

RESURRECTION EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH



153 South McKenna Avenue
Gretna, Nebraska 68028
402-332-3383
www.RELChurch.net

March 13 & 14, 2021
5:30 p.m. Saturday Worship
10:00 a.m. Sunday Worship

 [facebook.com/RELCgretna](https://www.facebook.com/RELCgretna)

 @RELCgretna

 @RELCgretna

 <https://band.us/invite/a3ad21c7q1D7f>

COMMUNION WORSHIP SERVICE
March 13 & 14, 2021

GATHERING

INTRODUCTION AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

BRIEF ORDER OF CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God,
who shines in glory,
clothes us in compassion,
and bears gifts of mercy for all.

Amen.

Let us confess our sins with confidence in God's promise of forgiveness.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God, wonderful counselor,
**we confess that we have turned from your gifts
and chosen our own way.**

**We have not made room for you
in our hearts or in our world.**

**We have lived in fear;
we have not welcomed the stranger;
we desire gifts that will not endure.**

**Forgive us our sins, known and unknown,
and open us to receive the peace of Jesus
dwelling in and among us.**

Amen.

God's lovingkindness has appeared to us in Christ our Savior.
We are saved, not by anything we have done,
but by God's mercy poured out on us richly.

In the name of ✝ Jesus Christ,
your sins are forgiven.

Through the Spirit living in you,
God give you faith to trust Jesus,
who is Love born for you, now and always.

Amen.

WORSHIP SONG

My Faith Looks Up to Thee, vs. 1-4



- 1 My faith looks up to thee, thou Lamb of Cal - va - ry,
- 2 May thy rich grace im - part strength to my faint - ing heart,
- 3 While life's dark maze I tread and griefs a - round me spread,
- 4 When ends life's tran - sient dream, when death's cold, sul - len stream



Sav - ior di - vine! Now hear me while I pray, take all my
my zeal in - spire; as thou hast died for me, oh, may my
be thou my guide; bid dark-ness turn to day, wipe sor-row's
shall o'er me roll; blest Sav - ior, then, in love fear and dis -



guilt a - way, oh, let me from this day be whol - ly thine!
love to thee pure, warm, and change-less be, a liv - ing fire!
tears a - way, nor let me ev - er stray from thee a - side.
trust re-move; oh, bear me safe a - bove, a ran - somed soul!

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

O God, rich in mercy, by the humiliation of your Son you lifted up this fallen world and rescued us from the hopelessness of death. Lead us into your light, that all our deeds may reflect your love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

FIRST READING**Numbers 21:4-9**

⁴From Mount Hor they set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; but the people became impatient on the way. ⁵The people spoke against God and against Moses, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food." ⁶Then the LORD sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. ⁷The people came to Moses and said, "We have sinned by speaking against the LORD and against you; pray to the LORD to take away the serpents from us." So Moses prayed for the people. ⁸And the LORD said to Moses, "Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live." ⁹So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

SECOND READING**Ephesians 2:1-10**

¹You were dead through the trespasses and sins ²in which you once lived, following the course of this world, following the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work among those who are disobedient. ³All of us once lived among them in the passions of our flesh, following the desires of flesh and senses, and we were by nature children of wrath, like everyone else. ⁴But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us ⁵even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ — by grace you have been saved — ⁶and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, ⁷so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. ⁸For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God — ⁹not the result of works, so that no one may boast. ¹⁰For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

GOSPEL**John 3:14-21**

The holy gospel according to St. John, beginning in the 3rd chapter.
Glory to you, O Lord.

¹⁴And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵that whoever believes in him may

have eternal life. ¹⁶For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. ¹⁷Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. ¹⁸Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. ¹⁹And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. ²⁰For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. ²¹But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God."

The gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord.

**who was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
born of the virgin Mary.**

suffered under Pontius Pilate,

was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven,

He is seated at the right hand of the Father.

And He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,

the holy catholic Church,

the communion of saints,

the forgiveness of sins,

the resurrection of the body,

and the life everlasting.

Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Relying on the promises of God, we pray boldly for the church, the world, and all in need.

