



Pentecost 16
September 20, 2020

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Making Christ Known to all Through Grace

2225 Washington Street, Lincoln NE 68502 + 402-474-1505 + 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!

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

Matthew narrates one of Jesus' controversial parables in which Jesus says that the reign of God is like that of a landowner who pays his workers the same wage no matter what time of day they began to work. When God changes God's mind about punishing Nineveh for their evil ways, Jonah is angry. Yet God is gracious and merciful, abounding in steadfast love. In baptism we receive the grace of God that is freely given to all. As Martin Luther wrote, in the presence of God's mercy we are all beggars.

GATHERING

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

PRELUDE "Cantad al Senor", Brazilian folk tune

WELCOME

Stand

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who creates, redeems, and sustains us and all of creation.
Amen.

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

Faithful God, have mercy on us.

We confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We turn from your loving embrace and go our own ways. We pass judgment on one another before examining ourselves. We place our own needs before those of our neighbors. We keep your gift of salvation to ourselves. Make us humble, cast away our transgressions, and turn us again to life in you through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

God hears the cries of all who call out in need, and through his death and resurrection, Christ has made us his own. Hear the truth that God proclaims: Your sins are forgiven in the name of † Jesus Christ. Led by the Holy Spirit, live in freedom and newness to do God's work in the world. 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

Almighty and eternal God, you show perpetual lovingkindness to us your servants. Because we cannot rely on our own abilities, grant us your merciful judgment, and train us to embody the generosity of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture, preaching and song.

Sit

First Reading: Jonah 3:10--4:5

A reading from Jonah:

¹⁰When God saw what [the people of Ninevah] did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it.

^{4:1}But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. ²He prayed to the LORD and said, "O LORD! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning; for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and ready to relent from punishing. ³And now, O LORD, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live." ⁴And the LORD said, "Is it right for you to be angry?" ⁵Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city, and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of the city.

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

Psalm: Psalm 145:1-3, 8

¹I will exalt you, my God and king,
and bless your name forever and ever.

²**Every day will I bless you
and praise your name forever and ever.**

³Great is the LORD and greatly to be praised!
There is no end to your greatness.

⁸**The LORD is gracious and full of compassion,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.**

Second Reading: Philippians 1:21-26

A reading from Philippians:

²¹For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. ²²If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which I prefer. ²³I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; ²⁴but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. ²⁵Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, ²⁶so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again.

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

Stand

Gospel: Matthew 20:1-16

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

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹“The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. ²After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. ³When he went out about nine o’clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; ⁴and he said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.’ So they went. ⁵When he went out again about noon and about three o’clock, he did the same. ⁶And about five o’clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, ‘Why are you standing here idle all day?’ ⁷They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard.’ ⁸When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, ‘Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.’ ⁹When those hired about five o’clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. ¹⁰Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. ¹¹And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, ¹²saying, ‘These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.’ ¹³But he replied to one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? ¹⁴Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. ¹⁵Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?’ ¹⁶So the last will be first, and the first will be last.”

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

Sit

SERMON

Stand

HYMN OF THE DAY

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

Austria

Franz Joseph Haydn, 1732-1809
recharm: A. Melang-Thoren, 2019

Chord progression: Ebmaj7 C-7 F-7 Bb7 Ebmaj7 Abmaj7 C-7 F-7 Bb7

Voice



There's a wide-ness in God's mer-cy, like the wide-ness of the sea;
There is wel-come for the sin-ner, and a prom-ised grace made good;
For the love of God is broader than the mea-sures of our mind;
'Tis not all we owe to Je-sus; it is some thing more than all:

Chord progression: C-7 Abmaj7 Dbmaj7 G-7 C-7 Abmaj7 Dbmaj7 F-7 Bb7



there's a kind-ness in God's jus-tice which is more than lib-er-ty.
there is mer-cy with the Sav-ior; there is heal-ing in his blood.
and the heart of the E-ter-nal is most won-der-ful-ly kind.
great-er good be-cause of e-vil, larg-er mer-cy through the fall.

