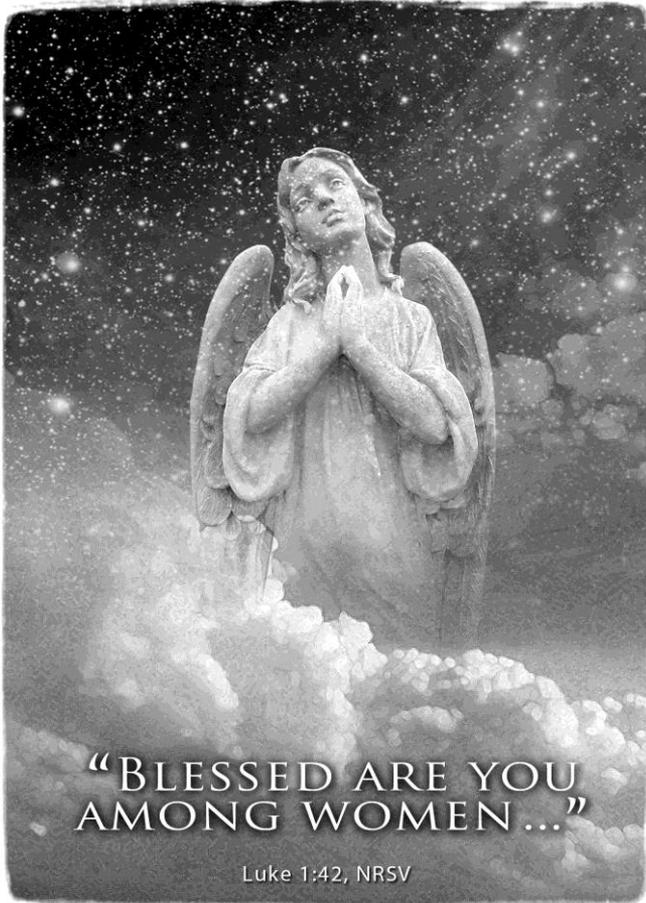


# Grace Lutheran Church

3010 52nd St. Des Moines, Iowa 50310



## **The Fourth Sunday of Advent**

December 23, 2012

8:15 and 10:45 a.m.

Holy Communion Services

*The Mission of Grace Lutheran Church is to bring the good news of God's saving grace, through Jesus Christ's life, death and resurrection to all to be free to be the people of God.*

# **Welcome to Worship at Grace Lutheran Church**

Companion Congregation: Msindo Parish in Tanzania

***Welcome!** Please sign the Attendance Registration sheets which are found in each pew. Visitors, please also sign the guest book at the Welcome Center, and please join us for coffee and education hour activities between services.*

***Large print bulletins** are available from the ushers.*

***A nursery is available** if your children become restless during the service. Heather Nelson or another daycare staff member will be the attendant each Sunday morning. If there is no one in the nursery, check in the daycare office. The service is also broadcast in the in the Gathering Hall.*

***Communion** – We welcome all people to the Lord’s table to receive Holy Communion. Children not instructed are invited to come forward for a blessing. If you are not able to come forward to take communion, please notify an usher before the service. Then try to sit by the side aisle and the pastor will commune you in your pew.*

***When by intinction:** Receive the host (wafer), then dip the host into the chalice (cup) to receive wine (red) or grape juice (clear); depart by the side aisle. Gluten free wafers and a separate glass chalice are available by request on the pulpit side (left when facing altar).*

***When by pouring chalice:** Receive a cup. Receive and eat the bread. Proceed to the wine or grape juice. If you would prefer to have grape juice, take a rose colored glass from the inner ring of the tray; grape juice will be in the outer most chalice on both sides. Communion bread is gluten free.*

***A Stephen Minister** is available in the upper room between services for people who need a listening ear, encouragement and prayer support.*

**Prelude** "The Snow Lay on the Ground" arr. by Alice Jordan  
(Please prepare for worship through quiet reflection and meditation)

**Welcome**

**Hymn** "Once in Royal David's City" #269

**Lighting of the Advent Wreath**

8:15 - Kara, Matt, and Henry Jordahl

10:45 - Marv and Lorna Johns

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, ruler of the universe. In your Son, Emmanuel, you have shown us your light and saved us from the power of sin. Bless us as we light the candles on this wreath. Increase our longing for your presence, that at the celebration of your Son's birth his Spirit might dwell anew in our midst, for he is our light and our salvation. Blessed be God forever.

