

Lent 2
March 13, 2022

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 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.

INTRODUCTION to worship

Though we sometimes doubt and often resist God's desire to protect and save us, our God persists. In holy baptism, God's people have been called and gathered into a God-initiated relationship that will endure. Lent provides the church with a time and a tradition in which to seek God's face again. Lent provides another occasion to behold the God of our salvation in the face of the Blessed One who "comes in the name of the Lord."

GATHERING

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

WELCOME

PRELUDE *"Balm in Gilead", Spiritual. arr. Albert Zabel*

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.**

GATHERING HYMN ELW 727

Lord Christ, When First You Came to Earth



1 Lord Christ, when first you came to earth, up -
 2 O awe - some Love, which finds no room in
 3 New ad - vent of the love of Christ, will
 4 O wound - ed hands of Je - sus, build in



on a cross they bound you, and mocked your sav - ing
 life where sin de - nies you, and, doomed to death, shall
 we a - gain re - fuse you, till in the night of
 us your new cre - a - tion; our pride is dust, our



king - ship's worth by thorns with which they crowned you. And
 bring to doom the pow'r that cru - ci - fies you, till
 hate and war we per - ish as we lose you? From
 vaunt is stilled; we wait your rev - e - la - tion. O



still our wrongs may fash - ion now new thorns to pierce that
 not a stone is left on stone, and then the na - tions'
 an - cient doubts our minds re - lease to seek the king - dom
 Love that tri - umphs o - ver loss, we bring our hearts be -



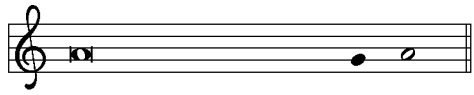
stead - y brow, and robe of sor - row round you.
 pride, o'er - thrown, will nev - er - more de - fy you!
 of your peace, by which a - lone we choose you.
 fore your cross; come, fin - ish your sal - va - tion.

Text: W. Russell Bowie, 1882–1969, alt.
 Music: MIT FREUDEN ZART, medieval European tune

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.



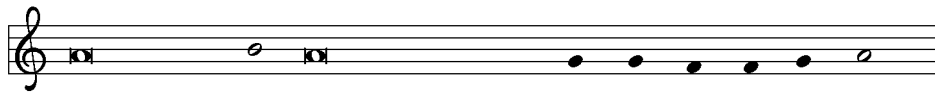
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



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 the covenant, in the mystery of the cross you promise everlasting life to the world. Gather all peoples into your arms, and shelter us with your mercy, that we may rejoice in the life we share in your Son, 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: Genesis 15:1-6

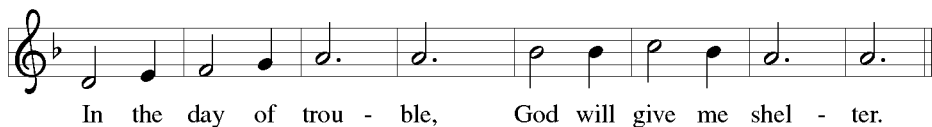
God promises a childless and doubting Abram that he will have a child, that his descendants will be as numerous as the stars.

A reading from Genesis:

¹After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, "Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great." ²But Abram said, "O Lord God, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" ³And Abram said, "You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir." ⁴But the word of the LORD came to him, "This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir." ⁵He brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your descendants be." ⁶And he believed the LORD; and the LORD reckoned it to him as righteousness.

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

Psalm: Psalm 27



Psalm 27:5

Psalm refrain reproduced from *Psalter for Worship Year C* © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.

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¹The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom then ¹ shall I fear?

The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I ¹ be afraid?

²**When evildoers close in against me to de- ¹ vour my flesh,
they, my foes and my enemies, will stum- ¹ ble and fall.**

³Though an army encamp against me, my heart ¹ will not fear.

Though war rise up against me, my trust will ¹ not be shaken.

⁴**One thing I ask of the LORD; one ¹ thing I seek;**

**that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life; to gaze upon the beauty
of the LORD and to seek God ¹ in the temple. R**

Second Reading: Philippians 3:17--21

Although Paul's devotion to Christ has caused him to be persecuted, he does not regret the course he has taken. Writing from prison, he expresses confidence in a glorious future and encourages other Christians to follow in his footsteps.

A reading from Philippians:

¹⁷Brothers and sisters, join in imitating me, and observe those who live according to the example you have in us. ¹⁸For many live as enemies of the cross of Christ; I have often told you of them, and now I tell you even with tears. ¹⁹Their end is destruction; their god is the belly; and their glory is in their shame; their minds are set on earthly things. ²⁰But our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. ²¹He will transform the body of our humiliation that it may be conformed to the body of his glory, by the power that also enables him to make all things subject to himself.

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

STAND

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Gospel: Luke 13:31-35

Neither Herod's plotting nor Jerusalem's resistance to maternal love will deter Jesus from his sacrificial mission.

