

The First Sunday of Christmas



LESSONS & CAROLS

Welcome to Worship

Grace Lutheran Church

Companion Congregation: Msindo Parish in Tanzania

December 27, 2015

8:15 and 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, 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 “Bring A Torch, Jeannette, Isabella” by Lani Smith

Welcome

Please stand as you are able

Gathering Song “O Come, O Come Emmanuel” #257 vs 1-5

Dialogue

L: Jesus, the bright Morning Star, shines light in the world.

C: By day and night he shines for all to see.

L: Jesus was born in the midst of injustice and poverty

C: that the world may see the justice and richness of God.

L: God so loved the world that God sent Jesus,

C: so that all who believe in him may not perish but have eternal life.

L: Jesus is the light of the world.

C: Jesus is the light of our lives.

L: Sing to God a new song!

C: A song of hope, joy, and peace around the world.

Opening Prayer

L: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

C: Gracious God of heaven and earth, you have thrown a lifeline to us in our darkness — a beam of light that shines through Jesus.

Though born in a manger, he is the firstborn of all creation. Though crucified on a cross, he is the Lord of life. Fill us with the wonder and joy of his presence in the world and in our hearts. Amen.

Please be seated

First Reading: Genesis 1:1–5, 14–18

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth,²the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters.³ Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light.⁴And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness.⁵God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.¹⁴And God said, "Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night; and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years,¹⁵and let them be lights in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth." And it was so.

¹⁶God made the two great lights the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night — and the stars.¹⁷God set them in the dome

of the sky to give light upon the earth, ¹⁸to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good.

First Carol

“Fling Wide The Door”

#259

Second Reading: Micah 5:2 –5a

²But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. ³Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel. ⁴And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth; ⁵and he shall be the one of peace.

Second Carol

“That Boy-child of Mary”

#293

Third Reading: Luke 1:26 – 35, 38

²⁶In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." ²⁹But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³²He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. ³³He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." ³⁴Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" ³⁵The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. ³⁸Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

Third Carol

“My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness”

#251

Fourth Reading: Matthew 1:18–25

¹⁸Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹Her husband

Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. ²⁰But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." ²²All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: ²³"Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us." ²⁴When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, ²⁵but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

Fourth Carol

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

#270

Fifth Reading: Luke 2:8–20

⁸In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see —I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, ¹⁴"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!" ¹⁵When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." ¹⁶So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Fifth Carol

“On Christmas Night”

#274

Sixth Reading: Matthew 2:1–11

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, ²asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." ³When King Herod heard

this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: ⁶'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.'" ⁷Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." ⁹When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

Sixth Carol

“Infant Holy, Infant Lowly”

#276

Seventh Reading: John 1:1–14

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. ⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into 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.

Seventh Carol

“What Child Is This?”

#296

Passing of the Peace

L: The peace of the Lord be with you all,

C: And also with you!

Please be seated

Announcements

The Offering “God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen” by Norman Dello Joio

Please stand as you are able

Offering Prayer

L: 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.

Responsive Prayer

L: It is you, loving God, who lights our path with truth.

C: Your Word, Jesus, is truth.

L: In his light, draw all to the manger

C: to gather in wonder with the shepherds.

L: In his light, draw all to the manger

C: to kneel in reverence with the wise ones.

L: In his light, draw all to the manger

C: to sing for joy with the angels.

L: In the brightness of his life

C: cast away the darkness of injustice, poverty, and hunger in the world.

L: It is you, loving God, who meets us on our way.

C: In the light of Jesus, show the world the way of life. Amen.

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**

Blessing

L: Praise God, from whom all blessings flow!

C: Praise God, all creatures here below!

L: You are the shepherds telling the story.

C: We tell it in the streets and across the land.

L: You are the wise ones worshiping with thanksgiving.

C: We worship with gifts of song and service, talents and treasures.

L: You are the angels announcing peace.

C: We live with joy and go now in peace.

L: Almighty God, Father, +Son, and Holy Spirit, bless us now and forever.

Amen.

Sending Song

“Love Has Come”

#292

Postlude

“Postlude on a Christmas Carol” by Roger C. Wilson

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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 – 8:15 Linda Biegger, Dee Hummel, Tim Nelson, Larry

Nordeen 10:45 Mark Stumme, Jay Wangerin, Tom McCleary

Lector – 8:15 Karen Taylor 10:45 Alex Davik

Liturgist – 8:15 Matt Jordahl 10:45 Mary Helt

Altar Guild – Cindy Peeler, Gail Peterson

Counters – 8:15 Jon Rissman and Carter Woodruff

10:45 Mark Stumme and Alex Davik

Coffee – Karen Taylor