

Lord,  
how often  
should I  
forgive?

MATTHEW 18:21

# Welcome to Worship at Grace Lutheran Church

Companion Congregation: Msindo Parish in Tanzania

**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! Please sign the Attendance Registration sheets, which are found in each pew. Visitors, please 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 ages 3 and above are welcome at the parents' discretion, after meeting for instruction with the pastor. 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 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. Communion bread is gluten free.*

***Stephen Ministry** is a one-to-one caregiving ministry for those experiencing personal problems such as grieving or crisis situations. If you would like to be connected to a Stephen Minister, please contact the office for assistance.*

# Holy Cross Sunday

September 14, 2014

8:15 & 10:45 a.m.

## **Prelude**

“In the Cross of Christ I Glory” by John Sciveyner

*Please prepare for worship through quiet reflection and meditation*

## **Confession and Forgiveness**

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, the fountain of living water, the rock who gave us birth, our light and our salvation.

**C: Amen.**

P: God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P: Most merciful God,

**C: we confess to you all the ways, known and unknown, that we reject and undermine your steadfast love. Though you made us your people, we treat strangers with suspicion. Though you forgave our debts, we collect without mercy. Yet we are quick to pass judgment on others. Have mercy on us, O God, and remember your promise to us, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

P: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the +Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

## **Hymn**

“Oh, Praise the Gracious Power”

#651

## **Greeting**

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

**C: And also with you.**

# Kyrie

*Refrain*



Ky-ri-e e-lei-son, on our world and on our way.



Ky-ri-e e-lei-son, ev-'ry day.



1 For peace in the world, for the health of the church, for the  
2 That we may live out your im-passioned re-sponse to the  
3 For peace in our hearts, . . . for peace in our homes, . . . for  
4 For your Spir-it to guide; that you cen-ter our lives in the



u-ni-ty of all; for  
hun-gry and the poor; that  
friends and fam-i-ly; for  
wa-ter and the word; that you



this ho-ly house, for all who wor-ship and praise,  
we may live out . . . . truth and jus-tice and grace,  
life and for love, . . . . for our work and our play,  
nour-ish our souls . . . with your bod-y and blood,



let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.

*Refrain*

# Canticle of Praise

*Refrain*



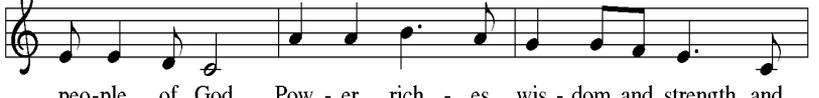
This is the feast of vic-t'ry for our God, for the



Lamb who was slain has be-gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.



1 Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be



peo-ple of God. Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and strength, and

*Refrain*



hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his. This is the feast of



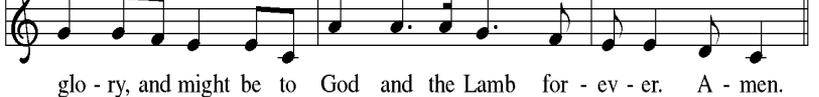
vic-t'ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain has be-gun his reign. Al -



le - lu - ia. 2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God, and



join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon - or,



glo - ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

*Final refrain*



This is the feast of vic-t'ry for our God, for the



bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

**Presentation of Bibles**

*Kindergarten: Spark Story Bible*- Ava Lund

*3rd graders: Spark NRSV*

Bianna Huisman, Charla Preston, Layne Weber

*Middle school youth: Lutheran Study Bible*

*6th graders*- Emma Ashton, Rebecca Lewis, Kayleigh Medhurst, Laria Preston, Samuel Speck

*7th graders*- Zoe Lawson, Lydia McCleary

*8th graders*- Robert Briggs, Sierra Carney, Anthony Garcia, Hannah Jensen, Yaritza Marquez, Kyler Medhurst, Sage Speck, Sarah Voelker, Ben Wonderlin

**Psalm 98:1-4**

R:   
The LORD has done mar-vel-ous things.

<sup>1</sup>Sing a new song to the LORD, who has done <sup>|</sup> marvelous things,  
whose right hand and holy arm have <sup>|</sup> won the victory.

<sup>2</sup>**O LORD, you have made <sup>|</sup> known your victory, you have revealed  
your righteousness in the sight <sup>|</sup> of the nations. R**

<sup>3</sup>You remember your steadfast love and faithfulness to the <sup>|</sup> house of  
Israel; all the ends of the earth have seen the victory <sup>|</sup> of our God.

