



## **Grace Lutheran Church**

*Companion Congregation: Msindo Parish in Tanzania*

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

December 24, 2017

10 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

## Swiss Noel Variations

Daquin

## 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

“Come, Thou Almighty King”

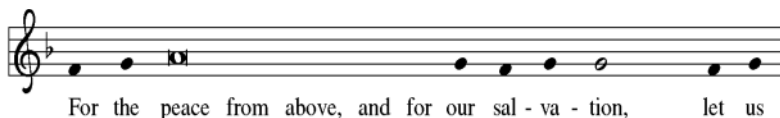
#408

## Greeting

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

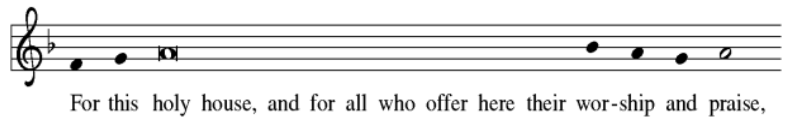
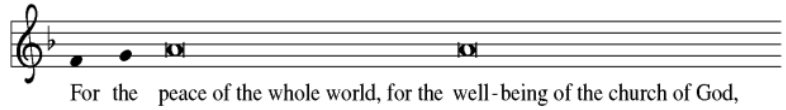
**C: And also with you.**

## 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.



### Lighting the Advent Wreath: Advent 4

P: We praise you, O God, for this wheel of time that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent. As we light the candles on this wreath, open our eyes to see your presence in the lowly ones of this earth. Enlighten us with your grace, that we may sing of your advent among us in the Word made flesh. 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 1-4*

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.

O come, O come, O Lord of might,  
as to your tribes on Sinai's height  
in ancient times you gave the law  
in cloud, and majesty, and awe.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

O come, O Branch of Jesus, free your own from Satan's tyranny;  
from depths of hell your people save,  
and give them vict'ry o'er the grave.  
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 your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that would obstruct your mercy, that willingly we may bear your redeeming love to all the world, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

*Please be seated*

**Reading** 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

<sup>1</sup>Now when the king was settled in his house, and the Lord had given him rest from all his enemies around him, <sup>2</sup>the king said to the prophet Nathan, “See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent.” <sup>3</sup>Nathan said to the king, “Go, do all that you have in mind; for the Lord is with you.”

<sup>4</sup>But that same night the word of the Lord came to Nathan: <sup>5</sup>Go and

### **Reading Notes:**

*Instead of David building a house (temple) for the Lord, the Lord promises to establish David's house (dynasty) forever. Centuries later, after the Babylonian*

*exile, no king sat on the throne. Even then, however, the people of Israel remembered this promise and continued to hope for a king, the messiah, the Lord's anointed.*

tell my servant David: Thus says the Lord: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? <sup>6</sup>I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. <sup>7</sup>Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?" <sup>8</sup>Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the Lord of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; <sup>9</sup>and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. <sup>10</sup>And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, <sup>11</sup>from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover the Lord declares to you that the Lord will make you a house. <sup>16</sup>Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me; your throne shall be established forever.

L: The Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God

### Children Sermon

Anthem

"Sussex Carol"  
Chancel Choir

Philip Norman

Psalm Luke 1:46b-55

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



<sup>46b</sup>My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, <sup>47</sup>my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

<sup>48</sup>**for you, Lord, have looked with favor on your lowly servant.**

**From this day all generations will call me blessed:**

<sup>49</sup>you, the Almighty, have done great things for me and holy is your name.

<sup>50</sup>**You have mercy on those who fear you, from generation to**

### generation. R

<sup>51</sup>You have shown strength with your arm and scattered the proud  
in their conceit,

<sup>52</sup>**casting down the mighty from their thrones and lifting up the  
lowly.**

<sup>53</sup>You have filled the hungry with good things and sent the rich away  
empty.

<sup>54</sup>**You have come to the aid of your servant Israel, to remember the  
promise of mercy,**

<sup>55</sup>the promise made to our forbears, to Abraham and his children  
forever. 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 Luke, the First Chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

### Gospel Luke 1:26-38

<sup>26</sup>In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in  
Galilee called Nazareth, <sup>27</sup>to a virgin engaged to a man whose name  
was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary.

<sup>28</sup>And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is  
with you." <sup>29</sup>But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered  
what sort of greeting this might be. <sup>30</sup>The angel said to her, "Do not be  
afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup>And now, you will  
conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him  
Jesus. <sup>32</sup>He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High,  
and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David.

