

**CHRISTIAN LOVE
PRACTICES GOOD STEWARDSHIP**

The Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost

GRACE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH | Seward, NE

October 25, 2020

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

We are pleased that you have chosen to worship the Lord with us today. Large print hymnals and personal assisted listening devices are available on request. The service can be heard throughout the building so that you can participate even if you have to take your child out for a while. Restrooms are in the hall between the chapel and fellowship area. If you have any questions please feel free to ask an usher.

CONNECTION CARDS: Visitors or members with changes in contact information, please fill out a connection card online at www.gracesewar.org the member connect tab, or scan this code.



SERVICE NOTES FOR THIS SUNDAY

Communion

We are celebrating the Lord's Supper today. Scripture tells us that we need to examine ourselves before we receive the Lord's Supper so that we do not take it in a harmful manner. (1 Cor. 11:27-29) For help in preparation see page 156 in the front of the hymnal.

Visitors: Because we do not want you to receive the Lord's Supper in a harmful manner we ask that you do not come forward for the Lord's Supper today if you are not members of a WELS or ELS church. The pastor will be happy to share with you the Biblical basis for this practice.

SERVING IN WORSHIP

Worship Leader
Organist

Pastor Mark A. Haefner
Mrs. Karma Ridpath

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DIVINE SERVICE II

Divine Service II is a version of the historic liturgy of the Christian church. This order is intended to be used when Holy Communion is celebrated.

OPENING HYMN

All People that On Earth Do Dwell | 233

- 1 All people that on earth do dwell, Sing to the Lord with cheerful voice.
Him serve with fear; his praise forthtell; Come ye before him and rejoice.
- 2 Know that the Lord is God indeed; Without our aid he did us make.
We are his folk; he doth us feed, And for his sheep he doth us take.
- 3 Oh, enter then his gates with praise; Approach with joy his courts unto.
Praise, laud, and bless his name always, For it is seemly so to do.
- 4 For why? The Lord, our God, is good; His mercy is forever sure.
His truth at all times firmly stood And shall from age to age endure.
- 5 To Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, The God whom heav'n and earth adore,
From us and from the angel host Be praise and glory evermore.

INVOCATION¹

please stand

M In the name of the Father and of the \oplus Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

CONFESSION

M Dear friends, let us approach God with a true heart and confess our sins, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to forgive us.

C **Lord of life, I confess that I am by nature dead in sin. For faithless worrying and selfish pride, For sins of habit and sins of choice, For the evil I have done and the good I have failed to do, You should cast me away from your presence forever. O Lord, I am sorry for my sins. Forgive me, for Jesus' sake.**

¹ *The name of the triune God and the sign of the cross remind worshipers of their baptisms.*

ABSOLUTION²

M Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again. In his great mercy, God made us alive in Christ even when we were dead in our sins. Hear the word of Christ through his called servant: I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son (+) and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

LORD, HAVE MERCY³

M In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

For the well-being of all people everywhere, that they may receive from you all they need to sustain body and life, hear our prayer, O Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

M For the spread of your life-giving gospel throughout the world, that all who are lost in sin may be brought to faith in you, hear our prayer, O Christ.

C Christ, have mercy.

M For patience and perseverance in this life, that we may not lose the hope of heaven as we await your return, hear our prayer, O Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

M Lord of life, live in us that we may live for you.

C Amen.

GLORY BE TO GOD

Tune | 582

**All glory be to God on high!
Your name, O Lord, we glorify;
We praise you for your peace and grace,
Your favor toward our fallen race.**

² The use of the keys is that special power and right which Christ gave to his church on earth: to forgive the sins of penitent sinners" [The Small Catechism, First: What is the use of the keys?]. See John 20:21-23.

³ Kyrie is the Greek word for Lord. The expression "Lord, have mercy" is one of the oldest worship responses in the Christian church.)

