ponders his father's love only after he has spurned it. The grace he receives is beyond his hopes. That same grace is a crisis for an older brother who believes it is his obedience that has earned his place in the father's home.*

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

<sup>1</sup>Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to [Jesus.] <sup>2</sup>And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them."

<sup>3</sup>So he told them this parable: <sup>11b</sup>"There was a man who had two sons. <sup>12</sup>The younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.' So he divided his property between them. <sup>13</sup>A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living.

<sup>14</sup>When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he

began to be in need. <sup>15</sup>So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. <sup>16</sup>He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. <sup>17</sup>But when he came to himself he said, 'How many of my father's hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! <sup>18</sup>I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; <sup>19</sup>I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands."' <sup>20</sup>So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. <sup>21</sup>Then the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' <sup>22</sup>But the father said to his slaves, 'Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. <sup>23</sup>And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; <sup>24</sup>for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!' And they began to celebrate.

<sup>25</sup>"Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. <sup>26</sup>He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. <sup>27</sup>He replied, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.' <sup>28</sup>Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. <sup>29</sup>But he answered his father, 'Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. <sup>30</sup>But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!' <sup>31</sup>Then the father said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. <sup>32</sup>But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.'"

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

*SIT*

**SERMON**

*STAND*

**HYMN OF THE DAY ELW 606**



## Our Father, We Have Wandered



1 Our Fa - ther, we have wan - dered and hid - den from your face;  
2 And now at length dis - cern - ing the e - vil that we do,  
3 O Lord of all the liv - ing, both ban - ished and re - stored,



in fool-ish-ness have squan - dered your leg - a - cy of grace.  
be - hold us, Lord, re - turn - ing with hope and trust to you.  
com - pas-sion-ate, for - giv - ing, and ev - er - car - ing Lord,



But now, in ex - ile dwell - ing, we rise with fear and shame,  
In haste you come to meet us and home re - joic - ing bring,  
grant now that our trans - gress - ing, our faith - less - ness may cease.



as, dis - tant but com - pel - ling, we hear you call our name.  
in glad-ness there to greet us with calf and robe and ring.  
Stretch out your hand in bless - ing, in par - don, and in peace.

Text: Kevin Nichols, 1929–2006

Music: HERZLICH TUT MICH VERLANGEN, Hans Leo Hassler, 1564–1612

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## 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**

Drawn close to the heart of God, we offer these prayers for the church, the world, and all who are in need. *A brief silence.*

Jesus formed the disciples in the ways of extravagant mercy and profound welcome. Lead your church to be a community marked by forgiveness, hospitality, and celebration. Send us to transform a world plagued by fear and condemnation. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

You make the land to produce a harvest that sustains your entire creation. Equip farmers and farm workers who till the soil. Nourish the earth with ample rainfall and abundant sunshine. Heal grounds tainted by pollution or misuse. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Countries are divided and leaders often harbor grudges. Reconcile nations that experience conflict especially those living in Ukraine. Act quickly to bring an end to war. Anoint peacemakers trained in the art of diplomacy and foster a spirit of collaboration among political rivals. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Your people cry for help in times of distress. Resolve disagreements among family members. Save those experiencing financial hardship. Hear our prayers for those who are sick or grieving, especially those we name before you now.... Console us with the promise that everything can become new. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Your love comes to us when a table is set and a feast is prepared. Bless the feeding ministries of this congregation and community. Bring an end to hunger in our community and around the world. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

The one who was dead is alive again. We give thanks for those who have died, confident that steadfast love surrounds them. Shelter them in your love until we are gathered at your heavenly banquet. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Accept the prayers we bring, O God, on behalf of a world in need, for the sake of Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

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### **MEAL**

*God feeds us with the presence of Christ.*

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SIT

## MUSIC OFFERING "Forgive Our Sins, as We Forgive", Nancy M. Raabe, 2015

*"Forgive our sins as we forgive" you taught us, Lord, to pray;  
but you alone can grant us grace to live the words we say.*

*How can your pardon reach and bless the unforgiving heart  
that broods on wrongs and will not let old bitterness depart?*

*In blazing light your cross reveals the truth we dimly knew;  
how trifling other's debts to us; how great our debt to you!*