<sup>4</sup>**Shout with joy to the LORD, <sup>|</sup> all you lands;  
lift up your voice, re- <sup>|</sup> joice, and sing. R**

## Gospel Acclamation

Al-le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the  
words of e - ter - nal life. Al-le - lu - ia.  
Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia.  
Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the Eighteenth Chapter.

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

## Gospel: John 3:13–17

*After explaining to Nicodemus that one must be born of water and Spirit, Jesus speaks of being lifted up on the cross, with reference to the bronze serpent lifted up by Moses in the desert. Here the Son of God is revealed as the source of healing.*

<sup>13</sup>No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. <sup>14</sup>And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, <sup>15</sup>that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. <sup>16</sup>For 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. <sup>17</sup>Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

*Please be seated*

**Sermon**

*Please stand as you are able*

**Hymn**

“Lift High The Cross”

#660

**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: Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

P: Trusting in your mercy and goodness, we bring before you these prayers and whatever else you see that we need, in the name of the one who sets us free, Jesus Christ, our Savior.

**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!**



ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,

heav-en and earth are full, full of your glo - ry.

Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Ho - san - na in the high - est, 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

P: Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. Christ invites you to a place of honor at this banquet. Welcome to the feast.

*Please be seated*

### Communion Song



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, Lamb of God.

**Distribution Hymns:** 324, 335, 815

*Please stand as you are able*

**Prayer after Communion**

P: O God, the host at every meal, at this table you spread out a feast for all peoples, the bread of life and the cup of salvation. Send us from this banquet to invite others into these good things, to let justice roll down like waters, and to care for the least of our sisters and brothers; through Jesus Christ, our Sovereign and our Savior.

**C: Amen**

**Sending of Communion**

P: Gracious God, loving all your family with a mother's tender care: As you sent the angel to feed Elijah with heavenly bread, assist those who set forth to share your word and sacrament with those who are homebound. In your love and care, nourish and strengthen those who will receive this sacrament, and give us all the comfort of your abiding presence through the body and blood of your Son, Jesus Christ, our 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**

“Beneath the Cross of Jesus”

#338

**Dismissal**

P: Go in peace. Share the Good News.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**Good Morning and Welcome to Grace!  
Announcements**

**In our prayers:** Gigi Beeler (Cherie Rissman’s sister-in-law), LeRoi Beers, Ruth Berven, Lyle Black, Mary Donnenwerth, Nancy Hook (Susanne Carney’s mother), Kristina and Sonny Hutton, Diane Jessen, Dolores Johnson, Alan Ketelsen (Michele Turner’s brother-in-law), Lucy Krauss, Leonard Larsen, Karen McCaa (friend of Doug and Stephanie Johnson), Gwen Palmer (Max and Elayne Palmer’s daughter), Bob Sauerman (Verda Swanson’s Son-in-law), Robert Schmidt (Pastor Mike’s father), Brian Vance, and the others we name before you...

**Flowers on the altar** given to the glory of God and in celebration of family by Diane and Lonnie Jessen.

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**Happy Birthday to:** Katelyn Jessen, Laural Brown, Richard Voelker, Lorna Johns, Stephen Bloomberg, Sophia Anderson, Karen Mann, Rev. Michael Schmidt, Sarah Helt, Sonny Hutton, Frank McKinney, Michael Vernon, Cindy Wheeler



**Happy Anniversary to:**  
Michael and Nicole Vernon

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**Education Opportunities and Announcements**

**Sunday School classes resume today!**

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

**Super Wednesday Supper:** Don’t forget this relaxing midweek break! It’s a nice chance to relax, chat, and have dinner without the cooking or cleanup. If you would like to help serve, many dates are available – check the kitchen calendar!

**Super Wednesday** schedule: Check the [newsletter](#) for the location of your activity.

5:00 – 6:00 Supper in Grace Hall 1  
5:30 – 5:50 Chapel Chimers Beginner Hand Bell Choir  
6:00 – 6:30 Praise Bells Intermediate Hand Bell Choir  
6:00 – 7:00 Lectionary Study  
6:30 – 7:30 Confirmation Classes (**begins Sept. 17**)  
6:30 – 7:30 Brass Practice  
6:30 – 7:30 Grace Bells  
7:45 – 9:00 Chancel Choir

**Honor Flight Letters:** through Sept 21<sup>st</sup> we will be involved in a letter writing campaign to offer thanks to the Korean War Veterans of the September 30th Honor Flight. Our goal is to send a letter for each veteran on the Honor Flight. There will be letter writing materials and examples available before and after church on September 7th & 14th, as well as the opportunity to write letters at home and bring them in to church. This is an exciting opportunity to both show thanks and Grace to veterans from all over Central and Western Iowa.

