

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 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 has need. Please place completed forms in the basket on the back table.

AI generated translation of our service into Spanish is available. The translation can be accessed through a mobile phone by scanning the QR code provided. Worshipers can listen with ear buds or read a transcription. Instructions are on the table in the narthex.

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 Light of the World

October 18, 2026

Gathering Time

Welcome

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

*Call to Worship

Psalm 148:1, 11-13

*Opening Hymn

Hallelujah, Praise Jehovah

Hallelujah, praise Jehovah,
From the heavens praise His Name;
Praise Jehovah in the highest,
All His angels, praise proclaim.
All His hosts, together praise Him,
Sun and moon and stars on high;
Praise Him, O you heav'ns of heavens,
And you floods above the sky.

Chorus

Let them praises give Jehovah, for His name alone is high,
And His glory is exalted, and His glory is exalted,
And His glory is exalted far above the earth and sky.

Let them praises give Jehovah,
They were made at His command;
Them forever He established, His decree shall ever stand.
From the earth, O praise Jehovah,
All you seas, you creatures all,
Fire and hail and snow and vapors,
Stormy winds that hear his call.
(Repeat Chorus)

All you fruitful trees and cedars,
All you hills and mountains high;
Creeping things and beasts and cattle,
Birds that in the heavens fly,
Kings of earth, and all you people,
Princes great, earth's judges all;
Praise His Name, O men and women,
Whether great or children small.

Chorus

Let them praises give Jehovah, for His name alone is high,
And His glory is exalted, and His glory is exalted,
And His glory is exalted far above the earth and sky.

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*Prayer of Praise

*Hymn of Praise

In Christ Alone

In Christ alone my hope is found,
He is my Light, my Strength, my Song;
This Cornerstone, this solid Ground,
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace,
When fears are stilled, when strivings cease.
My Comforter, my All in All, here in the love of Christ I stand.

In Christ alone, Who took on flesh,
Fullness of God in helpless Babe!
This gift of love and righteousness,
Scorned by the ones He came to save.
Till on that cross as Jesus died,
The wrath of God was satisfied.
For ev'ry sin on Him was laid;
Here in the death of Christ I live.

There in the ground His body lay,
Light of the world by darkness slain;
Then bursting forth in glorious Day,
Up from the grave He rose again!
And as He stands in victory,
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me;
For I am His and He is mine,
Bought with the precious blood of Christ.

No guilt in life, no fear in death,
This is the pow'r of Christ in me;
From life's first cry to final breath,
Jesus commands my destiny.
No pow'r of hell, no scheme of man,
Can ever pluck me from His hand;
Till He returns or calls me home,
Here in the pow'r of Christ I'll stand!

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Entrance into Confession (Responsive Reading: 1 John 1:5-2:2)

Leader: This is the message we have heard from Him
and declare to you: God is light; in Him there is
no darkness at all.

People: **If we claim to have fellowship with Him yet
walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live
by the truth.**

Leader: But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light,
we have fellowship with one another, and the
blood of Jesus, His Son, purifies us from all sin.

People: **If we claim to be without sin, we deceive
ourselves and the truth is not in us.**

Leader: If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

People: If we claim we have not sinned, we make Him out to be a liar and His word has no place in our lives.

Leader: But if anybody does sin, we have one who speaks to the Father in our defense--Jesus Christ, the Righteous One.

People: He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins.

Private Confession of Sin

Declaration of Grace

1 John 1:9

*Hymn of Gratitude

The Light of the World Is Jesus

The whole world was lost in the darkness of sin;
The Light of the world is Jesus.
Like sunshine at noonday His glory shone in;
The Light of the world is Jesus.

Chorus

Come to the Light, it shines for thee.
Sweetly the Light has dawned upon me.
Once I was blind, but now I can see,
The Light of the world is Jesus.

No darkness have we who in Jesus abide,
The Light of the world is Jesus.
We walk in the Light when we follow our guide,
The Light of the world is Jesus.

Chorus

Come to the Light, it shines for thee.
Sweetly the Light has dawned upon me.
Once I was blind, but now I can see,
The Light of the world is Jesus.

Ye dwellers in darkness with sin-blinded eyes,
The Light of the world is Jesus.
Go, wash at His bidding and Light will arise,
The Light of the world is Jesus.
(Repeat Chorus)

No need of the sunlight in heaven we're told,
The Light of the world is Jesus.
The Lamb is the Light in the City of Gold,
The Light of the world is Jesus.
(Repeat Chorus)

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Ministry Focus: *Operation Christmas Child*
Kaylene Hoeser, Area Coordinator

The Community of Grace

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

*Offertory Response

Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below: Alleluia, alleluia!

Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host,
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost:
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

By Thomas Ken; From *The Trinity Hymnal*

*Prayer for God's Blessing

Sermon Series: Good News for the World

Sermon Text: Acts 25:23-26:18

"Paul's Defense before King Agrippa" - Pastor Todd Bowen

*Hymn of Response

Shine, Jesus, Shine

Lord, the light of Your love is shining,
In the midst of the darkness, shining;
Jesus, Light of the world, shine upon us,
Set us free by the truth You now bring us.
Shine on me, shine on me.

Chorus

Shine, Jesus, shine, fill this land with the Father's glory;
Blaze, Spirit, blaze, set our hearts on fire.
Flow, river, flow, flood the nations with grace and mercy;
Send forth Your Word, Lord, and let there be Light.

Lord, I come to Your awesome presence,
From the shadows into Your radiance;
By the blood I may enter Your brightness,
Search me, try me, consume all my darkness.
Shine on me, shine on me.

(Repeat Chorus)

As we gaze on Your kingly brightness,
So our faces display Your likeness;
Ever changing from glory to glory,
Mirrored here may our lives tell Your story.
Shine on me, shine on me.

(Repeat Chorus)

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*.