

PREPARE
THE WAY OF
THE LORD

MARK 1:3

Grace Lutheran Church

Companion Congregation: Msindo Parish in Tanzania

Welcome to Worship
Second Sunday of Advent

December 10, 2017

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.

Please stand as you are able

Confession and Forgiveness

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who comes to wake us from sleep, who leads us into the light of grace.

C: Amen.

P: Let us prepare the way of the Lord by confessing our sin against God and neighbor.

Pause for silence and reflection.

P: God of all time,

C: we confess that we have not prepared for your merciful reign among us. We ignore our neighbors in need and fail in the labor of justice and peace. In your mercy forgive us. Grant us wisdom to welcome your light and to seek the things that will endure until Christ comes again in glory. 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

“On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry”

#249

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



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



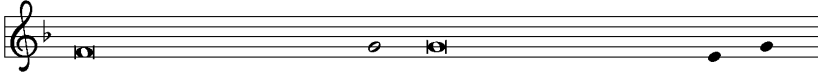
Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a - bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



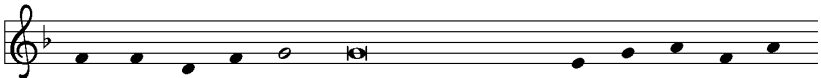
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of



God, and for the uni - ty of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



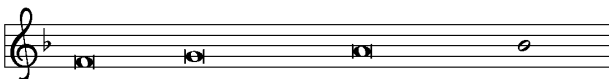
For this ho - ly house, and for all who offer here their wor - ship and



praise, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gracious Lord.



A - men.

Lighting the Advent Wreath: Advent 2

P: We praise you, O God, for this circle of light that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent. As we light the candles on this wreath,

kindle within us the fire of your Spirit, that we may be light shining in the darkness. Enlighten us with your grace, that we may welcome others as you have welcomed us. Grant this through Christ our Lord, whose coming is certain and whose day draws near.

C: Amen.

Hymn of Praise

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

#257

Verses 1 & 2

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

O come, O Wisdom from on high,
embracing all things far and nigh:
in strength and beauty come and stay:
teach us your will and guide our way
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

P: Let us pray,

C: Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming strengthen us to serve you with purified lives; 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

Reading Isaiah 40:1-11

In grand, flowing, poetic lines, the prophet announces that the exile of God's people in Babylon is over. The Lord will deliver Israel and will care for her as a shepherd cares for his sheep. This word can be trusted, because the only enduring reality in life is the word of the Lord.

¹Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. ²Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins.

³A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. ⁴Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall

become level, and the rough places a plain. ⁵Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.” ⁶A voice says, “Cry out!” And I said, “What shall I cry?” All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. ⁷The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the Lord blows upon it; surely the people are grass. ⁸The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand forever. ⁹Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, “Here is your God!” ¹⁰See, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. ¹¹He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

L: The Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God

Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13

You are invited to read the lines in bold responsively.

¹You have been gracious to your land, O Lord; you have restored the good fortune of Jacob.

²**You have forgiven the iniquity of your people and blotted out all their sins.**

⁸I will listen to what the Lord God is saying; for you speak peace to your faithful people and to those who turn their hearts to you.

⁹**Truly, your salvation is very near to those who fear you, that your glory may dwell in our land.**

¹⁰Steadfast love and faithfulness have met together; righteousness and peace have kissed each other.

¹¹**Faithfulness shall spring up from the earth, and righteousness shall look down from heaven.**

¹²The Lord will indeed grant prosperity, and our land will yield its increase.

¹³**Righteousness shall go before the Lord and shall prepare for God a pathway.**

At this time all Sunday School kids should please go sit in the first row of the back section of the pews, as we practiced!

Sunday School Program A Very Whirl Christmas - Ruby's Runaway Pageant Ruby, an idealistic and ambitious girl, plans a perfect and extravagant Christmas Pageant to tell the story of the birth of Jesus but things do not quite go as planned.

