

Grace Covenant Church

**“To the
Praise
of
His
Glorious
Grace”**

Ephesians 1:6

Welcome to Grace!

May God bless you this morning as we worship Him together! We extend a special welcome to those who are with us for the first time and are glad you are here!

Nursery service is available on a self-serve basis for children ages 3 and under. The nursery is located on the northeast corner of the main level. Go through the double doors across from the Sanctuary into the Fellowship Hall, then through the double doors on the far side of the hall to the right. You can also use the narthex and still hear the service if you'd like.

Restrooms are located in the office wing on the east side of the Sanctuary (access at end of narthex).

Blue **Communication Cards** are available on the back table in the Sanctuary to help us connect with our **visitors and newcomers** and receive **updates and requests for information or prayer** from any who have need. Please place completed forms in the basket on the back table.

We celebrate the **Lord's Supper** today. All who are admitted to the table in this or another evangelical church are invited to participate. To avoid unnecessary hindrances to your participation, the bread is **gluten-free** and the wine is **alcohol-free**. Volunteers will assist disposal of plastic cups after the service.

Classes for all ages to help us grow in Christ begin at **9:30 a.m.** on Sundays. Please use the east entrances or the kitchen entrance from the north lot if able to avoid distracting our hosts as they worship. After our classes and before worship, please join us for **refreshments** and catch up with everyone **in the Fellowship Hall beginning at 10:30 a.m.**

*You are invited to stand as you are able for starred parts of the service.

The Christ of the Scriptures

January 4, 2026

Gathering Time

Welcome

Piano Prelude (*please be seated and prepare for worship*)

*Call to Worship

1 Peter 1:3–5, 8–9

*Opening Hymn

We Come, O Christ, to You

We come, O Christ, to You, true Son of God and man,
By whom all things consist, in whom all life began:
In You alone we live and move,
And have our being in Your love.

You are the Way to God, Your blood our ransom paid;
In You we face our Judge and Maker unafraid.
Before the throne absolved we stand,
Your love has met Your law's demand.

You are the living Truth! All wisdom dwells in You,
The Source of every skill, the One eternal True!
O great I Am! In You we rest,
Sure answer to our every quest.

You only are true Life, to know You is to live
The more abundant life that earth can never give:
O risen Lord! We live in You: in us each day Your life renew!

We worship You, Lord Christ, our Savior and our King,
To You our youth and strength adoringly we bring:
So fill our hearts, that all may view
Your life in us, and turn to You.

*Prayer of Praise

*Hymn of Praise

Wonderful Merciful Savior

Wonderful, merciful Savior, precious Redeemer and Friend;
Who would have thought that a Lamb could
Rescue the souls of men? Oh, You rescue the souls of men.

Chorus

You are the One that we praise, You are the One we adore.
You give the healing and grace our hearts always hunger for,
Oh, our hearts always hunger for.

Counselor, Comforter, Keeper, Spirit we long to embrace;
You offer hope when our hearts have
Hopelessly lost the way. Oh, we hopelessly lost the way.
(Repeat Chorus)

Almighty, infinite Father, faithfully loving Your own;
Here in our weakness You find us falling before Your throne.
Oh, we're falling before Your throne.
(Repeat Chorus)

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Preparation for Confession

Romans 3:21-23

But now the righteousness of God has been manifested
apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear
witness to it— the righteousness of God through faith in
Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction:
for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

Private Confession of Sin

Declaration of Grace

Romans 5:8-11

*Response to Grace

You Are My King

I'm forgiven because You were forsaken.

I'm accepted; You were condemned.

I'm alive and well, Your Spirit is within me

Because You died and rose again.

Amazing love, how can it be

That You, my King, would die for me?

Amazing love, I know it's true;

It's my joy to honor You. In all I do I honor You.

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The Community of Grace

Offering *(see community page for electronic giving options)*

*Offertory Response

By His Word

By His Word, I know He's chosen me,
Changed my heart, opened my eyes to see.

