



Ascension Sunday  
May 29, 2022

## 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 near the welcome table. Ask an usher to assist you.

**Restrooms** are located next to our chapel on the other side of the courtyard.

**Masks** are no longer required or recommended for everyone during worship. If you need to or want to wear a mask then please do so.

Please remember to **enter** the building through the **Atrium doors**. These doors will be locked at fifteen minutes past the hour. All other **doors will be locked**.

### INTRODUCTION to worship

In today's readings the risen Christ ascends into heaven and his followers are assured that the Spirit will empower them to be witnesses throughout the earth. The disciples are told to not gaze up into heaven to look for Jesus (Acts 1:11); we find his presence among us as we proclaim the word and share the Easter feast. We too long for the Spirit to enliven our faith and invigorate our mission.

---

### GATHERING

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

---

### WELCOME

**PRELUDE** Preludio - Costante Adolfo Bossi (1876-1953)

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

## STAND

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

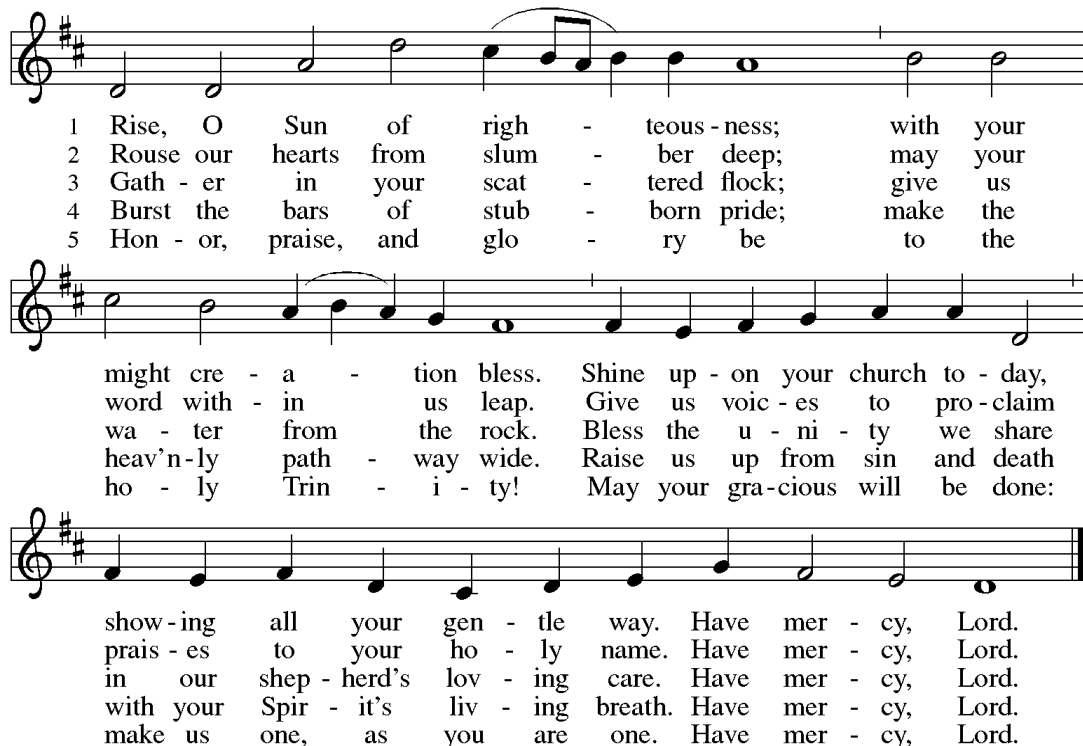
#### *Silence*

Gracious God, **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 hearts through faith. **Amen.**

### GATHERING HYMN ELW 657

#### Rise, O Sun of Righteousness



1 Rise, O Sun of righ - teous - ness; with your  
2 Rouse our hearts from slum - ber deep; may your  
3 Gath - er in your scat - tered flock; give us  
4 Burst the bars of stub - born pride; make the  
5 Hon - or, praise, and glo - ry be to the

might cre - a - tion bless. Shine up - on your church to - day,  
word with - in us leap. Give us voic - es to pro - claim  
wa - ter from the rock. Bless the u - ni - ty we share  
heav'n - ly path - way wide. Raise us up from sin and death  
ho - ly Trin - i - ty! May your gra - cious will be done:

