

# *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. Please use the east entrances or the kitchen entrance from the north lot if possible in order 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.**

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.

# God Pursues His People

## November 17, 2024

Gathering Time

Welcome

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

\*Call to Worship

Psalm 47:6-7

\*Opening Hymn

*O Father, You Are Sovereign*

O Father, You are sovereign in all the worlds You made;  
Your mighty word was spoken and light and life obeyed.

Your voice commands the seasons

And bounds the ocean's shore,

Sets stars within their courses and stills the tempest's roar.

O Father, You are sovereign in all affairs of man;

No pow'rs of death or darkness can thwart Your perfect plan.

All chance and change transcending,

Supreme in time and space,

You hold Your trusting children secure in Your embrace.

O Father You are sovereign, the Lord of human pain,  
Transmuting earthly sorrows to gold of heav'nly gain.

All evil over-ruling, as none but Conqu'ror could,  
Your love pursues its purpose—our souls' eternal good.

O Father, You are sovereign! We see You dimly now,  
But soon before Your triumph Earth's every knee shall bow.

With this glad hope before us our faith springs up anew:

Our sovereign Lord and Savior, we trust and worship You!

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\*Prayer of Praise

All my days I will sing this song of gladness,  
Give my praise to the fountain of delights;  
For in my helplessness You heard my cry  
And waves of mercy poured down on my life.

Chorus

Beautiful Savior, Wonderful Counselor,  
Clothed in majesty, Lord of history,  
You're the Way, the Truth, the Life.  
Star of the Morning, glorious in holiness,  
You're the Risen One, Heaven's Champion,  
And You reign, You reign over all.

I will trust in the cross of my Redeemer.  
I will sing of the blood that never fails,  
Of sins forgiven, of conscience cleansed,  
Of death defeated and life without end.

(Repeat Chorus)

I long to be where the praise is never ending,  
Yearn to dwell where the glory never fades,  
Where countless worshippers will share one song  
And cries of "worthy" will honor the Lamb.

(Repeat Chorus)

Preparation for Confession

Philippians 2:3-8

Do nothing from rivalry or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not

count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

Private Confession of Sin

Declaration of Grace

Colossians 1:21-23

\*Hymn of Gratitude

*Arise, My Soul, Arise*

Arise, my soul, arise, shake off your guilty fears;  
The bleeding sacrifice, in my behalf appears;  
Before the throne my Surety stands,  
Before the throne my Surety stands,  
My name is written on His hands.

Chorus

Arise (arise), arise (arise), arise, arise, my soul, arise.  
Arise (arise), arise (arise), arise, arise, my soul, arise.  
Shake off your guilty fears and rise

He ever lives above, for me to intercede;  
His all-redeeming love, His precious blood, to plead;  
His blood atoned for every race,  
His blood atoned for every race,  
And sprinkles now the throne of grace.

(Repeat Chorus)

Five bleeding wounds He bears; received on Calvary;  
They pour effectual prayers; they strongly plead for me:  
"Forgive him, O forgive," they cry  
"Forgive him, O forgive," they cry  
Nor let that ransomed sinner die!"

## Chorus

Arise (arise), arise (arise), arise, arise, my soul, arise.  
Arise (arise), arise (arise), arise, arise, my soul, arise.  
Shake off your guilty fears and rise

My God is reconciled; His pardoning voice I hear;  
He owns me for His child; I can no longer fear  
With confidence I now draw nigh,  
With confidence I now draw nigh,  
And "Father, Abba, Father," cry.  
(Repeat Chorus)

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## 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!

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\*Prayer for God's Blessing

Sermon Series: Good News for the World  
Sermon Text: Acts 8:26-40  
"Good News for the Outcast" - Pastor Todd Bowen

\*Hymn of Response

*God, in the Gospel of His Son*

God, in the gospel of His Son,  
Makes His eternal counsels known;  
Where love in all its glory shines,  
And truth is drawn in fairest lines.

Here sinners of a humble frame  
May taste His grace, and learn His name;  
May read, in characters of blood,  
The wisdom, pow'r, and grace of God.

The pris'ner here may break His chains;  
The weary rest from all His pains;  
The captive feel His bondage cease;  
The mourner find the way of peace.

Here faith reveals to mortal eyes  
A brighter world beyond the skies;  
Here shines the light which guides our way  
From earth to realms of endless day.

O grant us grace, Almighty Lord,  
To read and mark Your holy Word;  
Its truths with meekness to receive,  
And by its holy precepts live.

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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*.