

Transfiguration of our Lord  
February 23, 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 deeply 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 are excited about 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!

### INTRODUCTION to worship

Today's festival is a bridge between the Advent-Christmas-Epiphany cycle that ends today and the Lent-Easter cycle that begins in several days. On a high mountain Jesus is revealed as God's beloved Son, echoing the words at his baptism. This vision of glory sustains us as Jesus faces his impending death in Jerusalem. We turn this week to Ash Wednesday and our yearly baptismal journey from Lent to Easter. Some churches put aside the alleluia at the end of today's liturgy. This word of joy will be omitted during the penitential season of Lent and will be sung again at Easter.

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### GATHERING

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

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### PRELUDE *Tembang Alit - Jaya Suprana*

### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### *Stand*

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, the eternal voice from heaven, the anointed and beloved one, the Spirit moving over the waters. **Amen.**

As we approach the mystery of God, let us come in confession, trusting the love of Christ crucified and risen.  
*Silence.*

God who searches us and knows us,

**you have shown us what is good, but we have looked to other lights to find our way. We have not been just in our dealings with others. We have chosen revenge over mercy. We have promoted ourselves instead of walking humbly with you. With what shall we come before you? Forgive us our sin, and show us your salvation in the face of Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

Beloved of God, you have not received the spirit of the world, but the Spirit that is from God, poured out for you in the faithfulness of Jesus Christ. Receive the promise of baptism: You are God's child; ☩ your sins are forgiven. Rejoice and be glad, for yours is the reign of heaven. **Amen.**

## GATHERING HYMN ELW 834

### GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you. **And also with you.**

### KYRIE

### HYMN OF PRAISE

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God, in the transfiguration of your Son you confirmed the mysteries of the faith by the witness of Moses and Elijah, and in the voice from the bright cloud declaring Jesus your beloved Son, you foreshadowed our adoption as your children. Make us heirs with Christ of your glory, and bring us to enjoy its fullness, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you 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*

### CHILDREN'S MESSAGE with noisy offering

First Reading: Exodus 24:12-18

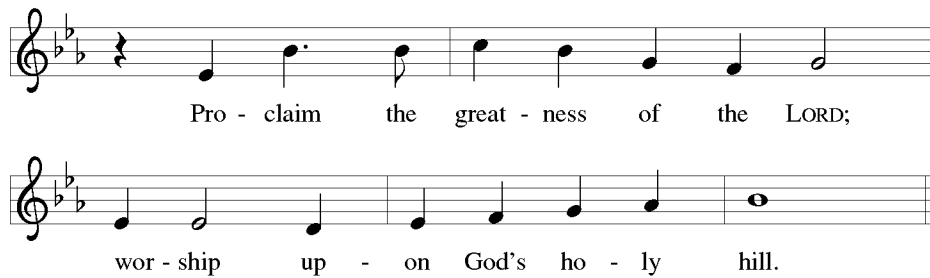
*At Mount Sinai, Moses experienced the presence of God for forty days and forty nights. The "glory of the LORD" settled on the mountain, and on the seventh day God called out to Moses. On the mountain God gave Moses the stone tablets inscribed with the ten commandments.*

<sup>12</sup>The LORD said to Moses, "Come up to me on the mountain, and wait there; and I will give you the tablets of stone, with the law and the commandment, which I have written for their instruction." <sup>13</sup>So Moses set out with his assistant Joshua, and Moses went up into the mountain of God. <sup>14</sup>To the elders he had said, "Wait here for us, until we come to you again; for Aaron and Hur are with you; whoever has a dispute may go to them."

<sup>15</sup>Then Moses went up on the mountain, and the cloud covered the mountain. <sup>16</sup>The glory of the LORD settled on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it for six days; on the seventh day he called to Moses out of the cloud. <sup>17</sup>Now the appearance of the glory of the LORD was like a devouring fire on the top of the mountain in the sight of the people of Israel. <sup>18</sup>Moses entered the cloud, and went up on the mountain. Moses was on the mountain for forty days and forty nights.

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

Psalm: Psalm 99



Psalm 99:9

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<sup>1</sup>The LORD is king; let the | people tremble.

The LORD is enthroned upon the cherubim; let | the earth shake.

<sup>2</sup>**The LORD, | great in Zion,**

**is high a- | bove all peoples. R**

<sup>3</sup>Let them confess God's name, which is | great and awesome;

God is the | Holy One.

<sup>4</sup>**O mighty king, lover of justice, you have es- | tablished equity;**

**you have executed justice and righteous- | ness in Jacob.**

<sup>5</sup>Proclaim the greatness of the LORD and fall down be- | fore God's footstool;

God is the | Holy One.

<sup>9</sup>**Proclaim the greatness of the LORD and worship upon God's | holy hill;**

**for the LORD our God is the | Holy One. R**

Second Reading: 2 Peter 1:16-21

*At the transfiguration, God's voice was heard, declaring Jesus to be the beloved Son. By the activity of the Holy Spirit, God's voice continues to be heard through the word of scripture.*

<sup>16</sup>For we did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we had been eyewitnesses of his majesty. <sup>17</sup>For he received honor and glory from God the Father when that voice was conveyed to him by the Majestic Glory, saying, "This is my Son, my Beloved, with whom I am well pleased." <sup>18</sup>We ourselves heard this voice come from heaven, while we were with him on the holy mountain.

<sup>19</sup>So we have the prophetic message more fully confirmed. You will do well to be attentive to this as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. <sup>20</sup>First of all you must understand this, that no prophecy of scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, <sup>21</sup>because no prophecy ever came by human will, but men and women moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.