**Advent Wreath Hymn** *all verses this week*

**Come and Fill Our Hearts**



Come and fill our hearts with your love. You a-lone, O Lord, are ho-ly.  
Come and fill our hearts with your peace. You a-lone, O Lord, are ho-ly.  
Come and fill our hearts with your joy. You a-lone, O Lord, are ho-ly.  
Come and fill our hearts with your hope. You a-lone, O Lord, are ho-ly.



Come and fill our hearts with your love. Al-le-lu-ia!  
Come and fill our hearts with your peace. Al-le-lu-ia!  
Come and fill our hearts with your joy. Al-le-lu-ia!  
Come and fill our hearts with your hope. Al-le-lu-ia!



P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

### Prayer of the Day

**C: Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that binds us, that we may receive you in joy and serve you always, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen**

*Please be seated*

### First Lesson: Micah 5:2–5a

*The prophet Micah, having pronounced judgment upon Judah, speaks of a future shepherd-king who, like David, will come from the small town of Bethlehem. (Ephrathah refers to the area around Bethlehem.) This king will restore Israel and bring peace. New Testament writers understood this passage to be referring to Jesus.*

<sup>2</sup>But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. <sup>3</sup>Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel. <sup>4</sup>And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth; <sup>5</sup>and he shall be the one of peace.

L: the Word of the Lord

**C: Thanks be to God**

### Psalm: Luke 1:46b–55

R:   
You, Lord, have lift-ed up the low - ly.

<sup>46b</sup>My soul proclaims the greatness | of the Lord,

<sup>47</sup>my spirit rejoices in | God my Savior,

<sup>48</sup>for you, Lord, have looked with favor | on your | lowly servant.

**From this day all generations will | call me blessed:**

<sup>49</sup>you, the Almighty, have done great | things for me and holy | is your name.

<sup>50</sup>**You have mercy on | those who fear you, from generation to | generation. R**

<sup>51</sup>You have shown strength | with your arm and scattered the proud in | their conceit,

<sup>52</sup>**casting down the mighty | from their thrones and lifting | up the lowly.**

<sup>53</sup>You have filled the hungry | with good things and sent the rich | away empty.

<sup>54</sup>**You have come to the aid of your | servant Israel, to remember the prom- | ise of mercy,**

<sup>55</sup>the promise made | to our forebears, to Abraham and his chil- | dren forever. **R**

**8:15 Anthem:** "E'en so, Lord Jesus, Quickly Come" by Paul Manz  
*Chancel Choir*

## **Children's Sermon**

### **Second Lesson: Hebrews 10:5–10**

*The author of Hebrews uses the image of religious sacrifice to convey the significance of Christ's coming. Through obedient acceptance of God's will, Christ allows his own body to become the greatest sacrifice of all, one through which we are made a holy people.*

<sup>5</sup>Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said, "Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body you have prepared for me; <sup>6</sup>in burnt offerings and sin offerings you have taken no pleasure. <sup>7</sup>Then I said, 'See, God, I have come to do your will, O God' (in the scroll of the book it is written of me)." <sup>8</sup>When he said above, "You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings" (these are offered according to the law), <sup>9</sup>then he added, "See, I have come to do your will." He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. <sup>10</sup>And it is by God's will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

L: The word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand as you are able*

## Gospel Acclamation

C: Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,  
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. *Repeat alleluia*

L: Here I am, the servant<sup>1</sup> of the Lord;\* let it be with me according<sup>1</sup> to your word. (*Luke 1:38*)

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the First Chapter.