**Our grateful thanks to you we bring,
For your great glory, heav'nly King,
For all, O Father, you have done
Through Jesus Christ, your only Son.**

**O Lamb of God, to you we pray.
You take all human sin away.
Have mercy, Lord; receive our prayer;
From God's right hand, your mercy share.**

**You, Christ, are holy—Lord alone;
The Father's glory you made known.
We by your Spirit sing again:
"All glory be to God!" Amen.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

M Let us pray.

Lord God, forgive our selfishness and be gentle with us in our failure to be good stewards of all you have given us. Deliver us from the bondage of our sin and in response to your gracious forgiveness inspire us to use all we have to serve you and our neighbor; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

The Word

FIRST LESSON

Malachi 3:3-12

³He will be seated like a refiner and a purifier of silver. He will purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and like silver. They will belong to the LORD and bring him an offering in righteousness.

⁴Judah and Jerusalem's offerings will be pleasing to the LORD as they were in the days of old, in years long ago.

⁵I will approach you to judge you. I will be quick to give testimony against those who practice occult arts, those who commit adultery, those who swear false oaths, those who cheat workers out of their wages, those who wrong a widow and a fatherless child, those who turn away a resident alien—all those who do not fear me, says the LORD of Armies.

⁶Certainly I, the LORD, do not change. That is why you, sons of Jacob, have not come to an end. ⁷Since the days of your fathers, you have turned aside from my statutes and have not kept them. Return to me, and I will return to you, says the LORD of Armies.

You say, "In what way should we return?"

⁸Will a man rob God? You are robbing me!

You say, "How have we robbed you?"

In regard to the tithe and the special offering. ⁹You are being cursed since all of you, the whole nation, are robbing me. ¹⁰Bring the complete tithe to the storehouse so that there may be food in my house. Just test me in this, says the LORD of Armies. See whether I do not open for you the windows of heaven and pour down blessing on you, until there is more than enough. ¹¹I will restrain the devouring swarm so that it will not destroy your produce from your soil. Your vine in the field will not be without fruit, says the LORD of Armies. ¹²All the nations will call you blessed, because you will be a delightful land, says the LORD of Armies. (EHV)

M The Word of the Lord

C **Thanks be to God.**

SECOND LESSON

Romans 12:1-8

Therefore I urge you, brothers, by the mercies of God, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice—holy and pleasing to God—which is your appropriate worship. ²Also, do not continue to conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, so that you test and approve what is the will of God—what is good, pleasing, and perfect.

³So by the grace given to me, I tell everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought, but think in a way that results in sound judgment, as God distributed a measure of faith to each of you. ⁴For we have many members in one body, and not all the members have the same function. ⁵In the same way, though we are many, we are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another.

⁶We have different gifts, according to the grace God has given us. If the gift is prophecy, do it in complete agreement with the faith. ⁷If it is serving, then serve. If it is teaching, then teach. ⁸If it is encouraging, then encourage. If it is contributing, be generous. If it is leadership, be diligent. If it is showing mercy, do it cheerfully. (EHV)

M The Word of the Lord

C Thanks be to God.

VERSE OF THE DAY

1 Corinthians 4:2

Alleluia. Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful.
Alleluia.



Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!



Faith comes from hear - ing the mes - sage, and the



mes - sage is heard through the Word of Christ. Al - le -



lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

GOSPEL

Matthew 25:14-30

please stand

M The Gospel according to Matthew chapter 25.

C **Glory be to you, O Lord.**

¹⁴You see, the kingdom of heaven is like a man going on a journey. He called his servants and entrusted his possessions to them. ¹⁵To one he gave five talents, to another two talents, and to still another one talent, each according to his own ability. Then he went on his journey. ¹⁶The servant who had received the five talents immediately put them to work and gained five more talents. ¹⁷In the same way, the servant who had received the two talents gained two more. ¹⁸But the servant who had received one talent went away, dug a hole in the ground, and hid his master's money.

¹⁹"After a long time the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them. ²⁰The servant who received the five talents came and brought five more talents. He said, 'Master, you entrusted five talents to me. See, I have gained five more talents.'