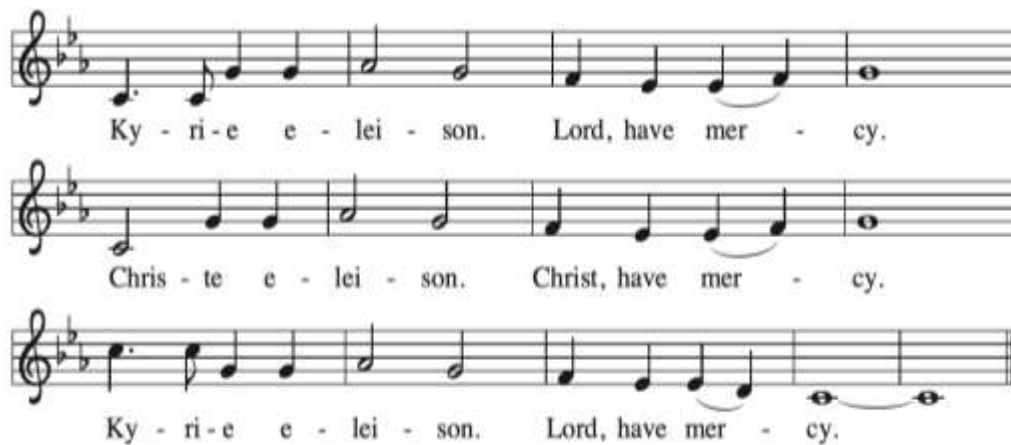
show - ing all your gen - tle way. Have mer - cy, Lord.  
prais - es to your ho - ly name. Have mer - cy, Lord.  
in our shep - herd's lov - ing care. Have mer - cy, Lord.  
with your Spir - it's liv - ing breath. Have mer - cy, Lord.  
make us one, as you are one. Have mer - cy, Lord.

Text: Christian David, et al.; tr. Frank W. Stoldt, b. 1958  
Music: SONNE DER GERECHTIGKEIT, Bohemian Brethren, *Kirchengeseng*, 1566  
Text © 2003 Augsburg Fortress.

### 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.**

## KYRIE



## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty God, your only Son was taken into the heavens and in your presence intercedes for us. Receive us and our prayers for all the world, and in the end bring everything into your glory, through Jesus Christ, our Sovereign and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

---

## WORD

*God speaks to us in scripture, preaching and song.*

---

## SIT

First Reading: Acts 1:1-11

*Before he is lifted into heaven, Jesus promises that the missionary work of the disciples will spread out from Jerusalem to all the world. His words provide an outline of the book of Acts.*

[Luke writes:] <sup>1</sup>In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning <sup>2</sup>until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. <sup>3</sup>After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. <sup>4</sup>While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of the Father. "This," he said, "is what you have heard from me; <sup>5</sup>for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

<sup>6</sup>So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" <sup>7</sup>He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. <sup>8</sup>But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." <sup>9</sup>When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. <sup>10</sup>While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. <sup>11</sup>They said, "Men of Galilee, why do

you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”

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

Psalm 93

A responsive reading of Psalm 93:

<sup>1</sup>The LORD is king, robed in majesty; the LORD is robed in majesty and armed with strength. The LORD has made the world so sure that it cannot be moved.

<sup>2</sup>**Ever since the world began, your throne has been established; you are from everlasting.**

<sup>3</sup>The waters have lifted up, O LORD, the waters have lifted up their voice; the waters have lifted up their pounding waves.

<sup>4</sup>**Mightier than the sound of many waters, mightier than the breakers of the sea, mightier is the LORD who dwells on high.**

<sup>5</sup>Your testimonies are very sure, and holiness befits your house, O LORD, forever and forevermore.

