



Give Thanks

to the LORD, for he is good;
his love endures forever.

1 CHRONICLES 16:34

GRACE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH | Seward, Nebraska

November 26, 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 TODAY

Worship Materials

The order of service and the hymns for today are printed for you in this folder. "Christian Worship: a Lutheran Hymnal" which is normally in the hymnal rack on the back of each pew has been temporarily removed to help protect against passing the corona virus. Watching the theme and passage on the screen may help you prepare for worship. Serving in worship

SERVING US

Worship Leader

Pastor Mark A. Haefner

Organist

Mrs. Karma Ridpath

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THANKSGIVING

M O Lord, open my lips.

C And my mouth shall declare your praise.

M Hasten to save me, O God.

C O Lord, Come quickly to help me.

M Give glory to God, our Light and our life.

C Come, oh, come, let us worship.

(Come, Oh Come: Pastor will sing the refrain through once, then the congregation joins in singing the refrain and the verses)

①

Come, oh, come, let us sing to the Lord,

②

let us shout with joy to our sav - ing Rock;

③

come, en - ter in with our songs of praise,

Repeat for use with canon

come, en - ter in with thanks - giv - ing.

Verses

1. You are a great and a won - drous God,
2. Come, let us wor - ship and, bow - ing low,

cup - ping in your hands all the depths of earth.
kneel be - fore the One who has made us all.

You made the hills and the mountains high,
 You are the God whom we call our own,
to Refrain

you made the seas and the dry land.
 we are the flock that you shepherd.

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RESPONSIVE READING:

M How many are your works, O Lord! In wisdom you have made them all, the earth is full of your riches.

C **Praise the Lord O my soul, and forget not all His benefits**

M O God the Father, almighty Creator, Preserver, and bountiful Giver of all good gifts:

C **We are not worthy of your daily care and protection, nor of the many blessings you have bestowed upon us.**

M O God the Son, blessed Savior, wonderful Redeemer from sin:

C **We are not worthy of the love which caused you to live and die in our place to win our forgiveness.**

M O God the Holy Spirit, gracious Sanctifier, eternal Comforter, blessed Source of saving faith:

C **We are not worthy of the faith which you worked in our hearts through your word at our Baptism, nor of the comfort and encouragement you continue to grant us through the Word and Sacrament.**

M O Holy Triune God, gracious and forgiving Lord, the only true God:

C **We confess our many sins, and especially do we confess our sins of thanklessness, discontent and greed. Help us to learn to appreciate all the things that you have done and continue to do for us every day. Help us to see that the forgiveness and faith that you have given us are our greatest blessings so that, like Paul, we might learn the secret of being content in any and every situation. Forgive us and help us for Jesus' sake, Amen.**

M As a servant of the Word, I assure you that God has heard your prayer and will help you grow in contentment and thankfulness. In his place, on the authority of His word, I forgive you all your sins, in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

HYMN: 609 "We Praise You, O God, Our Redeemer"

1 We praise you, O God, our Redeemer, Creator!
In grateful devotion our tribute we bring:
We lay it before you; we kneel and adore you;
We bless your holy name; glad praises we sing.

2 We worship you, God of our fathers; we bless you.
Through trial and tempest our guide you have been;
When perils o'ertake us, you will not forsake us,
And with your help, O Lord, our battles we win.

3 With voices united our praises we offer;
To you, great Jehovah, glad anthems we raise.
Your strong arm will guide us; our God is beside us.
To you, our great Redeemer, fore'er be praise!

READING: Deuteronomy 8:10-18

¹⁰Then you will eat, and you will be filled, and you will praise the LORD your God for the good land that he has given you. ¹¹Be very careful so that you do not forget the LORD your God by not keeping his commandments and ordinances and his statutes that I am commanding you today. ¹²When you eat and are satisfied, and you build nice houses and move into them, ¹³and your herds and your flocks multiply, and your silver and gold increase, and everything that you have prospers, ¹⁴watch out so that your heart does not become arrogant and forget the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, where you were slaves. ¹⁵Do not forget the LORD, who led you in the great and terrifying wilderness, where there were venomous snakes and scorpions, where the thirsty ground had no water, but the LORD made water come out of a flint rock for you. ¹⁶Do not forget the LORD, who in the wilderness fed you manna, which your fathers had not known before, to humble you and to test you so that it would be good for you later on.

¹⁷You might say in your heart, "My ability and the power of my hand have earned this wealth for me." ¹⁸But then you are to remember that the LORD your God is the one who gives you the ability to produce wealth, to confirm his covenant that he promised to your fathers with an oath, as he does to this day.

