

Grace
and
truth
came
through
Jesus
Christ

JOHN 1:17

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 Second Sunday of Christmas

January 4, 2015

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

Prelude

“Prelude on 'Morning Star'” by Henry Balcombe

Confession and Forgiveness

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, the Maker of heaven and earth, the Word made flesh, the Lord and giver of life.

C: **Amen.**

P: Let us come into the light of Christ, confessing our need for God's mercy.

C: **Amen**

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

Silence is kept for reflection

P: Generous and faithful God,

C: we confess that we are not at peace—with others or with ourselves. We bring to you all that tears us apart: discord in our families, violence in our world, our own conflicted hearts. In your mercy, mend us. Reconnect us to one another and to you. Let peace reign over all the earth, through the Prince of peace, our Savior Jesus Christ. 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.**

Opening Hymn

“We Three Kings”

see next page



We Three Kings of Orient Are



1 We three kings of O - ri - ent are; bear - ing gifts we tra - verse a - far,
 2 Born a king on Beth - le - hem's plain, gold I bring to crown him a - gain;
 3 Frank - in - cense to of - fer have I; in - cense owns a de - i - ty nigh;
 4 Myrrh is mine; its bit - ter per - fume breathes a life of gath - er - ing gloom;
 5 Glo - rious now be - hold him a - rise, King and God and Sac - ri - fice;



field and foun - tain, moor and moun - tain, fol - low - ing yon - der star.
 king for - ev - er, ceas - ing nev - er, o - ver us all to reign.
 prayer and prais - ing, glad - ly rais - ing, wor - ship - ing God Most High.
 sor - rowing, sigh - ing, bleed - ing, dy - ing, sealed in the stone - cold tomb.
 heav'n sings al - le - lu - ia; al - le - lu - ia the earth re - plies.



Refrain



Oh, star of won - der, star of night, star with roy - al beau - ty bright;



west - ward lead - ing, still pro - ceed - ing, guide us to thy per - fect light!



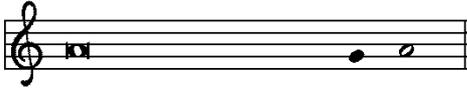
Text: John Henry Hopkins Jr., 1820–1891, alt.
 Music: THREE KINGS OF ORIENT, John Henry Hopkins Jr., 1820–1891

Greeting

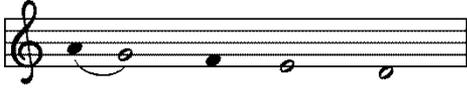
P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

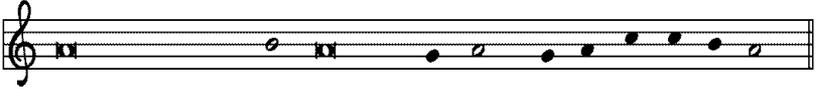
Kyrie



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



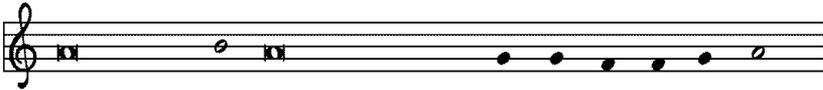
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. Lord have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de-fend us, gra-cious Lord. A - men.

Canticle of Praise

Refrain

Assisting minister



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia.

All



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



free to be peo-ple of God. Pow - er and rich - es and wis - dom and



strength, and hon - or and bless-ing and glo - ry are his.

Refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. 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 and hon - or and glo - ry and



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

Final refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain



P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

Prayer of the Day

C: Almighty God, you have filled all the earth with the light of your incarnate Word. By your grace empower us to reflect your light in all that we do, 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: Jeremiah 31:7–14

God promises to bring Israel back to its land from the most remote parts of exile. In Zion Israel will rejoice over God's gift of food and livestock. Young women will express their joy in dancing; God will give gladness instead of sorrow.

⁷For thus says the LORD: Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob, and raise shouts for the chief of the nations; proclaim, give praise, and say, "Save, O LORD, your people, the remnant of Israel." ⁸See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north, and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth, among them the blind and the lame, those with child and those in labor, together; a great company, they shall return here. ⁹With weeping they shall come, and with consolations I will lead them back, I will let them walk by brooks of water, in a straight path in which they shall not stumble; for I have become a father to Israel, and Ephraim is my firstborn. ¹⁰Hear the word of the LORD, O nations, and declare it in the coastlands far away; say, "He who scattered Israel will gather him, and will keep him as a shepherd a flock." ¹¹For the LORD has ransomed Jacob, and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him. ¹²They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion, and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the LORD, over the grain, the wine, and the oil, and over the young of the flock and the herd; their life shall become like a watered garden, and they shall never languish again. ¹³Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance, and the young men and the old shall be merry. I will turn their mourning into joy, I will comfort them, and give

them gladness for sorrow. ¹⁴I will give the priests their fill of fatness, and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty, says the LORD.

