

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 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. In order 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.

Large print bulletins and Spanish bulletins are available in the narthex for those who would like one. **Live Spanish translation** of the service is available also. Please see the instruction sheet with the QR code in the narthex.

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

The Providence of God

August 16, 2026

Gathering Time

Welcome

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

*Call to Worship

Psalm 105:1-3

*Opening Hymn

Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart

Rejoice, ye pure in heart, rejoice, give thanks, and sing;
Your festal banner wave on high,
The cross of Christ your King.

Chorus

Rejoice (rejoice), rejoice (rejoice),
Rejoice, give thanks, and sing.

Bright youth and snow-crowned age,
Strong men and maidens meek,
Raise high your free, exulting song;
God's wondrous praises speak.
(Repeat Chorus)

With all the angel choirs, with all the saints on earth,
Pour out the strains of joy and bliss,
True rapture, noblest mirth!
(Repeat Chorus)

Yes, on through life's long path, still chanting as ye go,
From youth to age, by night and day, in gladness and in woe.
(Repeat Chorus)

At last the march shall end, the wearied ones shall rest;
The pilgrims find their Father's house, Jerusalem the blest.

Chorus

Rejoice (rejoice), rejoice (rejoice),
Rejoice, give thanks, and sing.

Then on, ye pure in heart, rejoice, give thanks, and sing;
Your glorious banner wave on high, the cross of Christ your King.

(Repeat Chorus)

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*Prayer of Praise

*Hymn of Praise

Ancient of Days

Though the nations rage, kingdoms rise and fall,
There is still one King reigning over all.
So, I will not fear for this truth remains:
That my God is the Ancient of Days.

Chorus

None above Him, none before Him. All of time in His hands.
For His throne, it shall remain and ever stand.
All the power, all the glory, I will trust in His name.
For my God is the Ancient of Days.

Though the dread of night overwhelms my soul,
He is here with me. I am not alone.
O, His love is sure and He knows my name.
For my God is the Ancient of Days.

(Repeat Chorus)

Though I may not see what the future brings,
I will watch and wait for the Savior King.
Then, my joy complete, standing face to face
In the presence of the Ancient of Days.

(Repeat Chorus)

For my God is the Ancient of Days.

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Entrance into Confession

Psalm 130:1-4

Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD! O Lord, hear my voice! Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my pleas for mercy! If you, O LORD, should mark iniquities, O Lord, who could stand? But with you there is forgiveness, that you may be feared.

Private Confession of Sin

Declaration of Grace

1 John 1:9

*Response to Grace

Purify My Heart

Purify my heart, touch me with Your cleansing fire.
Take me to the cross; Your holiness is my desire.

Breathe Your life in me, kindle a love
That flows from Your Throne.
Oh, purify my heart, purify my heart.

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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 21:27-36

"The Prophecies of Paul's Afflictions Begin to Be Fulfilled"

Pastor Todd Bowen

*Hymn of Preparation

He Will Hold Me Fast

When I fear my faith will fail, Christ will hold me fast;
When the tempter would prevail, He will hold me fast.
I could never keep my hold through life's fearful path;
For my love is often cold; He must hold me fast.

Chorus:

He will hold me fast, He will hold me fast;
For my Savior loves me so, He will hold me fast.

Those He saves are His delight, Christ will hold me fast;

Precious in His holy sight, He will hold me fast.

He'll not let my soul be lost; His Promises shall last;

Bought by Him at such a cost, He will hold me fast.

(Repeat Chorus)

For my life He bled and died, Christ will hold me fast;
Justice has been satisfied; He will hold me fast.
Raised with Him to endless life, He will hold me fast
Till our faith is turned to sight, when He comes at last.
(Repeat Chorus)

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Celebration of the Lord's Supper

*Hymn of Celebration

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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*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*.