M The word of the Lord!

C **Thanks be to God!**

PSALM: Portions of Psalms 147 & 103—We thank God for our physical and spiritual blessings.

Refrain (Sung)

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise him, all creatures here below;
Praise him above, ye heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost!

M Sing to the Lord with thanksgiving.

C **Make music to our God on the harp.**

M He covers the sky with clouds;

C **He supplies the earth with rain.**

M He makes grass grow on the hills.

C **He provides food for the cattle and for the young ravens when they call.**

M Praise the Lord, praise the Lord from the heavens.

C **Praise the Lord.**

Refrain: (Sing "Praise God, from whom all blessings flow")

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise him, all creatures here below;
Praise him above, ye heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost!

M Praise the Lord, O my soul;

C **All my inmost being, praise his holy name.**

M Praise the Lord, O my soul,

C **And forget not all his benefits.**

M He forgives all my sins and heals all my diseases;

C **He redeems my life from the pit and crowns me with love and compassion.**

M He does not treat us as our sins deserve.

C Or repay us according to our iniquities.

M For as high as the heavens are above the earth,

C So great is his love for those who fear him;

M As far as the east is from the west,

C So far has he removed our transgressions from us.

M The Lord has established His throne in heaven.

C And his kingdom rules over all.

M Praise the Lord, all his works everywhere in his dominion.

C Praise the Lord, O my soul.

Refrain: (Sing "Praise God, from whom all blessings flow")

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;

Praise him, all creatures here below;

Praise him above, ye heav'nly host;

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost!

READING: Philippians 4:10-20

¹⁰I rejoice greatly in the Lord now that you have revived your concern for me once again. Actually, you were concerned, but you had no opportunity to show it. ¹¹I am not saying this because I lack anything; in fact, I have learned to be content in any circumstances in which I find myself. ¹²I know what it is to live in humble circumstances, and I know what it is to have more than enough. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, while being full or hungry, while having plenty or not enough. ¹³I can do all things through Christ, who strengthens me. ¹⁴Nevertheless, you did well by becoming partners with me in my affliction.

¹⁵You Philippians know that in the beginning of your experience with the gospel, when I left Macedonia, not one church shared with me in the matter of giving and receiving, except you alone. ¹⁶Even while I was in Thessalonica, you sent help more than once for my needs. ¹⁷Not that I am seeking a gift, but I am seeking the fruit that adds to your account. ¹⁸I have been paid in full, and I have more than enough. I am fully supplied since I've received from Epaphroditus the things that came from you, a sweet-smelling fragrance, an acceptable sacrifice, well-pleasing to God. ¹⁹And my God will fully supply your every need, according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus. ²⁰Now to our God and Father be glory forever and ever! Amen.

M The word of the Lord!

C **Thanks be to God!**

HYMN: 614 "Sing to the Lord of Harvest"

1 Sing to the Lord of harvest; Sing songs of love and praise.
With joyful hearts and voices Your alleluias raise.
By him the rolling seasons In fruitful order move;
Sing to the Lord of harvest A joyous song of love.

2 God makes the clouds rain goodness; The deserts bloom and spring.
The hills leap up in gladness; The valleys laugh and sing.
God fills them with his fullness, All things with large increase;
He crowns the year with blessing, With plenty and with peace.

3 Bring to this sacred altar The gifts his goodness gave,
The golden sheaves of harvest, The souls Christ died to save.
Your hearts lay down before him When at his feet you fall,
And with your lives adore him Who gave his life for all.

READING: Luke 17:11-19

¹¹On another occasion, as Jesus was on his way to Jerusalem, he was passing along the border between Samaria and Galilee. ¹²When he entered a certain village, ten men with leprosy met him. Standing at a distance, ¹³they called out loudly, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!"

¹⁴When he saw them, he said, "Go, show yourselves to the priests." As they went away they were cleansed.

¹⁵One of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, glorifying God with a loud voice. ¹⁶He fell on his face at Jesus' feet, thanking him. And he was a Samaritan. ¹⁷Jesus responded, "Were not ten cleansed? Where are the other nine? ¹⁸Was no one found to return and give glory to God except this foreigner?" ¹⁹Then he said to him, "Get up and go your way. Your faith has saved you."

M The Gospel of the Lord!

C **Thanks be to God!**

CONFESSION OF FAITH: (Luther's explanation of the First Article)

"I believe that God made me and every creature and that he gave me my body and soul, eyes, ears and all my members, my mind and all my abilities.