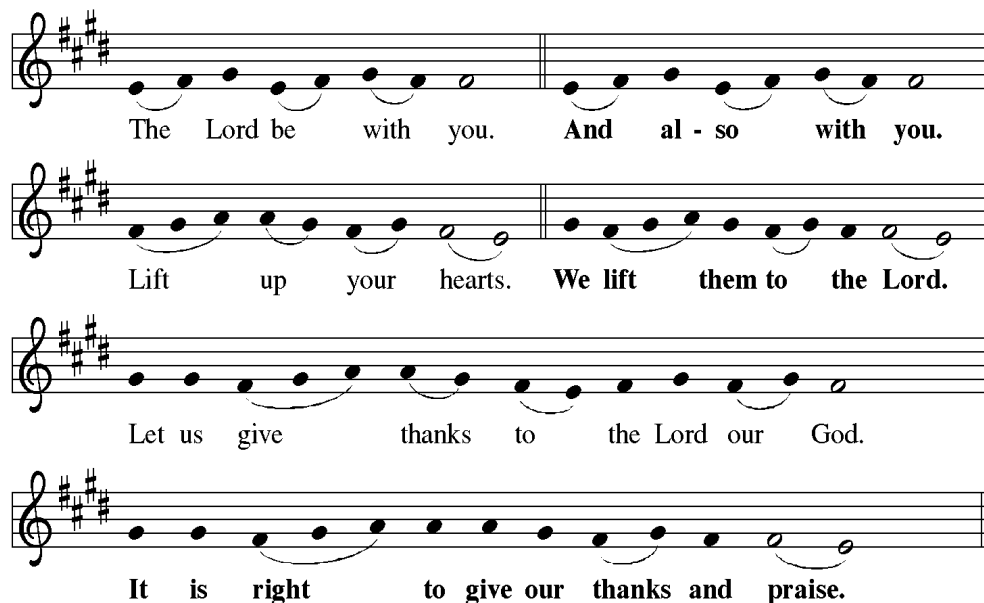
*Lord, cleanse the depths within our souls and bid resentment cease;  
then, by your mercy reconciled, our lives will spread your peace.*

STAND

### OFFERING PRAYER

Extravagant God, you have blessed us with the fullness of creation. Now we gather at your feast where you offer us the food that satisfies. Take and use what we offer here, come among us, and feed us with the body and blood of Christ, in whose name we pray. **Amen.**

### DIALOG



The Lord be with you. And al - so 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

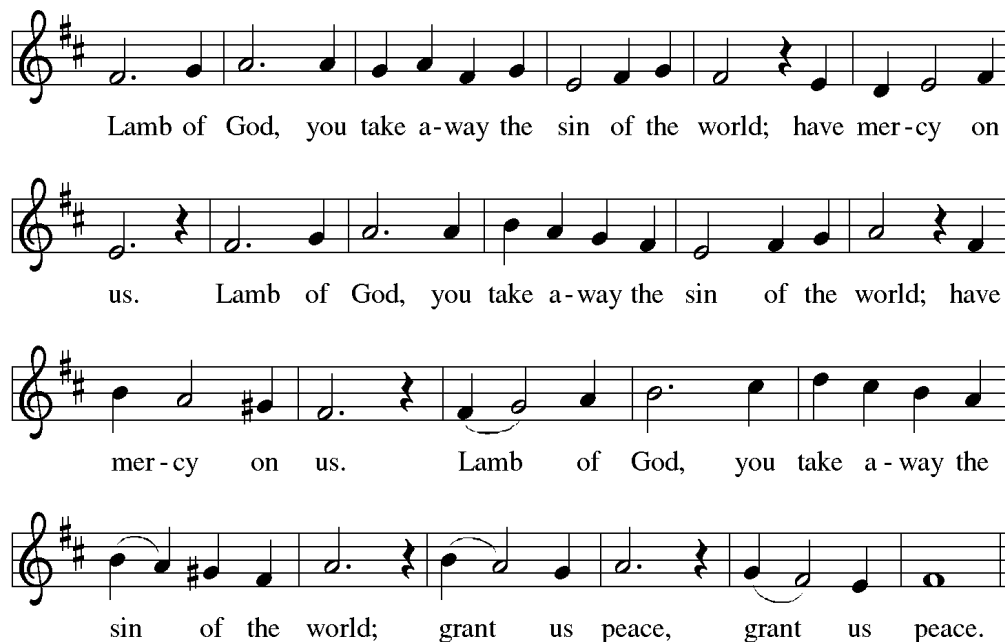
**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Here is food and drink for the journey. Take and be filled.

*SIT*

## 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

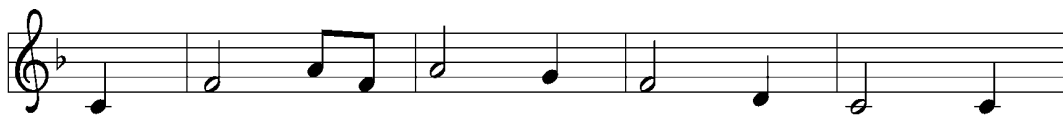
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the

sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

## COMMUNION

*All are welcome. 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). Grape juice is available upon request. 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.*

## Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound



1 A - maz - ing grace!— how sweet the sound— that  
 2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and  
 3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares I  
 4 The Lord has prom - ised good to me; his  
 5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright



saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but  
 grace my fears re - lieved; how pre - cious did that  
 have al - read - y come; 'tis grace has brought me  
 word my hope se - cures; he will my shield and  
 shin - ing as the sun, we've no less days to



now am found; was blind, but now I see.  
 grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!  
 safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.  
 por - tion be as long as life en - dures.  
 sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

Text: John Newton, 1725–1807, alt., sts. 1–4; anonymous, st. 5  
 Music: NEW BRITAIN, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

### STAND

#### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Blessed Jesus, in this rich meal of grace, you have fed us with your body, the bread of life.  
 Now send us forth to bear your life-giving hope to a world in need. **Amen.**

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#### SENDING

*God sends us in mission to the world.*

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**SENDING HYMN ACS 1086** O God, Who Gives Us Life (Choir sings 1st verse, congregation joins choir in singing verses 2-3.)

