

# Grace Lutheran Church



## 3RD SUNDAY OF *Advent*

Dec 15, 2013

Holy Communion Service

*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 Registrations 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.*

***Stephen Ministry** is a one-to-one care giving ministry for those experiencing personal problems such as grieving or crisis situations. A Stephen Minister will be available in the Upper Room on each Sunday morning between services to listen and offer prayer.*

**Prelude**

"O Come, O Come Emmanuel" by Michael Thomas

**Welcome**

**Hymn**

"O Come, O Come Emmanuel"

#257

**Lighting of the Advent Wreath**

8:15 – Rachael Bigg 10:45 - The Medhurst Family

**Lighting of the Advent Wreath:**

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, ruler of the universe. Your prophets spoke of a day when the desert would blossom and waters would break forth in the wilderness. Bless us as we light the candles on this wreath. Strengthen our hearts as we prepare for the coming of the Lord.

May he give water to all who thirst, for he is our light and our salvation.

Blessed be God forever.

**Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah**



- 1 Light one can-dle to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
- 2 Light two can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
- 3 Light three can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.



He shall bring sal - va - tion to Is - ra - el, God ful - fills the prom - ise.  
 He shall feed the flock like a shep-herd, gent - ly lead them home-ward.  
 Lift your heads and lift high the gate-way for the King of glo - ry.

Text: Wayne L. Wold, b. 1954  
 Music: TIF IN VELDELE, Yiddish folk tune  
 Text © 1984 Fortress Press, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

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**Prayer of the Day**

**C: God of Promise, you have promised your people restoration.  
 Bring us together as your children. Renew in us your holy word.  
 Amen.**



*Please be seated*

*(10:45 service continues with the Sunday School Christmas Program: see back page)*

*(8:15 service)*

**Reading: Isaiah 55:1-11**

Lector: Ho, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you that have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy? Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food.

**Congregation: Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live.**

L: I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David. See, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples.

**C: See, you shall call nations that you do not know, and nations that do not know you shall run to you, because of the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has glorified you.**

L: Seek the Lord while he may be found, call upon him while he is near;

**C: Let the wicked forsake their way, and the unrighteous their thoughts; let them return to the Lord, that he may have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.**

L: For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord.

**C: For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.**

L: For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return there until they have watered the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it

shall accomplish that which I purpose, and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

L: the Word of the Lord

**C: Thanks be to God**

*(8:15 service)*

**Sermon**

*(8:15 and 10:45 services continue ...)*

*Please stand as you are able.*

**Hymn**                   “Come to Me, All Pilgrims Thirsty”       #777 vs. 1-4

**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**

P: Lord, in your mercy,

**C: Hear our prayer.**

P: With humility we ask for your faithful attention. With gratitude we

accept your goodness. We pray all these in the name of Emmanuel, God with us.

**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** "Softly Falls the Snow on Bethlehem"

by Robert J. Hughes

*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.

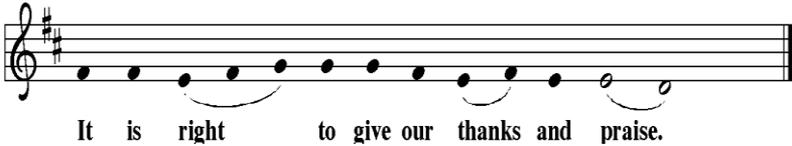
**C: Amen.**

**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.



## Preface

### Holy, Holy, Holy

Musical notation for the hymn "Holy, Holy, Holy". It consists of four staves of music in a treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The lyrics are: "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." The melody is simple and hymn-like, with slurs under "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly" and "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 as 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

Come to the table where Christ comes to make a home in you.  
Welcome to the feast.

*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:** 484, 824, 616



*Please stand as you are able*

**Prayer after Communion**

P: God of wonder, we give thanks that you have fed us once again with this foretaste of the feast to come. Strengthen us through this gift to serve our neighbor with joy, that all may come to see your glory reflected in the lives of your people; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**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**

“O God of Every Nation”

#713

**Dismissal**

P: Go in peace. Christ is with you.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**Postlude**

“Isaiah, Mighty Seer, in Days of Ol”

by Friedrich Wilhelm Zachow

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**Good Morning and Welcome to Grace!**



**In our prayers:** LeRoi Beers, Lyle Black, Drake Carney, Vivian Feilmann, Dolores Johnson, Shyral Nelsen (Deanna Webber’s mother), Duleep Singh, Brian Vance, the family of Beverly Nordeen (Larry Nordeen’s sister) and the others we name before you...

