



Grace Lutheran Church

Companion Congregation: Msindo Parish in Tanzania

Welcome to Worship!

Third Sunday in Lent

February 28, 2016

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

“Lamb of God”

by Lloyd Larson

Please stand as you are able

Confession and Forgiveness

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, who brings us safely through the sea, who gives us water from the rock, who leads us into the land of milk and honey.

C: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection

P: Merciful Father,

C: we have sinned against heaven and before you. We do not fully live as your sons and daughters. We use your gifts to our own ends. Forgive us and restore us, that we may resist all that draws us away from you, and be at peace with one another. 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

“Restore in Us, O God”

#328

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

The musical notation is written on two staves in G major (one sharp). The top staff is labeled "Leader" and the bottom staff is labeled "Assembly". The lyrics are: "In peace, in peace, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have". The music consists of a series of eighth and quarter notes, with a final phrase that is cut off at the end of the staff.

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.

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

C: Eternal God, your kingdom has broken into our troubled world through the life, death, and resurrection of your Son. Help us to hear your word and obey it, and bring your saving love to fruition in our lives, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and

**reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.**

Grace Brass **What Wondrous Love Is This** arr. by Ed Hogan

Please be seated

First Reading: Isaiah 55:1-9

To those who have experienced long years in exile, the return to their homeland is a celebration of abundant life. God calls them into an everlasting covenant of love. Those who return to the Lord will enjoy new life and forgiveness, because God's ways are not our ways.

¹Ho, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you that have no money, come, buy and eat. Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. ²Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy? Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. ³Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live. I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David. ⁴See, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples. ⁵See, you shall call nations that you do not know, and nations that do not know you shall run to you, because of the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has glorified you. ⁶Seek the LORD while he may be found, call upon him while he is near; ⁷let the wicked forsake their way, and the unrighteous their thoughts; let them return to the LORD, that he may have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. ⁸For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD. ⁹For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

L: the Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God

Grace Bells “Via Dolorosa” by Dale Wood

Children's Sermon

Psalm 63:1-8

¹O God, you are my God; eagerly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you, my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.

²**Therefore I have gazed upon you in your holy place, that I might behold your power and your glory.**

³For your steadfast love is better than life itself; my lips shall give you praise.

⁴**So will I bless you as long as I live and lift up my hands in your name.**

⁵My spirit is content, as with the richest of foods, and my mouth praises you with joyful lips,

⁶**when I remember you upon my bed, and meditate on you in the night watches.**

⁷For you have been my helper, and under the shadow of your wings I will rejoice.

⁸**My whole being clings to you; your right hand holds me fast.**

Please stand as you are able

Gospel Acclamation

Let your stead - fast love come to us, O Lord.
Save us as you prom-ised; we will trust your word.

Gospel Acclamation

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the thirteenth Chapter.

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

Gospel: Luke 13:1-9

Asked about current tragic events, Jesus turns a lesson about whether suffering is deserved into a hard call to obedience. He then tells a parable that holds out hope that the timeline for ultimate judgment will be tempered by patience.

¹At that very time there were some present who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices.²[Jesus] asked them, “Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans?”³No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. ⁴Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them—do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? ⁵No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did.” ⁶Then

he told this parable: “A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. ⁷So he said to the gardener, ‘See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?’
⁸He replied, ‘Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. ⁹If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.’”

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 “As The Deer Runs to the River”

#331

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, hear our prayer,

C: **Stay with Me**

Musical score for the hymn "Stay with Me". The score is written in G major (one flat) and 4/4 time. It consists of two systems of music, each with a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The lyrics are: "Stay with me, re - main here with me, watch and pray. Watch and pray." The melody is simple and hymn-like, with a steady accompaniment.

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

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

“As the Deer”

by Douglas E. Wagner

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**

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: All who thirst, all who hunger, come and be filled with the goodness of 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



Distribution Hymns: 777, 779, 793

Please stand as you are able

Prayer after Communion

P: O God, we thank you for gathering and feeding us as a mother hen embraces her young. Release us now to go on our way in these forty days, ready to see our work as prayer, ready to fast from complacency, and ready to share with those in need. 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: "Go, My Children, With My Blessing"

#543

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Remember the poor.

C. Thanks be to God.

Postlude

"Rock of Ages"

by Lee Evans

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 – Norm Trentmann, Jay Wangerin, Bill Jensen, Barb Burley

Acolytes – Sam Speck, Maya Lint

Liturgist – Mary Helt

Lector – Felicia Adams

Communion Assistant – Ellen Rothweiler, Alex Davik, Kate Schaller,
Kathy Bowermaster

Children's Sermon – Carol Woodruff

Altar Guild – Marion Nehmer, Barb Zimany

Counters – Mark Stumme and Bill Jensen

Coffee – Karen Taylor



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