

**Greetings, favored one!
The Lord is with you**

LUKE 1:28

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 care giving 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 Fourth Sunday in Advent

December 21, 2014

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

Prelude

"Poeme de Noel" by Ludwig van Beethoven

Welcome

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

L: We praise you, O God, for this wheel of time that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent. As we light the candles on this wreath, open our eyes to see your presence in the lowly ones of this earth.

Enlighten us with your grace, that we may sing of your advent among us in the Word made flesh. 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. 1-4

(Light four candles.)

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 your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that would obstruct your mercy, that willingly we may bear your redeeming love to all the world, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen

Please be seated

First Reading: 2 Samuel 7:1–11, 16

Instead of David building a house (temple) for the Lord, the Lord promises to establish David's house (dynasty) forever. Centuries later, after the Babylonian exile, no king sat on the throne. Even then, however, the people of Israel remembered this promise and continued to hope for a king, the messiah, the Lord's anointed.

Now when the king was settled in his house, and the LORD had given him rest from all his enemies around him, ²the king said to the prophet Nathan, "See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent." ³Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that you have in mind; for the LORD is with you." ⁴But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan: ⁵Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the LORD: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? ⁶I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. ⁷Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?" ⁸Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the LORD of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; ⁹and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. ¹⁰And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, ¹¹from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover the LORD declares to you that the LORD will make you a house. ¹⁶Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me; your throne shall be established forever.

L: the Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God

Anthem

"In the Bleak Midwinter"

by Gustav Holst,
arr. by G. Alan Smith

Chancel Choir

Children's Sermon

Junior Grace Players

*Jamie Briggs (8:15), Drake Carney (10:45),
Maya Lint, Catherine Lewis, and Carol Woodruff*



Please stand as you are able

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.

Gospel Acclamation

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

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel: Luke 1:26–46a

In this annunciation, Luke makes clear that God comes with good news for ordinary people (Mary) from little known places (Nazareth). This king will not be born to royalty in a palace, but to common folk in a stall. Here Luke highlights the role of the Spirit, a special emphasis in his gospel.

²⁶In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." ²⁹But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³²He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. ³³He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." ³⁴Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" ³⁵The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. ³⁶And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. ³⁷For nothing will be impossible with God." ³⁸Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her. ³⁹In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, ⁴⁰where she entered the house of Zechariah and

greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹ When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit ⁴² and exclaimed with a loud cry, “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. ⁴³ And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? ⁴⁴ For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵ And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.” ^{46a} And Mary said

Psalm: Luke 1:46b–55

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

^{46b}My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, ⁴⁷my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

⁴⁸for you, Lord, have looked with favor on your lowly servant.

From this day all generations will call me blessed;

⁴⁹you, the Almighty, have done great things for me, and holy is your name.

⁵⁰You have mercy on those who fear you, from generation to generation. R

⁵¹You have shown strength with your arm; and scattered the proud in their conceit,

⁵²casting down the mighty from their thrones and lifting up the lowly.

⁵³You have filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty.

⁵⁴You have come to the aid of your servant Israel, to remember the promise of mercy,

⁵⁵the promise made to our forebears, to Abraham and his children forever. **R**

P: The Gospel of the Lord

C: Praise to you, O Christ

Please be seated

Sermon

Advent Survival Guide - Signs of Life

Please stand as you are able

Hymn of the Day “Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers”

#244

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: Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

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

“Manger Lullabies”

by Lani Smith

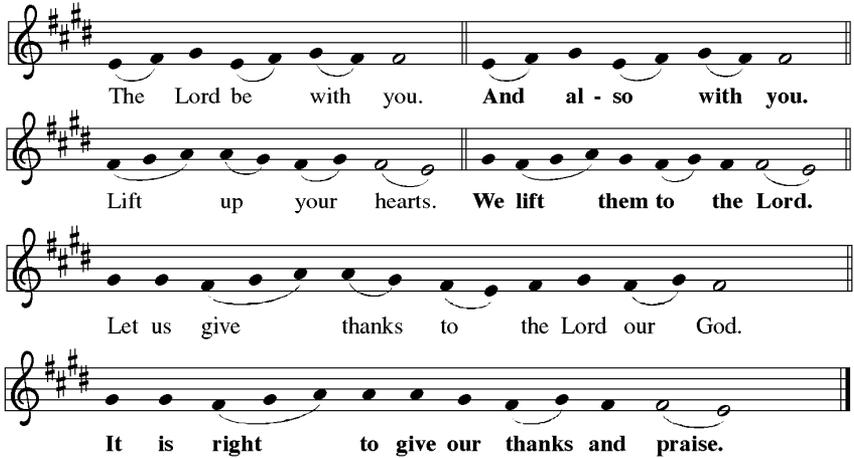
Please stand as you are able

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

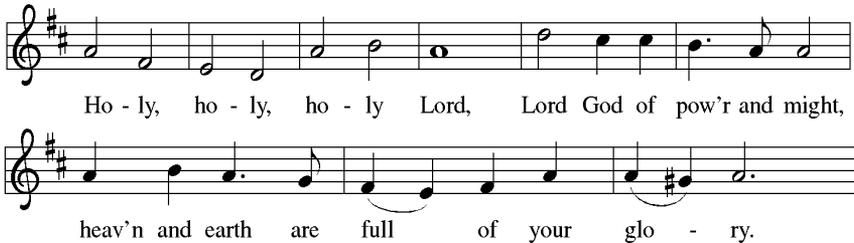
Great Thanksgiving



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, 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
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.**