²¹"His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You were faithful with a few things. I will put you in charge of many things. Enter into the joy of your master.'

²²"The servant who received the two talents came and said, 'Master, you entrusted me with two talents. See, I have gained two more talents.'

²³"His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You were faithful with a few things. I will put you in charge of many things. Enter into the joy of your master.'

²⁴"Then the servant who received one talent came and said, 'Master, I knew that you are a hard man, reaping where you did not plant and gathering where you did not scatter seed. ²⁵Since I was afraid, I went away and hid your talent in the ground. See, you have what is yours.'

²⁶"His master answered him, 'You wicked and lazy servant! You knew that I reap where I did not plant and gather where I did not scatter seed? ²⁷Well then, you should have deposited my money with the bankers so that when I came I would get my money back with interest. ²⁸Take the talent away from him and give it to the servant who has the ten talents. ²⁹Because everyone who has will be given more, and he will have an abundance. But the one who does not have, even what he has will be taken away from him. ³⁰Throw that worthless servant into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' (EHV)

M This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise be to you, O Christ.**

HYMN OF THE DAY

Brothers, Sisters, Let Us Gladly | **484**

1 Brothers, sisters, let us gladly
Give to God our all, our best—
Service hearty, thorough, honest,
With a living love impressed.
All our duty, all our striving,
All our time to him belong;
Praise him, then, with true devotion;
Come before him with a song.

2 By his mercy, by his bounty,
By the gift of Christ, his Son,

What great goodness he has shown us,
What high marvels he has done!
Let us to him promptly, freely,
Yield our bodies and our souls,
Thankful that his love protects us,
That his wisdom all controls.

3 Gracious Lord, accept our service
For the sake of Christ, your Son;
Lo, our hope abides now only
In the righteousness he won.
Bless and save us; help and guide us;
Watch to comfort and restore
Till in heav'n we rest rejoicing,
Praising you forevermore.

SERMON

please stand

NICENE CREED⁴

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is,
seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary,
and became fully human.**

⁴ Public confession is faith's response to God's saving Word. Christians composed the Nicene Creed in the fourth century to defend the Bible's teachings that both Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit are true God, equal to the Father in one eternal, undivided Trinity.

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures.
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

be seated

OFFERING

On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with his income. 1 Corinthians 16:2 (NIV)

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

- M** Lord God, you created the heavens and the earth.
- C** **Every animal of the forest is yours as well as the cattle on a thousand hills.**
- M** Lord, from your hand comes boundless riches.
- C** **We thank you, Lord, for making us your stewards. We pray that you will grant us faith so we can please you in our stewardship.**
- M** Lord, help us to see the time, the talents, and the financial resources we have are a sacred trust from you.
- C** **We ask for your help, Lord, to use all our resources in worthwhile activities that will give you honor and praise.**

M Lord, help us to spend time in your Word and in prayer that you might nourish the faith you give us.

C **Please change us, Lord, from fear and selfishness to trust and generosity.**

Special prayers and petitions may be offered here.

M Help us, Lord, to be wise and fruitful stewards of the opportunities that you give us to use our gifts.

C **Amen.**

The Sacrament

Those who have prepared themselves and who have declared their fellowship with us through membership in this or another WELS or ELS congregation are invited to receive the Lord's Supper.

M The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

M Lift up your hearts.

