

*Create
in me
a clean
heart,
O God*

Psalm 51:10

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.*

Ash Wednesday

February 18, 2015

6:30 p.m.

Prelude “Meditation on ‘Wondrous Love’” by David Paxton
(Please prepare for worship through quiet reflection and meditation)

Greeting

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

P: Let us pray.

C: Almighty and ever-living God, you hate nothing you have made, and you forgive the sins of all who are penitent. Create in us new and honest hearts, so that, truly repenting of our sins, we may receive from you, the God of all mercy, full pardon and forgiveness through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

The Reading: Joel 2:1–2, 12–17

Because of the coming Day of the Lord, the prophet Joel calls the people to a community lament. The repentant community reminds God of his gracious character and asks God to spare the people, lest the nations doubt God's power to save.

Blow the trumpet in Zion; sound the alarm on my holy mountain! Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble, for the day of the LORD is coming, it is near — ²a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness! Like blackness spread upon the mountains a great and powerful army comes; their like has never been from of old, nor will be again after them in ages to come. ¹²Yet even now, says the LORD, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; ¹³rend your hearts and not your clothing. Return to the LORD, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and relents from punishing. ¹⁴Who knows whether he will not turn and relent, and leave a blessing behind him, a grain offering and a drink offering for the LORD, your God? ¹⁵Blow the trumpet in Zion; sanctify a fast; call a solemn assembly; ¹⁶gather the people. Sanctify the congregation; assemble the aged; gather the children, even infants at the breast. Let the bridegroom leave his room, and the bride her canopy.

¹⁷Between the vestibule and the altar let the priests, the ministers of the LORD, weep. Let them say, "Spare your people, O LORD, and do not make your heritage a mockery, a byword among the nations. Why should it be said among the peoples, "Where is their God?""

L: The word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand as you are able

Hymn "Bless Now, O God, the Journey"

#326

Invitation To Lent

P: Friends in Christ, today with the whole church we enter the time of remembering Jesus' passover from death to life, and our life in Christ is renewed.

We begin this holy season by acknowledging our need for repentance and for God's mercy. We are created to experience joy in communion with God, to love one another, and to live in harmony with creation. But our sinful rebellion separates us from God, our neighbors, and creation, so that we do not enjoy the life our creator intended.

As disciples of Jesus, we are called to a discipline that contends against evil and resists whatever leads us away from love of God and neighbor. I invite you, therefore, to the discipline of Lent—self-examination and repentance, prayer and fasting, sacrificial giving and works of love—strengthened by the gifts of word and sacrament. Let us continue our journey through these forty days to the great Three Days of Jesus' death and resurrection.

Please be seated

Silence for reflection and self-examination

Psalm 51:1-17

Have mer - cy on me, O
God, ac - cord - ing to your stead - fast love.

R L: Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; in your great compassion blot out my offenses.

C: Wash me through and through from my wickedness, and cleanse me from my sin.

L: For I know my offenses, and my sin is ever before me.

C: Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight; so you are justified when you speak and right in your judgment. R

L: Indeed, I was born steeped in wickedness, a sinner from my mother's womb.

C: Indeed, you delight in truth deep within me, and would have me know wisdom deep within.

L: Remove my sins with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be purer than snow.

C: Let me hear joy and gladness; that the body you have broken may rejoice. R

L: Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my wickedness.

C: Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.

L: Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me.

C: Restore to me the joy of your salvation and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit. R

L: Let me teach your ways to offenders, and sinners shall be restored to you.

C: Rescue me from bloodshed, O God of my salvation, and my tongue shall sing of your righteousness.

L: O LORD, open my lips, and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.

C: For you take no delight in sacrifice, or I would give it. You are not pleased with burnt offering.

L: The sacrifice of God is a troubled spirit; a troubled and broken heart, O God, you will not despise. **R**

Special Music “Lord of Feasting and of Hunger” by Carl Schalk
Chancel Choir

The Imposition Of Ashes

Those who desire to receive ashes, please come forward to the altar.

After all who desire have received the ashes and returned to their seats:

P: Accomplish in us, O God, the work of your salvation,

C: that we may show forth your glory in the world.

P: By the cross and Passion of your Son, our Lord,

C: bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.

P: Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, does not desire the death of sinners, but rather that they may turn from their wickedness and live. Therefore we implore him to grant us true repentance and his Holy Spirit, that those things may please him which we do on this day, that the rest of our life may be pure and holy, and that at the last we may come to his eternal joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen

Gospel Acclamation

Let your stead-fast love come to us, O Lord.

Save us as you prom-ised; we will trust your word.

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

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel: Matthew 6:1–6, 16–21

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus commends almsgiving, prayer, and fasting, but emphasizes that spiritual devotion must not be done for show.

"Beware of practicing your piety before others in order to be seen by them; for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven. ²So whenever you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be praised by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. ³But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, ⁴so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. ⁵"And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. ⁶But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. ¹⁶"And whenever you

fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces so as to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. ¹⁷But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, ¹⁸so that your fasting may be seen not by others but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. ¹⁹"Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; ²⁰but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated

"Judas"

Alex Davik

Please stand as you are able

Hymn

"Chief Of Sinners Though I Be"

#609

The Prayers

L: Lord, in your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

P: Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Amen

Please be seated

Offering

Offertory

"Offertory on 'Lovingkindness'" by Gerald Peterson

Please stand as you are able

Offering Prayer

P: God our provider, you have not fed us with bread alone, but with words of grace and life. Bless us and these your gifts, which we receive from your bounty, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

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: 777, 518, 616 (3x)

Please stand as you are able

Prayer after Communion

P: Merciful God, accompany our journey through these forty days. Renew us in the gift of baptism, that we may provide for those who are poor, pray for those in need, fast from self-indulgence, and above all that we may find our treasure in the life of your Son, 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

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Remember the poor.

C: Thanks be to God.

Hymn "God, Who Made the Earth and Heaven" #564

Postlude "Solemn March" by Felix Mendelssohn

Midweek Lenten services continue each Wednesday until Holy Week with a soup supper from 5:00-6:00 p.m. and a worship service at 6:30 p.m.



Ash Wednesday

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

Church Administrator - Jacquelyn Holmes

Director of Communications - Michelle Voelker

Custodian – Todd Haugen

Lector – Sandy Briggs

Liturgist – Paul Kallenbach

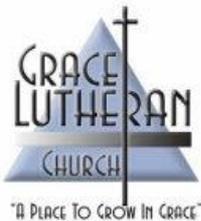
Communion servers – Kristin Medhurst, Julie Honsey, Kyler

Medhurst, Kayleigh Medhurst

Acolytes – Robert Briggs, Sage Speck

Altar Guild – Diane Jessen, Alice Kulzer, Marion Nehmer

Counters – Tom McCleary and Bill Jensen



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