Psalm Prayer

Lord God, in raising Jesus from the grave you established a dominion that can never be shaken or destroyed by death. May your will be done on earth as in heaven, and make firm our faith in the certainty of your promises; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Second Reading: Ephesians 1:15-23

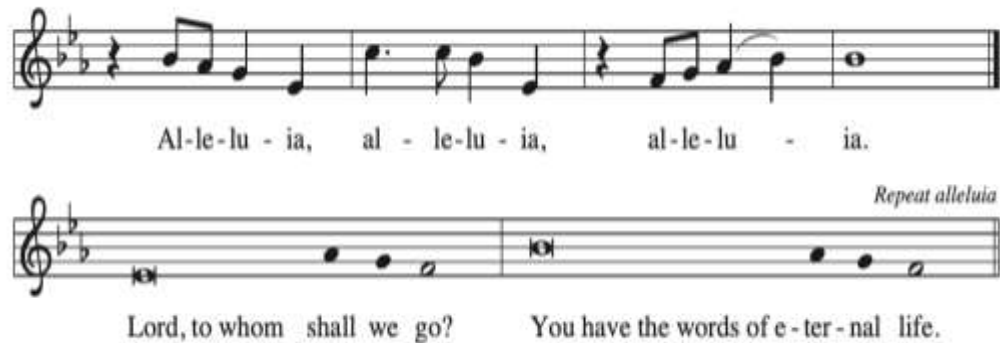
*The risen and exalted Christ reigns over the entire universe. The author of Ephesians prays that we are given the wisdom to know the power of the risen Christ and the empowering hope that the knowledge of this inheritance provides.*

<sup>15</sup>I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason <sup>16</sup>I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. <sup>17</sup>I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, <sup>18</sup>so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, <sup>19</sup>and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. <sup>20</sup>God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, <sup>21</sup>far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. <sup>22</sup>And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, <sup>23</sup>which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

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

*STAND*

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**



Gospel: Luke 24:44-53

*On the day of his ascension, Jesus leaves his disciples with a commission, a blessing, and a promise of the Holy Spirit.*

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

<sup>44</sup>[Jesus said to the eleven and those with them,] “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.”<sup>45</sup> Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, <sup>46</sup>and he said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, <sup>47</sup>and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. <sup>48</sup>You are witnesses of these things. <sup>49</sup>And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.”

<sup>50</sup>Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. <sup>51</sup>While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. <sup>52</sup>And they worshiped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy; <sup>53</sup>and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

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

*SIT*

**SERMON**

*STAND*

**HYMN OF THE DAY ELW 393**

## A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing!



1 A hymn of glo - ry let us sing! New hymns through-out the world shall  
2 The ho - ly ap - os - tol - ic band up - on the Mount of Ol - ives  
3 To whom the shin - ing an - gels cry, "Why stand and gaze up - on the  
4 "You see him now, as-cend-ing high up to the por-tals of the  
5 O ris - en Christ, as-cend-ed Lord, all praise to you let earth ac -



ring: Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! Christ, by a road be - fore un -  
stand, Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! and with his faith-ful fol-l'wers  
sky?" Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! "This is the Sav-ior!" thus they  
sky." Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! "Here - af - ter Je - sus you shall  
cord: Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! You are, while end-less ag - es



trod, as - cends un - to the throne of God.  
see their Lord as-cend in maj - es - ty.  
say, "this is his glo-rious tri - umph day!" Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le -  
see re - turn-ing in great maj - es - ty."  
run, with Fa - ther and with Spir - it one.



lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia!

Text: Bede, 673–735; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*  
Music: LASST UNS ERFREUEN, *Geistliche Kirchengesänge*, Köln, 1623  
Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

### 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**

Set free from captivity to sin and death, we pray to the God of resurrection for the church, people in need, and all of creation. *A brief silence.*

Holy One, ruler of heaven and earth, wash us in your Holy Spirit and make us witnesses to your resurrected life in this community. Let our fellowship be a sign to others of the presence of Christ. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Through thundering, mighty waters reveal your creative power at work in creation. Cleanse the air, land, and waters with the movement of your Spirit and the participation of your people. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

In faithful and diverse worship, turn all people toward you and your loving will for humankind. Bridge differences among traditions and across faiths. Unite us in mission for the sake of a world in need. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

In the suffering and death of Jesus, draw near to those who suffer and for whom death approaches, especially those we name before you now... Hold them in the palm of your loving hand and give them rest. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Inspire us through the music, dance, and other arts ministries of this congregation. With clapping, shouting, singing, playing, and moving, let our bodies bear witness to the joy you alone can give. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Rouse us to remember the faithful witness of the saints who have gone before us. By their lives and the life and death of Jesus, enlighten our hearts, give us hope, and lead us in wisdom. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

In your mercy, O God, respond to these prayers, and renew us by your life-giving Spirit; through Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

