

Grace Lutheran Church

Companion Congregation: Msindo Parish in Tanzania

Welcome to Worship

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 17, 2017

8:15 a.m.

OUR STATEMENT OF MISSION

Grace Lutheran Church is a community of faith, centered in worship, held in grace, strengthened in love, sent forth in mission, in Jesus' name.

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 Two Preludes on “All Glory Be To God On High”
Telemann/Burkhardt

Please stand as you are able

Confession and Forgiveness

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, who stretches out the heavens, who sends light to the nations, who gives breath to us all.

C: Amen.

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

Pause for silence and reflection.

P: Source of all life,

C: we confess that we have not allowed your grace to set us free.

We fear that we are not good enough. We hear your word of love freely given to us, yet we expect others to earn it. We turn the church inward, rather than moving it outward. Forgive us. Stir us. Reform us to be a church powered by love, willing to speak for what is right, act for what is just, and seek the healing of your whole creation. Amen.

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

C: Amen.

Gathering Hymn “Blest Be the Tie That Binds” #656

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.

Gathering

We come to worship from different places. Some directly from work, others out of weekend activities. Some live around the corner and others from another county. We gather to "do liturgy", which means literally, the "work of the people". We gather to do the work of hearing the Scriptures read and proclaimed. We gather to act out the Gospel in the ritual drama of the meal. As we gather, God is at work also, making the Good News come alive in our midst.

Kyrie

In Mark 10 we hear of Jesus' journey through Jericho to Jerusalem where he encounters Bartimaeus, a blind man, who hears this is Jesus and shouts, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me." From that time to the present, Jesus' followers have prayed that same prayer to God: "Kyrie Eleison" ("Lord, have mercy"). We are totally dependent upon God, so we pray for mercy in every aspect of life.

Kyrie

Refrain



Ky-ri - e e - lei - son, on our world and on our way.



Ky-ri - e e - lei - son, ev-'ry day.



- 1 For peace in the world, for the health of the church, for the
- 2 That we may live out your im - passioned re - sponse to the
- 3 For peace in our hearts, . . . for peace in our homes, . . . for
- 4 For your Spir - it to guide; that you cen - ter our lives in the



u - ni - ty of all; for
hun - gry and the poor; that
friends and fam - i - ly; for
wa - ter and the word; that you



this ho - ly house, for all who wor-ship and praise,
we may live out truth and jus - tice and grace,
life and for love, for our work and our play,
nour-ish our souls . . . with your bod - y and blood,

