

PREPARE  
THE WAY OF THE  
LORD

MARK 1:3

# **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 Registrations 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.*

*The nursery is available for newborns - age 3. The nursery is staffed by Grace Kids Care staff members for children who become restless during the service. If there is no one in the nursery, check in the daycare office. The service is broadcast in the Gathering Hall. To entertain your children during the service there are purple busy-bags with books and coloring materials for children just outside the sanctuary.*

***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.*

# The Second Sunday in Advent

December 7, 2014

8:15 a.m. and 10:45 a.m.

**Prelude**

“Sheep May Safely Graze”

J.S. Bach,

arr. by Eugene Watts

*Grace Brass*

**Welcome**

## Lighting of the Advent Wreath

L: We praise you, O God, for this circle of light that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent. As we light the candles on this wreath, kindle within us the fire of your Spirit, that we may be light shining in the darkness. Enlighten us with your grace, that we may welcome others as you have welcomed us. Grant this through Christ our Lord, whose coming is certain and whose day draws near.

**C: Amen.**

**Opening Hymn**

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

#257 vs. 1-2

*(Light the first two candles.)*

*Congregation with Grace Brass*

**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.**

**Prayer of the Day**

**C: Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming strengthen us to serve you with purified lives; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.**

**Amen.**

*Please be seated*

**First Reading: Isaiah 40:1–11**

*In grand, flowing, poetic lines, the prophet announces that the exile of God's people in Babylon is over. The Lord will deliver Israel and will care for her as a shepherd cares for his sheep. This word can be trusted, because the only enduring reality in life is the word of the Lord.*



<sup>8</sup>I will listen to what the LORD God is saying; for you speak peace to your faithful people and to those who turn their hearts to you.

<sup>9</sup>**Truly, your salvation is very near to those who fear you, that your glory may dwell in our land. R**

<sup>10</sup>Steadfast love and faithfulness have met together; righteousness and peace have kissed each other.

<sup>11</sup>**Faithfulness shall spring up from the earth, and righteousness shall look down from heaven.**

<sup>12</sup>The LORD will indeed grant prosperity, and our land will yield its increase.

<sup>13</sup>**Righteousness shall go before the LORD and shall prepare for God a pathway. R**

### **Second reading: 2 Peter 3:8–15a**

*This short letter deals with pressing concerns regarding the final advent of Jesus, especially concerns that could arise over its apparent delay. The author of the letter calls on Christians to anticipate the promised coming of the Lord through conduct dedicated to God.*

<sup>8</sup>But do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. <sup>9</sup>The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. <sup>10</sup>But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed. <sup>11</sup>Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, <sup>12</sup>waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire?

<sup>13</sup>But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home. <sup>14</sup>Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; <sup>15</sup>and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation.

L: the Word of the Lord

**C: Thanks be to God**

*Please stand as you are able*

## Gospel Acclamation



## Gospel Acclamation

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

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

## Gospel: Mark 1:1–8

*The Gospel of Mark does not begin with a story of Jesus' birth but with the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord.*

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. <sup>2</sup>As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, "See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; <sup>3</sup>the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,'" <sup>4</sup>John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. <sup>5</sup>And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. <sup>6</sup>Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. <sup>7</sup>He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. <sup>8</sup>I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

P: The Gospel of the Lord

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

*Please be seated*

**Sermon** Advent Survival Guide - Building a Shelter

*Please stand as you are able*

**Hymn of the Day** "How Firm a Foundation"

#796

## **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: Receive our prayers, faithful God, as we watch and wait for your coming among us in 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 “What is This Lovely Fragrance?” arr. by Alice Jordan

*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**

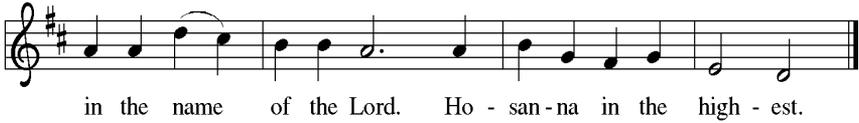
### Great Thanksgiving

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, Lord God of pow'r and might,  
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.  
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes



### **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. The table of life is spread before you. Feast on the goodness and mercy of God.

*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:** 518, 528 (4x), 522

## **Prayer after Communion**

P: Lord God, we give you thanks that you have fed us even now with the banquet that is yet to come. Keep us alert for signs of your presence in the world around us. Send us as healing oil and sheltering comfort to those in need, and make us bold in testifying to the light of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C: Amen**

## **Sending of Communion**

Gracious God, whose mercy endures from generation to generation: As Mary set out to visit Elizabeth before she gave birth to her son, bless those who go forth to share your word and sacrament with our sisters and brothers. In your love and care, nourish and strengthen those to whom we bring this communion, that through the body and blood of your Son we may all know the hope of your promised coming in 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.**

*Please stand as you are able*

**Sending Hymn:** “Comfort, Comfort Now My People”

#256

## **Dismissal**

P: Go in peace. The Lord is near.