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

## Gospel: Luke 1:39–45

*We are presented with Elizabeth, John's mother, and Mary, the mother of Jesus, two women filled with the Holy Spirit and with faith. In Elizabeth's inspired greeting and Mary's song of praise we hear of a saving God who remembers, scatters, lifts up, and fulfills all things.*

<sup>39</sup>In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, <sup>40</sup>where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. <sup>41</sup>When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit <sup>42</sup>and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. <sup>43</sup>And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? <sup>44</sup>For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. <sup>45</sup>And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

*Please be seated*

**Sermon**

*Please stand as you are able*

**Hymn of the Day** “My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness”

#251

**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 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 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 the People**

L: Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

P: Hear the prayers of your people, O God, and in your mercy grant us  
all we need, for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

**All: God of love, have mercy on us. Pour out your Spirit upon us.  
Center us in worship. Hold us in grace. Strengthen us in love. Send  
us forth in mission. In Jesus' holy name. Amen.**



## Passing of the Peace

P: The peace of the Lord be with you all,

C: And also with you!

*Please be seated*

## Announcements

## The Offering

**Offertory** "Joseph Dearest, Joseph Mine" by David Paxton

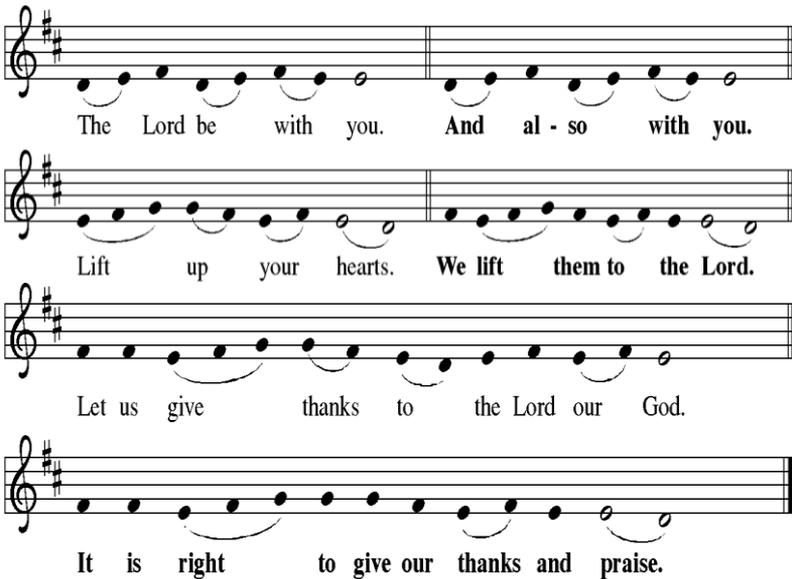
*Please stand as you are able*

## Offering Prayer

P: God of abundance, we bring before you the precious fruits of your creation, and with them our very lives. Teach us patience and hope as we care for all those in need until the coming of your Son, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

## Great Thanksgiving



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

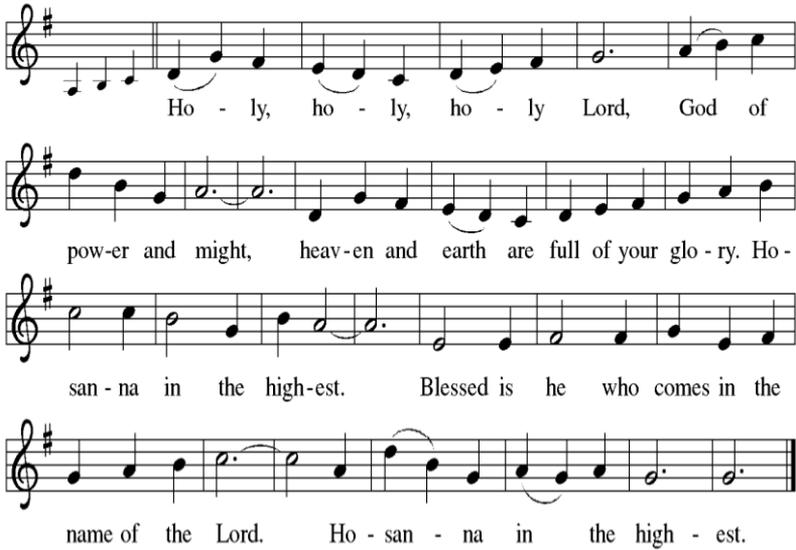
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