C **We lift them up to the Lord.**

M Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C **It is good and right so to do.**

M It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who has called us to be his own so that we may live under him in his kingdom and serve him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY *Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9*

Tune | **372**

**O holy, holy, holy
Lord God of pow'r and might,
Your glory, earth and heaven
In countless ways recite.
Hosanna! Come and save us,
Lord God of hosts on high,**

**And in your grace and mercy
Receive our fervent cry.**

**Hosanna in the highest!
How truly blest is he
Who in God's name is coming
To set his people free!
He comes to bring salvation
And with his blood outpoured,
Deliver us from bondage—
Hosanna, mighty Lord!**

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Jesus took bread and gave thanks [Matthew 26:26]

M Blessed are you, O Lord God, King of the universe. Before the creation of the world, you chose to redeem us with the precious blood of your Son,

C **a Lamb without blemish or defect.**

M We give you humble and heartfelt thanks that by the mystery of Christ's holy incarnation,

C **you have made him our brother and helper forever.**

M By his birth, circumcision, and perfect obedience,

C **you have purified us from all sin.**

M By his baptism, fasting, and temptation,

C **you have become our righteousness, holiness, and redemption.**

M By his agony, bloody sweat, and cruel scourging,

C **you have crushed the head of our ancient enemy.**

M By his precious cross, death, and burial,

C **you have turned the gloomy portal of death into the bright gateway to the everlasting Eden.**

M Remembering your Son's death and resurrection, we receive in repentance and joy his body and blood. Strengthen us through this gift for our pilgrimage on earth until, together at last, we shall eat and drink with our Savior anew in the kingdom of God.

C Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes. Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

C Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom
and the power and the glory
forever and ever. Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION ⁵

Matthew 26:26-28, 1 Corinthians 11:24,25

M Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying: "Take and eat. This is my ✝ body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it all of you; this is my ✝ blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C Amen.

LAMB OF GOD *John 1:29*

⁵ As he speaks the Words of Institution, the minister both proclaims the words of Jesus to the congregation and sets apart the bread and wine for the Lord's use. The sign of the cross reminds us of Christ's death

Lamb of God, you take a - way the
 sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
 world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God,
 you take a - way the sin of the world;
 grant us your peace. A - men.

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

Draw Near and Take the Body of the Lord | 309

1 Draw near and take the body of the Lord,
 And drink the holy blood for you outpoured.
 Offered was he for greatest and for least,
 Himself the victim and himself the priest.

2 He that his saints in this world rules and shields
 To all believers life eternal yields,
 With heav'nly bread makes them that hunger whole,
 Gives living waters to the thirsty soul.

3 Come forward, then, with faithful hearts sincere,
And take the pledges of salvation here.
Before your altar, Lord, your servants bow;
In this your feast of love be with us now.

O Lord of Heaven and Earth and Sea | **487**

1 O Lord of heav'n and earth and sea, To you all praise and glory be!
How can we thank you properly Who gives us all?

2 The golden sunshine, springtime air, Sweet flow'rs and fruit your love declare;
When harvests ripen, you are there, Who gives us all.

3 For peaceful homes and healthful days, For all the blessings earth displays
We owe you thankfulness and praise, Who gives us all.

4 You did not spare your only Son, But gave him for a world undone,
And freely with that blessed one You give us all.

5 We have your Spirit ev'ry hour, The Lord of life and love and pow'r,
He will his sev'nfold graces show'r Upon us all.

6 For means of grace, for sins forgiv'n, For souls redeemed and hopes of heav'n,
What can to you, O Lord, be giv'n, Who gives us all?

7 We lose what on ourselves we spend; We have as treasures without end
Whatever, Lord, to you we lend, Who gives us all.

8 Dear Lord, from you we all derive Our life, our gifts, our pow'r to give.
Oh, may we ever with you live, Who gives us all!

SONG OF SIMEON (*Luke 2:29-32*)

Tune | **445**

please stand

**O Lord, now let your servant
Depart in peace, assured:
For I have seen your promised
incarnate, saving Word—
A Light that will enlighten
All gloom where Gentiles dwell;**

**The brilliant, crowning glory
Of those in Israel!**

**All glory to the Father,
All glory to the Son,
All glory to the Spirit,
Forever three in one;
For as in the beginning,
Is now, shall ever be,
God's triune name resounding
Through all eternity.**

M We give you thanks, O Lord, for the foretaste of the heavenly banquet that you have given us to eat and to drink in this sacrament. Through this gift you have fed our faith, nourished our hope, and strengthened our love. By your Spirit help us to live as your holy people until that day when you will receive us as your guests at the wedding supper of the Lamb, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

BLESSING

M The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look on you with favor and ✝ give you peace.

