

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.

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.

The Witness of Christ

August 3, 2025

Gathering Time

Welcome

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

*Call to Worship

Psalm 113:1-4

*Opening Hymn *Ye Servants of God, Your Master Proclaim*

Ye servants of God, your Master proclaim,
And publish abroad His wonderful name;
The name, all victorious, of Jesus extol;
His kingdom is glorious and rules over all.

God ruleth on high, almighty to save;
And still He is nigh—His presence we have.
The great congregation His triumph shall sing,
Ascribing salvation to Jesus, our King.

Salvation to God, who sits on the throne!
Let all cry aloud and honor the Son.
The praises of Jesus the angels proclaim,
Fall down on their faces and worship the Lamb.

Then let us adore, and give Him His right,
All glory and pow'r, and wisdom and might,
All honor and blessing, with angels above,
And thanks never ceasing for infinite love.

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*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)

Entrance into Confession

Psalm 51:1-4

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love;
according to your abundant mercy blot out my
transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and
cleanse me from my sin! For I know my transgressions, and
my sin is ever before me. 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.

Private Confession of Sin

Declaration of Grace

Psalm 32:1-2

Response to Grace

The Steadfast Love of the Lord

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases;
His mercies shall never come to an end.
They are new ev'ry morning, new ev'ry morning.
Great is Thy faithfulness, O Lord! Great is Thy faithfulness.

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The Community of Grace

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

*Offertory Response *All Creatures of Our God and King, v. 5*

Let all things their Creator bless,
And worship Him in humbleness, O praise Him, alleluia!
Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son,
And praise the Spirit, three in one,
O praise Him, O praise Him, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

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From *The Trinity Hymnal*

*Prayer for God's Blessing

Sermon Series: Good News for the World

Sermon Text: Acts 14:1-7

"Bearing Witness in a Hostile World" - Pastor Todd Bowen

*Hymn of Preparation

Beneath the Cross of Jesus

Beneath the cross of Jesus I fain would take my stand,
The shadow of a mighty Rock within a weary land;
A home within the wilderness, a rest upon the way,
From the burning of the noontide heat,
And the burden of the day.

Upon the cross of Jesus my eye at times can see
The very dying form of One Who suffered there for me:
And from my stricken heart with tears two wonders I confess,
The wonders of redeeming love and my unworthiness.

I take, O cross, thy shadow for my abiding-place:
I ask no other sunshine than the sunshine of His face;
Content to let the world go by, to know no gain nor loss;
My sinful self my only shame, my glory all the cross.

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Celebration of the Lord's Supper

*Hymn of Celebration

We Will Feast in the House of Zion

Chorus

We will feast in the house of Zion.
We will sing with our hearts restored.
He has done great things, we will say together.
We will feast and weep no more.

We will not be burned by the fire; He is the Lord, our God.
We are not consumed by the flood;
Upheld, protected, gathered up.

Chorus

We will feast in the house of Zion.
We will sing with our hearts restored.
He has done great things, we will say together.
We will feast and weep no more.

In the dark of night, before the dawn,
My soul, be not afraid.
For the promised morning, oh, how long?
Oh, God of Jacob, be my strength.
(Repeat Chorus)

Ev'ry vow we've broken and betrayed,
You are the faithful one.
And from the garden to the grave,
Bind us together, bring *shalom*.
(Repeat Chorus)

We will feast in the house of Zion.
We will sing with our hearts restored.
He has done great things, we will say together.
We will feast and weep no more.

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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*.