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

*Stand*

## **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

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

Gospel: Matthew 17:1-9

*Shortly before he enters Jerusalem, where he will be crucified, Jesus is revealed to Peter, James, and John in a mountaintop experience of divine glory called the transfiguration.*

<sup>1</sup>Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain, by themselves.

<sup>2</sup>And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became dazzling white.

<sup>3</sup>Suddenly there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. <sup>4</sup>Then Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good for us to be here; if you wish, I will make three dwellings here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." <sup>5</sup>While he was still speaking, suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud a voice said, "This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!" <sup>6</sup>When the disciples heard this, they fell to the ground and were overcome by fear. <sup>7</sup>But Jesus came and touched them, saying, "Get up and do not be afraid." <sup>8</sup>And when they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus himself alone.

<sup>9</sup>As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus ordered them, "Tell no one about the vision until after the Son of Man has been raised from the dead."

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

## **SERMON**

*Stand*

**HYMN OF THE DAY** ELW 317

## **NICENE CREED**

We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.  
For us and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary  
and became truly human.  
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the scriptures;

he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

### PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Trusting that God hears us, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.  
*A brief silence.*

Holy God, your loving power is at work among us. Rouse and embolden your church, that we too might be transfigured, set alight in the world for the sake of the gospel. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Awesome God, you speak and the earth trembles. You display your majesty in the mountains and your mystery in the clouds. Grant that we discover your magnificence in all your created world. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Ruler of nations, your reign extends across all human borders. Guide world leaders (*especially*) in justice and righteousness, that they may work for equity for all people and protect the world that you have made. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Gracious God, you are a refuge for all who are neglected and abused. Bring freedom to those who are oppressed and give comfort to those experiencing pain of any kind. Especially those we now name silently or aloud.... Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of Moses and Elijah, you made your dwelling place at the top of a mountain with Jesus and his disciples. Dwell also in this congregation, that all who enter this community might be transformed by your dazzling brilliance. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Everlasting God, you offer eternal life to all your children. Thank you for the witness of those who lived and died in the faith. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Confident that you can accomplish more than we even dare to ask, we bring these prayers before you, believing in your saving grace revealed in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And with you.**

*The Sharing of the Peace is a way of demonstrating hospitality and grace with others. Please understand if some people choose not to shake hands while sharing the Peace for health reasons, but simply greet you with a smile.*

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## MEAL

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ*

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*Sit*

**OFFERING with Special Music:**

*Stand*

**OFFERING SONG** ELW 182

### OFFERING PRAYER

God of all creation, all you have made is good, and your love endures forever. You bring forth bread from the earth and fruit from the vine. Nourish us with these gifts, that we might be for the world signs of your gracious presence in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

### DIALOG

### 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. By the leading of a star he was shown forth to all nations; in the waters of the Jordan you proclaimed him your beloved Son; and in the miracle of water turned to wine he revealed your glory. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

### SANCTUS

### THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Blessed are you, O holy God: you are the Life and Light of all. By your powerful word you created all things. Through the prophets you called your people to be a light to the nations. Blessed are you for Jesus, your Son. He is your Light, shining in our darkness and revealing to us your mercy and might.

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.

Remembering, therefore, his preaching and healing, his dying and rising, and his promise to come again, we await that day when all the universe will rejoice in your holy and life-giving light.

By your Spirit bless us and this meal, that, refreshed with this heavenly food, we may be light for the world, revealing the brilliance of your Son.

Through him all glory and honor are yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever. **Amen**

### **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**

Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! Come to the table of mercy and joy.

*Sit*

### **COMMUNION**

*We receive Holy Communion kneeling/standing at the communion rails. You may receive the wine either by common cup, or by individual glass. If you wish to receive wine in an individual glass, please take one from the stacked trays. To receive communion without coming forward, please notify an usher, and be seated near an aisle. There is grape juice in the center circle of each silver communion tray of glasses. Gluten free wafers are available from the bread distributor. Please ask.*

### **COMMUNION HYMN**

ELW 493 Taste and See (Soloist sings verses. Congregation sings refrains.)

*Stand*

### **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

We thank you, O God, that you have fed us at your banqueting table with bread and wine beyond compare, the very life of Christ for us. Send your Spirit with us now, that we may set the captive free, use your gifts to build one another up, and in everything reflect your glory revealed in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

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### **SENDING**

*God sends us in mission to the world.*

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### **BLESSING**

The God of glory dwell in you richly, name you beloved, and shine brightly on your path; and the blessing of almighty God, the Father, the ☩ Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always. **Amen.**



**DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Christ is our light. **Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE**

**WORSHIP SERVANTS:**

Presiding Minister: Pr. Eric Lesher

Assisting Minister: Tina Loseke

Acolyte: William Abbott

Cantor/Choir: Julene Lesher/Adult Choir

Organist/Pianist: Anne Melang-Thoren, Jennifer Aliwarga-Carlson

Reader: Connie Whyrick

Communion Assistants: Jan Branting, Dave Ripa, Julene Lesher, Connie Whyrick

Altar Guild: Jon and Connie Thorson

Communion Bread: Wendy Apple

Communion Wine: Karen & Mark Billings, Rod & Debbie Basler, John & Joyce Lunde

Greeters: Kathy Zimmerman, Lorraine James

Ushers: Robert Stimbert, Neil Larson, Ron Holtgrewe, Mark Billings

Nursery Care: Judi Schroeder, Elizabeth Krueger

Transportation: Alex Chapman, Duane Mischnick

*Staff:*

*Rev. Eric Lesher, Senior Pastor*

*David Sage, Office Administrator*

*Anne Melang-Thoren, Director of Music*

*Jennifer Aliwarga-Carlson, Organist\pianist*

*Robert Stimbert, Custodian*

*Judi Schroeder, Nursery Coordinator*

*Elizabeth Krueger, Nursery Assistant*