C **Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN

Lord of Glory, You Have Bought Us | **486**

1 Lord of glory, you have bought us With your lifeblood as the price,
Never grudging for the lost ones That tremendous sacrifice,
And with that have freely given Blessings countless as the sand
To th' unthankful and the evil With your own unsparing hand.

2 Grant us hearts, dear Lord, to give you Gladly, freely, of your own.
With the sunshine of your goodness Melt our thankless hearts of stone
Till our cold and selfish natures, Warmed by you, at length believe
That more happy and more blessed 'Tis to give than to receive.

3 Wondrous honor you have given To our humblest charity
In your own mysterious sentence, "You have done it unto me."
Can it be, O gracious Master, That you need what we can do,
Saying by your poor and needy, "Give as I have giv'n to you"?

4 Yes, the sorrow and the suff'rings Which on ev'ry hand we view
Channels are for gifts and off'rings Due by solemn right to you,
Right of which we may not rob you, Debt we may not choose but pay
Lest that face of love and pity Turn from us another day.

5 Lord of glory, you have bought us With your lifeblood as the price,
Never grudging for the lost ones That tremendous sacrifice.
Give us faith to trust you boldly, Hope, to stay our souls on you;
But, oh, best of all your graces, With your love our love renew.

Communion Procedure

After the consecration, napkins will be placed on the communion rail 6 ft apart by an assistant wearing gloves. A wafer and individual cup will be placed on each napkin by the pastor who will be wearing gloves.

When everything is set out the first group may come to commune. You may eat and drink as pastor speaks the words "take and eat", "take and drink." On dismissal please take the napkin and cup and place it in the basket. Hand sanitizer is available next to the basket.

Please do your best to keep your six-foot distance at the altar (families can stand next to each other) and as you come to and return from the altar. The process is repeated as often as necessary for all who want to commune to do so.



NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today: 8 AM Bible Class, 8:45 AM Worship with Communion, 9:45 AM Sunday School

Wednesday: 7 PM Online Bible Study – Politics Is Driving Me Crazy Lesson 4

Thursday: 6 PM Catechism Online

Sunday: 8 AM Bible Class, 8:45 AM Worship, 9:45 AM Sunday School

Our online Bible study “Politics Is Driving Me Crazy” continues this Wednesday at 7 PM. An email will be coming this week which will include the Zoom link and phone numbers to join.

Marriage Moment video devotions from WELS started on Monday. You can view and sign up for these at <https://welscongregationalservices.net/ministry-resources/marriagemoments/>

Looking to the future: We will set up the Chrismon tree at the Seward Civic center on November 23 at 2 PM; Thanksgiving Worship on November 26 at 8:45 AM; Advent Worship at 6:30 PM at NELHS on December 2 and 9.

Take note of the NELHS Auction information on the bulletin board and in the Contact. The auction will be completely Online this year and run during the month of November.

Thanks to all who helped with hosting the Pastors’ Conference. Your service to the Lord and others was greatly appreciated.

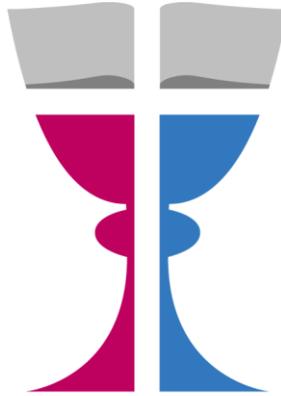


Find us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/GraceLutheranSeward



Personal assisted listening devices are available.

Given to the Lord: Attendance: Bible Class 15, Worship 38, Facebook live 5, Sunday School 5. Offerings: Home 860.48, WELS 95.00, NELHS 635.00, Trinity 65.00. **To God be the glory!**



GRACE
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CHURCH

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