



Easter 4  
April 25, 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 image of the good shepherd shows us how the risen Christ brings us to life. It is the relationship between the shepherd and the sheep, one of mutual knowledge and love, that gives the shepherd authority. The shepherd's willingness to lay down his life for the sheep shows his love. First John illustrates what it means to lay down our lives for one another by the example of sharing our wealth with any sibling in need.

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## GATHERING

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

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### WELCOME

**PRELUDE:** "St. Columba", Irish folk tune, arr. Pam Gervais, 2000

## 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

O Lord Christ, good shepherd of the sheep, you seek the lost and guide us into your fold. Feed us, and we shall be satisfied; heal us, and we shall be whole. Make us one with you, for you live and reign with the Father 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 4:8-10

A reading from Acts:

<sup>8</sup>Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, “Rulers of the people and elders, <sup>9</sup>if we are questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are asked how this man has been healed, <sup>10</sup>let it be known to all of you, and to all the people of Israel, that this man is standing before you in good health by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead.

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

Psalm: Psalm 23

A responsive reading from Psalm 23:

<sup>1</sup>The LORD is my shepherd;  
I shall not be in want.

<sup>2</sup>**The LORD makes me lie down in green pastures  
and leads me beside still waters.**

<sup>3</sup>You restore my soul, O LORD,  
and guide me along right pathways for your name’s sake.

<sup>4</sup>**Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil;  
for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.**

<sup>5</sup>You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;  
you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

<sup>6</sup>**Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,  
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.**

Lord Jesus Christ, our good shepherd, you give us new birth in the waters of baptism, you anoint us with oil, and you nourish us at your table with heavenly food. In your goodness and mercy, dispel the shadows of evil and death, and lead us along safe paths, that we may rest securely in you and dwell in the house of the Lord now and forever, for your name’s sake.  
**Amen.**

## Second Reading: 1 John 3:21-24

A reading from 1 John:

<sup>21</sup>Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; <sup>22</sup>and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him.

<sup>23</sup>And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. <sup>24</sup>All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

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

STAND

**Gospel: John 10:11-18**

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

[Jesus said:] <sup>11</sup>“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. <sup>12</sup>The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. <sup>13</sup>The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. <sup>14</sup>I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, <sup>15</sup>just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. <sup>16</sup>I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So, there will be one flock, one shepherd. <sup>17</sup>For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life to take it up again. <sup>18</sup>No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father.”

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)

Sir Henry Williams Baker (1821-1877), the author of this hymn, was the son of a vice-admiral. He was educated at Trinity College, Cambridge, and ordained in 1844 as a priest in the Church of England.

A big passion of his life was the creation of the innovative Hymns Ancient & Modern. An important feature of this hymnal was the printing of text and tune for each hymn on the same page, so any singer could see and sing the unique pairings.

“The King of Love My Shepherd Is,” a metrical paraphrase of Psalm 23, was written by Baker for the Second Edition of Hymns Ancient & Modern in 1868, and included in the appendix.

# The King of Love My Shepherd Is



1 The King of love my shep - herd is, whose good - ness  
 2 Where streams of liv - ing wa - ter flow, my ran - somed  
 3 Per - verse and fool - ish oft I strayed, but yet in  
 4 In death's dark vale I fear no ill, with thee, dear



fail - eth nev - er; I noth - ing lack if  
 soul he lead - eth and, where the ver - dant  
 love he sought me, and on his shoul - der  
 Lord, be - side me, thy rod and staff my



I am his and he is mine for - ev - er.  
 pas - tures grow, with food ce - les - tial feed - eth.  
 gent - ly laid, and home, re - joic - ing, brought me.  
 com - fort still; thy cross be - fore to guide me.

5 Thou spreadst a table in my sight;  
 thine unction grace bestoweth;  
 and, oh, what transport of delight  
 from thy pure chalice floweth!

6 And so, through all the length of days,  
 thy goodness faileth never.  
 Good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise  
 within thy house forever.

Text: Henry W. Baker, 1821–1877  
 Music: ST. COLUMBA, Irish tune

**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.*

Loving Shepherd, you know your own and your own know you. Your voice calls us to your loving embrace. Strengthen your church throughout the world that we bear witness to your expansive love. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Gracious Shepherd, you are generous with the gifts of goodness and mercy. Restore your creation to wholeness so that cities and towns, countryside and wilderness, may abound with life. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Hope-giving Shepherd, the nations and peoples are your heritage. Place into the hearts of all leaders and rulers the passion to serve. Crucify any desire to overpower others and give leaders joy in lifting the lowly. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Abiding Shepherd, your love flows as we reach out to those around us. Move us with your Spirit, so that we lay down our lives for those in need. Especially those we name before now... Help us love one another in truth and action. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Saving Shepherd, you restore us to wholeness. Help our community in our life together and give us vigor as a people of faith. Amid challenges and opportunities, fill us anew with you Holy Spirit. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Eternal Shepherd, you hold us securely in your loving hands. In the assurance of resurrection hope, we remember our loved ones who have died in you. Especially those we name before you now.... Bring us, with them, to dwell in your house forever. 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:** “The Lord’s My Shepherd”, William H. Havergal, 1846, arr. Albert Zabel.

### 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:** “The King of Love, My Shepherd Is”, setting by C. S. Lang

## 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: Peter Schnake

Bell Choir: Jillian Jensen, Lisa Holmstrom, Peter Schnake, Julene Leshner

## UPCOMING COMMEMORATIONS

### Mark, Evangelist

**Sunday, April 25, 2021**

He was not numbered among the twelve apostles, yet Mark was probably a member of the early church community. The gospel that bears his name is the shortest and most direct, and many scholars think it was the first to be written.

### Catherine of Siena, theologian, died 1380

**Thursday, April 29, 2021**

This theologian was the first woman among Roman Catholics to receive the title "Doctor [teacher] of the Church." Catherine was a Dominican sister known for her mystical visions as well as her work on behalf of people who were poor and imprisoned.

### Philip and James, Apostles

**Saturday, May 1, 2021**

Philip was one of the first disciples of Jesus, and called Nathanael to "come and see." He later responded to an Ethiopian official's request for teaching and baptism. Little is known of James, the son of Alphaeus, called "the Less" to distinguish him from another apostle named James.

## 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**

### **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.

**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 26:**

Boy Scouts 7:00 pm

**April 27:**

Al-Anon 9:30 am

Cub Scouts 6:30 pm

**April 28:**

Confirmation 7:00 pm

**April 29:**

Quilting 9:00 am

Bell Quartet B 7:00 pm

**May 2:**

Bell Rehearsal 8:30 am

Worship 9:00 am

Bell Quartet A 9:45 am

Eagle Scouts 7:00 pm