

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 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.

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 in the basket on the back table.

Classes for all ages to help us grow in Christ begin at **9:30 a.m.** on Sundays. 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.**

Please help us observe the policy of our hosts by refraining from bringing food or drink into the Sanctuary except for water and the needs of small children.

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

Our Refuge in Christ

October 13, 2024

Gathering Time

Welcome

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

*Call to Worship

Revelation 5:8-10

*Opening Hymn

Praise Him! Praise Him!

Praise Him! Praise Him! Jesus, our blessed Redeemer!

Sing, O earth, His wonderful love proclaim!

Hail Him! Hail Him! Highest archangels in glory;

Strength and honor give to His holy name!

Like a shepherd, Jesus will guard His children,

In His arms He carries them all day long:

Praise Him! Praise Him! Tell of His excellent greatness,

Praise Him! Praise Him! Ever in joyful song!

Praise Him! Praise Him! Jesus, our blessed Redeemer!

For our sins He suffered and bled and died;

He, our Rock, our Hope of eternal salvation,

Hail Him! Hail Him! Jesus, the Crucified.

Sound His praises! Jesus who bore our sorrows,

Love unbounded, wonderful, deep and strong:

Praise Him! Praise Him! Tell of His excellent greatness,

Praise Him! Praise Him! Ever in joyful song!

Praise Him! Praise Him! Jesus, our blessed Redeemer!

Heav'nly portals loud with hosannas ring!

Jesus, Savior, reigneth forever and ever;

Crown Him! Crown Him! Prophet and Priest and King!

Christ is coming! Over the world victorious,

Pow'r and glory unto the Lord belong:

Praise Him! Praise Him! Tell of His excellent greatness;

Praise Him! Praise Him! Ever in joyful song!

*Prayer of Praise

*Hymn of Praise

The Lord Is My Salvation

The grace of God has reached for me,
And pulled me from the raging sea.
And I am safe on this solid ground: The Lord is my salvation.

I will not fear when darkness falls,
His strength will help me scale these walls.
I'll see the dawn of the rising sun: The Lord is my salvation.

Chorus

Who is like the Lord our God? Strong to save, faithful in love.
My debt is paid and the victory won: The Lord is my salvation.

My hope is hidden in the Lord,
He flow'rs each promise of His Word.
When winter fades, I know spring will come:
The Lord is my salvation.

In times of waiting, times of need,
When I know loss, when I am weak.
I know His grace will renew these days:
The Lord is my salvation
(Repeat Chorus)

And when I reach the final day,
He will not leave me in the grave.
But I will rise, He will call me home: The Lord is my salvation.
(Repeat Chorus)

Glory be to God, the Father, Glory be to God, the Son,
Glory be to God, the Spirit; The Lord is our salvation.
(Repeat)

Preparation for Confession Responsive Reading of Eph. 2:1-10

Leader: And you were dead in the trespasses and sins in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience—

People: Among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind.

L: But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ— by grace you have been saved—and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,

P: So that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

L: For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

P: For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

Private Confession of Sin

*Hymn of Gratitude *Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone)*

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound,
That saved a wretch like me.

I once was lost, but now I'm found, was blind but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
And grace my fears relieved.

How precious did that grace appear, the hour I first believed.

Chorus)

My chains are gone. I've been set free,
My God, my Savior has ransomed me.
And like a flood His mercy rains,
Unending love, amazing grace.

The Lord has promised good to me,
His word my hope secures.

He will my shield and portion be, as long as life endures.

(Repeat Chorus)

The earth shall soon dissolve like snow,
The sun forbear to shine.

But God, who called me here below,
Will be forever mine, will be forever mine.

You are forever mine.

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The Community of Grace

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

*Offertory Response

Thy Word

Chorus

Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.
Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.

When I feel afraid, and think I've lost my way,
Still You're there right beside me.

Nothing will I fear as long as You are near.
Please be near me to the end.

(Repeat Chorus)

I will not forget Your love for me, and yet
My heart forever is wandering.
Jesus, be my guide and hold me to Your side;
I will love You to the end.

(Repeat Chorus)

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*Prayer for God's Blessing

Sermon Series: Good News for the World

Sermon Text: Acts 7:54-8:1

"The Witness to the Jews" (Part 2) - Pastor Todd Bowen

*Hymn of Response

A Mighty Fortress is Our God

A mighty fortress is our God, a bulwark never failing;
Our helper He amid the flood of mortal ills prevailing.
For still our ancient foe doth seek to work us woe;
His craft and power are great; and armed with cruel hate,
On earth is not His equal.

Did we in our own strength confide,
Our striving would be losing;
Were not the right Man on our side,
The Man of God's own choosing.
Dost ask who that may be? Christ Jesus, it is He,
Lord Sabaoth His name, from age to age the same,
And He must win the battle.

And though this world, with devils filled,
Should threaten to undo us,
We will not fear, for God hath willed
His truth to triumph through us.
The prince of darkness grim, we tremble not for him;
His rage we can endure, For lo! his doom is sure;
One little word shall fell him.

That Word above all earthly pow'rs,
No thanks to them, abideth;
The Spirit and the gifts are ours
Through Him who with us sideth.
Let goods and kindred go, this mortal life also;
The body they may kill: God's truth abideth still;
His kingdom is forever, His kingdom is forever.

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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*.