<sup>33</sup>He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom  
there will be no end." <sup>34</sup>Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since  
I am a virgin?" <sup>35</sup>The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come  
upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you;

### 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

In this annunciation,  
Luke makes clear that  
God comes with good  
news for ordinary  
people (Mary) from  
littleknown places  
(Nazareth). This king  
will not be born to  
royalty in a palace,  
but to common folk  
in a stall. Here Luke  
highlights the role of  
the Spirit, a special

*emphasis in his gospel.*

### **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*

therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. <sup>36</sup>And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. <sup>37</sup>For nothing will be impossible with God." <sup>38</sup>Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

*Please be seated*

**Sermon**

"Why Me?"

*Please stand as you are able*

**Hymn of the Day** "Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming"

#272

### **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 "Lo How A Rose Is Blooming" 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

### Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you. And al - so 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

*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.*

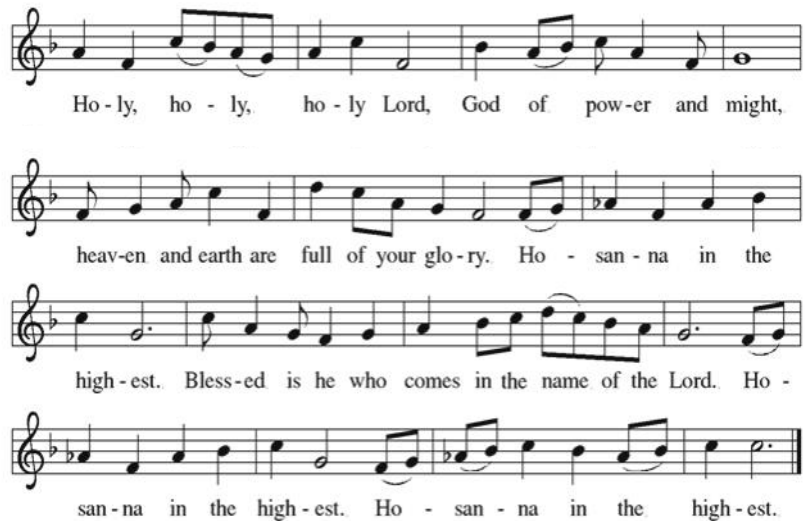
### **Sanctus**

*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*

### **Holy, Holy, Holy**



### **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.**

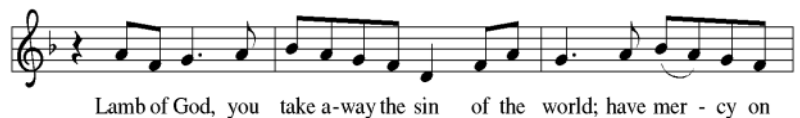
**For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen**

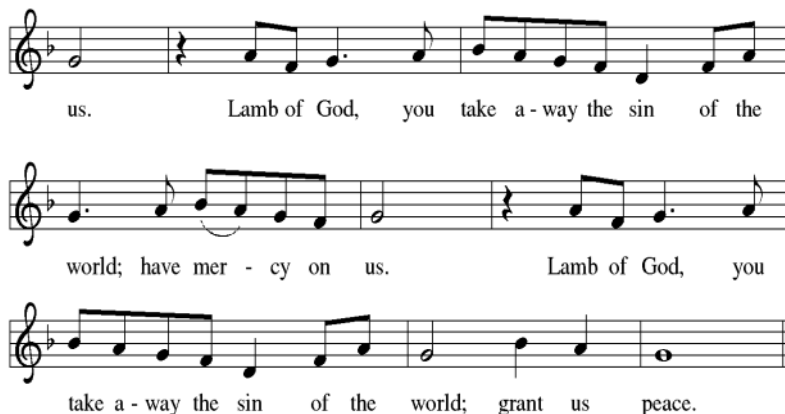
### **Invitation to Communion**

P: Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you. Share in the feast of salvation.

*Please be seated*

### **Lamb of God**





**Distribution Hymns** 263, 296, 423

*Please stand as you are able*

### **Prayer after Communion**

P: God for whom we wait, you come to us in the broken bread and the cup we share. Make us ready always to welcome Christ into our hearts, and send us forth to be your people in the world, announcing your coming among us in Jesus Christ our 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.**

**Sending Hymn** "It Came Upon a Midnight Clear" #282

### **Dismissal**

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

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**Postlude** Prelude on "Good Christian Friends Rejoice" Held

**We will receive by intinction this morning:** Receive the host (wafer). Dip the host into the chalice (cup) to receive wine (red) or grape juice (clear); depart by the side aisle. Gluten free wafers and a separate glass chalice are available by request on the pulpit side (left when facing altar).

### **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

## 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, Larry Nordeen, Dee Hummel, & Jay Wangerin

**Acolyte** - Allison Olson Schmidt

**Liturgist** – Mary Helt

**Lector** – Julie Honsey

**Altar Guild** – Carol Woodruff, Kathy Bowermaster, & Gail Peterson

**Counters** – Tom McCleary and Carter Woodruff

**Coffee** – Rick Stammer



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**Pastor Michael Schmidt**

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