



Welcome to Worship

The Third Sunday in Advent

Grace Lutheran Church

Companion Congregation: Msindo Parish in Tanzania

December 11, 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. **When following along in the bulletin, the congregation is invited to read the items in bold (often marked with a C:) aloud.**

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

“Wexford Carol”

by Phillip Keveren

Welcome

Please stand as you are able

Gathering Hymn “My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness”

#251

Advent Candle Lighting and Prayer

The McCleary Family

L: Blessed are you, O Lord our God, ruler of the universe. Your prophets spoke of a day when the desert would blossom and waters would break forth in the wilderness. Bless us as we light the candles on this wreath. Strengthen our hearts as we prepare for the coming of the Lord. May he give water to all who thirst, for he is our light and our salvation. Blessed be God forever.

C: Amen.

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, 3	Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.	Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.
2	Chris - te e - le - i - son.	Chris - te e - le - i - son.
1, 3	Lord, have mer - cy.	Lord, have mer - cy.
2	Christ, have mer - cy.	Christ, have mer - cy.



Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.	Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.
Chris - te e - le - i - son.	Chris - te e - le - i - son.
Lord, have mer - cy.	Lord, have mer - cy.
Christ, have mer - cy.	Christ, have mer - cy.

Verse 1,2, & 3

People, look east. The time is near
of the crowning of the year.
Make your house fair as you are able,
trim the hearth and set the table.
People, look east, and sing today—
Love, the Guest, is on the way.

Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare,
one more seed is planted there.
Give up your strength the seed to nourish,
that in course the flow'r may flourish.
People, look east, and sing today—
Love, the Rose, is on the way.

Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim,
one more light the bowl shall brim,
shining beyond the frosty weather,
bright as sun and moon together.
People, look east, and sing today—
Love, the Star, is on the way.

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

P: Let us pray,

C: Stir up the wills of all who look to you, Lord God, and strengthen our faith in your coming, that, transformed by grace, we may walk in your way; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

Please be seated

First Reading: Isaiah 35:1-10

The prophet describes the return from the Babylonian captivity as a joyous procession to Zion. God's coming reign will bring a renewal of creation in which health and wholeness will be restored. There is no need for fear, for God is coming to save.

¹The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus ²it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the LORD, the majesty of our God. ³Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. ⁴Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you." Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; ⁶then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; ⁷the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes. ⁸A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray. ⁹No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. ¹⁰And the ransomed of the LORD shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

L: the Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God

Psalm 146:5-10

You are invited to read the lines in bold responsively.

⁵Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help, whose hope is in the LORD their God;

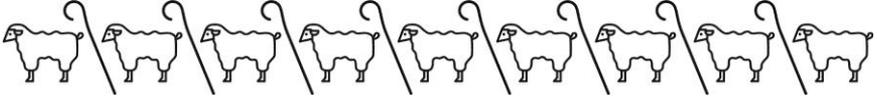
⁶**who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them; who keeps promises forever;**

⁷who gives justice to those who are oppressed, and food to those who hunger. The LORD sets the captive free.

⁸**The LORD opens the eyes of the blind; the LORD lifts up those who are bowed down; the LORD loves the righteous.**

⁹The LORD cares for the stranger; the LORD sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way of the wicked.

¹⁰**The LORD shall reign forever, your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. Hallelujah!**



“The Journey to Bethlehem”

Presented by:

Grace Preschool Sunday School

Grace Sunday School

Junior Grace Players

Narrator: Allison Olson Schmidt

Roman Soldier: Pastor Mike

Grumpy Cow: Drake Carney

Owl: Jamie Briggs

Sheep: Maya Lint

Dove: Catherine Lewis

Donkey: Calvin Wilner

“Get Ready!” and “This Little Light of Mine”

Preschool and Elementary School

“Light One Candle”

Elementary School



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 "Lo, How A Rose E'er Blooming" by Phillip Keveren

Please stand as you are able

Offering Prayer

P: Savior of the nations, come. Make your home here in us. Feed us with your love, that our faith shine ever new and our lives reveal your light.

C: Amen

Thanksgiving at the Table

P: In the night in which he was betrayed...

P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

Lord's Prayer

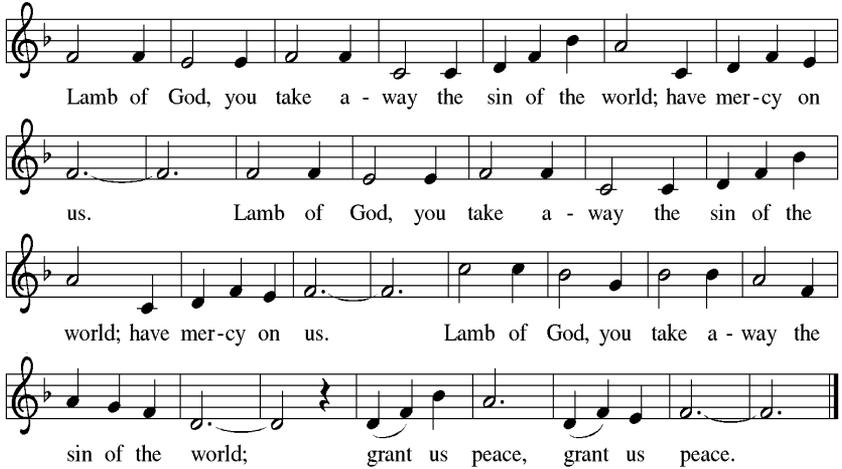
**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen**

Invitation to Communion

P: Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you. Share in the feast of salvation.

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.

Offering Hymns: 474, 479, 492

Please stand as you are able

Prayer after Communion

P: God for whom we wait, you come to us in the broken bread and the cup we share. Anoint with a servant heart those who take your word and sacrament to our sisters and brothers in their home. Make us ready always to welcome Christ into our hearts, and send us forth to be your people in the world, announcing your coming among us in Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen

Blessing

P: The Lord bless you...in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

Sending Hymn: “Dearest Jesus, At Your Word”

#520

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord.

C. Thanks be to God.

Postlude “Bring A Torch, Jeanette, Isabella” by Larry Shackley



Welcome to Grace!

Ministers – The People of God

Pastor –

The Rev. Michael Schmidtmike@gracedm.org

Director of Music Ministries –

Emma Stammeremma@gracedm.org

Developer of Youth and Family Ministry –

Ellen Rothweiler.....ellen@gracedm.org

Organist –

Rich Snydersnydersathome@att.net

Grace Kids Care Director –

Heather Nelson.....heathernelsondc@msn.com

Church Administrator –

Denise Friesth.....denise@gracedm.org

Director of Communications –

Michelle Voelkermichelle@gracedm.org

Custodian – Todd Haugen

Ushers – Mark Stumme, Jay Wangerin, Dee Hummel, Tom McCleary

Acolyte – Samuel Speck

Liturgist – Denny Rehder

Lector – Ro Zimany

Altar Guild – Carol Woodruff, Sue Anderson

Communion Assistants – Lori Fry, Mary Helt, Alex Davik, Kathleen Uehling

Counters – Alex Davik and Chris Lawson

Coffee – Karen Taylor



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Office hours: Mon-Fri 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Pastor Michael Schmidt

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