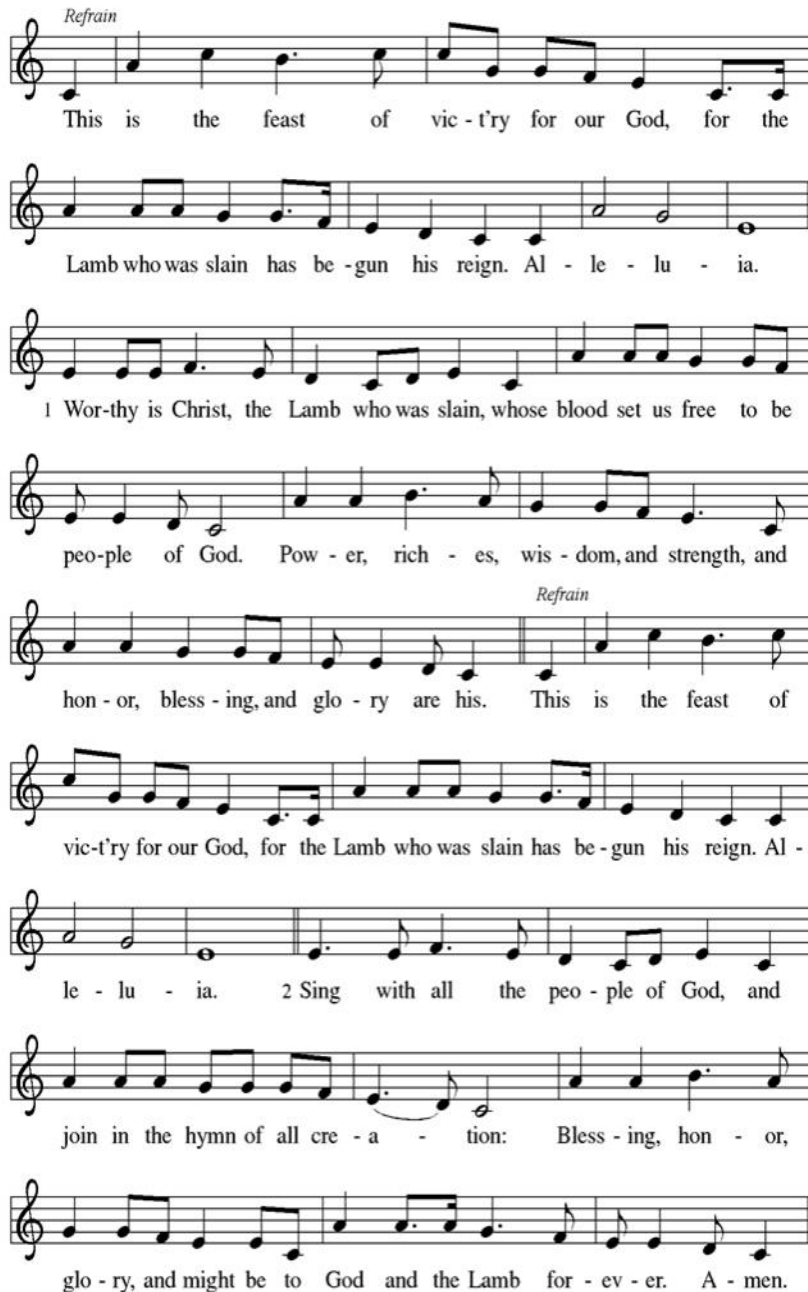
Refrain



let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.

Canticle of Praise

Refrain



This is the feast of vic-t'ry for our God, for the
Lamb who was slain has be-gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

1 Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be
peo-ple of God. Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and strength, and

Refrain

hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his. This is the feast of
vic-t'ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain has be - gun his reign. Al -
le - lu - ia. 2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God, and
join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon - or,
glo - ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

Hymn of Praise

Quite often in the Bible, Jesus eats with people and shares parables about banquets and feasts.

This hymn points us to the Lord's Supper as a foretaste of the feast to come. This is an opportunity for us to hear and sing the hymn of praise with all the saints in heaven.



P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

Prayer of the Day

P: Let us pray,

C: **O Lord God, merciful judge, you are the inexhaustible fountain of forgiveness. Replace our hearts of stone with hearts that love and adore you, that we may delight in doing your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

Presentation of Bibles

Kindergarten- Brett Beaman, Declan Holst, Henry Jordahl, Evan Justice, Elijah Lund, Jaxsen Traver, and Easton Ziska

Third Grade- Gabriella Artzer, Ava Lund, Victoria Meillier, and Maycia Welty

Sixth Grade- Ella Oberhart, Charla Preston, and Laynne Weber

Please be seated

Reading: Genesis 50:15-21

¹⁵Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?" ¹⁶So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, ¹⁷'Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.' Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. ¹⁸Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves." ¹⁹But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? ²⁰Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. ²¹So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones." In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

Reading Notes:

After Jacob's death, the brothers of Joseph begged for forgiveness for the crime they had done against him. You intended to do me harm, Joseph said, but God used this as an opportunity to do good and save many lives.

L: The Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God

Anthem

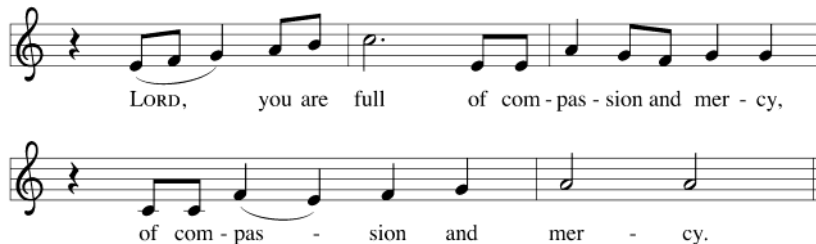
Heaven's Song

Mark Patterson

Children Sermon

Psalm 103:[1-7] 8-13

You are invited to sing the response and read the lines in bold responsively.



[¹Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless God's holy name.

²**Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all God's benefits—**

³who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases;

⁴**who redeems your life from the grave and crowns you with steadfast love and mercy; R**

⁵who satisfies your desires with good things so that your youth is renewed like an eagle's.

⁶**O Lord, you provide vindication and justice for all who are oppressed.**

⁷You made known your ways to Moses and your works to the children of Israel.]

⁸**Lord, you are full of compassion and mercy, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love; R**

⁹you will not always accuse us, nor will you keep your anger forever.

¹⁰**You have not dealt with us according to our sins, nor repaid us according to our iniquities.**

¹¹For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is your steadfast love for those who fear you.

¹²**As far as the east is from the west, so far have you removed our transgressions from us.**

¹³As a father has compassion for his children, so you have compassion for those who fear you, O Lord. R

Gospel Acclamation
 Old Lutheran liturgies often call this verse the "Gradual" which is based upon a Latin word meaning "step". We step up, with the Gospel acclamation, to hear the words of eternal life.

