



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

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.

Introduction to Sunday

When we say God is the triune God, we are saying something about who God is beyond, before, and after the universe and that there is community within God. Our experience of this is reflected in Paul's words today. When we pray to God the Spirit prays with us, creating between us and God the same relationship Jesus has with the one who sent him. So be aware this week of how the Holy Spirit is encouraging you and inspiring you to live in your faith?

Prayer of the Day

Almighty Creator and ever-living God: we worship your glory, eternal Three-in-One, and we praise your power, majestic One-in-Three. Keep us steadfast in this faith, defend us in all adversity, and bring us at last into your presence, where you live in endless joy and love, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Readings

Isaiah 6

⁸Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I; send me!"

Where is God send you today? Are you going or not and why or why not?

Romans 8

¹⁴For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God.

What is the most difficult aspect of being led and why?

John 3

¹⁷"Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him."

Are you more willing to condemn the world or save the world and why?

Reflection

God our Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer models love for us and the world. As John reminds us, "Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him."

One nice spring day several coworkers were having lunch outside. Cars and people were driving and walking by. A young man stopped by their tables asking for money. He was given some money but one coworker took the time to find out his story.

She listened attentively to him and, with a tone of deep respect and love, she instinctively offered him suggestions for each negative comment he gave about his present situation. A glimmer of newfound hope was evident in his eyes as she talked with him. He walked away a taller man.

This coworker who had the gift of recognizing the talents in all of God's creatures, provided the young man with a means to help free himself from his internal chains of bondage.

So, when you see a person in need, do you see or feel only pity or judgment, or do you behold a child of God ready to be set free?

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.