L: the Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God

Children's Sermon

Psalm 147:12–20

R: 
Wor - ship the LORD, O Je - ru - sa-lem; praise your God, O Zi-on.

¹²Worship the LORD, O Jerusalem; praise your God, O Zion,

¹³**who has strengthened the bars of your gates and has blessed your children within you.**

¹⁴God has established peace on your borders and satisfies you with the finest wheat. **R**

¹⁵**God sends out a command to the earth, a word that runs very swiftly.**

¹⁶God gives snow like wool, scattering frost like ashes.

¹⁷**God scatters hail like bread crumbs. Who can stand against God's cold?**

¹⁸The LORD sends forth the word and melts them; the wind blows, and the waters flow.

¹⁹**God declares the word to Jacob, statutes and judgments to Israel.**

²⁰The LORD has not done so to any other nation; they do not know God's judgments. Hallelujah! **R**

Second Reading: Ephesians 1:3–14

In Jesus, all of God's plans and purposes have been made known as heaven and earth are united in Christ. Through Jesus, we have been chosen as God's children and have been promised eternal salvation.

³Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, ⁴just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. ⁵He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his

will, ⁶to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. ⁷In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace ⁸that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight ⁹he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, ¹⁰as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. ¹¹In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, ¹²so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. ¹³In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; ¹⁴this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

L: the Word of the Lord
C: Thanks be to God

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

Gospel Acclamation

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the First Chapter.
C: Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel: John 1: 10–18

John begins his gospel with this prologue: a hymn to the Word through whom all things were created. This Word became flesh and brought grace and truth to 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.

P: The Gospel of the Lord
C: **Praise to you, O Christ**

Please be seated

Sermon "There Goes the Neighborhood"

Please stand as you are able

Hymn of the Day "O Morning Star" #308 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

L: Hear us, O God.

C: **Your mercy is great.**

P: Hear the hopes and prayers of our hearts, O God, and magnify our joy at the birth of your Light among us, 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!**

Please be seated

Announcements

The Offering

Offertory

“What Star is This?”

by Robert Graham

Please stand as you are able

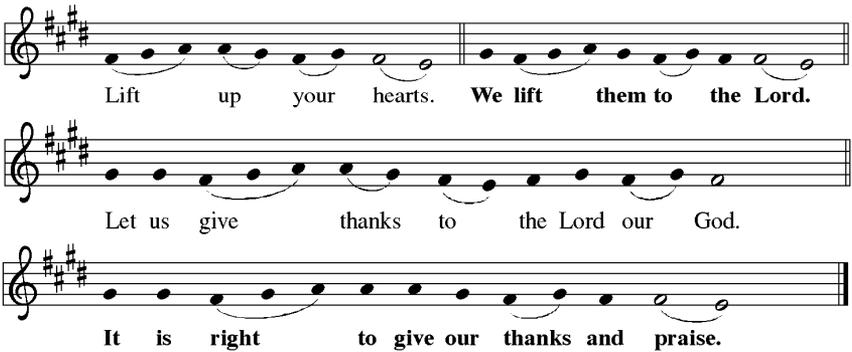
Offering Prayer

P: Good and loving God, we rejoice in the birth of Jesus, who came among the poor to bring the riches of your grace. As you have blessed us with your gifts, let them be blessing for others. With the trees of the field, with all earth and heaven, we shout for joy at the coming of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: **Amen**

