

# **Grace Lutheran Church**

*Companion Congregation: Msindo Parish in Tanzania*

## **Welcome to Worship**

**Third Sunday in Lent**

February 28, 2016 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](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**

“Elegy”

by Kevin Norris

**Welcome**

*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.

*Pause for silence and 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.**

**Gathering 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.**

***Confession and Forgiveness.***

*We begin with the Confession and Forgiveness as a way of preparing to hear God’s word. It is important to confess to having sinned, but it is perhaps even more important to hear the good news of God’s forgiveness.*

## Kyrie

"Lord have mercy" is a translation of the ancient Greek "Kyrie Eleison" (pronounced KEE-ree-yay e-LAY-son) which is an ancient prayer sung in response to the forgiveness of sins. The Kyrie is not asking forgiveness: rather it is sung in awe of Christ Jesus who has overcome sin and death.

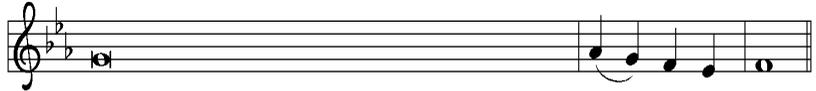
## Kyrie



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



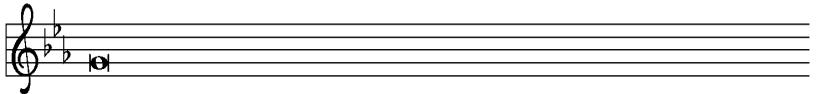
Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



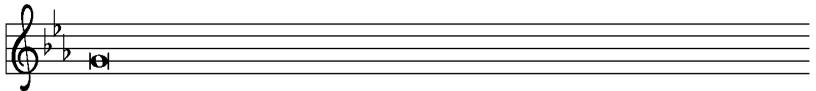
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



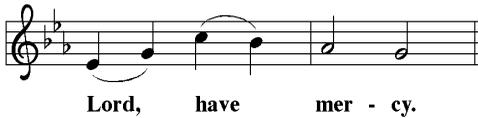
Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.



A - men, a - men.

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

### Prayer of the Day

P: Let us pray,

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

<sup>1</sup>Ho, 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. <sup>2</sup>Why 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. <sup>3</sup>Incline 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. <sup>4</sup>See, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples. <sup>5</sup>See, 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.

### Prayer of the Day

*This prayer is a bridge to the next part of the service. It also sets the tone for the day. It is related to the prescribed lectionary readings for the day.*

### Reading notes:

*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.*

<sup>6</sup>Seek the LORD while he may be found, call upon him while he is near; <sup>7</sup>let 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. <sup>8</sup>For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD. <sup>9</sup>For 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



O God, ea-ger-ly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you.

<sup>1</sup>O 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.

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

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

<sup>4</sup>**So will I bless you as long as I live and lift up my hands in your name. R**

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

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

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

<sup>8</sup>**My whole being clings to you; your right hand holds me fast. R**

*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

<sup>1</sup>At that very time there were some present who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices.<sup>2</sup>[Jesus] asked them, “Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans?”<sup>3</sup>No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did.<sup>4</sup>Or 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?<sup>5</sup>No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did.”<sup>6</sup>Then 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.<sup>7</sup>So 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?’<sup>8</sup>He replied, ‘Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it.<sup>9</sup>If 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**

“O Blessed Spring”

#447

## Gospel Acclamation

*We stand for the reading of the Gospel as a way to show respect. The Gospels share with us the story of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.*

## Gospel Notes:

*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.*

## **Creed**

*The Creed is a statement of belief. Tradition ascribes this creed to the Apostles. We do know that it is a very early creed and was handed down through the years. It appears in written form in the 2nd century and reaches its final form in 750.*

## **Prayers of the People**

*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.*

## **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:** hear our prayer.

**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

“Hymn”

by Caleb Simper  
arr. by Michael Ryan

*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

### Great Thanksgiving



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

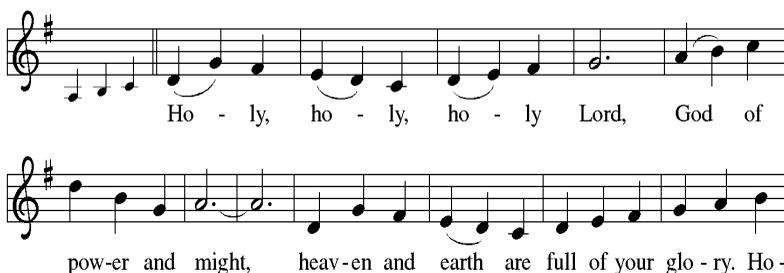
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

### Preface

#### Holy, Holy, Holy



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of

pow-er and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -

### *The Great*

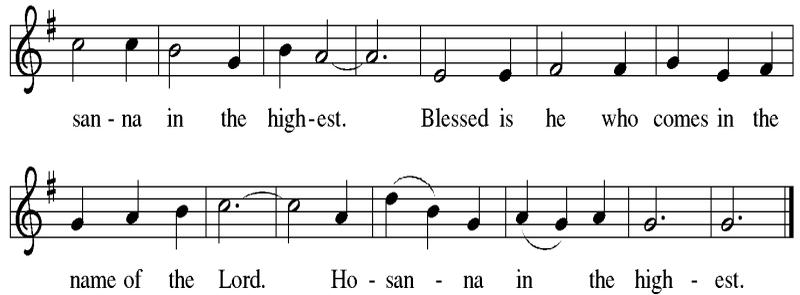
**Thanksgiving:** *These are among the oldest words in the liturgy. We lift our hearts to give attention to God.*

### **Preface:**

*We praise God for God's mighty acts. These words change with the seasons of the church year and serve as an invitation into the Sanctus.*

**Sanctus:** *Latin for "Holy." The congregation responds to hearing of God's mighty acts by singing Holy, Holy, Holy which Isai-*

*ah and Revelation say is sung by all the angels in heaven and will be also sung by all creatures and people here on earth.*



### **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 by 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.

*The Lord's Prayer is, in a way, our table grace before the meal. As we gather in this meal, the table, or altar, becomes the collection of all of our tables for meals at home.*

*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:** 777, 779, 793

### 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.**

### Lamb of God

*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 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).*

### Sending of Communion

*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.*

**Sending Hymn:** “Go, My Children, With My Blessing” #543

**Dismissal**

P: Go in peace. Remember the poor.

**C. Thanks be to God.**

**Postlude** “Finale from Symphony No. 3” by Camille Saint-Saens  
arr. by Albert Zabel







## Welcome to Grace!

**Ministers of God**—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** – Bruce Bergman, Dave Gronert, Len Ringgenberg

**Acolytes** – Laria Preston

**Liturgist** – Paul Kallenbach

**Lector** – Karen Taylor

**Children's sermon** – Carol Woodruff

**Altar Guild** – Marion Nehmer, Barb Zimany

**Counters** – Alex Davik and Carter Woodruff

**Coffee** – Karen Taylor



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