



Transfiguration  
February 14, 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)

### 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.

**Masks** should be worn over both the **nose and mouth**.

Physically **distance** yourself from other.

**Sit** only with members of your household.

**Sanitize** your hands

Take your **bulletin** home with you.

### INTRODUCTION to worship

The Sundays after Epiphany began with Jesus' baptism and end with three disciples' vision of his transfiguration. In Mark's story of Jesus' baptism, apparently only Jesus sees the Spirit descending and hears the words from heaven. But now Jesus' three closest friends hear the same words naming him God's Beloved. As believers, Paul writes, we are enabled to see the God-light in Jesus' face, because the same God who created light in the first place has shone in our hearts to give us that vision. The light of God's glory in Jesus has enlightened us through baptism and shines in us also for others to see.

---

## GATHERING

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

---

**PRELUDE:** "God, Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens", Holy Manna, attr. William Moore, 1825, arr. Albert Zabel

### WELCOME

## STAND

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, whose voice is upon the waters, whose mercy is poured out upon all people, whose goodness cascades over all creation. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin, trusting in the abundant grace of God. *Silence is kept for reflection.*

Holy God,  
**you search us and know us. You are acquainted with all our ways. We confess that our hearts are burdened by sin—our own sins and the broken systems that bind us. We turn inward, failing to follow your outward way of love. We distrust those who are not like us. We exploit the earth and its resources and fail to consider generations to come. Forgive us, gracious God, for all we have done and left undone. Even before the words are on our tongues, you know them; receive them in your divine mercy. Amen.**

How vast is God's grace! Through the power and promise of ☩ Christ Jesus, our sins are washed away and we are claimed as God's own beloved. Indeed, we are forgiven. In the wake of God's forgiveness, we are called to be the beloved community living out Christ's justice and the Spirit's reconciling peace. **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

Behold, now is the acceptable time;  
**now is the day of salvation.**

Turn us again, O God of our salvation,  
**that the light of your face may shine on us.**

May your justice shine like the sun;  
**and may the poor be lifted up.**

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty God, the resplendent light of your truth shines from the mountaintop into our hearts. Transfigure us by your beloved Son, and illumine the world with your image, through Jesus Christ, our Savior 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: 2 Kings 2:9-12

A reading from 2 Kings:

<sup>9</sup>When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, "Tell me what I may do for you, before I am taken from you." Elisha said, "Please let me inherit a double share of your spirit." <sup>10</sup>He responded, "You have asked a hard thing; yet, if you see me as I am being taken from you, it will be granted you; if not, it will not." <sup>11</sup>As they continued walking and talking, a chariot of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them, and Elijah ascended in a whirlwind into heaven. <sup>12</sup>Elisha kept watching and crying out, "Father, father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!" But when he could no longer see him, he grasped his own clothes and tore them in two pieces.

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

## Psalm: Psalm 50:1-6

Let us read responsively from Psalm 50:

- <sup>1</sup>The mighty one, God the LORD, has spoken;  
calling the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting.
- <sup>2</sup>**Out of Zion, perfect in its beauty, God shines forth in glory.**
- <sup>3</sup>Our God will come and will not keep silence;  
with a consuming flame before, and round about a raging storm.
- <sup>4</sup>**God calls the heavens and the earth from above to witness the judgment of the people.**
- <sup>5</sup>"Gather before me my loyal followers,  
those who have made a covenant with me and sealed it with sacrifice."
- <sup>6</sup>**The heavens declare the rightness of God's cause, for it is God who is judge.**

## Second Reading: 2 Corinthians 4:5-6

A reading from 2 Corinthians:

<sup>5</sup>For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as servants for Jesus' sake. <sup>6</sup>For it is God who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

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

STAND

## **Gospel: Mark 9:2-9**

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

<sup>2</sup>Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, <sup>3</sup>and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them. <sup>4</sup>And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. <sup>5</sup>Then Peter said to Jesus, “Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.” <sup>6</sup>He did not know what to say, for they were terrified. <sup>7</sup>Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, “This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!” <sup>8</sup>Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them anymore, but only Jesus. <sup>9</sup>As they were coming down the mountain, he ordered them to tell no one about what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

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

*SIT*

**SERMON**

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

No background information this week.

## How Good, Lord, to Be Here!



- 1 How good, Lord, to be here! Your glo - ry fills the night;
- 2 How good, Lord, to be here, your beau - ty to be - hold
- 3 Ful - fill - er of the past and hope of things to be,
- 4 Be - fore we taste of death, we see your king - dom come;
- 5 How good, Lord, to be here! Yet we may not re - main;



your face and gar - ments, like the sun, shine with un - bor - rowed light.  
where Mo - ses and E - li - jah stand, your mes - sen - gers of old.  
we hail your bod - y glo - ri - fied and our re - demp - tion see.  
we long to hold the vi - sion bright and make this hill our home.  
but since you bid us leave the mount, come with us to the plain.

Text: Joseph A. Robinson, 1858–1933, alt.

