

## **Grace Lutheran Church**

*Companion Congregation: Msindo Parish in Tanzania*

### **Welcome to Worship Second Sunday of Advent**

December 10, 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](mailto: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.*

***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** Prelude and Variations on “Savior of the Nations, Come”  
Anonymous/Scheidt/Burkhardt

**Welcome**

*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... the name of the Father, and of the +Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

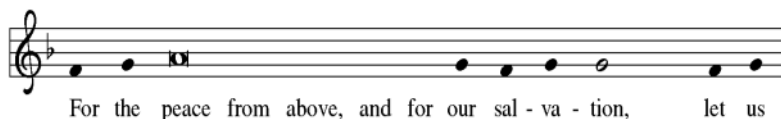
**Gathering Hymn** “On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry” #249

**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**



**Gathering**

On this day the Lord has acted! On the first day of the week God began creation, transforming darkness into light. On this, the “eighth day” of the week, Jesus Christ was raised from the dead. We celebrate this new creation in the waters of baptism and in the feast of victory. With great joy we celebrate this day of days, even as we begin the great fifty days of Easter. Filled with hope, we go forth to share the news that Christ is risen.

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 u - ni - ty of all, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mer - cy.**

For this holy 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, gra - cious 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

<sup>1</sup>Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. <sup>2</sup>Speak 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. <sup>3</sup>A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. <sup>4</sup>Every 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. <sup>5</sup>Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken." <sup>6</sup>A voice says, "Cry out!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. <sup>7</sup>The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the Lord blows upon it; surely the people are grass. <sup>8</sup>The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand forever. <sup>9</sup>Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of

**Reading Notes:**

*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.*

good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, “Here is your God!”<sup>10</sup>See, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. <sup>11</sup>He 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 sing the response and read the lines in bold responsively.*

Righ - teous - ness shall pre -

pare a path - way for God.

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

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

<sup>8</sup>I 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.

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

<sup>10</sup>Steadfast love and faithfulness have met together; righteousness and peace have kissed each other.

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

<sup>12</sup>The Lord will indeed grant prosperity, and our land will yield its increase.

<sup>13</sup>**Righteousness shall go before the Lord and shall prepare for God a pathway. R**

*Please stand as you are able*

### **Gospel Acclamation**

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

P: The Holy Gospel according to Saint Mark, the First Chapter.

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

### **Gospel Mark 1:1-8**

<sup>1</sup>The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. <sup>2</sup>As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, "See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; <sup>3</sup>the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,' " <sup>4</sup>John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. <sup>5</sup>And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. <sup>6</sup>Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. <sup>7</sup>He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. <sup>8</sup>I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Please be seated*

**Chancel Choir**

"Gaudete, Rejoice!"

*Please stand as you are able*

**Hymn of the Day**

"People Look East"

#248

### **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.*

### **Gospel Notes**

*The Gospel of Mark does not begin with a story of Jesus' birth but with the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord.*

### **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.*

### **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: 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**

Improvisation on "The Angel Gabriel From Heaven Came"

Manz



*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.**

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**

### **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*

**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."*

**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.

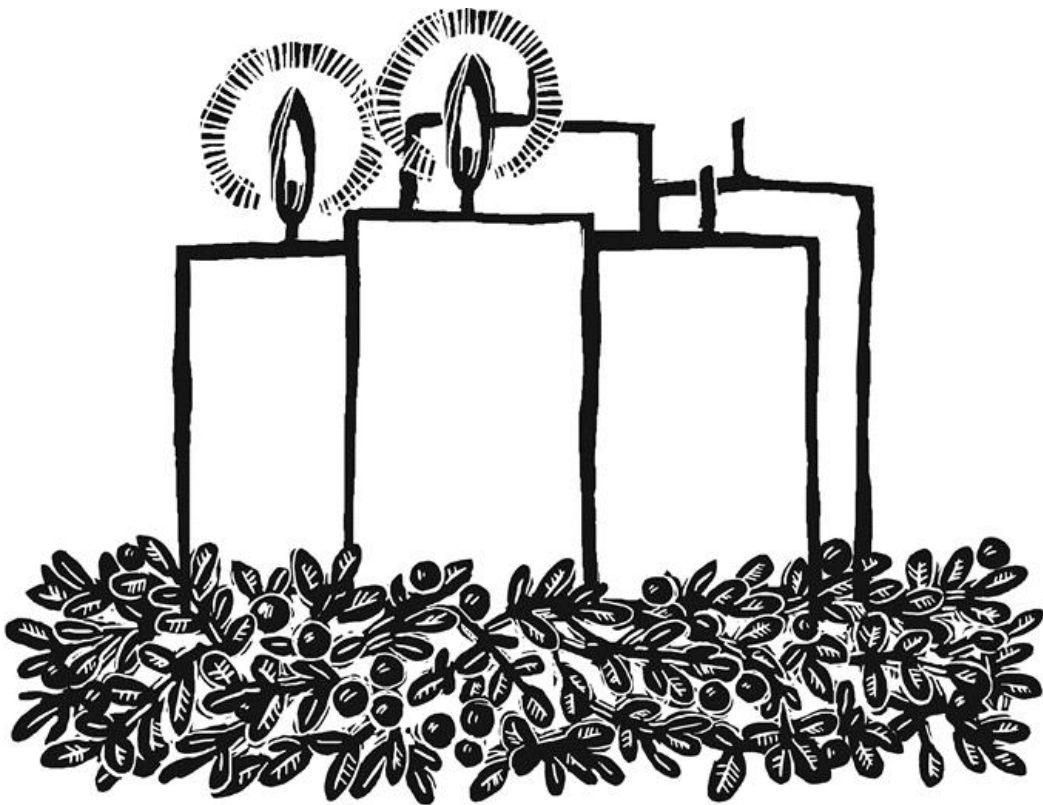
**Sending Hymn:** "Crashing Waters at Creation" #455

**Dismissal**

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

C: **Thanks be to God.**

**Postlude** Prelude on "Savior of the Nations, Come" J. S. Bach



— SECOND SUNDAY OF —  
ADVENT

## Welcome to Grace!

**Ministers** —the people of Grace

**Pastor** –

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

**Minister for Worship and Music** –

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

**Minister for Youth and Family** –

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

**Organist** –

Rich Snyder ..... [rvdlsnyder@centurylink.net](mailto:rvdlsnyder@centurylink.net)

**Grace Kids' Care Director** –

Brooke Howsare..... [brooke@gracedm.org](mailto:brooke@gracedm.org)

**Minister for Administration** –

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

**Minister for Communications** –

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

**Office Assistant for Worship**

Jessica Flannery..... [jessica@gracedm.org](mailto:jessica@gracedm.org)

**Custodian** – Todd Haugen

**Ushers** – Linda Bigger, Tim Nelson, Carter Woodruff, & Larry Nordeen

**Acolyte** -

**Liturgist** – Paul Kallenbach

**Lector** – Karen Taylor

**Altar Guild** – Sue Anderson & Carol Woodruff

**Counters** – Mike Carney and Jon Rissman

**Coffee** – Jane & Ed Ridnour



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