

THE KINGDOM
OF GOD IS LIKE A
**MUSTARD
SEED**

MARK 4:30-31

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.*

We will receive by pouring chalice this morning: 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.*

Third Sunday after Pentecost

June 14, 2015

9:45 a.m

Prelude “Where He Leads Me” by John R. Norris, arr. by Cindy Berry

Please stand as you are able

Confession and Forgiveness

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, the creator of wind and rain, field and ocean, the bread of life coming down from above, the power at work within us and this world.

C: Amen.

P: Before God and in the company of our sisters and brothers, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection

P: God and Father of all,

C: we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed. We have thought better of ourselves than others. We have told lies, said hurtful things, acted in ways we wish we could take back, and looked the other way when action was needed. In your mercy, O God, forgive us, cleanse us, and heal us, for the sake of Jesus, our Savior. 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 “My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less” #596

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

Leader

In peace, in peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Assembly

Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have

For the reign of God, and for

mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

peace through-out the world, for the u-ni-ty of all, let us pray to the

Lord. For your

Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

peo - ple here who have come to give you praise, for the strength to live your

word, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy. Lord, have

Help, save, and de - fend us, O God.

mer - cy. A - men.

Canticle of Praise

Refrain

Now the feast and cel - e - bra - tion, all of cre - a - tion
sings for joy to the God of life and love and free - dom;
praise and glo - ry for - ev - er - more!

1 Now is the feast of the Lamb once slain, whose blood has
freed and u - nit - ed us to be one great peo - ple of God. *Refrain*

2 Pow - er and rich - es, wis - dom and might, all hon - or and
glo - ry to Christ for - ev - er. *Refrain*

3 For God has come to dwell with us, to make us peo - ple of
God; to make all things new. *Refrain*

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

C: O God, you are the tree of life, offering shelter to all the world. Graft us into yourself and nurture our growth, that we may bear your truth and love to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our

Savior and Lord. Amen.

Please be seated

First Reading: Ezekiel 17:22–24

Tree imagery is used in a messianic prophecy to tell how the Lord will choose someone from Judah's royal family (the cedar tree) to reign over all creation. This tree will be planted on Mount Zion, the location of the holy temple.

²²Thus says the Lord GOD: I myself will take a sprig from the lofty top of a cedar; I will set it out. I will break off a tender one from the topmost of its young twigs; I myself will plant it on a high and lofty mountain.

²³On the mountain height of Israel I will plant it, in order that it may produce boughs and bear fruit, and become a noble cedar. Under it every kind of bird will live; in the shade of its branches will nest winged creatures of every kind. ²⁴All the trees of the field shall know that I am the LORD. I bring low the high tree, I make high the low tree; I dry up the green tree and make the dry tree flourish. I the LORD have spoken; I will accomplish it.

L: the Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God

Voluntary

“Inscription of Hope”

by Z. Randall Stroope

Joyce Lewis, soprano, Sally Preston, alto

Children’s Sermon

Psalm 92:1–4, 12–15

¹It is a good thing to give thanks to the LORD, to sing praise to your name, O Most High;

²**to herald your love in the morning and your faithfulness at night;**

³on the psaltery, and on the lyre, and to the melody of the harp.

⁴**For you have made me glad by your acts, O LORD; and I shout for joy because of the works of your hands.**

¹²The righteous shall flourish like a palm tree, and shall spread abroad like a cedar of Lebanon.

¹³**Those who are planted in the house of the LORD shall flourish in the courts of our God;**

¹⁴they shall still bear fruit in old age; they shall be green and succulent;

¹⁵**that they may show how upright the LORD is, my rock, in whom there is no injustice.**

Second Reading: 2 Corinthians 5:6–10[11–13] 14–17

Paul encourages believers to live by faith and not by sight. We do not consider Jesus from a human perspective but through the eyes of faith, believing he died for all and was raised. All who are in Christ are now in God's new creation.

⁶So we are always confident; even though we know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord — ⁷for we walk by faith, not by sight. ⁸Yes, we do have confidence, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. ⁹So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him. ¹⁰For all of us must appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each may receive recompense for what has been done in the body, whether good or evil. ¹¹Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we try to persuade others; but we ourselves are well known to God, and I hope that we are also well known to your consciences. ¹²We are not commending ourselves to you again, but giving you an opportunity to boast about us, so that you may be able to answer those who boast in outward appearance and not in the heart. ¹³For if we are beside ourselves, it is for God; if we are in our right mind, it is for you. ¹⁴For the love of Christ urges us on, because we are convinced that one has died for all; therefore all have died. ¹⁵And he died for all, so that those who live might live no longer for themselves, but for him who died and was raised for them. ¹⁶From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. ¹⁷So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!