### **Look to the Cross with Lutheran World Relief**

Please join us as we focus on the work of LWR this month. We are collecting items and donations to make school kits, personal care kits, fabric kits, quilts, and baby care kits to send to our neighbors in need around the world. Please visit the display in the Gathering Hall to see how we can look to the cross through the eyes of LWR. Yellow envelopes in the pews are provided for your donation. Please make checks out to the church and write LWR on the comment line. The congregation will put kits together during education hour on Sept 21st, and will ask for blessing on the kits and quilts during the services on Sept. 28th. We need help to box them up after the 10:45 service on the 28th. Let us take up this cross together in the name of Jesus Christ.

**Lydia Circle cordially invites** all Grace members (and other interested folks) to our next meeting on Tuesday, Sept. 16, at 6:00 for dinner and 7:00 for a presentation, by people involved with the ministry with women at the Mitchellville State Prison.

Please call Mary at 255-6433 (or leave a message) by Monday, Sept. 15 if you would like to share dinner with us. Please drop in to hear the presentation about this wonderful ministry.

**National Youth Gathering** Required Registration 5 p.m. September 21  
Please check the online calendar, newsletter, and upcoming bulletins for Fall schedules.

For your convenience, the current and updated calendar can be found online at [www.gracedm.org](http://www.gracedm.org), in the entry hall and in the hallway just outside of Grace Hall near the Fair Trade coffee display.

**Thrivent Two Rivers Chapter Annual Meeting** is for all Thrivent members. Note the deadline date to call for reservations. Please plan to attend the 2014 Thrivent Annual Chapter meeting and Election of new board members. You will enjoy a roasted turkey dinner, local entertainment and gifts. Hope to see you there!

**Date:** Sunday October 5, 2014

**Time:** 4:00 P.M.

**Where:** Airport Holiday Inn, 6111 Fleur Drive, Des Moines

**Reservations are REQUIRED.** Deadline: Thursday September 25  
RSVP to [404-825-8970](tel:404-825-8970)

**WOMEN UP! at Lutheran Lakeside Camp** will be held for women only, during the weekend of October 17-18. We will meet at church around noon and carpool to Lakeside to arrive for the 5:30 Registration and dinner at 6:30. The book being discussed this year is Cold Tangerines, by Shauna Niequist. Registration due Oct. 5, cost is \$40 per person. Bring Bibles, bedding, towels, and toiletries. Talk to Mary at 255-6433 if you are interested.

**A new educational opportunity is opening up this fall at Grace.**

Deanna Snyder will lead the discussion about writing our life story so that we can begin to see how God has been working in our lives. The class will begin on Sunday morning, September 21 during the learning hour and will go for ten weeks. The book we will use will be *Remembering Your Story* by Richard Morgan. It is available on amazon.com. Please contact Deanna at 278-0341 of your intent to attend. We look forward to sharing with you!

## Welcome to Grace!

**Ministers** – The People of God

**Pastor** – The Rev. Michael Schmidt

**Director of Laity Ministries** - Stephanie Johnson

**Director of Music Ministries** – Emma Stammer

**Organist** - Jennifer Wohlenhaus Bloomberg

**Grace Kids Care Director** - Heather Nelson

**Office Administrator** - Jacquelyn Holmes

**Office Assistant** - Michelle Voelker

**Custodian** – Todd Haugen

**Ushers** – 8:15 - Jon Rissman, John Farver, Jim Rundle

10:45 – Norm and Leonora Iverson, Jay Wangerin, Bill Jensen

**Acolytes** – 8:15 Haley Dostalick, Emma Mattes 10:45 Lydia McCleary

**Liturgist** – 8:15 Matt Jordahl 10:45 Stephanie Johnson

**Lector** – 8:15 Karen Taylor 10:45 Alex Davik

**Children's Sermon** – Carol Woodruff

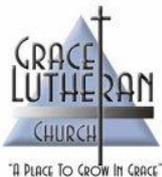
**Communion servers** – 10:45 Gail Peterson, Don Peterson, Jenie Schmidt, Alex Davik

**Altar Guild** – Rita Stackhouse, Sue Anderson

**Counters** – 8:15 Chuck Denton and Carter Woodruff

10:45 Alex Davik and Chris Lawson

**Coffee** – Karen Taylor



## Grace Lutheran Church

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**Pastor Michael Schmidt**

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