---

### **MEAL**

*God feeds us with the presence of Christ.*

---

*SIT*

**MUSIC OFFERING** Offertoire - Léon Boëllmann (1862-1897)

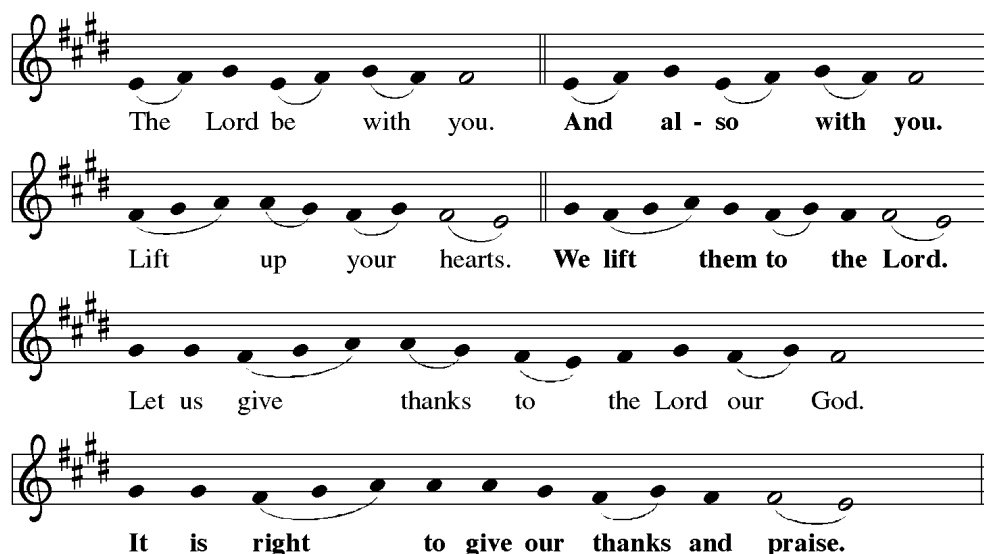


## STAND

### OFFERING PRAYER

Living God, you gather the wolf and the lamb to feed together in your peaceable reign, and you welcome us all at your table. Reach out to us through this meal, and show us your wounded and risen body, that we may be nourished and believe 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; 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 dwells with us here. All who are hungry, all who are thirsty, come.

*SIT*

## AGNUS DEI

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on  
us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have  
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the  
world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

## COMMUNION

*All are welcome. Come forward by way of the center aisle and kneel or stand at the rail to receive the bread (Body of Christ) and the cup (Blood of Christ). When the rail is not being used then come forward by way of the center aisle to receive the elements. Gluten free is available upon request. Grape juice is available upon request. Return to your pew by way of the side aisle. Please dispose your used cup into the basket at the head of the side aisle.*

## COMMUNION HYMN ELW 838

## Beautiful Savior



1 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, King of cre - a - tion,  
2 Fair are the mead - ows, fair are the wood - lands,  
3 Fair is the sun - shine, fair is the moon - light,  
4 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, Lord of the na - tions,



Son of God and Son of Man!  
robed in flow'rs of bloom - ing spring;  
bright the spar - kling stars on high;  
Son of God and Son of Man!



Tru - ly I'd love thee, tru - ly I'd serve thee,  
Je - sus is fair - er, Je - sus is pur - er,  
Je - sus shines bright - er, Je - sus shines pur - er  
Glo - ry and hon - or, praise, ad - o - ra - tion,



light of my soul, my joy, my crown.  
he makes our sor - rowing spir - it sing.  
than all the an - gels in the sky.  
now and for - ev - er - more be thine!

Text: *Gesangbuch*, Münster, 1677; tr. Joseph A. Seiss, 1823–1904  
Music: SCHÖNSTER HERR JESU, Silesian folk tune, 19th cent.