Please stand as you are able

Gospel Acclamation

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
 words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Gospel Acclamation

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the Eighteenth Chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel Notes:
 When Peter asks about the limits of forgiveness, Jesus responds with a parable that suggests human forgiveness should mirror the unlimited mercy of God.

Gospel: Matthew 18:21-35

²¹Peter came and said to [Jesus], "Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" ²²Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times. ²³"For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. ²⁴When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; ²⁵and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. ²⁶So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' ²⁷And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, 'Pay what you owe.' ²⁹Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' ³⁰But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. ³¹When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord

all that had taken place. ³²Then his lord summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?’ ³⁴And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. ³⁵So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord

C: Praise to you, O Christ

Please be seated

Sermon

“The Start of Worship”

Please stand as you are able

Hymn of the Day

“Chief of Sinners Though I Be” #609

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: Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting the power of Christ and the gifts of the Spirit.

C: Amen.

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Creed

The Apostles' Creed is in a way the "Reader's Digest Bible". If you took the Bible and did to it what Southern chefs do to green beans (cook them for 24 hours), you would find the Apostles' Creed at the bottom of the pot when you lifted the lid.

Prayers of the People

In the middle of worship, we pause to pray not only for ourselves and our loved ones and their needs, but for everyone: the whole church, the world, and its leaders,

and the local community. This kind of all-inclusive prayer is at the heart of Christian worship precisely because Jesus Christ died and rose again, not just for a few but for all people.

The Great

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

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

Temple Talk

The Offering

Offertory

Setting of "Go My Children"

Bobb

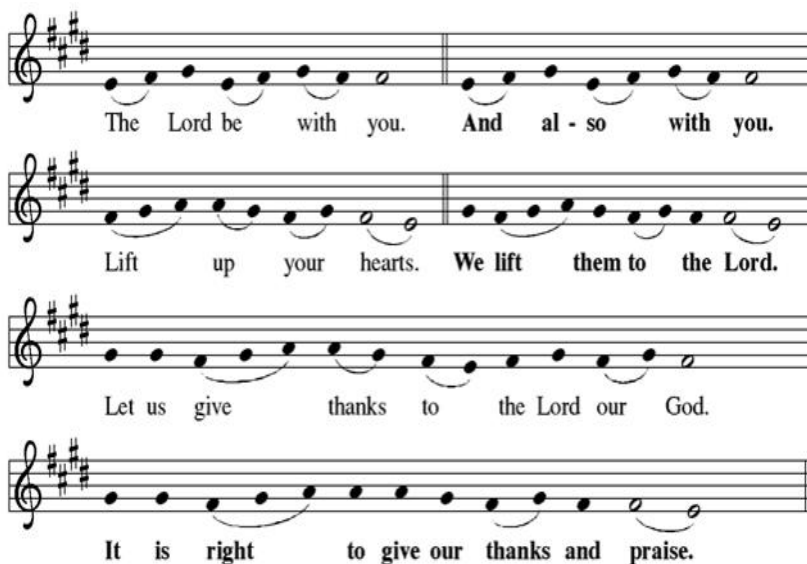
Please stand as you are able

Offering Prayer

P: God of life, you give us these gifts of the earth, these resources of our life and our labor. Take them, offered in great thanksgiving, and use them to set a table that will heal the whole creation; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Light.

C: **Amen**

Great Thanksgiving



The Lord be with you. And also 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'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry, full of your glo-ry. Ho -
san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high -
est. Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

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: Speak to us, O Lord, in the breaking of the bread, and make us one with you.

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

As we draw close to God in this meal, we sing these words from the angels. The words harken back to Isaiah's vision in the temple, where he hears the seraphim singing "Holy, holy, holy, Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory."

Lord's Prayer

We gather in prayer in response to the gospel heard in the proclamation that this meal is given "for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin." We find ourselves at the very heart of the gospel message. Christ not only speaks to us in the supper, but gives us what he is speaking about: his body

and blood for the forgiveness of sins.

We will receive by pouring chalice this morning: Receive a cup. Receive and eat the bread. Proceed to the wine or grape juice. Communion bread is gluten free.

Dismissal
With the dismissal from worship, we are sent to serve the Lord through the unique gifts, talents, and relationships of each one of us. This is not a conclusion of service, but a start to what the next week will bring in our walk with Christ. So it is fitting that the response is a resounding "Thanks be to 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 sin of the
world; grant us peace, grant us peace, Lamb of God.

Distribution Hymns 471, 472(3x), 474, 479

Prayer after Communion

P: Holy and compassionate God, in bread and wine you give us gifts that form us to be humble and courageous. Bless those who share this meal with others. May your words come to life in our serving and in our witness, that we might speak a living voice of healing and justice to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our rock and our redeemer.

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 "Go, My Children, With My Blessing" #543

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Share the good news.

C. Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Little Prelude and Fugue in G

Bach