Cast:

Ruby: Ella Oberhart

Tot: Ava Lund

Ada: Catherine Lewis

Mimi: Maya Lint

Otto: Laria Preston

Leo: Jamie Briggs

Monty: Vincent Meillier

Gabe: Calvin Wilner

Clara: Allison Olson Schmidt

Victor: Drake Carney

Mary: Victoria Meillier

Emperor Augustus: Adilyne Reyes

Santa: Jay Wangerin

Frosty the Snowman: Tom McCleary

Please stand as you are able

Hymn of the Day

“Joy to the World”

#267

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.**

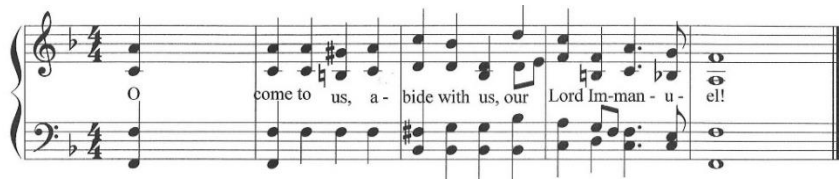
**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,**

**the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Prayers of the People

L: Lord in your mercy,

C:



P: We raise our prayers to you, O God, in the name of the one who is, who was, and who is to come, Jesus 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

Lo, How a Rose

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 for the Word

P: Praise and thanks to you, holy God, for by your Word you made all things: you spoke light into darkness, called forth beauty from chaos, and brought life into being. For your Word of life, O God,

C: **we give you thanks and praise.**

P: By your Word you called your people Israel to tell of your wonderful gifts: freedom from captivity, water on the desert journey, a pathway home from exile, wisdom for life with you. For your Word of life, O God,

C: we give you thanks and praise.

P: Through Jesus, your Word made flesh, you speak to us and call us to witness: forgiveness through the cross, life to those entombed by death, the way of your self-giving love. For your Word of life, O God,

C: we give you thanks and praise.

P: Send your Spirit of truth, O God; rekindle your gifts within us: renew our faith, increase our hope, and deepen our love, for the sake of a world in need. Faithful to your Word, O God, draw near to all who call on you; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever.

C: Amen.

Lord's Prayer

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

**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**

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

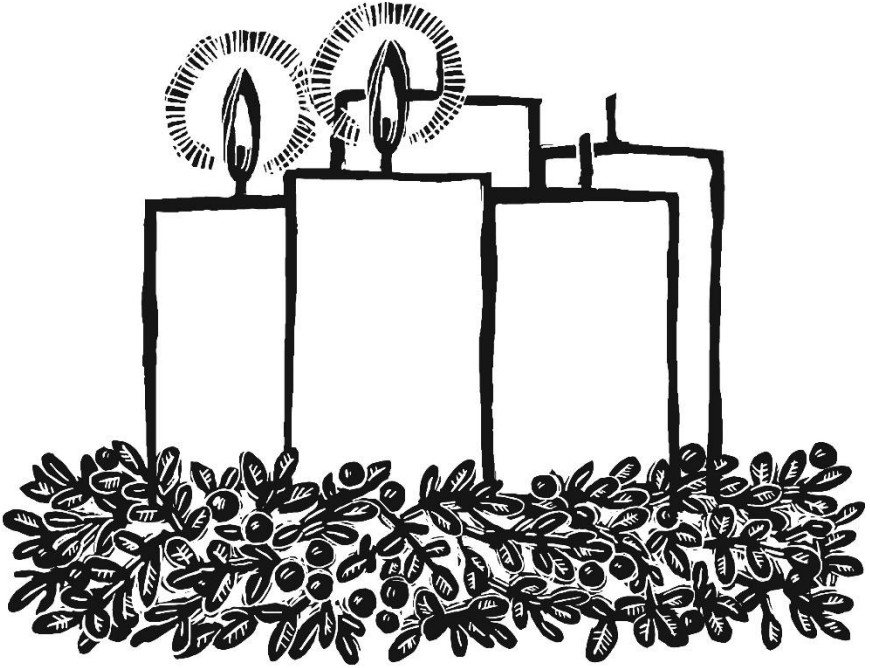
“Crashing Waters at Creation”

#455

Dismissal

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

C. Thanks be to God.



— SECOND SUNDAY OF —
ADVENT



Welcome to Grace!

Ministers – The People of God

Pastor –

The Rev. Michael Schmidtmike@gracedm.org

Minister for Worship and Music –

Emma Stammeremma@gracedm.org

Minister for Youth and Family –

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

Organist –

Rich Snyderrvdlsnyder@centurylink.net

Grace Kids' Care Director –

Brooke Howsare.....brooke@gracedm.org

Minister for Administration –

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

Minister for Communications –

Michelle Voelkermichelle@gracedm.org

Office Assistant for Worship –

Jessica Flanneryjessica@gracedm.org

Custodian – Todd Haugen

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

Acolyte – Allison Olson Schmidt

Liturgist – Denny Rehder

Lector – Felicia Adams

Altar Guild – Sue Anderson & Carol Woodruff

Counters – Mark Stumme and Chris Lawson

Coffee – Jane & Ed Ridnour



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