You sent your Son that the world might be saved through him. Inspire the witness of the church throughout the world. Empower missionaries, Bible translators, and ministries of service in your name. Bless our partners in ministry, our ELCA global partner churches, and Young Adults in Global Mission. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

From east to west your steadfast love is shown. Nourish seas and deserts, wilderness areas and cities. Give water to thirsty lands; nurture spring growth that feeds hungry creatures; bless farmers as they prepare for the growing season. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You sustained your people in the wilderness. Give courage to all who lead in times of crisis and scarce resources. Prosper the work of those who aid victims of famine and drought. Bring peace in places where scarce resources cause violence. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Your mercy endures forever. Deliver all who cry to you, especially those who are hungry or without homes. Give life in places where death seems triumphant; give healing to those who are sick and comfort to those who mourn. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

By grace we have been saved. Fill this congregation to overflowing with that grace, that we show mercy to others. Nourish any in our midst who are hungry, especially children, and bless our ministries of feeding and shelter. Give us patience and courage when the way seems long. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Your Son was lifted up that whoever believes might have eternal life. We praise you for all who have died in Christ. Bring us with all the saints into the fullness of your promises. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We entrust ourselves and all our prayers to you, O faithful God,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

**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.**

SENDING

WORSHIP SONG

Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone)

Amazing grace
How sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me
I once was lost, but now I'm found
Was blind, but now I see

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear
And grace my fears relieved
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed

My chains are gone
I've been set free
My God, my Savior has ransomed me
And like a flood His mercy rains
Unending love, Amazing grace

The Lord has promised good to me
His word my hope secures

He will my shield and portion be
As long as life endures

My chains are gone
I've been set free
My God, my Savior has ransomed me
And like a flood His mercy rains
Unending love, Amazing grace

The Earth shall soon dissolve like snow
The sun forbear to shine
But God, Who called me here below
Will be forever mine
Will be forever mine
You are forever mine

FINAL BLESSING

Neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers,
nor things present, nor things to come,
nor powers, nor height, nor depth,
nor anything else in all creation,
will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus.
God, the creator, † Jesus, the Christ,
and the Holy Spirit, the comforter,
bless you and keep you in eternal love.

Amen.

DISMISSAL

Dear friends in Christ go and
Share God's word,
Show God's love,
Serve God,
Amen.

RESURRECTION EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

March 13 & 14, 2021 Gretna, NE 68028

Church Office: 402-332-3383 Fax: 402-332-4784

E-mail: theooffice@relchurch.net Website: www.relchurch.net

Pr. James Sells: 402-759-6347

*We welcome you to Resurrection Evangelical Lutheran Church!
We hope our time together will be a blessing to you!*

Visitor & Prayers Cards—Welcome to our worship. You are in the right place! Visitor and Prayer cards are available if you'd like to fill one out. Please ask an usher to get you one and return it back to them when you are finished. Thank you for worshipping with us today!

CURRENT HAPPENINGS

First Communion Instruction-5th Grade Students All 2020-2021 5th



grades students First Communion classes will take place on **March 17th, 24th, and 31st at 6:00 p.m. at RELC.** These classes are required in order to celebrate their **First Communion on Maundy Thursday, April 1st, at our**

7:00 p.m. worship service.

Sunday School Join us for in-person Sunday School at 9:00 a.m. in the



Sunday School area. Bring your children to learn about Jesus and all his wonders as we delve into another great semester together. Please wear your masks. See you then.

Current Needs: If anyone is interested in supplying some snacks for the Sunday School children, please drop them off in the church office and label them Sunday School. Thank you!

Easter Lily Order It's that time again to get signed up for an Easter Lily to



decorate our church for Easter service. Please sign up this year on our new sign-up genius at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e0a44acad29a5f58-easter1> or give the office a call and we will get you signed up. **The last day to sign up is March 22nd. Lilies are available for the price of \$6.00.** Simply write your check payable to Resurrection Church, mark it

"Easter Lily" in the memo line, and drop your check in the mail or drop it by the office. Lilies can be taken home after the late service on Easter.

Lenten Holden Evening Prayer Services Join us every Wednesday during



Lent for our **In-Person Holden Evening Prayer service** or on **Zoom at 7:00 p.m.** We will continue this service every Wednesday until March 24th.