## O God, Who Gives Us Life



1 O God, who gives us life and breath, who shapes us in the womb,  
2 O God, who calls your peo - ple out to ven - ture and to dare,  
3 O God of cov - e - nant and law, re - vealed in cloud and flame,



who guards our lives from birth to death, then leads us from the tomb:  
to plumb the bleak a - byss of doubt and find you e - ven there:  
your might - y deeds e - voke our awe; we dare not speak your name.



de - liv - er us from fears that kill the life we have from you.  
when we de - spair in wan - der - ing through wastes of emp - ty lies,  
Yet we by faith are drawn to you and will your peo - ple prove,



Help us to know your Spir - it still is mak - ing all things new.  
re - fresh us with the liv - ing spring of hope that nev - er dies.  
as on our hearts you write a - new the cov - e - nant of love.

Text: Carl P. Daw Jr., b. 1944

Music: NOEL, English melody; arr. Arthur S. Sullivan, 1842–1900

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### BLESSING

You are children of God, anointed with the oil of gladness and strengthened for the journey.  
Almighty God, motherly, majestic, and mighty, ☩ bless you this day and always. **Amen.**

### DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Jesus meets you on the way. **Thanks be to God.**

### No Postlude during Lent

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## WORSHIP SERVANTS

Worship Leader:	Eric Leshner
Organist/Pianist:	Anne Melang-Thoren/Jennifer Aliwarga-Carlson
Bell Choir:	Lisa (Holmstrom), Dave Rathjen, Wendy Apple, Julene Leshner, Jillian Jensen, Peter Schnake, Dave Ripa, Bev Madison, Madeleine Melang-Thoren, Isabel Kess-Kuebler, Miles Melang-Thoren, Chris Apple.
Choir:	Julene Leshner, Miles Melang-Thoren, Madeleine Melang-Thoren, Wendy Apple, Bev Madison, Peter Schnake, Brendan Elam, Chris Apple, Dave Rathjen.
Reader:	Charlyne Berens
Communion Assistants:	Denny and Charlyne Berens
Bread:	Chris and Wendy Apple
Altar Guild:	Doug and Sarah Krueger
Ushers:	Kurt and Cindy Eberspacher, Lori Drake

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Coffee Hour

Coffee and cookies in the gym after worship. Sign-up to host is next to the office. Our host this week is Darlene Stutheit.

### Adult Class

Memory is the fountain of gratitude and faithfulness in the book of Deuteronomy. When the people forget what God has done for them then they become filled with ingratitude and unfaithfulness. The prosperity of God's people rests on their remembering and faithfulness.

**Class starts at 10:30.**

### Prayers

Please offer prayers of healing for:

- Kim Mills recovering from a stroke at Brookside.
- Vernon Hunzeker recovering from breathing and voice problems at Tabitha.

For peace in the **Ukraine**. Please note **refugee donation sheets** on the welcome table.

### Wednesday Lenten Services

Worship will be held at 12:15 pm in the chapel and at 5:30 pm in the nave. The second worship service is both in-person and online.

### Easter Flower Donations

You are invited to donate flowers to beautify the church for Easter Sunday. You may donate in honor or in memory of someone or just donate to help offset the cost. Easter lilies are \$12;

pots of tulips are \$10. Please fill out a donation form found at the Welcome Table or outside the office before April 11. Many thanks for your help.

### People's City Mission

Congregational Life committee has a basket on the Welcome table for trial size donations of soap, shampoo and conditioner to be gathered for the Mission during the season of Lent. If you have any of these items at home then feel free to donate them next time you are here.

### BSA Troop 30-Girls

Do you need some **Easter Eggs** for your family egg hunt? Members of Scouts BSA Troop 30-Girls are selling pre-packed Easter eggs to raise money for their summer trip. Plastic eggs are pre-packed with an assortment of candy and toys. You may order 25 eggs for \$20; 50 eggs for \$40; or 75 eggs for \$60. Eggs will be delivered directly to you. Deadline is April 1<sup>st</sup>. You can place your order by email at [bsatroop30.ne@gmail.com](mailto:bsatroop30.ne@gmail.com)

**Green attendance cards** can be filled out and returned to the Offering basket in the front of the church after worship or the Welcome Table basket on the top of the atrium stairs.

### 2022 Offering Envelopes

Available in the atrium for you to pick up today or during the week.

### CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK

March 28:	
Lincoln Literacy	9:15 pm
Lessons	4:00 pm
Boy Scouts	7:00 pm
March 29:	
Al-Anon	9:30 am
Lessons	4:00 pm
March 30:	
Lincoln Literacy	9:15 am
Worship Service	12:15 pm
Worship Service	5:30 pm
Bell Choir A practice	6:00 pm
Bell Choir B practice	7:00 pm

April 2:	
Worship	5:30 pm
April 3:	
Worship	9:00 am
Fellowship	10:00 am
Thrivent Meeting	10:00 am
Adult Class	10:30 am
LLC Practice	3:00 pm