Great Thanksgiving

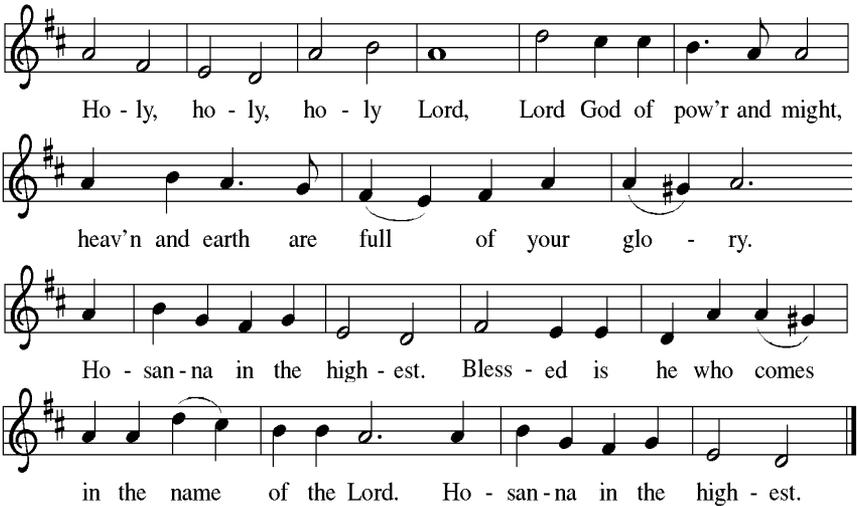




Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.
 Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
 It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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. The mystery hidden for the ages is revealed for us in this meal. Come, behold and receive your 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

Good Morning and Welcome to Grace!

In our prayers: Betty Hirschauer, Bill Jensen, Diane Jessen, 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 Heather and Eric Nelson in honor of their 25th wedding anniversary.

Quarters placed in the offering plate today and every first Sunday are for hunger relief.



*Anniversaries
and Birthdays*

Happy Anniversary to: Elizabeth and Mark Dungan, Eric and Heather Nelson, David and JoAnn Gronert

Happy Birthday to: Betty Hirschauer, Elizabeth Dungan, Theodore Tussing, Bob Gweah, Penny Hansen, Andrew Allen, Nicholas Jessen, Conrad Thompson, Jay

Wangerin, Eric Weber, Emily Scholten

Education Opportunities

Sunday School classes resume today, 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 Bible Study will resume Tuesday, January 6. Bible study meets Tuesday mornings from 8:45 to 10:15 a.m. in Grace Hall II. Pastor Mike leads.

Sunday morning adult learning opportunities: 9:30 – 10:30 a.m. in 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

Are you interested in learning more about Grace Lutheran and our community? The next **New Member Class** will meet Sunday January 12 from 1-2 p.m. in the Gathering Hall with Pastor Mike.

Worship Volunteers

Are needed for January 11. If you are available and inclined to serve, please go to <https://www.volunteersignup.org/BAKWD> and click on "sign up."

National Youth Gathering meeting dates

Youth attending the National Youth Gathering this coming July will begin meeting monthly in January. Please write these dates on your calendar! Parents, you will receive an email and/or letter soon. Chaperons would appreciate your assistance, especially at this first meeting.

Jan 18: Noon-3 p.m. Pizza and drinks will be provided. There is much to discuss, please make sure you attend. Parents welcome.

Feb. 15: 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.

March 29: 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.

April 12: Noon – 3 p.m.

May 17: Noon – 3 p.m.

June 7: 5:00 – 7:00 p.m.

Altar Flower Chart

The 2015 Altar Flower signup chart is in the Gathering Hall on the brick wall. Cost for altar flowers is \$38.00 again this year. If would like a special date, check as soon as possible! The calendar is filled up quickly.

Men In Mission

The January 8 meeting will be a supper and discussion about Men In Mission starting at 6:00 p.m.

Crockpots!

Hope for the Hungry and ISU Extension are looking for just a few more crockpots as there are 11 families signed up for the Feb. 5 slow-cooker class in Spanish but only six crockpots are available. Needed: one two-quart crockpot and four five-quart crockpots. Quart pot and four 5 Quart pots. Please bring them to the office or contact Mary Helt. Thank you!

***Thank You!** Thank you to the ladies of the church for the beautiful gift and the church for the poinsettia. You made my day! LeRoi Beers*

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.

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

Director of Communications - Michelle Voelker

Custodian – Todd Haugen

Ushers – 8:15 – Kevin Krause, Chuck Denton, Leslie Denton

10:45 – Paul Nelson, Rick Fry, Jay Wangerin

Acolytes – 8:15 Bobby and Jamie Briggs 10:45 Zoe Lawson

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

Lector – 8:15 Karen Taylor 10:45 Drake Carney

Children's sermon – Pastor Mike

Communion servers – 8:15 Karen Taylor, Amy Schmelzer, Rich

Snyder, Ardis Schmelzer

Altar Guild – Mindy Scholten, Gail Peterson

Counters – 8:15 Jon Rissman and Carter Woodruff

10:45 Mark Stumme and Tom McCleary

Coffee – Norm and Lenora Iverson