### STAND

#### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

We give you thanks, generous God, for in this bread and cup we have tasted the new heaven and earth where hunger and thirst are no more. Send us from this table as witnesses to the resurrection, that through our lives, all may know life in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

---

#### SENDING

*God sends us in mission to the world.*

---

#### SENDING HYMN ELW 855

## Crown Him with Many Crowns



1 Crown him with man - y crowns, the Lamb up - on his throne;  
2 Crown him the vir - gin's Son, the God in - car - nate born,  
3 Crown him the Lord of love— be - hold his hands and side,  
4 Crown him the Lord of life, who tri - umphed o'er the grave  
5 Crown him the Lord of years, the po - ten - tate of time,



hark, how the heav'n-ly an - them drowns all mu - sic but its own.  
whose arm those crim-son tro - phies won which now his brow a - dorn;  
rich wounds, yet vis - i - ble a - bove, in beau - ty glo - ri - fied.  
and rose vic - to - rious in the strife for those he came to save.  
cre - a - tor of the roll - ing spheres, in - ef - fab - ly sub - lime.



A - wake, my soul, and sing of him who died for thee,  
fruit of the mys - tic rose, yet of that rose the stem,  
No an - gels in the sky can ful - ly bear that sight,  
His glo - ries now we sing, who died and rose on high,  
All hail, Re - deem - er, hail! For thou hast died for me;



and hail him as thy match-less king through all e - ter - ni - ty.  
the root whence mer - cy ev - er flows, the babe of Beth - le - hem.  
but down - ward bend their burn - ing eyes at mys - ter - ies so bright.  
who died, e - ter - nal life to bring, and lives that death may die.  
thy praise and glo - ry shall not fail through-out e - ter - ni - ty.

Text: Matthew Bridges, 1800–1894, sts. 1–3, 5; Godfrey Thring, 1823–1903, st. 4  
Music: DIADEMATA, George J. Elvey, 1816–1893

### BLESSING

God, the Author of life, Christ, the living Cornerstone, and the life-giving Spirit of adoption, ✠  
bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

### DISMISSAL

Alleluia! Christ is risen. **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**  
Go in peace. Tell what God has done. **Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE** “Beautiful Savior”, *Schonster Herr Jesu*, setting by James Engel

## **WORSHIP SERVANTS**

Worship Leader:	Eric Leshner
Organist/Pianist:	Anne Melang-Thoren/Jennifer Aliwarga-Carlson
Reader:	Lorraine James
Communion Assistants:	Jan Branting, Connie Whyrick, Peter Schnake
Bread:	Chris and Wendy Apple
Altar Guild:	Jon and Connie Thorson
Ushers:	Mike and Lynette Lewis, John and Beth Johnson

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Craft and Vendor Show

June 4<sup>th</sup> from 9 am to 3 pm at Grace Lutheran. Come support our local vendors and our Scout ministry!

### Special Event

You are cordially invited to the 35th Ordination celebration for Pastor Eric on Sunday, June 12th, during the coffee hour after worship sponsored by the Church Council and the Congregational Life Committee. We'll also be bidding farewell to Pastor Eric and Julene as this is their last Sunday with us before moving to Minnesota. A basket will be made available for any cards and notes.

### Little Food Pantry

Grace's Social Ministry Committee is making it possible to conveniently donate items for the "Little Free Pantry" located outside The Gathering Place at 1448 E Street. Any non-perishable food, as well as personal care items, can be left at the designated spot in the church's entryway to the atrium, and are later transported to the pantry.

### Saturday Service

After June 12<sup>th</sup> the Saturday night service will be suspended until further notice.

### Coffee Hour

Today's host is Phyllis Kreuger in celebration of her 91<sup>st</sup> birthday. Thank you! A signup book for hosting a coffee hour is found outside the office.

### Prayers

- Prayers of healing for Anne Melang-Thoren's mother-in-law, Barbie Creveling
- Prayers for peace in **Ukraine**. Please note **refugee donation sheets** on the welcome table.

**Green attendance cards** can be filled out and returned to the Offering basket in the front of the church after worship or the Welcome Table basket on the top of the atrium stairs.

### Devotional Booklets

Are now available on the Welcome Table or on the Atrium Table.

**CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK**

May 30:

Lincoln Literacy	9:15 pm
Lessons	4:00 pm

May 31:

Al-Anon	9:30 am
Lessons	4:00 pm
Cub Scouts	6:30 pm

June 1:

Lincoln Literacy	9:15 am
------------------	---------

June 2:

Quilting Club	9:00 am
---------------	---------

June 4:

Craft Fair	8:00 am
Worship	5:30 pm

June 5:

Worship	9:00 am
Fellowship	10:00 am
Thrivent Meeting	10:30 am
Hillman Celebration	11:30 am