L: The Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God

Gospel Acclamation

Celtic Alleluia



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Gospel Acclamation

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

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

Gospel: Mark 4:26–34

Jesus frequently uses parables to teach ordinary people as they are able to hear and understand. Images of sowing and growing show the vitality of God's kingdom.

²⁶He also said, "The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground, ²⁷and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how. ²⁸The earth produces of itself, first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head. ²⁹But when the grain is ripe, at once he goes in with his sickle, because the harvest has come." ³⁰He also said, "With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable will we use for it? ³¹It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; ³²yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade." ³³With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it; ³⁴he did not speak to them except in parables, but he explained everything in private to his disciples.

P: The Gospel of the Lord

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

Please be seated

Sermon

Please stand as you are able

Hymn of the Day "Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling"

#608

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: **Lord, Listen to your Children Praying**

The musical score consists of two systems, each with a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment (bass clef). The key signature is D major (two sharps). The first system's vocal line contains the lyrics: "Lord, lis-ten to your chil-dren pray-ing, Lord, send your Spir-it in this place;". The piano accompaniment features a steady eighth-note bass line. The second system's vocal line contains the lyrics: "Lord, lis-ten to your chil-dren pray-ing, send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace.". The piano accompaniment continues with the same rhythmic pattern.

P: Receive these prayers, gracious God, and those prayers known only to you. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit.

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

“Consolation”

by Seldon Heaps

Please stand as you are able

Offering Prayer

P: God of mercy and grace, the eyes of all wait upon you, and you open your hand in blessing. Fill us with good things at your table, that we may come to the help of all in need, through Jesus Christ, our redeemer and Lord.

C: Amen

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.**

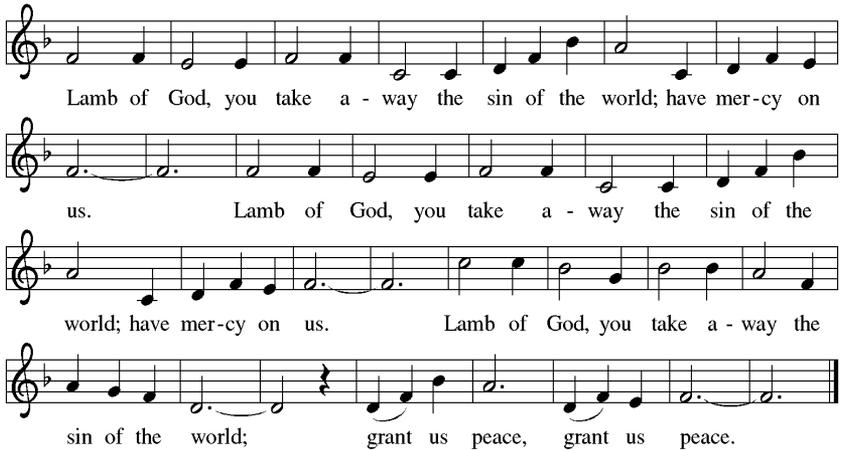
**Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen**

Invitation to Communion

P: Jesus said, "Whoever comes to me will never be hungry,
and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty." 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
sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

Distribution Hymns: 466, 482, 484

Prayer after Communion

P: Wise and generous God, we thank you that at this holy table you have
fed us again with the food of everlasting life. Send us with your blessing
to seek the good of our neighbor and call others to your feast; through
Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen

Sending of Communion

P: Eternal God, whose glory is revealed in the crucified and risen Lord,
bless those who go forth to share your word and sacrament with our
sisters and brothers who are homebound. In your love and care, nourish
and strengthen those to whom we bring this communion in the body and

blood of your Son, that we may all feast upon your abundant love made known 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:

“Earth and All Stars”

#731

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Share the Good News.

C. Thanks be to God.

Postlude

“Allegro Vivace from Toccata in G Major” by J.S. Bach

Welcome to Grace!

Ministers of God – The people of Grace

Pastor – The Rev. Michael Schmidt

Preaching – The Rev. Dr. Mark Mattes

Director of Laity Ministries - Stephanie Johnson

Director of Music Ministries – Emma Stammer

Developer of Youth and Family Ministry – Ellen Rothweiler

Organist - Jennifer Wohlenhaus Bloomberg

Grace Kids Care Director - Heather Nelson

Church Administrator - Jacquelyn Holmes

Director of Communications - Michelle Voelker

Custodian – Todd Haugen

Ushers – Mark Stumme, Bill Jensen, Jay Wangerin

Acolytes – Laria Preston

Liturgist – Janet Habick

Lector – Roland Zimany

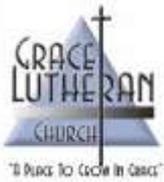
Children’s sermon – Carol Woodruff

Communion Servers – Barbara Zimany, Lori Fry, Laria Preston, Alex Davik

Altar Guild – Rita Stackhouse, Mindy Scholten

Counters – John Rissman, Chuck Denton

Coffee – Karen Taylor



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