

## **Grace Lutheran Church**

*Companion Congregation: Msindo Parish in Tanzania*

### **Welcome to Worship!**

The First Sunday of Advent

November 29, 2015

10:45 a.m.

**Welcome!** *If this is your first time worshipping at Grace Lutheran, the Visitor Center in the Gathering Hall (right outside the sanctuary) has information for you about our congregation. Please sign the guest book, ask questions, say hello! We invite you to join us for coffee, tea, and donuts in Grace Hall between services. The greeters, ushers, or announcement sheet will happily fill you in on education hour offerings, Sunday school, and the teen hangout.*

*If you are interested in finding out more about membership at Grace, please contact Pastor Mike at [Mike@gracedm.org](mailto:Mike@gracedm.org), 515-276-6873.*

*We worship together in many ways: Standing, sitting, singing, speaking, listening. You are invited to worship in as many (or few) ways as you are comfortable and able.*

*Large print bulletins are available from the ushers.*

*Please sign the Attendance Registration sheets which are found in each pew.*

*Children belong and are welcome in worship! Children's bulletins are available from the ushers, and activity bags are available outside the doors to the sanctuary. If your children become restless, the service is broadcast in the Gathering Hall so you may still watch and participate together. The nursery is available for newborns to age 3 and is staffed by Grace Kids Care staff members.*

*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.*

*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.*

**Prelude**      “Praise To The Lord, The Almighty”      by John Carter  
*Silence is kept for reflection*

**Welcome**

**Prayer of the Day**

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Let us pray.

**C: Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection alert us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and redeem us for your life of justice, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

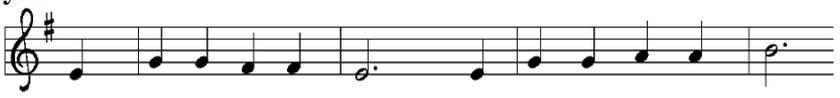
**Gathering Hymn**      “Blessed Be the God of Israel”      #250

**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**



- 1 Have mer - cy on us, Lord, and hear our sol - emn prayer.
- 2 Have mer - cy on us, Christ, and wash a - way our sin.
- 3 Have mer - cy on us, Lord; make sin and shame de - part.



We come to hear your liv - ing word; it saves us from de - spair.  
Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may be - gin.  
Re - new us with your sav - ing pow'r; cre - ate in us new hearts!

**L: Advent Candle Lighting and Prayer**

We praise you, O God, for this crown that marks our days of preparation for Christ’s advent. As we light the first candle on this wreath, rouse us from sleep, that we may be ready to greet our Lord when he comes with all the saints and angels. Enlighten us with your grace, and prepare our

hearts to welcome him with joy. Grant this through Christ our Lord,  
whose coming is certain and whose day draws near.  
**Amen.**

**Hymn of Praise:** “O Come O Come Emmanuel” #257 vs. 1

**O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
and ransom captive Israel,  
that mourns in lonely exile here  
until the Son of God appear.**

*Refrain*

**Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to you, O Israel.**

*Please be seated*

**First Reading: Jeremiah 33:14-16**

*In the Old Testament, “righteousness” often has to do with being faithful in relationship. God acts righteously both in punishing Israel for its sin and in having mercy. In today’s reading, Jerusalem’s future name—“The Lord is our righteousness”—proclaims that the Lord is even now working salvation for Israel.*

<sup>14</sup>The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. <sup>15</sup>In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. <sup>16</sup>In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: “The LORD is our righteousness.”

L: the Word of the Lord

**C: Thanks be to God**

**Children’s Sermon**

**Psalm 25:1-10**

<sup>1</sup>To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul.

<sup>2</sup>**My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be put to shame, nor let my enemies triumph over me.**

<sup>3</sup>Let none who look to you be put to shame; rather let those be put to shame who are treacherous.

<sup>4</sup>**Show me your ways, O LORD, and teach me your paths.**

<sup>5</sup>Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all the day long.

<sup>6</sup>**Remember, O LORD, your compassion and love, for they are from everlasting.**

<sup>7</sup>Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions; remember me according to your steadfast love and for the sake of your goodness, O LORD.

<sup>8</sup>**You are gracious and upright, O LORD; therefore you teach sinners in your way.**

<sup>9</sup>You lead the lowly in justice and teach the lowly your way.

<sup>10</sup>**All your paths, O LORD, are steadfast love and faithfulness to those who keep your covenant and your testimonies.**

### Gospel Acclamation



C: Al - le - lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav - ing word.



Let it burn like fire with - in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

*Please stand as you are able*

### Gospel Acclamation

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the twenty-first Chapter.

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

### Gospel: Luke 21:25-36

*God will fulfill God's purposes and, already, hidden signs of that fulfillment abound. On that great day there will be dismay, perplexity, confusion, and terror, but God's people shall be given strength to stand boldly and receive God's promised redemption.*

[Jesus said:] <sup>25</sup>“There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. <sup>26</sup>People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. <sup>27</sup>Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in a cloud’ with power and great glory. <sup>28</sup>Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.” <sup>29</sup>Then he told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree and all the trees; <sup>30</sup>as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. <sup>31</sup>So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. <sup>32</sup>Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. <sup>33</sup>Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. <sup>34</sup>“Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, <sup>35</sup>like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. <sup>36</sup>Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.”

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** “Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”

#631

**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:



P: Receive our prayers, merciful God, and make us ready to receive you when you come through Jesus Christ, our Savior and 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**

“This Is My Father's World”

by Mark Hayes

*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**

## 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: God fills the hungry with good things. Taste and see that the Lord is good.

*Please be seated*

## Lamb of God



1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;  
2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;  
3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;



you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.  
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.  
e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

**Distribution Hymns: 461, 466, 471**

*Please stand as you are able*

**Prayer after Communion**

P: Holy One, we give you thanks that in this bread and cup we have feasted again on your endless love. 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 who are homebound. 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:** "He Comes to Us as One Unknown"

#737

**Dismissal**

P: Go in peace. The Lord is near.

**C. Thanks be to God.**

**Postlude**

"Now Thank We All Our God"  
by Anne M. David



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FIRST SUNDAY OF *Advent*

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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

**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** – Jay Wangerin, Mike Carney, Rick Fry, Gary Nelson

**Acolytes** – Lydia McCleary, Drake Carney

**Liturgist** – Denny Rehder

**Lector** – Felicia Adams

**Children's Sermon** – Carol Woodruff

**Communion Assistants** – Susanne Carney, Kenzie Carney, Sierra Carney, Stephanie Johnson

**Altar Guild** – Connie Heuton, Jane Ridnour

**Counters** – Mark Stumme and Mike Carney

**Coffee** – Tim and Loree Nelson



## Grace Lutheran Church

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**Pastor Michael Schmidt**

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