**Flowers** on the altar are given to the glory of God by Linda and Jim Rundle in remembrance of their family

**Quarters** received today and every third Sunday are designated for the Food Pantry.

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

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### Education Opportunities

**Sunday School classes** and **Adult Forum** meet at 9:30 after coffee time.

**Today's forum:** Companion Congregation Committee

**December 22:** Time of Fellowship

**Adult Bible Study**, led by Pastor Mike, meets Tuesday mornings from 8:45–10:15a.m. in Grace Hall II.

**Super Wednesday Supper:** will be served by the Ridnours.

*Please – we really need groups, individuals, or families to sign up to serve dinners in January and February as the Ridnours will not be in town. Thank you for those of who have signed up, we have many more dates available!*



**Happy Birthday to:** Mo Grotheer, Norman Iverson, Matt Ziska, Helen Fanning, Paul Weaver, Payton Lawson, Katja Rahjes, John Farver, Richard Naney, Shirley Shiffler, Nathan Bickel, John Rudisill, Chris Janson

Thank you for your support and generosity in making our bake sale a huge success. We are considering making this an annual December event.

Companion Congregation Committee



### **Star Tree**

Gifts (unwrapped) should be turned in to Grace by December 18. Please place item in a bag with the star from the tree included, and drop off in the tote by the tree. Gift cards need to be brought directly to the office. Thank you!



### **Christmas Eve Pre-service music:**

We're continuing our lovely tradition of musical offerings before the Christmas Eve services at 5, 7, and 11. There is a sign-up available at Volunteer Central. We look forward to hearing from you!



Poinsettia deliveries: We would like to deliver poinsettias to our homebound members again this year. If you would be interested in helping with this, please sign up in the Gathering Hall. Please wait to pick up the poinsettia until after the Christmas Day service. Thank you for helping to spread some Christmas cheer!



If you are beginning to think about your Christmas gift giving, the Social Ministry Team would like you to consider how your gift giving can be a blessing to those who make the gifts you purchase as well as to those who receive your gift. At the Social Ministry Center in the Gathering Hall there are several copies of the ELCA Good Gifts Catalog and Lutheran World Relief's Christmas Gift catalog. The catalog items range from scarfs, jewelry, baskets and

clothing items made by people from all over the world, to barnyard animals and bicycle ambulances for third world communities, to food and vaccinations for orphaned children. Stop by the Center to look over the catalogs. Take one home or visit them online at [www.ELCA.org/goodgifts](http://www.ELCA.org/goodgifts) or [www.wow.com/Lutheran+World+Relief](http://www.wow.com/Lutheran+World+Relief).

