

# I AM THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

JOHN 9:5



**Welcome to Worship!**  
**The Fourth Sunday in Lent**

March 26, 2017 10:45 a.m.

**Grace Lutheran Church**

*Companion Congregation: Msindo Parish in Tanzania*

**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. The next New Member Class will be on April 30<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m. with receiving of members on May 21<sup>st</sup>.

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**

“Lord of the Dance”

by Joel Raney

*Please stand as you are able*

**Confession and Forgiveness**

P: During the season of Lent we are called to return to the Lord with all our heart. Let us confess our sin and seek reconciliation with God and neighbor.

**C: Amen.**

*Silence is kept for reflection*

P: Merciful God,

**C: you sent Jesus Christ to save the lost. We confess that we have strayed from you and turned aside from your way. We fail in love, neglect justice, and ignore your truth. Have mercy on us and wash away our sin. Create in us clean hearts for the sake of Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

P: In the mercy of almighty God... in the name of the Father, and of the +Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

**Opening Hymn**

“You Are Mine”

#581

**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**

Leader

In peace, in peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Assembly

Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have

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: Bend your ear to our prayers, Lord Christ, and come among us. By your gracious life and death for us, bring light into the darkness of our hearts, and anoint us with your Spirit, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

### 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

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

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

### Gospel: John 9:1-17

*Jesus heals a man born blind, provoking a hostile reaction that he regards as spiritual blindness to the things of God.*

<sup>1</sup>As [Jesus] walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. <sup>2</sup>His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” <sup>3</sup>Jesus answered, “Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God’s works might be revealed in him. <sup>4</sup>We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. <sup>5</sup>As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” <sup>6</sup>When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man’s eyes, <sup>7</sup>saying to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. <sup>8</sup>The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, “Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?” <sup>9</sup>Some were saying, “It is he.” Others were saying, “No, but it is someone like him.” He kept saying, “I am the man.” <sup>10</sup>But they kept asking him, “Then how were your eyes opened?” <sup>11</sup>He answered,

“The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, ‘Go to Siloam and wash.’ Then I went and washed and received my sight.” <sup>12</sup>They said to him, “Where is he?” He said, “I do not know.”

<sup>13</sup>They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. <sup>14</sup>Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. <sup>15</sup>Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, “He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see.” <sup>16</sup>Some of the Pharisees said, “This man is not from God, for he does not observe the sabbath.” But others said, “How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?” And they were divided. <sup>17</sup>So they said again to the blind man, “What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened.” He said, “He is a prophet.”

L: the Word of the Lord

**C: Thanks be to God**

*Please be seated*

**Children’s Sermon**

**Psalm 23**

*You are invited to read the lines in bold responsively.*

<sup>1</sup>The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not be in want.

<sup>2</sup>**The LORD makes me lie down in green pastures and leads me beside still waters.**

<sup>3</sup>You restore my soul, O LORD, and guide me along right pathways for your name’s sake.

<sup>4</sup>**Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.**

<sup>5</sup>You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

<sup>6</sup>**Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.**

*Please stand as you are able*

**Gospel: John 9:18 – 41**

*Jesus heals a man born blind, provoking a hostile reaction that he regards as spiritual blindness to the things of God.*

<sup>18</sup>The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight

<sup>19</sup>and asked them, “Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?” <sup>20</sup>His parents answered, “We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; <sup>21</sup>but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself.” <sup>22</sup>His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. <sup>23</sup>Therefore his parents said, “He is of age; ask him.”

<sup>24</sup>So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, “Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner.” <sup>25</sup>He answered, “I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.” <sup>26</sup>They said to him, “What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?” <sup>27</sup>He answered them, “I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?” <sup>28</sup>Then they reviled him, saying, “You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. <sup>29</sup>We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from.” <sup>30</sup>The man answered, “Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. <sup>31</sup>We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. <sup>32</sup>Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. <sup>33</sup>If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.” <sup>34</sup>They answered him, “You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?” And they drove him out.

<sup>35</sup>Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?” <sup>36</sup>He answered, “And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him.” <sup>37</sup>Jesus said to him, “You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he.” <sup>38</sup>He said, “Lord, I believe.” And he worshiped him. <sup>39</sup>Jesus said, “I came into this world for judgment so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind.” <sup>40</sup>Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him, “Surely we are not blind, are we?” <sup>41</sup>Jesus said to them, “If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, ‘We see,’ your sin remains.”

