

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.

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.

Jesus Is the Christ

August 23, 2026

Gathering Time

Welcome

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

*Call to Worship

Revelation 5:11-13

*Opening Hymn

"Crown Him with Many Crowns"

Crown Him with many crowns, the Lamb upon His throne;
Hark! how the heav'nly anthem drowns all music but its own:
Awake, my soul, and sing of Him who died for thee,
And hail Him as thy matchless King through all eternity.

Crown Him the Lord of life; Who triumphed o'er the grave.
Who rose victorious in the strife, for those He came to save.
His glories now we sing, Who died and rose on high.
Who died eternal life to bring and lives that death may die.

Crown Him the Lord of peace; Whose pow'r a scepter sways
From pole to pole, that wars may cease,
Absorbed in prayer and praise:

His reign shall know no end; and round His pierced feet
Fair flow'rs of paradise extend their fragrance ever sweet.

Crown Him the Lord of love; behold His hands and side,
Rich wounds, yet visible above, in beauty glorified;
No angel in the sky can fully bear that sight,
But downward bends his burning eye at mysteries so bright.

Crown Him the Lord of years, the Potentate of time;
Creator of the rolling spheres, ineffably sublime:
All hail, Redeemer, hail! For thou hast died for me:
Thy praise shall never, never fail Throughout eternity.

*Prayer of Praise

*Confession of Faith

The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father Almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God,
begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father;
by whom all things were made;

Who for us and for our salvation came down from heaven,
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary,
and was made man;

and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate;
He suffered and was buried;

And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures,
and ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father;
and He shall come again, with glory,
to judge both the living and the dead;
whose kingdom shall have no end.

And we believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son;
who with the Father and the Son together
is worshiped and glorified; who spoke by the prophets;
And we believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church;
we acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins;
and we look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

*Hymn of Praise

Christus Victor (Amen)

O Most High, King of the ages, Great I AM, God of wonders,
By the blood, You have redeemed us,
Led us through mighty waters,
Our strength, our song, our sure salvation.

Now to the Lamb upon the throne,
Be blessing, honor, glory, power
For the battle you have won. Hallelujah! Amen.

O Most High, dwelling among us, Son of man, sent for sinners,
By Your blood, you have redeemed us,
Spotless Lamb, mighty Savior
Who lived, who died, who rose victorious.

CHORUS

Now to the Lamb upon the throne,
Be blessing, honor, glory, power for the battle you have won.
Hallelujah! With ev'ry tribe and ev'ry tongue,
We join the anthem of the angels in the triumph of the Son.
Hallelujah! Amen.

O Most High, King of the nations,
Robed in praise crowned with splendor,
On that day, who will not tremble when You stand
Christ the Victor, who was and is and is forever.
(Repeat Chorus)

Amen, amen. Amen, amen, amen. Amen, amen, amen.

(Repeat Chorus)

Sing the vict'ry of the Lamb. Hallelujah! Amen.

Entrance into Confession

Psalm 51, Responsive Reading

Leader: Have mercy on me, O God, according to Your steadfast love; according to Your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.

People: Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin!

L: For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.

P: Against You, You only, have I sinned and done what is evil in Your sight, so that You may be justified in Your words and blameless in Your judgment.

L: Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me.

P: Behold, You delight in truth in the inward being, and You teach me wisdom in the secret heart.

L: Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from Your presence, and take not Your Holy Spirit from me.

P: Restore to me the joy of Your salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit.

L: Then I will teach transgressors Your ways, and sinners will return to You.

P: O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare Your praise.

L: For You will not delight in sacrifice, or I would give it; You will not be pleased with a burnt offering.

P: The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, You will not despise.

Private Confession of Sin

Declaration of Grace

Hebrews 10:19-22

*Hymn of Gratitude *There Is a Fountain Filled with Blood*

There is a fountain filled with blood drawn from Immanuel's veins;
And sinners, plunged beneath that flood lose all their guilty stains:

Lose all their guilty stains, lose all their guilty stains;
And sinners plunged beneath that flood, lose all their guilty stains.

The dying thief rejoiced to see that fountain in his day,
And there may I, though vile as he, wash all my sins away:

Wash all my sins away, wash all my sins away;
And there may I, though vile as he, wash all my sins away.

Dear dying Lamb, Thy precious blood shall never lose its pow'r,
Till all the ransomed Church of God be saved to sin no more:

Be saved to sin no more, be saved to sin no more;
Till all the ransomed Church of God be saved to sin no more.

E'er since by faith I saw the stream Thy flowing wounds supply,
Redeeming love has been my theme, and shall be till I die:

And shall be till I die, and shall be till I die;
Redeeming love has been my theme, and shall be till I die.

When this poor lisping, stamm'ring tongue lies silent in the grave,
Then in a nobler, sweeter song I'll sing Thy pow'r to save:

I'll sing Thy pow'r to save, I'll sing Thy pow'r to save;
Then in a nobler, sweeter song I'll sing Thy pow'r to save.

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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!

By Thomas Ken; From *The Trinity Hymnal*

*Prayer for God's Blessing

Sermon Series: Good News for the World

Sermon Text: Acts 21:37-22:22

"Paul's Defense before His People" - Pastor Todd Bowen

*Hymn of Response

Join All the Glorious Names

Join all the glorious names of wisdom, love, and pow'r,
That ever mortals knew, that angels ever bore:
All are too poor to speak His worth,
Too poor to set my Savior forth.

Great Prophet of my God, my tongue would bless Thy name:
By Thee the joyful news of our salvation came,
The joyful news of sins forgiv'n,
Of hell subdued and peace with heaven.

Jesus, my great High Priest, offered His blood and died;
My guilty conscience seeks no sacrifice beside:
His pow'rful blood did once atone
And now it pleads before the throne.

Thou art my Counselor, my pattern, and my Guide,
And thou my Shepherd art; O keep me near Thy side;
Nor let my feet e'er turn astray to wander in the crooked way.

My Savior and my Lord, my Conqu'ror and my King,
Thy scepter and Thy sword, Thy reigning grace, I sing:
Thine is the pow'r; behold I sit
In willing bonds beneath Thy feet.

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*Benediction

Grace Covenant Church

A Congregation of the *Presbyterian Church in America*

418 West 12th Street
Grand Island, NE 68801
(308) 384-5625
gracegi.org

Pastor: Todd Bowen
Email: tbowen@gracegi.org

Administrative Assistant: Deb Holmes
Email: deb@gracegi.org

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*.