## Preface

## Holy, Holy, Holy



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of  
pow-er and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -  
san - na in the high-est. Blessed is he who comes in the  
name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

## Thanksgiving at the Table

P: In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

For as often we eat of this bread and drink from this cup we proclaim our Lord's death until he comes.



P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

### 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**

### Invitation to Communion

P: Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. God fills the hungry with good things. Taste and see that the Lord is good.

*Please be seated*

### Lamb of God



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 peace, grant us peace.

**Distribution Hymns:** 254, 466, 744

*Please stand as you are able*

**Prayer after Communion**

P: Holy One, we give you thanks that in this bread and cup we have feasted again on your endless love. Let that love overflow more and more in our lives, that we may be messengers to prepare your way, harvesters of justice and righteousness, and bearers of your eternal Word, our Savior Jesus Christ.

**C: Amen**

**Blessing**

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine upon you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

**Hymn**

“Joy to the World”

#267

**Dismissal**

P: Go in peace. Christ is with you.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**Postlude**

"Postlude on 'Antioch'" by Gerald Peterson



**Announcements and Calendar**

**In our prayers:** LeRoi Beers, Lyle Black, Nayeli Jacobo, Diane Jessen, Karla Swanson, Cleone Oberg, the family of Dennis Farver (John Farver’s father), and the others we name before you...

**Quarters** placed in the offering plate this and every fourth Sunday are for the Msindo.

## Education Opportunities

**Sunday School classes** and **Adult Forum** will resume January 6 at 9:30 after coffee time. For the next few weeks:

**December 23** – Coffee and Fellowship in the Gathering Hall

**December 30** – Coffee and Fellowship in the Gathering Hall

**Adult Bible Study** meets Tuesday mornings from 8:45–10:15a.m. in Grace Hall II. Tuesday evening Bible Study meets Tuesday evenings at 6 p.m. in the Gathering Hall. Pastor Mike leads both studies. Both will resume on the 8<sup>th</sup>. We will not have Bible Study on Christmas Day or New Year's Day.

**Super Wednesday meals will resume on January 9.**

January 16: Open

February 6: Open

Please sign up in the kitchen or give Jane a call as soon as possible (before she leaves town) at 277-6838.

**Happy Birthday to:** Wayne Curry, Piper Hutton, Jon Rutter, Stuart Mitchell, Nicole Nelson, Jeffrey Nelson, Marlene Bang, Barbara Berven, Christina Anderson, Ryan Randolph, Linda Rundle, Kevin Krause, Robin Randolph

**Happy Anniversary to:** Robert and Dorothy Jensen,  
Donald and Gloria Moon

### **Final Office Deposit for 2012**

Please make sure any contributions that are mailed or left at the church office for deposit in 2012 are in by **noon on Friday, December 28th. This will be our final office deposit for the year.**

Contributions for Sunday, December 30, can be placed in the offering plates as usual and will be reflected on your year end 2012 tax statement. **The office will be closed on December 31.**

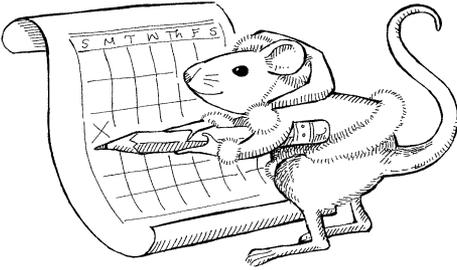


**Altar Flowers:** Thank you to everyone who has helped provide flowers on the altar this past year with a donation of \$38.00. Each donation helps adorn the altar and also helps our church-wide budget. This past year, each Sunday that flowers were requested, someone donated funds to cover the cost. Thank you! The new flower chart for 2013 is in the Gathering Hall on the west brick wall. Please consider choosing a Sunday in January to start the year.



