



Pentecost 20  
October 18, 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

In today's first reading God uses the Gentile ruler Cyrus to accomplish divine purposes. When the Pharisees try to trap Jesus, he tells them to give the emperor what belongs to him and to God what belongs to God. To gather for worship reminds us that our ultimate allegiance is to God rather than to any earthly authority. Created in the image of God, we offer our entire selves in the service of God and for the sake of the world.

---

## GATHERING

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

---

**PRELUDE** "Gather Us In", Marty Haugen, b. 1950

### WELCOME

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Let us confess our sins in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence*

Gracious God,

**C: we confess that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. Forgive us and give us strength to turn from sin and to serve you in newness of life. Amen.**

In the name of ✠ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit that Christ may live in your life through faith.

**C: 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

Sovereign God, raise your throne in our hearts. Created by you, let us live in your image; created for you, let us act for your glory; redeemed by you, let us give you what is yours, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.  
**Amen.**

---

## WORD

God speaks to us in scripture, preaching and song.

---

### First Reading: Isaiah 45:1-3

A reading from Isaiah

<sup>1</sup>Thus says the LORD to his anointed, to Cyrus,  
whose right hand I have grasped  
to subdue nations before him  
and strip kings of their robes,  
to open doors before him—  
and the gates shall not be closed:  
<sup>2</sup>I will go before you  
and level the mountains,  
I will break in pieces the doors of bronze  
and cut through the bars of iron,  
<sup>3</sup>I will give you the treasures of darkness  
and riches hidden in secret places,  
so that you may know that it is I, the LORD,  
the God of Israel, who call you by your name.

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

### Psalm: Psalm 96:1-4

Let us read responsively from Psalm 96:

<sup>1</sup>Sing to the LORD a new song;  
sing to the LORD, all the earth.  
<sup>2</sup>**Sing to the LORD, bless the name of the LORD;  
proclaim God's salvation from day to day.**  
<sup>3</sup>Declare God's glory among the nations  
and God's wonders among all peoples.  
<sup>4</sup>**For great is the LORD and greatly to be praised,  
more to be feared than all gods.**

### Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 1:2-6

A reading from 1 Thessalonians:

<sup>2</sup>We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly <sup>3</sup>remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.

<sup>4</sup>For we know, brothers and sisters beloved by God, that he has chosen you, <sup>5</sup>because our message of the gospel came to you not in word only, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction; just as you know what kind of persons we proved to be among you for your sake. <sup>6</sup>And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for despite persecution you received the word with joy inspired by the Holy Spirit.

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

### **Gospel: Matthew 22:15-22**

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

<sup>15</sup>Then the Pharisees went and plotted to entrap [Jesus] in what he said. <sup>16</sup>So they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, “Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one; for you do not regard people with partiality. <sup>17</sup>Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to the emperor, or not?” <sup>18</sup>But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, “Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? <sup>19</sup>Show me the coin used for the tax.” And they brought him a denarius. <sup>20</sup>Then he said to them, “Whose head is this, and whose title?” <sup>21</sup>They answered, “The emperor’s.” Then he said to them, “Give therefore to the emperor the things that are the emperor’s, and to God the things that are God’s.” <sup>22</sup>When they heard this, they were amazed; and they left him and went away.

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

### **SERMON**

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

“Lift Every Voice and Sing” was written and composed by the Johnson brothers, a pair of influential men from Jacksonville, Florida.

James Weldon Johnson and John Rosamond Johnson worked together their whole lives, first in show business and later in the pursuit of civil rights. They both saw artistic and cultural excellence as a key to Black advancement in America.

For more than a century, “Lift Every Voice and Sing” has held a powerful place in American history. The hymn is known as the Black National Anthem, but it’s more than that. It’s a history lesson, a rallying cry, a pledge of unity, and as people gather to fight for equality and justice, it is an ever-present refrain.

Question:

What lyrics of this hymn inspire you today?

# Lift Every Voice and Sing



1 Lift ev - 'ry voice and sing till earth and heav - en ring,  
 2 Ston - y the road we trod, bit - ter the chas - t'ning rod,  
 3 God of our wea - ry years, God of our si - lent tears,



ring with the har - mo - nies of lib - er - ty.  
 felt in the days when hope un - born had died;  
 thou who hast brought us thus far on the way;



Let our re - joic - ing rise high as the lis - t'ning skies,  
 yet with a stead - y beat, have not our wea - ry feet  
 thou who hast by thy might led us in - to the light,



let it re - sound loud as the roll - ing sea.  
 come to the place for which our par - ents sighed?  
 keep us for - ev - er in the path, we pray.



Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us;  
 We have come o - ver a way that with tears has been wa - tered;  
 Lest our feet stray from the plac - es, our God, where we met thee;



sing a song full of the hope that the pres - ent has brought us;  
 we have come, tread - ing our path through the blood of the slaugh - tered,  
 lest, our hearts drunk with the wine of the world, we for - get thee;



fac - ing the ris - ing sun of our new day be - gun,  
 out from the gloom - y past, till now we stand at last  
 shad - owed be - neath thy hand, may we for - ev - er stand,



let us march on till vic - to - ry is won.  
 where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.  
 true to our God, true to our na - tive land.

## 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

With confidence in God's grace and mercy, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need. *A brief silence.*

Gracious God, you call us by name and invite us to share your good news. Send your Holy Spirit among preachers, missionaries, and evangelists. We give thanks for the witness of your servant Luke, the evangelist, whom the church commemorates today. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of praise, the heavens and all creation declare your salvation. From the rising of the sun to its setting, may the whole universe show forth your goodness. Raise up devoted stewards of all that you have made. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of all, may your word of justice sound forth in every place. Restore divided nations and communities with reconciling truth. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of light, we pray for those living with pain, illness, isolation, grief, anger, or doubt. We especially pray for those we name before you now... Join their voices in a new song, assuring them that you call them each by name. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of truth, you show no partiality. May your spirit guide the work of justices, magistrates, court officials, and all vocations of the law, that your promise of restoration may be known. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Living God, as you raised Jesus from the dead, so raise up those who have died in you. We give thanks for their witness, confident of your rescuing welcome for all. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Listen as we call on you, O God, and enfold in your loving arms all for whom we pray, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

---

## **MEAL**

*God feeds us with the presence of Christ.*

---

**SPECIAL MUSIC:** "You Are Holy", Per Harling, b. 1948

### **OFFERING PRAYER**

God of goodness and growth, all creation is yours, and your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens. Water and word, wine and bread: these are signs of your abundant grace. Nourish us through these gifts, that we might proclaim your steadfast love in our communities and in the world, through Jesus Christ, our strength and our song. 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**

(pull back top seal) The Body of Christ

(pull back bottom seal) The Blood of Christ

### **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

God of the welcome table, in this meal we have feasted on your goodness and have been united by your presence among us. Empower us to go forth sustained by these gifts so that we may share your neighborly love with all, through Jesus Christ, the giver of abundant life. Amen.

---

## SENDING

*God sends us in mission to the world.*

---

### BLESSING

God, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, + bless you all, now and forever. **Amen.**

**POSTLUDE** “The Lord Now Sends Us Forth”, Enviado soy de Dios, Anonymous, Central America

*(lyrics) The Lord now sends us forth with hands to serve and give, to make of all the earth, a better place to live. The angels are not sent into our world of pain to do what we were meant to do in Jesus name; that falls to you and me, and all that are made free. Help us, O Lord, we pray, to do your will today.*

### DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is with you. **Thanks be to God.**

*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.



## 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

### Reformation Sunday

Next Sunday wear red!

### Prescott Elementary

Thank you to everyone who donated paper cups, tissues and money to Prescott School. They are always so appreciative as well as myself. They do not need any more paper cups but with winter and flu season upon us soon, they will continue to need tissues. If you would like to donate tissues, please leave them at the office and I will get them to Prescott. Thank you for your continuous support of Prescott School.

*Pat Lickei*

### Medication Containers

Used plastic medication containers can no longer be accepted at the church as a donation due to the pandemic. Recycle them at home.

### Lincoln Food Pantry List

Listed below are items most needed by the Pantry at this time:

- Canned fruit--especially peaches and pears
- Tomato soup
- Cream of chicken soup
- Pork and beans
- Canned chicken and/or Spam
- Dry noodles
- Jelly

As always, personal care items (shampoo, bath soap, toothbrushes/tooth paste) are always needed.

Thank you for your continued support of the Lutheran Food Pantry located at St. Andrew Lutheran Church.

- *Tom & Lynn Ochsner, Coordinators*

Reminder: St. Andrew's office hours are currently 8-12 Tuesday through Friday. You can drop off food donations during these hours. Requests for a food box must be made through the Grace Lutheran office.

### **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**

#### **October 19:**

Lincoln Literacy	9-11am
Gathering Place	5-6pm
Boy Scouts	7-8pm

#### **October 20:**

Al-Anon	9:30-10:30am
Cub Scouts	6:30-7:30pm
WELCA Group 6	7:00-8:30pm

#### **October 21:**

WELCA Group 3	1:00-2:30pm
Confirmation	7-8pm

#### **October 22:**

Men's Bible study	6:30-7:30am
Quilting	9-12pm
Lincoln Literacy	9-11am
Narcotics Anonymous	7-9pm
Bell Quartet B	7-8pm

#### **October 25:**

Worship	9-10pm
Bell Quartet A	9:45-10:45am