"And I believe that God still preserves me by richly and daily providing clothing and shoes, food and drink, house and home, spouse and children, land, cattle and all I own, and all that I need to keep my body and life, and by defending me against all danger and guarding and protecting me from all evil.

"All this God does only because he is my good and merciful Father in heaven, and not because I have earned or deserved it.

"For all this I ought to thank and praise, to serve and obey him.

"This is most certainly true."

HYMN: 611 "For the Fruit of His Creation"

1 For the fruit of his creation, Thanks be to God.
For his gifts to ev'ry nation, Thanks be to God.
For the plowing, sowing, reaping, Silent growth while we are sleeping,
Future needs in earth's safekeeping, Thanks be to God.

2 In the just reward of labor, God's will be done.
In the help we give our neighbor, God's will be done.
In our worldwide task of caring For the hungry and despairing,
In the harvests we are sharing, God's will be done.

3 For the harvests of the Spirit, Thanks be to God.
For the good we all inherit, Thanks be to God.
For the wonders that astound us, For the truths that still confound us,
Most of all that Love has found us, Thanks be to God

SERMON

Psalm 103:1-18

¹Bless the LORD, O my soul.
All that is within me, bless his holy name.

²Bless the LORD, O my soul,
and do not forget all his benefits—

³who pardons all your guilt,
who heals all your diseases,

⁴who redeems your life from the pit,
who crowns you with mercy and compassion,
⁵who satisfies your life with goodness,
so that your youth is renewed like the eagle.

⁶The LORD performs righteousness and justice for all the oppressed.

⁷He made known his ways to Moses,
his deeds to the people of Israel.

⁸The LORD is compassionate and gracious,
slow to anger, abounding in mercy.

⁹He will not always accuse.

He will not keep his anger forever.

¹⁰He does not treat us as our sins deserve.

He does not repay us according to our guilty deeds.

¹¹Yes, as high as the heavens are above the earth,
so powerful is his mercy toward those who fear him.

¹²As distant as the east is from the west,
so far has he removed our rebellious acts from us.

¹³As a father has compassion on his children,
so the LORD has compassion on those who fear him.

¹⁴For he knows how we were formed.

He remembers that we are dust.

¹⁵As for man, his days are like grass. Like a wildflower he blossoms.

¹⁶Then the wind blows over it, and it is gone,
and its place recognizes it no more.

¹⁷But the LORD's mercy is from eternity to eternity
over those who fear him,
and his righteousness is with their children's children,

¹⁸ with those who keep his covenant,
with those who remember his precepts in order to obey them.

THE FOURTH PETITION: (with Luther's explanation)

Give us this day our daily bread.

What does this mean?

God surely gives daily bread without our asking, even to all the wicked, but we pray in this

petition that he would lead us to realize this and to receive our daily bread with thanksgiving.

What then is meant by daily bread?

Daily bread includes everything that we need for our bodily welfare, such as food and drink, clothing and shoes, house and home, fields and flocks, money and goods, a godly family, good workers, good government, honest leaders, good citizens, good weather, peace and order, health, a good name, loyal friends and good neighbors.

OFFERING: (Designated for WELS Christian Aid and Relief)

PRAYER

M Let us give thanks to God our Father through His Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, in the Holy Spirit, for all His gifts. For our redemption by the precious blood of Jesus, for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory, let us give thanks to God:

C **We thank You, Lord.**

M For the holy Christian Church, where God's Word is proclaimed and His Sacraments are administered, let us give thanks to God:

C **We thank You, Lord.**

M For our pastors and Christian teachers as they feed and nurture us in the faith with God's gracious Word of the forgiveness of our sins, let us give thanks to God:

C **We thank You, Lord.**

M For the leaders of our nation, state, and city, together with all those in authority, especially for those serving in our armed forces, through whom we receive God's gracious protection, let us give thanks to God:

C **We thank You, Lord.**

M For the gift of all God's creatures in earth and sky and sea, let us give thanks to God:

C **We thank You, Lord.**

M For good weather and for the harvest, for food and drink, clothing and shoes, house and home, family and friends, let us give thanks to God:

C We thank You, Lord.

M For health and strength to work, and for leisure to rest and play, let us give thanks to God:

C We thank You, Lord.

M For God's care and protection upon those who call on Him in any need, for His healing and help to the sick and suffering, for His comfort to those who mourn, and for satisfying the desires of the hungry, the homeless, and the unemployed, let us give thanks to God:

C We thank You, Lord.

M For the gifts of the forgiveness of sins, strengthening of our faith, peace, life, and salvation which we receive in Christ's body and blood given to us in the Sacrament, let us give thanks to God:

C We thank You, Lord.

