

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.

The Hope of Resurrection

September 6, 2026

Gathering Time

Welcome

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

*Call to Worship

Romans 5:6, 9-11

*Opening Hymn

The Day of Resurrection!

The day of resurrection! Earth, tell it out abroad;
The Passover of gladness, the Passover of God.
From death to life eternal, from this world to the sky,
Our Christ has brought us over with hymns of victory.

Our hearts be pure from evil, that we may see aright
The Lord in rays eternal of resurrection-light;
And, listening to His accents, may hear, so calm and plain,
His own "All hail!" and hearing, may raise the victor strain.

Now let the heav'ns be joyful, let earth her song begin;
Let the round world keep triumph, and all that is therein;
Invisible and visible, their notes let all things blend,
For Christ the Lord hath risen, our joy that hath no end.

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From *The Trinity Hymnal*

*Prayer of Praise & The Lord's Prayer

"Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name.
Your kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as it is in
heaven. Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.
And do not lead us into temptation,

but deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom
and the power and the glory forever." Amen

*Hymn of Praise

Resurrection Hymn

See, what a morning, gloriously bright,
With the dawning of hope in Jerusalem;
Folded the grave clothes, tomb filled with light,
As the angels announce Christ is risen!
See God's salvation plan, wrought in love,
Borne in pain, paid in sacrifice,
Fulfilled in Christ, the Man, for He lives:
Christ is risen from the dead!

See Mary weeping, "Where is He laid?"
As in sorrow she turns from the empty tomb;
Hears a voice speaking, calling her name;
It's the Master, the Lord raised to life again!
The voice that spans the years,
Speaking life, stirring hope, bringing peace to us,
Will sound till He appears, for He lives:
Christ is risen from the dead!

One with the Father, Ancient of Days,
Through the Spirit who clothes faith with certainty,
Honour and blessing, glory and praise
To the King crowned with pow'r and authority!
And we are raised with Him,
Death is dead, love has won, Christ has conquered;
And we shall reign with Him, for He lives:
Christ is risen from the dead!

Leader: His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us to His own glory and excellence, by which He has granted to us His precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire.

People: For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge, and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with steadfastness, and steadfastness with godliness, and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love.

L: For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they keep you from being ineffective or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. For whoever lacks these qualities is so nearsighted that he is blind, having forgotten that he was cleansed from his former sins.

P: Therefore, brothers, be all the more diligent to make your calling and election sure, for if you practice these qualities you will never fall. For in this way there will be richly provided for you an entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Private Confession of Sin

Declaration of Grace

1 Peter 1:3-5

*Hymn of Gratitude

Christ Our Hope in Life and Death

What is our hope in life and death? Christ alone, Christ alone.

What is our only confidence? That our souls to Him belong.

Who holds our days within His hand?

What comes, apart from His command?

And what will keep us to the end?

The love of Christ, in which we stand.

Chorus

O sing hallelujah! Our hope springs eternal;

O sing hallelujah! Now and ever we confess

Christ our hope in life and death.

What truth can calm the troubled soul? God is good, God is good.

Where is His grace and goodness known?

In our great Redeemer's blood.

Who holds our faith when fears arise?

Who stands above the stormy trial?

Who sends the waves that bring us nigh unto the shore,

The rock of Christ?

(Repeat Chorus)

Unto the grave, what will we sing?

"Christ, He lives; Christ, He lives!"

And what reward will heaven bring? Everlasting life with Him.

There we will rise to meet the Lord,

Then sin and death will be destroyed,

And we will feast in endless joy,

When Christ is ours forevermore.

(Repeat Chorus Twice)

Now and ever we confess Christ our hope in life and death.

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 23:6-11

"The Hope of the Gospel" - Pastor Todd Bowen

*Hymn of Response *Who Are These Like Stars Appearing*

Who are these like stars appearing,
These before God's throne who stand?
Each a golden crown is wearing;
Who are all this glorious band?
Alleluia! Hark, they sing, praising loud their heav'nly King.

Who are these of dazzling brightness,
These in God's own truth arrayed,
Clad in robes of purest whiteness,
Robes whose luster ne'er shall fade,
Ne'er be touched by time's rude hand?
Whence come all this glorious band?

These are they who have contended
For their Savior's honor long, wrestling on till life was ended,
Foll'wing not the sinful throng;
These, who well the fight sustained,
Triumph through the Lamb have gained.

These are they whose hearts were riven,
Sore with woe and anguish tried,
Who in prayer full oft have striven
With the God they glorified;
Now, their painful conflict o'er,
God has bid them weep no more.

These, like priests, have watched and waited,
Off'ring up to Christ their will;
Soul and body consecrated, day and night to serve Him still:
Now in God's most holy place
Blest they stand before His face.

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Used from *The Trinity Hymnal*

*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*.