There is a sign-up sheet at Volunteer Central for volunteers who would like to deliver poinsettias to our homebound members. Please wait to pick up the poinsettia until after the Christmas Day service at 10 am but before December 30. Thank you for being a part of this valuable ministry to our members!

**Lenten devotions:** Believe it or not, Lent is right around the corner, beginning on February 13. We would like to try having daily devotions like we do during Advent. However, more devotions will be needed since there are 40 days in the season. So that we can determine if there is enough interest, we have a sign-up sheet at Volunteer Central. If you would like to be a writer, please include your name and up to how many devotions you would be willing to write. **Please sign up on the interest list by January 15.**



## HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

**Sunday, December 23, *no Stephen Minister available***

8:15 a.m. – Holy Communion

9:15 a.m. – Coffee & Fellowship – Gathering Hall

10:45 a.m. – Holy Communion

**Monday, December 24, *Christmas Eve***

5:00 p.m. – Holy Communion

7:00 p.m. – 9:30 p.m. – AA Groups

11:00 p.m. – Holy Communion

**Tuesday, December 25, *Christmas Day, Office closed***

10:00 a.m. – Holy Communion

**Wednesday, December 26, *office closed***

*No Super Wednesday Activities tonight*

**Thursday, December 27**

9:00 a.m. – Quilters

*No evening worship service tonight*

**Sunday, December 30**

*No Adult Forum, Education Hour, or Stephen Minister available*

8:15 a.m. – Holy Communion

9:15 a.m. – Coffee & Fellowship – Gathering Hall

10:45 a.m. – Holy Communion

**Monday, December 31, *office closed***

6:00 – 10:00 p.m. – AA Groups

## Welcome to Grace!

**Ministers** – The People of God

**Pastor** - Michael Schmidt

**Director of Laity Ministries** - Stephanie Johnson

**Director of Music Ministries** - Jennifer Wohlenhaus Bloomberg

**Ensemble Director** – Sherry Kocek

**Grace Kids Care Director** - Heather Nelson

**Office Administrator** - Jacquelyn Holmes

**Building/Grounds** - Luis Reaza

**Receptionist** - Diana Johnson

**Office Assistant** - Michelle Voelker

**Ushers** – 8:15 Linda Biegger, Dee Hummel, Tim Nelson, Larry

Nordeen 10:45 Mark Stumme, Jay Wangerin, Tom McCleary

**Liturgist** – 8:15 – Matt Jordahl 10:45 – Mary Freimuth Helt

**Lector** – 8:15 – Kate Schaller 10:45 – Ellen Wonderlin

**Children's Sermon** – Stephanie Johnson

**Communion servers** – 10:45 – Ellen Wonderlin, Ginny Wangerin,

Jenie Schmidt, Stephanie Johnson

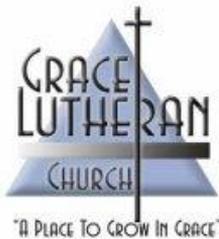
**Acolytes** – 10:45 Hannah Jensen

**Altar Guild** – Michelle Voelker, Sue Anderson, Carol Woodruff

**Counters** – 8:15 John Rissman, Carter Woodruff 10:45 – Tom

McCleary, Jeff Farrell

**Coffee** – Kate Schaller



## Grace Lutheran Church

3010 52nd St. Des Moines, Iowa 50310

**Pastor Michael Schmidt**

515-276-6873

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