



**Midweek Service of Word, Song and Prayer  
Grace Lutheran Church  
Lincoln, Nebraska**

## 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

God is our light and our salvation,  
**our refuge and our stronghold.**

From the rising of the sun to its setting,  
**we praise your name, O God.**

For with you is the fountain of life,  
**and in your light we see our salvation.**

## Prayer of the Day

Sovereign God, you turn your greatness into goodness for all the peoples on earth. Shape us into willing servants of your kingdom, and make us desire always and only your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

## Readings

Isaiah 53

<sup>5</sup>But he was wounded for our transgressions, crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the punishment that made us whole, and by his bruises we are healed.

How has Jesus' suffering for you made you whole?

Psalm 91

<sup>11</sup>For God will give the angels charge over you, to guard you in all your ways.

How have you experienced God's protection in your life?

Hebrews 5

<sup>8</sup>Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered;...

What has suffering taught you?

Mark 10

<sup>45</sup>For the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many."

What is the ransom that Jesus' has paid for us? What impact has this had on your life?

## **Reflection**

### *Sharing in Your Glory: Success or Service?*

“Grant us to sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your glory.” Like James and John, we too are quick to assume that following Christ leads to success, power, and glory. Like James and John we ask for what we know and think we want—and we know that this world rewards success, power, and glory with even more of the same, and we want it!

Yet Jesus turns our lust for success, power, and glory on its head: “Whoever wishes to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wishes to be first among you must be slave of all.”

This servant leadership that finds power in self-giving is to be a hallmark of Christian community. For this servant-leadership is both modeled and empowered by the living Jesus himself. His greatness is found in his humility, his strength is in his weakness, and his whole life is given as a ransom for our sake.

Indeed, Isaiah reminds us that “The righteous one, my servant, shall make many righteous.”

Those who end up sitting at his right and left hand in his glory will not be the privileged and powerful, or even the disciples, who shrink back from sharing in his cup of suffering. Those at his right and left hand will be condemned criminals, crucified alongside him as he offers himself as a ransom for many.

Likewise, those who will be great among us will be servants, finding Christ’s strength in their weakness and giving of themselves fully, following their Lord through failure, weakness, and shame into true and eternal glory.

**Music Offering:** We are an Offering – Chris Christian

### **Lord’s Prayer (together)**

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.

### **Apostle’s Creed (together)**

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.

### **Responsive Prayer**

Show us your mercy, O God,

**and grant us your salvation.**

Give us the joy of your saving help again,

**and sustain us with your bountiful Spirit.**

Give peace in all the world;

**for only in you can we live in safety.**

Keep the nations under your care,

**and guide us in the way of justice and truth.**

Let your way be known upon earth;

**your saving health among all nations.**

Let not the needy be forgotten,

**nor the hope of the poor be taken away.**

Create in us a clean heart, O God,

**and sustain us with your Holy Spirit.**

Lord, hear my prayer,

**and let my cry come before you.**

### **Closing Prayer**

O God, in you we live and move and have our being. Guide and govern us every day by your Holy Spirit, that in all the cares and occupations of our life we may not forget you, but remember that always we are walking in your promises; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### **Dismissal**

Go in peace. Serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

### **Blessing**

Almighty God (+) bless us, defend us from all evil, and bring us to everlasting life. **Amen.**