



Christmas Cantata

Grace Lutheran Church

Companion Congregation: Msindo Parish in Tanzania

Welcome to Worship

The Third Sunday of Advent

December 13, 2015 8:15 a.m.

**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! *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, 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 “Lo, How A Rose is Growing” arr. by John Leavitt

Welcome

Please stand as you are able

Prayer of the Day

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray.

C: Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the preaching of John, that, rejoicing in your salvation, we may bring forth the fruits of repentance; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Gathering Hymn “Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus” (Hyfrydol)

Come, thou lo-**ng** expected Je-**sus**,
born to set thy peo-**ple** free;
from our fea-**rs** and sins relea-**se** us;
let us find our re-**st** in thee.
Israel's stre-**ngth** and consola-**tion**,
hope of a-**ll** the ea-**rth** thou art,
de-**ar** desi-**re** of ev-'**ry** na-**-tion**,
joy of ev-'**ry** longing heart.

Born thy peo-**ple** to de-**liv-er**,
Born a child and y-**et** a king,
Born to reign in us for-**ev-er**,
Now thy gracious king-**dom** bring.
By thine o-**wn** eternal Spir-**it**
Rule in all our hear-**ts** alone;
B-**y** thine all-**sufficient** mer-**it**
Raise us t-**o** thy glorious throne.

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.

Advent

Advent is a season that looks forward to the arrival of Christ, both in the birth of Jesus, and the second coming of Christ in glory. During this season of the church year (the four Sundays leading up to Christmas) we change the usual order of service and begin with the Prayer of the Day.

Advent Wreath

The Advent Wreath has four candles for the four Sundays before Christmas wrapped around a white candle representing Christ. We light a candle for each of the Sundays as a symbol of the growing light of Christ as we approach Christmas.

Advent Candle Lighting and Prayer

L: We praise you, O God, for this victory wreath that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent. As we light the candles on this wreath, strengthen our hearts as we await the Lord's coming in glory. Enlighten us with your grace, that we may serve our neighbors in need. Grant this through Christ our Lord, whose coming is certain and whose day draws near.

C: Amen.

Hymn of Praise: "O Come O Come Emmanuel" #257 vs. 1-3

**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.**

**O come, O Wisdom from on high,
embracing all things far and nigh:
in strength and beauty come and stay;
teach us your will and guide our way.**

Refrain

**O come, O come, O Lord of might,
as to your tribes on Sinai's height
in ancient times you gave the law
in cloud, and majesty, and awe.**

Refrain

Please be seated

First Reading: Zephaniah 3:14-20

¹⁴Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem! ¹⁵The LORD has taken away the judgments against you, he has turned away your enemies. The king of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst; you shall fear disaster no more. ¹⁶On

that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak.¹⁷ The LORD, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory; he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love; he will exult over you with loud singing¹⁸ as on a day of festival. I will remove disaster from you, so that you will not bear reproach for it.¹⁹ I will deal with all your oppressors at that time. And I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth.²⁰ At that time I will bring you home, at the time when I gather you; for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes, says the LORD.

L: the Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God

Psalm: Isaiah 12:2-6



In your midst is the Ho - ly One of Is - ra - el.

² Surely God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid, for the LORD GOD is my strength and my might, and has become my salvation.

³ **With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. R**

⁴ And you will say in that day: Give thanks to the LORD, call on God's name; make known the deeds of the LORD among the nations; proclaim that this name is exalted.

⁵ **Sing praises to the LORD, for he has done gloriously; let this be known in all the earth.**

⁶ Shout aloud and sing for joy, O royal Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel. **R**

Reading Notes

The prophet Zephaniah's message is mostly one of judgment for sin. This reading, however, which comes from the conclusion of the book, prophesies joy for Judah and Jerusalem. Judgment has led to repentance, and God's salvation is at hand.



Chancel Choir Program

Please see gold insert

Please stand as you are able

Hymn of the Day “Lo, How A Rose E'er Blooming” #272

Sacrament of Holy Baptism and Reception of New Members

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This morning we celebrate the Holy Baptism of Lucas Kahler Radermacher. Parents are Matt and Katie Radermacher, who we also welcome as new members this morning. Sponsors will be Ryan and Sarah Radermacher.

Prayers of the People

L: Let us pray

C: Have mercy, O God.

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 “The Journey to Bethlehem” by Cesar Franck

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

We respond to God's love by speaking to God, and expressing our concern for the whole church, for all people in the world, and for people in our congregation.

This is the bridge between the proclamation of the Word and Communion. We express our forgiveness for each other, and our unity as we prepare for the meal.

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.

We will receive by intinction this morning: Receive the host (wafer). 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).

The Lord's Prayer is, in a way, our table grace before the meal.

Biblical Reference:
Matthew 6:9-13

*As we sing together the **Lamb of God**, we ask God to have mercy on us, and grant us peace as we prepare to receive the bread and wine, the body and blood of Christ.*

*We share in the **sending of communion** as a way of blessing both the elements for communion and those who will bring communion to our homebound members. This becomes an extension of our worship as the service moves into homes. It connects those who are gathered with those who are unable to be present.*

*With the **dismissal from worship**, we are sent to serve the Lord through the unique gifts, talents, and relationships of each one of us. This is not a conclusion of service, but a start to what the next week will bring in our walk with Christ. So it is fitting that the response is a resounding "Thanks be to God."*

Distribution Hymns: 528(3x), 592, 595

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: "Once In Royal David's City" #269

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. The Lord is near.

C. Thanks be to God.

Postlude "Christians, Be Joyful from "The Christmas Oratorio" by J.S. Bach, arr. by Franklin Ritter



Grace Lutheran Church

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Welcome to Grace!

Ministers —the people of Grace

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 – Linda Biegger, Dee Hummel, Tim Nelson, Larry Nordeen

Acolytes –

Liturgist – Mary Helt

Lector – Carol Woodruff

Altar Guild – Cindy Peeler, Gail Peterson

Counters – Chuck Denton and Jon Rissman

Coffee – Tim and Loree Nelson



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