Please join us at home by using the following Zoom link at:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85905050384?pwd=SW9sQTNIITjAvSmQ4WnINMERBNw4dz09>

Meeting ID: 859 0505 0384

Passcode: 1517

Lenten offering donations can be sent to:

Gretna Neighbors, PO Box 191, Gretna NE, 68028 or you can email them to make other arrangements at: GretnaNeighbors@gmail.com

Lift Up Sarpy County, 119 West Mission Ave., Bellevue, NE 68005 or you can donate online at: liftupsarpycounty.org/donate

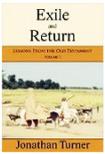
Nebraska Lutheran Campus Ministry, 6757 Newport Ave., #300, Omaha, NE 68152 (*NeLCM in memo line*) or you can donate online at: NELCM.com

Tabitha, 4720 Randolph Street, Lincoln, NE 68510 or you can donate online at: Tabitha.org/give/

Nebraska Lutheran Outdoor Ministries, 27416 Ranch Road, Ashland, NE 68003 or you can donate online at: NLOM.org/give

Project Hope, Inc., 6201 North 60th St., Omaha, NE 68104 or you can donate online at: ProjectHopeOmaha.org

Adult Forum: Exile and Return—"The Wilderness Journey Home"



Join us for our Adult Forum as we relate the struggle of God's people in the 6th century BC, their Exile in Babylon and journey home to Jerusalem, to our struggle in the 21st century AD, as we start the journey home from our viral exile.

This study will be on Saturdays at 10:00 a.m. and will continue into the Summer, so come along and join the adventure!

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87953507438?pwd=WnU2dFVvcjNpbytoeStZRGZmSGdCZz09>

Meeting ID: 879 5350 7438

Passcode: 918225

Books are available for our study in the café and through a Thrivent Action Plan grant. All sessions will be uploaded to our YouTube channel if the time of the session doesn't work in your schedule or a weekend is missed! Stop by to pick yours up today.

Project Hope EASTER Collection The Local and World Service Team



is inviting you to help Project Hope with some of their **critical** needs during this Lenten season. Due to Covid, we are offering two ways to help this year. One is to just go to their webpage and make a donation at Projecthopeomaha.org as they can always use the funds, especially during this time. Or, if you

would rather pick up some items they need, they have specifically requested the following items: small bottles of Laundry Detergent or dish soap, Clorox Wipes, small bottles of bleach, any type of antibacterial surface cleaners, such as Clorox, Pine Sol, Comet, etc. or cleaning tool items such as sponges, dusters or toilet bowl brushes.

Collections have begun and they will continue through **Palm Sunday, March 28th**. We will have a table set up between the Nursery Room doors for those items. We will make sure the items are delivered before Easter. Thank you so much for helping those in need this Easter season!

2021 Lenten Devotional “Awesome Mystery” A daily devotional brought to you by the alumni of Luther Seminary. Luther Seminary invites you to use the 2021 Lenten devotional, “Awesome Mystery” for your personal use throughout the Lenten season.



Stop by the red skirted table by the RELC Café to pick up a copy of our 2021 Lenten Devotional book or go to

<https://www.luthersem.edu/godpause/lenten-devotional/> to download at home.

Everyday Pr. James will present the devotions live at 12:10 p.m. on Youtube. Go on an “Awesome Mystery” journey with Pr. James as we hear the powerful messages from Bible excerpts and pray together through this Lenten season.

40 Days of Giving 2021: Lenten Calendar Pick up this year's Lenten devotional calendar that is filled with ideas for reflection and how to participate in ELCA World Hunger's 40 Days of Giving. Begin your week with the word of God, preparing your heart and mind to learn more about what it means to hope during the season of Lent.



Read and reflect on each week's selected Bible verses on your own, with your family or with a small group, to listen to the word of God this Lent.

LWST Meal Support and Caring Casseroles The Local & World Service Team will now organize the church's meal coordination and delivery for church families with new babies, deaths in the family, illnesses and other situations where a meal would be welcome. If you are interested in joining the meal support sub-team, please contact Lexie Frahm at lexie.frahm@gmail.com or 402-416-9113. The LSWT also invites members to utilize the Caring Casseroles stocked in the church's freezer. The casseroles are for members in need or for members to give to those in need outside our church family.