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

³¹At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to [Jesus,] "Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you." ³²He said to them, "Go and tell that fox for me, 'Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work. ³³Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed outside of Jerusalem.' ³⁴Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! ³⁵See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, 'Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.'"

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

SIT

SERMON

STAND

HYMN OF THE DAY ELW 735

Mothering God, You Gave Me Birth

The musical score is written on three staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a common time signature of 4/4. The lyrics are arranged in three lines, each corresponding to a staff. The first staff has a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp. The second staff has a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp. The third staff has a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp. The lyrics are: 1 Moth - er - ing God, you gave me birth in the bright; 2 Moth - er - ing Christ, you took my form, of - fer - ing; 3 Moth - er - ing Spir - it, nur - t'ring one, in arms of morn - ing of this world. Cre - a - tor, source of ev - 'ry me your food of light, grain . . . of life, and grape of pa - tience hold me close, so that in faith I root and breath, you are my rain, my wind, my sun. love, your ver - y bod - y for my peace. grow un - til I flow'r, un - til I know.

1 Moth - er - ing God, you gave me birth in the bright
2 Moth - er - ing Christ, you took my form, of - fer - ing
3 Moth - er - ing Spir - it, nur - t'ring one, in arms of

morn - ing of this world. Cre - a - tor, source of ev - 'ry
me your food of light, grain . . . of life, and grape of
pa - tience hold me close, so that in faith I root and

breath, you are my rain, my wind, my sun.
love, your ver - y bod - y for my peace.
grow un - til I flow'r, un - til I know.

Text: Jean Janzen, b. 1933; based on Julian of Norwich, c. 1342–c. 1413
Music: NORWICH, Carolyn Jennings, b. 1936
Text © 1991 Jean Janzen, admin. Augsburg Fortress.
Music © 1995 Augsburg Fortress.

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.*

You gather the church into a community of mercy and grace. Unify Christians around the globe in efforts to proclaim good news even in the face of opposition and to protect those whose lives are imperiled by the gospel. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

You create the entire universe and call it good. Hinder those who would cause further destruction to our planet's fragile ecosystems, and augment the calls of those who advocate for thoughtful stewardship of the earth's resources. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

You raise up leaders committed to love and justice. Nurture in those who govern patience to receive criticism, openness to new ideas, and courage to change course when needed for the sake of the common good. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

You hear us when we cry to you. Attend to those expecting a child, and console those who have experienced miscarriage. Comfort veterans enduring post-traumatic stress. Shield those endangered by domestic violence. Uphold those who are ill or grieving, especially those we name before you now.... Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

You welcome us into your heavenly realm. We give thanks for those whose labors on earth are ended and who now rest with you. On the final day, gather all of us, with them, in your loving arms. 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.**

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Christ.

SIT

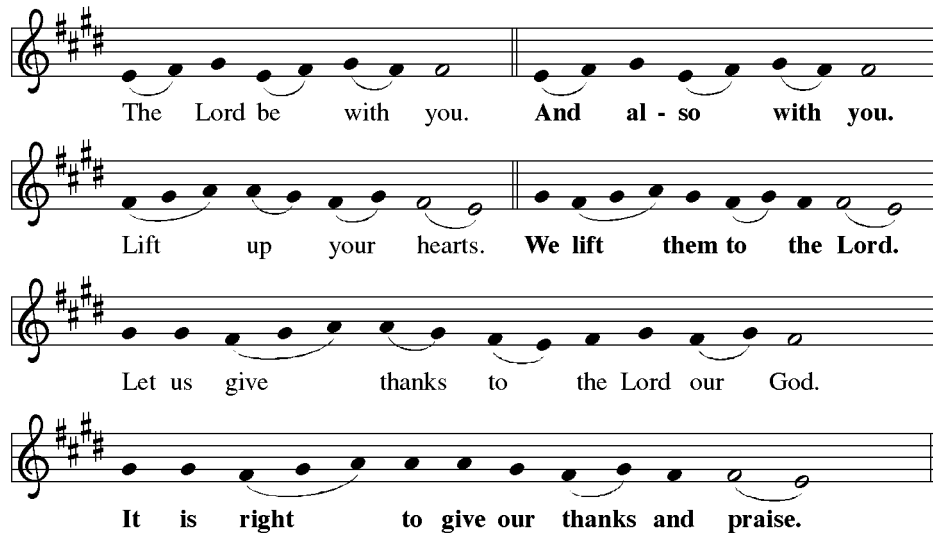
MUSIC OFFERING *"The Lord's My Shepherd", Evan, W. H. Havergal, 1846, arr. Albert Zabel*

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



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.