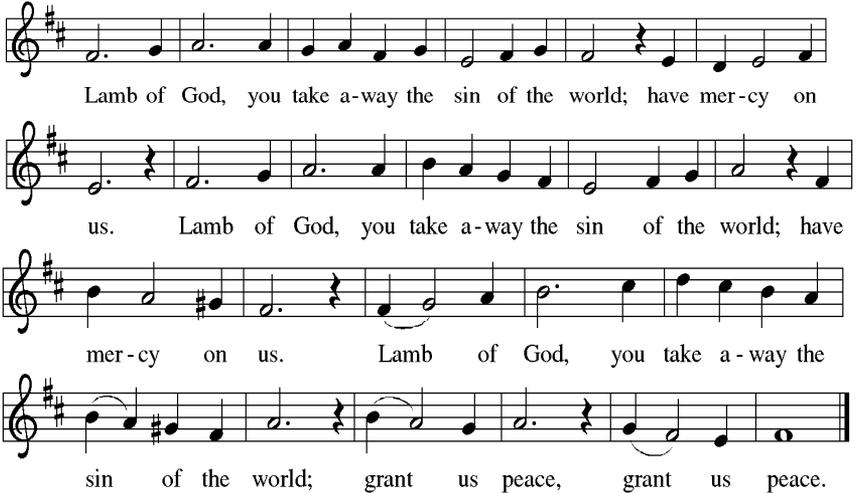
**For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen**

Invitation to Communion

P: Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. Come to Christ, who comes to us in this holy supper.

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, 542, 471

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.

Sending Hymn:

“People, Look East”

#248

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. The Lord is near.

C. Thanks be to God.

Postlude

“Joy to the World”

arr. by Jan Sanborn

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, Bill Jensen, Tom McCleary

Acolytes – 8:15 Sage Speck, Sam Speck 10:45 Lydia McCleary

Liturgist – 8:15 Alex Davik 10:45 Kristina Hutton

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

Children’s sermon – Carol Woodruff with Jamie Briggs (8:15), Drake Carney (10:45), Maya Lint, Catherine Lewis

Communion servers – 8:15 Carla Peterman, Karen Taylor, Julie Honsey, Jenie Schmidt

Altar Guild – Carol Woodruff, Sue Anderson

Counters – 8:15 Bill Jensen and Jeff Farrell

10:45 Bill Jensen and Mike Carney

Coffee –

Good Morning and Welcome to Grace!

December 21, 2014

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.

Quarters placed in the offering plate today and every third Sunday are for the Food Pantry.

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

Happy Birthday to: John Rudisill, Chris Janson, 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

Education Opportunities

Sunday School classes will break over the holidays and will resume on Jan 4. Sunday School meets at 9:30 on Sunday mornings: Preschool and elementary both start in room 101, with preschool ending in room 105.

Adult Learning

Under Wraps: "God is Faithful"

Final installment. Today, Grace Hall, 9:30-10:30 a.m.

Adult Bible Study will break for the holidays and will resume

January 7. Bible study meets Tuesday mornings from 8:45–10:15a.m. in Grace Hall II. Pastor Mike leads.

Upcoming Sunday morning adult learning opportunities, 9:30 – 10:30 a.m., Grace Hall

- **Jan. 4** – What's the Big Deal about Epiphany? Pastor Doug Johnson
- **Jan. 11** – Drawn from the Waters: An Exploration of Baptism, Pastor Schmidt
- **Jan. 18** – Congregational budget presentation, Finance Committee

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

Thank You!

What a wonderful surprise: Our thanks to all the women of Grace for the beautiful throws and the bible. The throws will keep us warm and cozy. God bless you all.

Jack and Mary Donnenwerth

Thank you for your generosity at the Companion Congregation Committee Bake Sale for Msindo/Mararo Education Scholarships. The total sales were \$561.50. Thank you again.

Please Help!

Acolytes for the Dec 28 10:45 service (one needed), and Jan 4 8:15 service (two needed). Please contact the office if you can help.

Volunteer Opportunities

The online Service Volunteer Sign-up Sheet now includes the January and February 2015 services. If you are available and inclined to serve, please go to <https://www.volunteersignup.org/BAKWD> and click on "sign up."

Upcoming Grace Events

Coffee for Sundays December 21 and December 28 will be served in the Gathering Hall

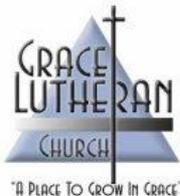
2015 Flower Chart The new flower chart for 2015 is hanging on the brick wall in the Gathering Hall. Cost for 2015 flowers will continue at \$38

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.

2014 Year-end Office Deposit

Please make sure any contributions that are mailed or left at the church office for deposit in 2014 are in by **11:00 a.m. on Tuesday, December 30th.**

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



Grace Lutheran Church

3010 52nd St. Des Moines, Iowa 50310

Pastor Michael Schmidt

515-276-6873

worship@gracedm.org

www.gracedm.org