

Grace Lutheran Church



4TH SUNDAY OF *Advent*

Dec 22, 2013
8:15 a.m. 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 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. **If you would like to meet with a Stephen Minister during the holiday season, please contact the office.

Resuming in January, a Stephen Minister will be available in the Upper Room on each Sunday morning between services to listen and offer prayer.

Prelude

"O Word of God Incarnate"

by James Mansfield

Welcome

Hymn

"Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers"

#244

10:45 Please remain seated for the candlelight procession.

With Courtney Brandsfield, Sierra Carney, Emma Mattes, Isaac McCleary, Lydia McCleary, Sarah Voelker, Ben Wonderlin

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

8:15 – The Jordahl Family 10:45 - The Brandsfield Family

Lighting of the Advent Wreath:

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.

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.
- 4 Light four 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!
 He is com - ing, tell the glad tid - ings. Let your lights be shin - ing!

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 eternal light, sometimes we become too accustomed to the darkness. But you pierce the darkness with the light of your word. We are grateful that you reveal yourself to us in many ways. Amen.

Please be seated

Reading: John 1:1–18

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

¹⁰He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹²But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. ¹⁵(John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") ¹⁶From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. ¹⁷The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

L: the Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God

Children's sermon

8:15 Anthem

“A Light Shone in Darkness”
Chancel Choir

Mark Sedio

Sermon

Please stand as you are able

Hymn

“On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry”

#249

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 "Cradle Song" by Hugo Wolf, arr. By Lani Smith

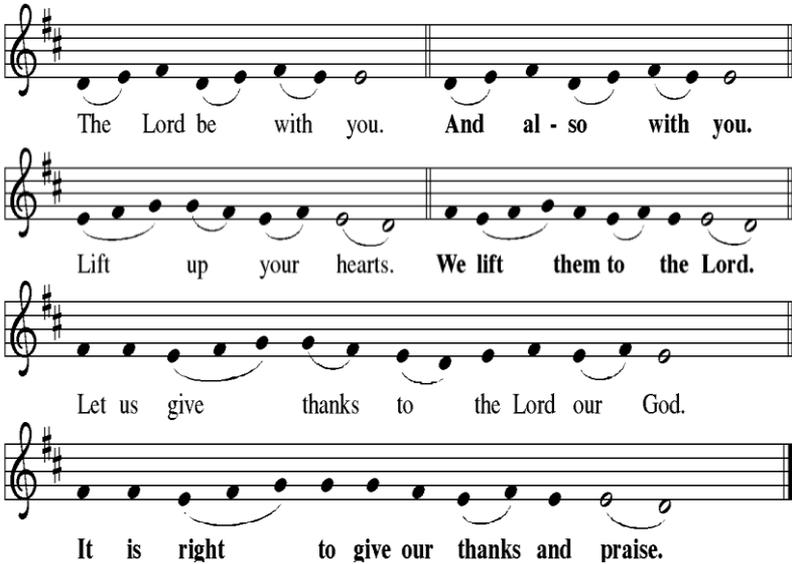
Please stand as you are able

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.

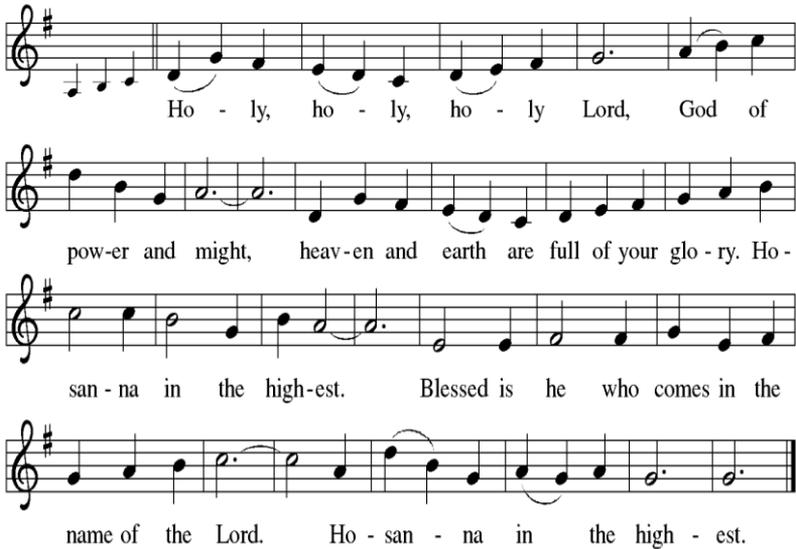
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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 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: 793, 496, 514