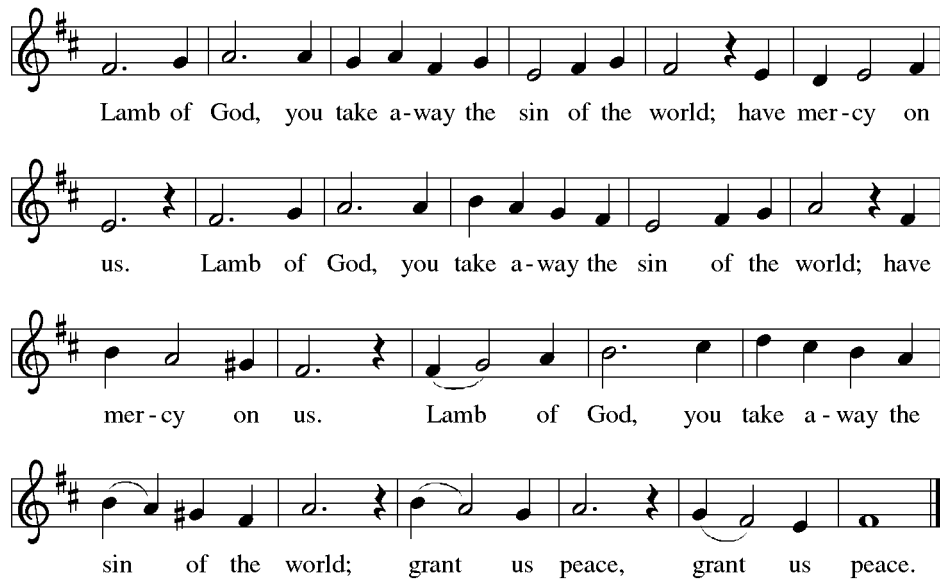
LORD'S PRAYER

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



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.

COMMUNION HYMN ELW 791 (lyrics only)

We Sing to You, O God

- 1 We sing to you, O God,
the Rock who gave us birth,
let our rejoicing sing
your name in all the earth.
To you, O God, let songs be raised,
in joyful hymns, our feast of praise.
- 2 We wandered far from home
out in a desert land,
you shielded with your love
our fearful pilgrim band.
You kept us safe within your arms
and sheltered us against the storm.

3 You bear us through the world,
an eagle to its young;
you rise up on your wings
and bear us toward the sun.
We ride the vaults of light and air
and trust in your unfailing care.

4 O God, eternal God,
we hide within your wings,
the everlasting arms
to whom our praises ring.
Your word is true, your way is just,
You are the God in whom we trust.

Text: Gracia Grindal, b. 1943

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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.**

SENDING

God sends us in mission to the world.

SENDING HYMN ACS 1015 *As a Mother Comforts Her Child* (The cantor will sing once through,
then congregation sings twice through.)

As a Mother Comforts Her Child

As a moth-er com-forts her child, so God will com - fort you.

As a hen gath-ers her brood, so Christ will gath - er you.

As a wise one coun-sels her friend, so the Spir-it will coun-sel you.

The Trin - i - ty of love will be with you.

Text: Brian Wentzel, b. 1979
Music: TRINITY OF LOVE, Brian Wentzel
Text and music © 2018 Augsburg Fortress

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
Cantor:	Peter Schnake
Bell Choir:	Jennifer Aliwarga-Carlson, Dave Rathjen, Jillian Jensen, Isabel Kuebler
Reader:	Neil Larson
Communion Assistants:	Kurt and Cindy Eberspacher
Bread:	Chris and Wendy Apple
Altar Guild:	Kurt and Cindy Eberspacher
Ushers:	Kurt and Cindy Eberspacher, Lori Drake
Wine Donors:	Fran and Kevin Gade, Jo Miller

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 no longer required or recommended for everyone during worship. If you need to or want to wear a mask then please do so.
- We will enter the building through the **Atrium doors**. These doors will be locked at fifteen minutes past the hour. All other **doors will be locked**.
- There will **hand sanitizers** at the doorways. 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 both entrance doors to the sanctuary.
- There will be **no sharing** of the peace.
- There will be **no acolyte or assisting minister**.
- There will be **no nursery** available.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Coffee Hour

Coffee and cookies in the gym after worship. Sign-up to host is next to the office.

Adult Class

Opposition and struggle are inevitable in the life of faith but through the determination of the people and God's grace the temple life of the people is restored. We celebrate the reality that difficulties can be a time of renewal and growth. **Class starts at 10:30.**

Prayers

Please offer prayers of healing for:

- Pat Lickei recovering from hip surgery at Southlake Village.
- Sue Clymer recovering from a stroke in North Carolina.
- Kim Mills recovering from a stroke at Brookside.
- Helen Carnes recovering from a stroke at home.
- Vernon Hunzeker recovering from breathing problems at Tabitha.
- Kathie Remington recovering from heart surgery in Omaha.

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.

You can place your order by email at 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 14:

Lincoln Literacy	9:15 pm
Lessons	4:00 pm

March 15:

Al-Anon	9:30 am
Lessons	4:00 pm
WELCA Group 6	7:00 pm

March 16:

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

March 17:

BNRR	4:00 pm
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March 18:

Worship	5:30 pm
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March 13:

Worship	9:00 am
Fellowship	10:00 am
Adult Class	10:30 am
Recital	2:30 pm
LLC Practice	3:00 pm