



Pentecost 24  
November 15, 2020

## **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)

### **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 are committed to 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.

### **INTRODUCTION to worship**

Our readings during November speak of the end times. Zephaniah proclaims that the coming day of the LORD will be filled with wrath and distress. Paul says it will come like a thief in the night and urges us to be awake and sober. Jesus tells the parable of the talents, calling us to use our gifts, while we still have time, for the greater and common good. In a world filled with violence and despair, we gather around signs of hope—word, water, bread, and wine—eager to welcome the good news of Christ's coming among us.

---

## **GATHERING**

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

---

**PRELUDE** "Abbott's Leigh", Cyril V. Taylor, 1907-1991, re-harm., A. Melang-Thoren, 2019

### **WELCOME**

*STAND*

### **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, in whose image we are made, who claims us and calls us beloved. **Amen.**

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Holy One,

**we confess that we are not awake for you. We are not faithful in using your gifts. We forget the least of our siblings. We do not see your beautiful image in one another. We are infected by sin that divides your beloved community. Open our hearts to your coming, open our eyes to see you in our neighbor, open our hands to serve your creation. Amen.**

Beloved, we are God's children, and Jesus, our Beloved, opens the door to us. Through ✠ Jesus you are forgiven, by Jesus you are welcome, in Jesus you are called to rejoice! Let us live in the promises prepared for us from the foundation of the world. **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.**

### **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Righteous God, our merciful master, you own the earth and all its peoples, and you give us all that we have. Inspire us to serve you with justice and wisdom, and prepare us for the joy of the day of your coming, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

---

### **WORD**

God speaks to us in scripture, preaching and song.

---

*SIT*

**First Reading: Zephaniah 1:7, 12-13**

A reading from Zephaniah:

<sup>7</sup>Be silent before the Lord GOD!

For the day of the LORD is at hand;  
the LORD has prepared a sacrifice,  
he has consecrated his guests.

<sup>12</sup>At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps,  
and I will punish the people  
who rest complacently on their dregs,  
those who say in their hearts,  
"The LORD will not do good,  
nor will he do harm."

<sup>13</sup>Their wealth shall be plundered,  
and their houses laid waste.  
Though they build houses,

they shall not inhabit them;  
though they plant vineyards,  
they shall not drink wine from them.

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

**Psalm: Psalm 90:1-4, 11-12**

Let us read responsively from Psalm 90:

<sup>1</sup>Lord, you have been our refuge  
from one generation to another.

<sup>2</sup>**Before the mountains were brought forth, or the land and the earth were born,  
from age to age you are God.**

<sup>3</sup>You turn us back to the dust and say,  
“Turn back, O children of earth.”

<sup>4</sup>**For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past  
and like a watch in the night;**

<sup>11</sup>Who regards the power of your wrath?  
Who rightly fears your indignation?

<sup>12</sup>**So teach us to number our days  
that we may apply our hearts to wisdom.**

**Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 5:1-2, 6-11**

A reading from 1<sup>st</sup> Thessalonians:

<sup>1</sup>Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. <sup>2</sup>For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. <sup>6</sup>So then let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; <sup>7</sup>for those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who are drunk, get drunk at night. <sup>8</sup>But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. <sup>9</sup>For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>10</sup>who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. <sup>11</sup>Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

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

*STAND*

**Gospel: Matthew 25:14-30**

The holy gospel according to St. Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said to the disciples:] <sup>14</sup>“For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; <sup>15</sup>to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. <sup>16</sup>The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. <sup>17</sup>In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. <sup>18</sup>But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master’s money. <sup>19</sup>After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. <sup>20</sup>Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, ‘Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.’ <sup>21</sup>His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’ <sup>22</sup>And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, ‘Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.’ <sup>23</sup>His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’ <sup>24</sup>Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, ‘Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; <sup>25</sup>so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.’ <sup>26</sup>But his master replied, ‘You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? <sup>27</sup>Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. <sup>28</sup>So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. <sup>29</sup>For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. <sup>30</sup>As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’”

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

*SIT*

**SERMON**

**HYMN OF THE DAY** (please remain seated and listen, hum or sing the hymn to yourself or reflect on the following:)

Wilhelm Andreas Wexels was born in Copenhagen, Denmark, and would become a catechist and curate of Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Oslo, Norway. He preached against the inroads of rationalism, emphasizing the need for spiritual revival. Church historians claim that his ministry was the turning point in the revival of the Church of Norway at that time in history.

What lyrics of this hymn help to revive your faith today?

## Oh, Happy Day When We Shall Stand



1 Oh, hap - py day when we shall stand a - mid the  
2 Oh, bless - ed day when Christ shall come and show him -  
3 Oh, what a might - y rush - ing flood of joy and  
4 O Lord, your grace is ev - 'ry - thing; your love has



heav'n-ly throng; and sing with hosts from ev - 'ry land the  
self as Lord, and thou - sands meet in their new homewhich  
love and peace will roll down o - ver us with good and  
made us free to stand a - mong the saints and sing the



new ce - les - tial song, the new ce - les - tial song.  
Je - sus has pre - pared, which Je - sus has pre - pared.  
bless - ed - ness and grace, and bless - ed - ness and grace.  
glo - ry that we see, the glo - ry that we see.