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

“Joy to the World”

#267

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Christ is with you.

C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

“Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers” by James Mansfield

Good Morning and Welcome to Grace!



Praying for...

In our prayers: LeRoi Beers, Lyle Black, Vivian Feilmann, Dolores Johnson, Shyral Nelsen (Deanna Weber’s mother), Duleep Singh, Brian Vance, and the others we name before you...

Quarters received today and every fourth Sunday are designated for Msindo.

A Stephen Minister will NOT be on site in the upper room today, during the Christmas Eve and Day services, or Sunday December 29.

If you are in need of a listening ear, encouragement or prayer support during the holidays, please contact the office and we will put you in contact with a Stephen Minister.



Education Opportunities

Today and December 29 we'll gather for fellowship and coffee at 9:15. **Sunday School classes** meet at 9:30 after coffee time.



Christmas Eve worship is at 5:00, 7:00, and 11:00 p.m.

Christmas Day worship is at 10:00 a.m.

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!

Adult Bible Study will not meet December 24 or December 31.

Super Wednesday Suppers will not be served the week of Christmas or New Year's. Super Wednesday meals will resume on January 8.

For a full schedule of holiday worship times and schedule changes, please pick up this week's calendar from the holders on the walls in the entrance and hallway outside Grace Hall each week. You may also see the up-to-date calendar online at www.gracedm.org anytime.



Happy Birthday to: Donald Moon, Harold Mann, Quinci Chapman, Elizabeth Lewis, Wayne Curry, Piper Hutton, Jon Rutter, Stuart Mitchell, Nicole Nelson, Jeffrey Nelson, Marlene Bang, Barbara Berven, Christina Anderson, Ryan Randolph

Happy Anniversary to: Robert & Dorothy Jensen, Donald & Gloria Moon

Prayer Service on the Feast of the Holy Innocents

Sponsored by the Des Moines Area Ecumenical Committee for Peace
Sunday, December 29 at 3 pm
Grace Lutheran Church

For several years this committee has sponsored this service for the whole community. It commemorates the slaying of every child two years old and younger by Herod the Great as he sought to be sure the new "King" (Jesus) would be killed. The service lifts up the plight of children around the world who suffer because of war and poverty. Customarily, the offering is divided between a local agency and an international agency involved with helping children.

Men in Mission will meet Thursday January 2 at 6 p.m. for our monthly meeting. Our speaker for the evening will be our own Emmy Award-winning Amy Schmelzer, KCCI Senior News Director, who will discuss what it takes to put on a daily newscast. We hope you can join us -- new members are always welcome.

Altar Flowers

There are still dates available to sign up for altar flowers in 2014 including January. The 2014 Altar Flower Chart is hanging up on the brick wall in the Gathering Hall. Cost is \$38.00.

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

Children's Sermon: Pastor Mike

Liturgist – 8:15 Mary Helt 10:45 Kristina Hutton

Lector – 8:15 Karen Taylor 10:45 Amy Schmelzer

Communion servers – 10:45 Amy Schmelzer, Stephanie Johnson, Jenie Schmidt, Ardis Schmelzer

Acolytes – 8:15 Robert Briggs 10:45 Sage Speck, Sam Speck

Altar Guild – Rita Stackhouse, Connie Heuton, Cindy Peeler

Counters – 8:15 Alex Davik and Carter Woodruff 10:45 Mark Stumme and Tom McCleary

Coffee – Karen Taylor



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