M For all those who have departed this life steadfast in God's Word and received the crown of life, let us give thanks to God:

C We thank You, Lord.

M For all the gifts of God's bounty we ask that we may be made faithful stewards and praise His great and glorious name; through His Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, In whose name we join in praying:

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.**

BENEDICTION

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**

HYMN: 610 "Now Thank We All Our God"

1 Now thank we all our God With hearts and hands and voices,
Who wondrous things has done, In whom his world rejoices,
Who from our mother's arms Has blessed us on our way
With countless gifts of love And still is ours today.

2 Oh, may this bounteous God Through all our life be near us,
With ever-joyful hearts And blessed peace to cheer us
And keep us in his grace And guide us when perplexed
And free us from all ills In this world and the next.

3 All praise and thanks to God The Father now be given,
The Son, and him who reigns With them in highest heaven,
The one eternal God, Whom earth and heav'n adore!
For thus it was, is now, And shall be evermore.

Announcements

Thursday: 8:45 AM Thanksgiving Worship at Grace

Saturday: 10:30 AM Bible Information Class at Bethel

Sunday: 8:45 AM Worship

Please remember social distancing if you stay and visit after church.

Because of the rise in COVID cases in the area MASKS are strongly recommended in worship. We will also ask that people sit every other pew.

Advent: Online Only – December 2, December 9, and December 16. One of these services will be the Trinity Program

Since we will not be able to go ahead with our traditional Christmas caroling and delivering plates of cookies and fruit to our shut-ins, we will be gathering Christmas cards for them. Please consider putting together a personal card, letter, or even having your children create a Christmas picture for them. We will be gathering items until after the church service on Sunday, December 13. There is a box on the back counter of the kitchen in the fellowship hall where you can put your completed cards or pictures. Please make sure to clearly mark the name of the intended recipient on the item. A list of names is located near the box on the counter. The Christmas greetings will then be sent out after church on the 13th. Thank you for your help in reaching out during this blessed Christmas season as we celebrate the birth of our Savior!

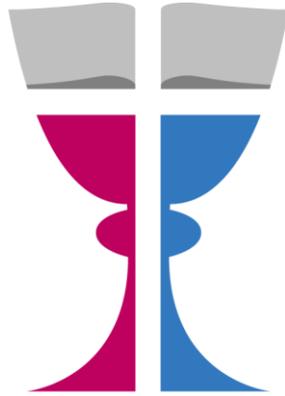
You can log in at our Member Connect page and check to see if your contact information is up to date, fill in a contact card, enter a prayer request, or give an online gift. You can get there from our website or you can scan this code.



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Personal assisted listening devices are available.



GRACE
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WELS Christian Aid and Relief

Each day we consider our blessings and thank God for them. Out of gratitude for our greatest gift, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ who has saved us from our sins, we in turn reach out to those who are in need—spiritually, physically, and emotionally. One way we, as WELS brothers and sisters in Christ, carry out this ministry of compassion is through Christian Aid and Relief. Together we provide relief to people suffering from natural disasters, assist those dealing with extreme medical and financial challenges, and show Christian love to people through our WELS missions by supporting humanitarian aid projects. Your special gifts provide critical assistance to people in need and create wonderful opportunities to share the saving message of the gospel. Thank You!

Christian Aid and Relief grant totals for this year

\$1,138,604



Current Grants

Domestic relief: providing disaster relief and medical assistance throughout the U.S.— \$432,695.

Foreign relief: providing disaster and financial relief to Albania, Asia, Bahamas, Bulgaria, China, Ethiopia, Hong Kong, India, Latin America, Malawi, Philippines, Thailand, Ukraine, Venezuela, Vietnam and Zambia, — \$249,990.

Included in funding for both the domestic and foreign relief grants \$172,003 was dispersed for Covid related issues.

Humanitarian aid: providing assistance for projects such as borehole drilling, health clinics, home based care, food assistance, and warm clothes for widows and orphans — \$455,919.

Home and World Mission fields receiving humanitarian aid grants: Central African Medical Mission, Malawi, Zambia, Albania, Bulgaria, Russia, Mexico, Venezuela, Asia, Indonesia, and several home mission congregations welcoming legal immigrants to their church and community.

To learn more, visit wels.net/relief and [fb.com/WELSChristianAidandRelief](https://www.facebook.com/WELSChristianAidandRelief).

If a need arises for humanitarian aid or disaster relief in your area, please contact director Daniel Sims.

WELS Christian Aid and Relief • daniel.sims@wels.net • 414-256-3204
N16W23377 Stone Ridge Drive • Waukesha, WI 53188-1108