ONGOING HAPPENINGS

Phase II Worship We continue in Phase II of our stage re-opening. Church is available in-person and online. Overflow seating is available in the courtyard if attendance surpasses our worship spaces. You are encouraged to sign-up using our sign-up genius. Please sign up at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e0a44acad29a5f58-worship>.

Please stay connected through the church's Facebook page at: <https://www.facebook.com/RELCgretna> and through our YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCjXnhZfhxipkc5ZTA6SrHUw>. Don't miss hearing God's word as Pr. James Sells shares the Gospel with us each week.

***Communion services** will be offered on the second and fourth Sunday of each month. If you will not be attending in person and would like to commune during our online worship service, please stop by the church to pick up your individually pre-packaged communion set.

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCjXnhZfhxipkc5ZTA6SrHUw>

Facebook: [facebook.com/RELCgretna](https://www.facebook.com/RELCgretna)

LinkTree: linktr.ee/reलगretna (takes you to all online links during this time)

Youth Underground-Looking for Faith Leaders We need you!!! Would



you like to help in the faith formation of our High School Youth? We are currently looking for committed people of faith to shepherd the Youth Underground during their weekly meetings and activities. We would love to have you share in the ministry of our youth in a fun, creative and meaningful way. If this sounds interesting to you, please contact Pr. James at 402-759-6347.

SIGN-UP NOW!! Flowers and Bulletins 2021 This year our 2021 flower



Altar Flowers

and bulletin sign-up sheet is online. If you would like to call into the office, we'd be happy to get you signed up as well. We'd love to see fresh flowers on the altar for our worship services.

If you'd like to sign-up go to <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e0a44acad29a5f58-altar>. The suggested donation for bulletin sponsorship is \$20. You can drop a check in the mail or at the office, Mon—Fri, 8am-3pm. If you are interested in signing up for flowers, as always Town & Country Floral gives all Gretna churches altar flowers at cost. They will also deliver and set them up for you. You don't even have to leave the comfort of your own home. Thank you for your kindness and generosity!

NOTE: If you have taken the brass flower liners home with your flowers, please return them at your earliest convenience. We only have a few sets, and they are needed each week to add the flower bouquets to the altar. Thank you!

Personal Information Changes? Do you have a name, address, phone number or email change? If so, please contact the office by phone at 402-332-3383 or email us at theoffice@relchurch.net. If you would like us to have an emergency contact number, please include that as well.

RELC Quilting Group The RELC Quilting Group will meet at 1:00 p.m. on the second and fourth Tuesday of the month. Please consider dropping off any old blankets and sheets of any size, batting and 100% cotton material (scraps are fine too, if they are large enough for quilt squares).

Gretna Neighbors During this time, the Gretna Neighbors Food Pantry will be open during our regular hours, which are the **1st and 3rd Saturday** of each month from **9:00-11:00 a.m.** and the **2nd Wednesday** of the month from **6:00-7:00 p.m.** We are only handing out pre-bagged groceries with pre-designated amounts of non-perishable items and frozen food items.

If you or someone you know is in need in the Gretna school district, you are invited to stop by during these hours. We don't discriminate. You will only need to show proof of residency in the school district.

Project Hope Food Pantry Only food donations are being taken at this time. Please **do not drop off clothing or household items to the church.** Please find alternate drop off locations until further notice.

Hospital Visits Hospitals usually don't contact us when you go into the hospital due to the privacy act. If you or a family member is going into the hospital, be sure and let the office know so that we can be there for you with prayerful support.

TAGG To date, our church TAGGers have raised more than \$1700 for church projects sponsored by the Local & World Service Team. Download the app to your smartphone and choose RELC as the supported organization. You can also drop your receipts at the office. When you purchase from a TAGG business, it will donate up to 5% of your total purchase to RELC.



Followers of Christ-Prison Ministry If you are interested in becoming involved to help those incarcerated. Please contact Scott Drews at 402-670-8259 or sdrews@bhhc.com or you may contact the office for more information.