**C. Thanks be to God.**

## **Postlude**

“Come, Thou Almighty King” by Gerald Peterson

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## **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 – Linda Biegger, Dee Hummel, Tim Nelson, Larry Nordeen

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

**Acolytes** – 8:15 Robert Briggs, \_\_\_\_\_ 10:45 Lydia McCleary

**Liturgist** – 8:15 Paul Kallenbach 10:45 Janet Habick

**Lector** – 8:15 Julie Honsey 10:45 Kate Schaller

**Children’s sermon** – Stephanie Johnson and the Junior Grace Players:  
Jamie Briggs, Maya Lint, Catherine Lewis, Carol Woodruff

**Communion servers** – 8:15 Sandy Briggs, Barry Briggs, Jenie Schmidt, Julie Honsey

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

**Counters** – 8:15 Jeff Farrell and Jon Rissman

10:45 Chris Lawson and Tom McCleary

**Coffee** – Cheryl and Ernie Weatherington

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

**In our prayers:** Bill Jensen, Betty Hirschauer, Dorothy Singh, and the others we name before you...

*Praying for one another is an important part of the life of a community of faith. In order to do this it is important that the prayer list be as current as possible. If you or a relative would like to be included in the prayers please contact the church office. Thank you.*

**Flowers on the altar** glorify God and are given by Gary and Marion Nehmer to lovingly remember their son, Kevin.

**Quarters** received today and every first Sunday are designated to fight hunger.

**Happy Anniversary to:** Thomas and Rebecca Selander

**Happy Birthday to:** Gus Berven, Felicia Adams, Robert Ziesman, Joy Averill, Rosemary Randolph, Salvador Rodriguez, Steve Young, Burke Shiffler, Kari Dostalick, Dorothy Duleepsingh, Sherry Brindley, Bradley Ashton, Thomas Garcia

## **Education Opportunities**

**Sunday School** classes meet at 9:30 on Sunday mornings. Preschool and elementary both start in room 101, with preschool ending in room 105.

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

**New Member Class:** There will not be a new member class in December due to the Bells and Brass concert. If you are interested in learning more about Grace, or in becoming a member, please contact the office.

## **Advent Sermon Series**

Does life feel like you are in the wilderness without a GPS? Let the Advent Survival Guide sermon series lead you to God's path.

- December 14: Advent Survival Guide: *Starting a Fire*
- December 21: Advent Survival Guide: *Signs of Life*

## **Under Wraps: “God is Dangerous”**

Continue to discover the nature of God’s love as described in the Old Testament and revealed through Jesus in “God is Dangerous,” part two of the Advent series *Under Wraps*. Meets today and the next two Sundays, Grace Hall, 9:30-10:30 a.m.

- Dec. 7 – God is Dangerous
- Dec. 14 – God is Jealous
- Dec. 21 -- God is Faithful

### **Help Needed!**

Worship and coffee volunteers are needed for the Christmas Eve services at 7:00, p.m. (communion assistants), and for the December 21st & 28th (coffee). The sign up book is in the Gathering Hall and the online sign up page can be found at <https://www.volunteersignup.org/BAKWD>.

### **Upcoming Events**

*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.*

Would you like to **deliver poinsettias** to our homebound members? A sign-up sheet is at Volunteer Central. You may pick up the poinsettias anytime after the Christmas Day worship service. Please deliver them within a week of Christmas Day if possible. Thank you for your ministry.

**The Second Annual Bake Sale held by the Companion Congregation Committee** will be December 14. Please donate samples of your favorite holiday and Christmas goodies to share. We will sell goodies in honor of our relationship with Msindo and Mararo and to support the scholarship fund for needy students. *Everyone come to share and buy Christmas goodies!*

### **Grace Kids Care Christmas Program**

Thursday, December 18 at 7 p.m. in the Sanctuary  
All are invited to hear our little angels sing.

**Bells and Brass Concert**  
**Sunday, December 14, 2:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary**

**Our own Grace Bell Choir and Grace Brass will be performing.**  
**Please come and invite a friend!**

Christmas cookies, coffee, tea and hot chocolate will be served following the concert. Please consider donating a couple dozen of your favorite Christmas cookies for this reception. When you bring them please place in the Conference Room with a label that says for Bells and Brass Concert, so as not to confuse with the CCC's Christmas bake sale being held earlier that day.

**Thanks!**