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** “I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light”

#815

## 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

P: Hear us, O God

C: **Stay with Me**

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It consists of four staves. The first two staves are for the voice (treble and bass clefs) and the last two are for the piano accompaniment (treble and bass clefs). The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The lyrics are: "Stay with me, re - main here with me, watch and pray. Watch and pray." The piano accompaniment features chords and some melodic lines, including a prominent bass line in the lower register.

P: Into your hands, merciful God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your steadfast love; through Christ our 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** "Children of the Heavenly Father" by Carol Tornquist

*Please stand as you are able*

### **Offering Prayer**

P: Merciful God, receive the sacrifice of our praise and thanksgiving and the offering of our lives, that following in the way of the cross, we may know the joy of the resurrection; through Christ our Lord.

**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,**

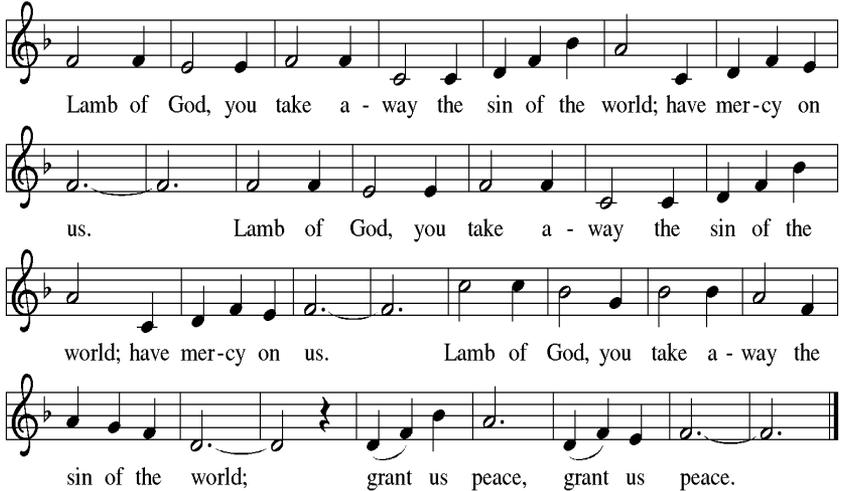
**forever and ever. Amen**

## Invitation to Communion

P: Return to God with all your heart. Receive bread for the journey, drink for the desert.

*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:** 492, 496, 515

*Please stand as you are able*

### Prayer after Communion

P: Compassionate God, you have fed us with the bread of heaven. Bless those who share this meal with our sisters and brothers in their home. Sustain us in our Lenten pilgrimage: may our fasting be hunger for justice, our alms, a making of peace, and our prayer, the song of grateful hearts; through 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:** "Be Thou My Vision"

#793

**Dismissal**

P: Go in peace. Remember the poor.

**C. Thanks be to God.**

**Postlude**

“Just As I Am”

by Joel Raney

## Welcome to Grace!

**Ministers** – The People of God

**Pastor** –

The Rev. Michael Schmidt .....[mike@gracedm.org](mailto:mike@gracedm.org)

**Director of Music Ministries** –

Emma Stammer .....[emma@gracedm.org](mailto:emma@gracedm.org)

**Developer of Youth and Family Ministry** –

Ellen Rothweiler.....[ellen@gracedm.org](mailto:ellen@gracedm.org)

**Organist** –

Rich Snyder .....[snydersathome@att.net](mailto:snydersathome@att.net)

**Pianist**

Kathy Bowermaster

**Grace Kids Care Director** –

Heather Nelson .....[heathernelsondc@msn.com](mailto:heathernelsondc@msn.com)

**Church Administrator** –

Denise Friesth.....[denise@gracedm.org](mailto:denise@gracedm.org)

**Director of Communications** –

Michelle Voelker .....[michelle@gracedm.org](mailto:michelle@gracedm.org)

**Custodian** – Todd Haugen

**Ushers** – Lonnie Jessen, Jay Wangerin, Norm Trentmann

**Acolytes** – Catherine Lewis

**Liturgist** – Denny Rehder

**Lector** – Felicia Adams

**Children's Sermon** – Carol Woodruff

**Altar Guild** – Sue Anderson, Melissa Young

**Communion Assitants** – Lori Fry, Aaron Brandsfield, Kathleen Uehling, Courtney Brandsfield

**Counters** – Mark Stumme and Chris Lawson

**Coffee** – Karen Taylor



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**Pastor Michael Schmidt**

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