Chord progression: Bb7 G-7 Abmaj7 Bb7 G-7 C-7 F7 G-7



There is no place where earth's sor-rows are more felt than up in heav'n.
There is grace e-nough for thou-sands of new worlds as great as this;
But we make this love too nar-row by false lim-its of our own;
Make our love, O God, more faith-ful; let us take you at your word.

Chord progression: C-7 G-7 Abmaj7 Ebmaj7 Bb7 C-7 Dbmaj7 F-7 Bb7 Ebmaj7



There is no place where earth's fail-ings have such kind-ly judg-ment giv'n.
there is room for fresh cre-a-tions in that up-per-home of bliss.
and we mag-ni-fy its strict-ness with a zeal God will not own.
and our lives will be thanksgiv-ing for the good-ness of the Lord.

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

Drawn together in the compassion of God, we pray for the church, the world, and all those in need. *A brief silence.*

You welcome us when we are weak in faith. Uphold your church throughout the world; make it a place of welcome. Strengthen faith through Bible studies and Sunday schools, confirmation classes and youth ministries. Nurture new ministries of education and growth. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

The heights of the heavens show us the vastness of your steadfast love. Have compassion on your creation. Where human selfishness has brought ruin and destruction, we look to you to heal, renew, and redeem your world. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Make your ways known to the nations. Speak kindness to our bitter grudges. Settle our hearts when we want to settle accounts with violence. Bless our leaders with patience and wisdom. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Bring healing and justice wherever harm is dealt. Provide vindication for all who are oppressed. Free victims of human trafficking and forced labor; deliver all who are bound by debt. Feed all who hunger, and guard refugees fleeing famine, poverty, and war. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Teach us to forgive. Remind us that you do not always accuse us. Still our tongues when we are tempted to pass judgment and argue over opinions. Make this congregation a community of mercy for one another and for all our neighbors. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Whether we live or whether we die, we are yours. We thank you for those who have showed us faithfulness, for the knees that taught us how to bow to you and the tongues that taught us to praise you. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

All these things and whatever else you see that we need, we entrust to your mercy; through Christ our Lord. **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.

SENDING

God sends us in mission to the world.

BLESSING

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

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE "On What Has Now Been Sown", John Darwall, 1731-1789

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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 and our nation.

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 the Peace**.
- There will be **no singing**. You can hum or sing quietly to yourself.
- There will be **no communion**.
- 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

Don't forget to vote! Will your name be on the ballot? Fall is almost here and that means a Congregational Meeting will be held in November. Time to vote!

There are five (5) openings on the Grace Church Council for 2021. We are searching for people to run for those positions. Please prayerfully consider being on Council. We need you! If you get a call from a member of the search team, consider saying "yes" to the invitation to serve. Better yet, call one of us and get your name on the ballot. God asks all of us to be active members of the church. Are you?

Your Search Team: Fran Gade, Pat Lickei, Dave Ripa, Peter Schnake

CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK

September 21:

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

September 22:

Al-Anon	9:30-10:30am
Cub Scouts	6:30-7:30pm
Alcoholics Anonymous	8-9pm

September 23:

Confirmation	7-8pm
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September 24:

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

September 27:

Worship	9-10pm
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HOME COMMUNION SERVICE

Here is a short service you can use to commune yourself or others in your home at this time.

Opening Prayer

Merciful God, we do not trust in our own righteousness, but in your abundant mercy. Grant us, therefore, gracious Lord, the presence of your Son Jesus Christ, that we may live in him and he in us, now and forever. Amen.

Reading

1 Corinthians 11:23-25 (NEB)

23 For I, Paul, received from the Lord what I also handed on to you, that the Lord Jesus, on the night he was handed over, took bread, 24 and, after he had given thanks, broke it and said, "This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." 25 In the same way also the cup, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in 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.

Distribution of each element (bread and wine preferred but not necessary)

Say "The body of Christ" and then distribute the element. Say "The blood of Christ" and then distribute the element

Closing Prayer

Almighty God, you provide the true life from heaven, your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Grant that we who have received his presence today, may abide in him and he in us, that we may be filled with the power of his endless life, now and forever. Amen.