By His Word, I know my penalty
Has been paid by Christ on Calvary.

By His Word, sin has no hold on me.

Jesus' power is recreating me.

By His Word, I'll live eternally, By His Word, I've been set free.

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*Prayer for God's Blessing

Sermon Series: Good News for the World

Sermon Text: Acts 17:1-15

"The Sufficiency of Scripture" - Pastor Todd Bowen

*Hymn of Preparation

Beneath the Cross of Jesus

Beneath the cross of Jesus I fain would take my stand,
The shadow of a mighty Rock within a weary land;
A home within the wilderness, a rest upon the way,
From the burning of the noontide heat
And the burden of the day.

Upon the cross of Jesus mine eye at times can see
The very dying form of One Who suffered there for me:
And from my stricken heart with tears two wonders I confess,
The wonders of redeeming love and my unworthiness.

I take, O cross, thy shadow for my abiding-place:
I ask no other sunshine than the sunshine of His face;
Content to let the world go by, to know no gain nor loss;
My sinful self my only shame, my glory all the cross.

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Celebration of the Lord's Supper

*Hymn of Celebration *Jesus, I Am Resting, Resting*

Jesus, I am resting, resting in the joy of what Thou art;
I am finding out the greatness of Thy loving heart.
Thou hast bid me gaze upon Thee, as Thy beauty fills my soul,
For by Thy transforming power, Thou hast made me whole.
Jesus, I am resting, resting in the joy of what Thou art;
I am finding out the greatness of Thy loving heart.

O how great Thy loving kindness, vaster, broader than the sea!
O how marvelous Thy goodness lavished all on me!
Yes, I rest in Thee, Beloved, know what wealth of grace is Thine,
Know Thy certainty of promise and have made it mine.
Jesus, I am resting, resting in the joy of what Thou art;
I am finding out the greatness of Thy loving heart.

Simply trusting Thee, Lord Jesus, I behold Thee as Thou art,
And Thy love, so pure, so changeless, satisfies my heart;
Satisfies its deepest longings, meets, supplies its ev'ry need,
Compasseth me round with blessings: Thine is love indeed.
Jesus, I am resting, resting in the joy of what Thou art;
I am finding out the greatness of Thy loving heart.

Ever lift Thy face upon me as I work and wait for Thee;
Resting 'neath Thy smile, Lord Jesus, earth's dark shadows flee.
Brightness of my Father's glory, sunshine of my Father's face,
Keep me ever trusting, resting, fill me with Thy grace.
Jesus, I am resting, resting in the joy of what Thou art;
I am finding out the greatness of Thy loving heart.

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*Benediction

Grace Covenant Church

A Congregation of the *Presbyterian Church in America*

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Our Mission

Grace Covenant Church exists to *glorify God*

- ✚ By **exalting Him** in true worship,
- ✚ By **equipping His people** for ministry, and
- ✚ By **extending His kingdom** in
Central Nebraska unto the ends of the earth.

Our Identity

We are Evangelical (from *euangelion* in New Testament Greek – “good news”). We believe the Gospel, the good news of salvation through Jesus Christ, as revealed in the Holy Scriptures, God’s revealed and authoritative Word. The Gospel is central among the themes of Scripture, and is to be central in the worship, life, and ministry of our church.

We are Reformed. We hold to the great Biblical truths that were recovered in the Protestant Reformation. Our understanding of these truths is summarized in our doctrinal standards, the *Westminster Confession of Faith and Catechisms*. These truths are important in the teaching and leadership of our church.

We are Presbyterian. Our church is governed by elders (*presbuteros* in New Testament Greek), who shepherd and lead the congregation, and deacons, who serve in the areas of finances, property, and ministries of mercy. Our understanding of these Biblical offices and other matters of church government and worship are summarized in the *Book of Church Order* of our denomination, the *Presbyterian Church in America*.