



The Nativity of our Lord
Welcome to Worship on this Christmas Day

Grace Lutheran Church

Companion Congregation: Msindo Parish in Tanzania

December 25, 2016

10:00 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.

Prelude "From Heaven Came the Angel Host" Bach
Please prepare for worship through quiet reflection and meditation

Welcome

Please stand as you are able

Dialogue

P: Who are these angels who come to earth,

C: Bearing the news of the Christ child's birth?

P: Who are these shepherds who run to see,

C: And worship the babe on bended knee?

P: Who is this child, so small, so slight,

C: Of whom the angels sang that night?

P: Who is this king, a manger his throne,

C: Who humbles himself to make us his own?

P: Who is this God who sends a Son

C: Into our midst, the promised one?

Gathering Hymn "O Come, All Ye Faithful" #283

Prayer of the Day

C: Almighty God, you gave us your only Son to take on our human nature and to illumine the world with your light. By your grace adopt us as your children and enlighten us with your Spirit, through Jesus Christ, our Redeemer and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

Please be seated

First Lesson: Isaiah 52:7–10

A messenger races home to Jerusalem with the marvelous words: "Your God reigns!" In comforting the people, God proves to be the best brother or sister (redeemer) they have ever known. Everyone will witness the victory (salvation) of God.

⁷How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace, who brings good news, who announces salvation, who says to Zion, "Your God reigns." ⁸Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices, together they sing for joy; for in plain sight they see the return of the LORD to Zion. ⁹Break forth together into singing, you ruins of Jerusalem; for the LORD has comforted his people, he has redeemed Jerusalem. ¹⁰The LORD has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the

nations; and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

L: the Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God

Psalm 98



All the ends of the earth have seen the vic-to-ry of our God.

¹Sing a new song to the LORD, who has done marvelous things, whose right hand and holy arm have won the victory.

²**O LORD, you have made known your victory, you have revealed your righteousness in the sight of the nations.**

³You remember your steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel; all the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.

⁴**Shout with joy to the LORD, all you lands; lift up your voice, rejoice, and sing. R**

⁵Sing to the LORD with the harp, with the harp and the voice of song.

⁶**With trumpets and the sound of the horn shout with joy before the king, the LORD. R**

⁷Let the sea roar, and all that fills it, the world and those who dwell therein.

⁸**Let the rivers clap their hands, and let the hills ring out with joy before the LORD, who comes to judge the earth.**

⁹The LORD will judge the world with righteousness and the peoples with equity. **R**

Please stand as you are able

Gospel Acclamation



C: Al - le-lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav - ing word.



Let it burn like fire with-in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

L: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the First Chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel: John 1:1–14

The prologue to the Gospel of John describes Jesus as the Word of God made flesh, the one who reveals God to be "full of grace and truth."

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.

L: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated

Sermon

Please stand as you are able

Hymn

“Good Christian Friends, Rejoice”

#288

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: Hear the prayers of your people, glorious God, for the sake of the one who took on our nature and form to redeem the whole world, Jesus Christ, our Savior and 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 "Improvisation on "How Far to Bethlehem?"

Manz

Please stand as you are able

Offering Prayer

P: God with us: You came as a baby to a manger. You slept on straw and greeted shepherds. You come again in bread and wine. Remind us how good you are at blessing ordinary things. And then, through these gifts, help us to bless the lives of others in the strength of your holy name.

C: Amen

Great Thanksgiving (tune: Good Christian Friends, Rejoice!)

P: Oh, may the good Lord be with you,

C: And may the Lord be with you too.

P: Lift your hearts to him in praise.

C: To the Lord our hearts we raise.

P: Let us offer praises true.

C: It is fitting so to do: Gratefully we sing to the Lord, our King.

Preface

The Sanctus (tune: Hark! The Herald Angels Sing)

Holy, holy, holy Lord! God of hosts, by all adored!

Heav'n and earth cannot contain all the glory of Your name!

Hail, hosanna, God most high! Blest is He who now draws nigh

In the name of God the King! Halle-lujahs glad we sing:

Hail, hosanna! Praises due. Be for-ever, Lord to You!

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 (tune: Away in a Manger)

Our Father in heaven, all praise to your name!

Your kingdom among us, your will done the same

By mortals and angels. Come Lord, reign alone:

Oh, hear us and bless us from heaven's high throne.

The bread that we yearn for provide us each day;

As we forgive others, our sins take away;

In times of temptation, to lead us be near;

From evil deliver your children most dear,

For yours is the kingdom; o'er all things you reign.

And yours is the power; all things you maintain.

**To you be the glory, resounding again
From all of creation, forever! Amen.**

Invitation to Communion

P: Joy to the world! The Lord is come. Let every heart receive your Savior.

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.

Distribution Hymns: 277, 253, 239

Prayer after Communion

P: On this day, O God, you gave us Christ the Son to save us. As you sent the one foretold, send us now with good news for all people. Let the gladness of this feast have no end as we share with others the joy that fills us; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and 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.

Hymn

“Joy to the World”

#267

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Share the Good News.

C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

“Joy to the World”

Konkel

Welcome to Grace!

Ministers – The People of God

Pastor –

The Rev. Michael Schmidtmike@gracedm.org

Director of Music Ministries –

Emma Stammeremma@gracedm.org

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

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Church Administrator –

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

Director of Communications –

Michelle Voelker michelle@gracedm.org

Custodian – Todd Haugen

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

Lector – Carol Woodruff

Altar Guild – Kathy Bowermaster, Jane Ridnour

Counters – Tom McCleary and Mark Stumme

In our prayers: Patricia Allen, Deb Bradwell (Mother of Jason Bradwell), Julie Caylor, Leanne Davis, Dorothy Duleepsingh, John Gronert, Marv Johns, Betty Hirschauer, Lucy Krauss, Joseph Mattes, Pat McCleary (brother of Tom McCleary), Moe Nielsen, Ardis Olson, Lillian Pricket, Kate Schaller, Burke Shiffler, Verda Swanson, Randy Taylor, Dennis Thurston (Ellen Batten's brother), the family of Martha Stackhouse (Mother of Rita Stackhouse), and the others we name before you...P

Praying for one another is an important part of the life of a community of faith. In order to do this it is important that the prayer list be as current as possible. If you or a relative would like to be included in the prayers please contact the church office. Thank you.