Save your Best Choice and Box Tops for Education Labels! Deposit them in the containers located at the Outreach Corner with yellow shelving.

Aluminum Can Collection! Bring your empty cans to the container outside of the west door of the church-in the alley. We please ask that you **do not crush** them. The can needs to be visible for refund purposes. The proceeds will go to Least of My Brethren.

The Following Opportunities Are Available Now

Volunteer Needs:

- Youth Underground Leaders
Contact: PastorJames@relchurch.net
- Lay Reader Coordinator & Lay Readers

Contact: theoffice@relchurch.net

- Sunday School Teachers/Substitute Teachers

Contact: theoffice@relchurch.net

**If you have questions about any of these opportunities or would like more details, please contact the church office at 402-332-3383.

PRAYERS

Be still, and know that I am God...

Our shut-in members and those in the assisted living and nursing

homes: Donna Fleck, Darlene Foged, Margie Biel, Patti Huff, Marlene Kuehl, Sharon Barkley, Keith Barkley, Carol Schlueter, Marge Warren, Jim Schram, Delores Kreifels, Jackie Mowinkel, Joan Bohling, Thelma Mowinkel, Carol Ehlers

Healing and courage: Nicole Slusher's mother-Charlene Hesser, Gene Mackey Family, Miles McMahill, Kim Mefford's friend's husband, Steve Norman, Gwen Reier, Jim Raess, Jeanne Ralston's friend-Amy LaFontaine, Alvin & JoAnn Glasshoff's daughter-Dawn Allbery, Marie Lemke, Kelli Barnhart, Jeanne Ralston's friends-Larry & Judy Peterson, Joyce McMahill's cousin-Mary Weber, Jean Schnack, Miles & Joyce McMahill's friend-Rosie, Linda Karas, Kris & Becky Wagner Family, Denise McKay, Sharon Barkley's grandson-Jeremy Eidson, Wendy Killingsworth, Linda & Kevin Karas's friend-Monica March, Roger Asche, Jerry Walker, Lois Nore, Denise McKay's sister-Kathy Ewert

Birthdays: Kieraline Fleck, Brian Mefford, Noah Drews, Paula Drews, Jerry Walker, Sue Lobsiger, Justin Ellingson, Karen Schram, Luke Mefford, Maegan Lindquist, Bill Schwarten, Adison Huffman, Gary Honeyman, Lindsey Kock

Anniversaries: Roger & Jeanie Krambeck

Concord Sister Congregation: Please pray for our sister congregation, Concordia Lutheran Church in Concord, NE.

Service Men and Women: For all those serving our country and for the families of soldiers who were killed or injured, that they be healed in body and spirit.

MEDICAL ASSISTANCE

*Hand sanitizers are available throughout the church for your use.

*If you are having trouble hearing the service, please ask an usher for a Sound Mate hearing device.

*For large print bulletins, please contact the office.

*Wheelchairs are available for your use in the church. Contact an usher or a council person for assistance.

*First Aid kits are located in the kitchen, church office

There is an AED (Automated External Defibrillator) located on the wall by the south bathrooms



RESURRECTION EVANGELICAL
L U T H E R A N C H U R C H

Pastor: James Sells

Church Council Members:

Bill Schwarten, Larry Rippe, Linda Biel-Karas, Becky Wagner, Lexie Frahm, Dave Schram, Rich Killingsworth, Darren Elliott, Evan Kock

Administrative Office Manager: Jeanne Ralston

Administrative Office Assistant: Sheri Feala

Financial Office Manager: Desiree Stednitz

Nursery Coordinator: Dhani Milliman

Music Director: Dr. Matt Hill

Sunday School Superintendent: Lynn Donahue

Custodial Needs: Property Team, Jeremy Reineke

Flowers & Bulletins:

January, February, March-Joyce McMahill

Lay Readers for March

5:30 pm (Sat.)-Linette Jahn

10:00 am-Erick Hill

ATTENDANCE

Saturday Worship (5:30pm): 26

Sunday Worship (10:00am): 70

Lenten Worship (7:00pm): 38

For
by
GRACE
you
have
been
saved
through faith.

EPHESIANS 2:8, NRSV