Text: Wilhelm A. Wexels, 1797–1866; tr. composite  
Music: LOBT GOTT, IHR CHRISTEN, Nikolaus Herman, 1480–1561  
Text © 1958, 1978 Augsburg Fortress

### 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 into heaven,  
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**

Longing for Christ's reign to come among us, we pray for the outpouring of God's power on the church, the world, and all in need. *A brief silence.*

Lord of the church, ignite your people with the passion of your love. By the fire of your Holy Spirit, unify us across ministries, congregations, and denominations, and refine us to participate in your activity throughout the world. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Lord of creation, we stand in awe at the works of your hands and praise you for the beauty of nature. Bless the earth for your glory and restore its integrity where exploitation has caused ruin. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Lord of the nations, sound forth your justice in the ears of all leaders. Increase concern for those who are most vulnerable, especially as international leaders forge trade agreements and cooperate to end human rights abuses. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Lord of all in need, search out all who cry to you in distress. Scatter the heavy clouds of depression, chronic illness, unemployment, and loneliness with your radiant light. Especially those we name silently or aloud, Phyllis,....Send us as encouragement and signs of your healing. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Lord of the stranger, stir up holy restlessness in us to extend love to those at the margins. Release our desire for control and open us to learn from the perspectives of others. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Lord of the living and the dead, we give you thanks for all the saints at rest from their labors. Rouse us to live by their example, that saints yet to come may also know your love. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Receive our prayers in the name of Jesus Christ our Savior, until that day when you gather all creation around your throne where you will reign forever and ever. **Amen.**

---

## MEAL

*God feeds us with the presence of Christ.*

---

*SIT*

**MUSIC OFFERING:** The Peace of the Lord, Text: Anders Ruuth; tr. Gerhard M. Cartford, b. 1923

### OFFERING PRAYER

God of all goodness, generations have turned to you, gathered around your table, and shared your abundant blessings. Number us among them that, as we gather these gifts from your abundance, and give thanks for your rich blessings, we may feast upon your very self and care for all that you have made, through Jesus Christ, our Sovereign and Servant. **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. 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.**

**COMMUNION** (remove the silver tab and then peel back each seal to access the wafer and grape juice)

(pull back top seal) The Body of Christ

(pull back bottom seal) The Blood of Christ



## STAND

### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Lord Jesus, in this simple meal you have set a banquet. Sustain us on the journey, strengthen us to care for the least of your beloved children, and give us glad and generous hearts as we meet you on the way. **Amen.**

---

### SENDING

*God sends us in mission to the world.*

---

### BLESSING

May the God of all creation, in whose image we are made, who claims us and calls us beloved, who strengthens us for service, give you reason to rejoice and be glad! The blessing of God, Sovereign, ✠ Savior, and Spirit, be with you today and always. **Amen.**

### DISMISSAL

Beloved of God, go in peace to love and serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE** “Hyfrydol”, Rowland H. Prichard, 1811-1887, re-harm., A. Melang-Thoren, 2019

*From Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2020 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.  
Reprinted by permission under Augsburg License #32714.*

### WORSHIP SERVANTS:

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

### WORSHIP SPACE:

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

### PRAYER CONCERN(S):

All victims of the Covid-19 virus, sick and suffering, refugees, natural disaster victims, climate change, social injustice, our nation and all of creation.

Today we especially remember Phyllis Holmstrom, mother of Ken, as she battles Covid-19.

## 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. 12 feet is recommended.
- 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**. 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.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **Thanksgiving Box Donations for Grace Members**

It's time to gather food items for this year's Thanksgiving Boxes. We have approximately 6 households in need of boxes this year. Please donate the following items:

- canned vegetables
- canned fruits
- canned cranberries (jellied or whole)
- boxes of Jell-O
- boxes of stuffing mix
- boxes of instant potatoes
- envelopes/jars of gravy
- cardboard boxes
- cash donations to purchase the perishable items (turkeys, hams, pumpkin pies, rolls, and butter)

Donations can be dropped off at the North doors on Sunday morning or in the main entrance during the week. We will assemble and deliver the boxes on November 24<sup>th</sup>.

Thank you,  
Lori Drake

### **Semi-Annual Meeting**

November 22<sup>nd</sup> at 10:00 am in the nave. We will elect new council members, approve 2021 budget and amend our 2017 constitution.

### **Masks**

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!

## CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK

### November 16:

Lincoln Literacy	9 am
Gathering Place	5 pm
Boy Scouts	7 pm

### November 17:

Al-Anon	9:30 am
Cub Scouts	6:30 pm
WELCA Group 6	7:00 pm

### November 18:

WELCA Group 3	1:00 pm
Confirmation	7 pm

### November 19:

Men's Bible study	6:30 am
Quilting	9 pm
Lincoln Literacy	9-11am
Narcotics Anonymous	7 pm
Bell Quartet B	7 pm

### November 21:

BSA Meeting	10:00 am
-------------	----------

### November 22:

Worship	9 pm
Bell Quartet A	9:45 am
Semi-Annual Meeting	10:00 am