### Welcome to Grace!

**Pastor** - Michael Schmidt

**Director of Laity Ministries** - Stephanie Johnson

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

**Grace Kids Care Director** - Heather Nelson

**Office Administrator** - Jacquelyn Holmes

**Office Assistant** - Michelle Voelker

**Custodian** – Todd Haugen

**Ushers** – 8:15 Linda Biegger, Dee Hummel, Tim Nelson, Larry Nordeen  
10:45 Mark Stumme, Jay Wangerin, Tom McCleary

**Liturgist** – 8:15 Alex Davik 10:45 Doug Johnson

**Lector** – 8:15 Ro Zimany 10:45 Kristina Hutton

**Communion servers** – 8:15 Karen Taylor, Amy Schmelzer, Julie Honsey, Jan Gross

**Acolytes** – 8:15 Sawyer Shiffler, Haley Dostalick 10:45 Sarah Voelker, Matt Farrell

**Altar Guild** – Rita Stackhouse, Loree Nelson, Jane Ridnour

**Counters** – 8:15 Mike Peterman and Mike Carney 10:45 Jeff Farrell and Alex Davik

**Coffee** – Loree and Tim Nelson



## Grace Lutheran Church

3010 52nd St. Des Moines, Iowa 50310

**Pastor Michael Schmidt**

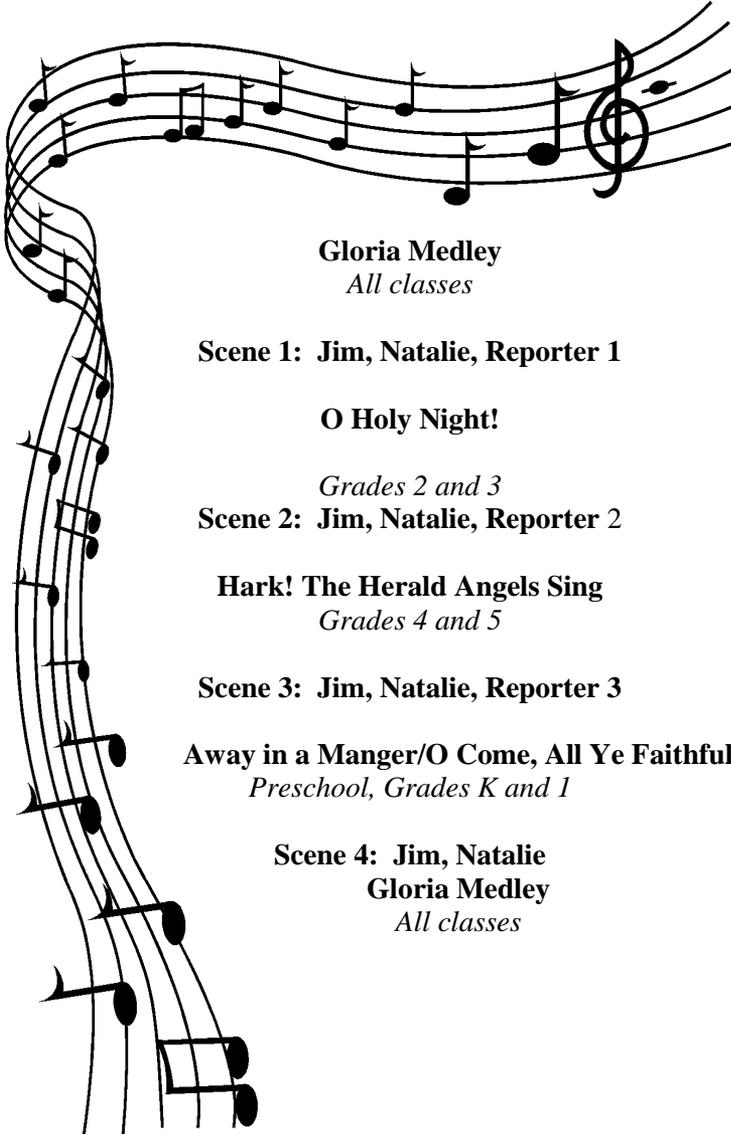
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# “The Christmas Carol Special Report: Celebrating Christmas Carols Around the World”

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**Gloria Medley**  
*All classes*

**Scene 1: Jim, Natalie, Reporter 1**

**O Holy Night!**

*Grades 2 and 3*

**Scene 2: Jim, Natalie, Reporter 2**

**Hark! The Herald Angels Sing**  
*Grades 4 and 5*

**Scene 3: Jim, Natalie, Reporter 3**

**Away in a Manger/O Come, All Ye Faithful**  
*Preschool, Grades K and 1*

**Scene 4: Jim, Natalie**  
**Gloria Medley**  
*All classes*



*A Special*  
**THANK YOU**



Many thanks go out to the pageant volunteers and Sunday School teachers who have made the program possible: Ashley Lund, Kate Schaller, Susanne Carney, McKenzie Carney, Tammy Denton, Kristina Hutton, Lauren Shuda, Kevin Stinn, Chuck Denton, Brian Barks, Paul Nelson, Shirley Shiffler, Valerie Culp, Beth Flannery, Carol Woodruff, Jennifer Wohlenhaus-Bloomberg.

*A special thank you goes out to families of children in the program for their support of their children's growth in the faith. Advent and Christmas blessings to all!*

**Cast:**

**Jim:** .....Kyler Medhurst  
**Natalie:** .....Courtney Brandsfield  
**Reporter 1:** .....Emma Mattes  
**Reporter 2:** .....Danielle Russell  
**Reporter 3:** .....Kayleigh Medhurst  
**Readers during Away in a Manger/O Come, All Ye Faithful:** .....  
 .....Laria Preston, Drake Carney, Mira Voelker  
**Camera crew:** .....Hannah Jensen, Lydia McCleary  
**Mary:** .....Maya Lint  
**Joseph:** .....Jamie Briggs  
**3 Kings:** .....Bobby Briggs, Kiernan Hutton, Sam Speck

**Preschool/Grades K-1:** Finn Holst, Kiernan Hutton, Piper Hutton, Catherine Lewis, Ava Lund, Allison Olson, Zara Preston, Carleigh Ridnour

**Grades 2-3:** Kiley Brandsfield, Jamie Briggs, Brianna Huisman, Elizabeth Lewis, Maya Lint, Charla Preston, Mira Voelker, Layne Weber

**Grades 4-5:** Drake Carney, Rebecca Lewis, Kayleigh Medhurst, Laria Preston, Sam Speck

**Pianist:** Jennifer Wohlenhaus Bloomberg