Music: POTSDAM, W. Mercer, *The Church Psalter and Hymn Book*, 1854

### STAND

#### 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**

Guided by Christ made known to the nations, let us offer our prayers for the church, the world,  
and all people in need. *A brief silence.*

For the gospel proclaimed in word and deed, for communities of faith far and near, and for all  
who show the face of Christ throughout the world, let us pray. **Have mercy, O God.**

For creation: sun, moon and stars; life forming in the dark earth and ocean deep; mountains,  
clouds and storms, and creatures seen and unseen, and for the Holy Spirit's guidance in our  
stewardship of God's creation, let us pray. **Have mercy, O God.**

For those responsible for safety and protection: for emergency responders and security  
guards, attorneys and advocates, civil servants and leaders of governments, that they witness  
to mercy and justice throughout the world, let us pray. **Have mercy, O God.**

For all who suffer this day, especially those we name before you now..., that Christ our healer  
transform sickness into health, loneliness into companionship, bereavement into consolation,  
and suffering into peace, let us pray. **Have mercy, O God.**

For companions on life's journey in this worshiping community, for loved ones who cannot be  
with us this day, and for guidance during struggles we face, that God's glory is revealed around  
and among us, let us pray. **Have mercy, O God.**

In thanksgiving for the faithful departed who now rest from their earthly pilgrimage, that their  
lives of service and prayer inspire us in our living, let us pray. **Have mercy, O God.**

Merciful God, hear the prayers of your people, spoken or silent, for the sake of the one who dwells among us, your Son, Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

---

## **MEAL**

*God feeds us with the presence of Christ.*

---

*SIT*

**MUSIC OFFERING:** “O Gracious Light”, Phos *hilaron*, 3rd century Greek, trans. and adapt. Michael John Trotta, 2019, (Sung by Virtual Choir).

O gracious light, pure brightness of the ever living Father in heaven,  
O Jesus Christ, holy and blessed. Now as we come to the setting of the sun,  
our eyes behold the morning light, we sing your praises, O God:  
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

You are worthy at all times to be praised. You are worthy at all times to be praised.  
You are worthy at all times, worthy to be praised, by happy voices.  
O Son of God, giver of life, you are worthy to be glorified through all the worlds.

O gracious light, pure brightness of the ever living Father in heaven,  
O Jesus Christ, holy and blessed.

## **OFFERING PRAYER**

O God, receive these gifts as you receive us: like a mother receives her child, with arms open wide. Nourish us anew in your tender care, and empower us in faithful service to tend to others with this same love, through Jesus Christ, our saving grace. 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**

Beloved: here is bread; here is wine. Here is Jesus. Come and be fed.

**COMMUNION** (Cup with wafer is NOT gluten-free. Cup with square bread IS gluten-free)  
(pull back top seal) The Body of Christ  
(pull back bottom seal) The Blood of Christ

### **STAND**

### **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Christ Jesus, at this table we have feasted on your very life and are strengthened for our journey. Send us forth from this banquet nourished in body and in spirit to proclaim your good news and serve others in your name. **Amen.**

---

### **SENDING**

*God sends us in mission to the world.*

---

### **BLESSING**

God the creator strengthen you; Jesus the beloved fill you; and the Holy Spirit the comforter ☩ keep you in peace. **Amen.**

### **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Be the light of Christ. **Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE:** "Praise to the Lord", *Lobe den Herren*, Ernewten Gesangbuch, Strasund, 1665, Anne Krentz Organ, 1997

**WORSHIP SERVANTS:**

Worship leader: Rev. Eric Leshner  
Organist/Pianist: Anne Melang-Thoren  
Jennifer Aliwarga-Carlson  
Virtual Cantors: Chris and Wendy Apple  
Bell Choir: Jillian Jensen, Peter Schnake, Lisa Holmstrom, Julene Leshner

**WORSHIP SPACE:**

After worship we will need four volunteers to sanitize the nave. Remain up front for further instructions.

**UPCOMING COMMEMORATIONS**

**Cyril, monk, died 869; Methodius, bishop, died 885; missionaries to the Slavs**

**Sunday, February 14, 2021**

These two brothers from Thessalonika, Greece, were monks and were sent to bring Christianity to the Slavic people. In the course of their work they created a written language, inventing the Cyrillic alphabet for it, and translated the Bible and the liturgy.

**Martin Luther, renewer of the church, died 1546**

**Thursday, February 18, 2021**

Though he began his adult church life as a simple Augustinian monk, Luther challenged the abuses he saw in the church, and his work eventually led to the Protestant Reformation. Luther's accomplishments included liturgical reform, translation of the Bible, and creation of the Small and Large Catechisms.

From [sundaysandseasons.com](http://sundaysandseasons.com).

**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.
- 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

**Ash Wednesday** service for both online and in-person congregations begins at 6:30 PM in the nave.

**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. Only a few left!

## CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK

### February 15:

Boy Scouts	7:00 pm
------------	---------

### February 16:

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

### February 17:

WELCA Group 3	1:00 pm
Worship	6:30 pm

### February 18:

Quilting	9:00 am
Bell Quartet B	7:00 pm

### February 19:

BNRR	4:00 pm
------	---------

### February 21:

Worship	9:00 am
Bell Quartet A	9:45 am

## 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!