



Grace Lutheran Church

Companion Congregation: Msindo Parish in Tanzania

Welcome to Worship

Christmas Eve

December 24, 2017

5:00 and 11:00 p.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, and the Attendance Registrations sheets which are found in each pew. We invite you to join us for a Sunday Worship (December 31 at 10:00 a.m. for Lessons and Carols, January 7 and beyond at 9 a.m.), and to stay for coffee, tea, and donuts in Grace Hall after the service. Education hour offerings, Sunday school, and the teen hangout, will resume on January 7.*

If you are interested in finding out more about membership at Grace, please contact Pastor Mike at Mike@gracedm.org, 515-276-6873.

Candles during Silent Night: *If you have a very small child, are holding a baby, or have difficulty holding a flame steady, a few electric candles are available from the usher.*

*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.*

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

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing Carol Tornquist

Please stand as you are able

Proclamation of the Birth of Christ and Lighting of the Advent Wreath

P: Many ages after God created the heavens and the earth, when man and woman were formed in God's own image; long after the great flood, when God set the rainbow in the clouds as a sign of the covenant; twenty-one centuries from the time of Abraham and Sarah; thirteen centuries after Moses led God's people to freedom; eleven centuries from the time of Ruth and the judges; a thousand years from the anointing of David as king; in the sixty-fifth week as Daniel's prophecy takes note; in the one hundred and ninety-fourth Olympiad; the seven hundred and fifty-second year from the founding of the city of Rome; the forty-second year of the reign of Octavian Augustus; in the sixth age of the world, all earth being at peace, Jesus Christ, eternal God, Son of the eternal Father, willing to hallow the world by his coming in mercy, was born of the virgin Mary in Bethlehem of Judea. Today is the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ, God made flesh.

C: Amen

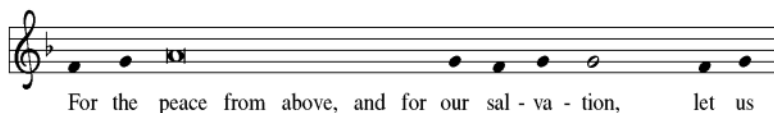
Gathering Hymn: "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" #270

Greeting

P: Today Christ is born! 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



Introduction

On a long winter evening we gather to proclaim the coming of the light. Isaiah announces that the people who walked in darkness have seen a great light. Paul reminds us that the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all. In the familiar account of Christ's birth, the evening sky is bright with the heavenly host singing, "Glory to God in the highest." Amid our broken world we proclaim that the prince of peace is born among us. God comes to us in human flesh—in Christ's body and blood—so that we may be bearers of divine light to all the world.

Advent Wreath

The Advent Wreath has four candles for the four Sundays before Christmas wrapped around a

white candle representing Christ. We light a candle for each of the Sundays as a symbol of the growing light of Christ as we approach Christmas.

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.

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 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.

Christmas Dialog

P: Jesus Christ is the Light of the World!

C: He is the light no darkness can overcome.

P: At darkest night we gather to celebrate the great light of our salvation.

C: With the heavenly host we sing, "Glory to God in the highest heaven."

P: In Christ, God's Word is made flesh and lives among us.

C: With the shepherds, we will tell of the wonders we have seen and heard.

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

P: Let us pray.

C: Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Please be seated

First Reading Isaiah 9:2-7

²The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined. ³You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing

Reading Notes: *This poem promises deliverance from Assyrian oppression,*

a hope based on the birth of a royal child with a name full of promise. While Judah's king will practice justice and righteousness, the real basis for faith lies in God's passion for the people: The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this!

Reading Notes:

The appearance of God's grace in Jesus Christ brings salvation for all humanity.

Consequently, in the present we live wisely and justly while also anticipating the hope of our Savior's final appearance.

Gospel

We stand for the reading of the Gospel as a way to show respect. The Gospels share with us the story of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

plunder. ⁴For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. ⁵For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. ⁶For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

L: The Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God

Voluntary

“O Holy Night”

Adolphe Adam

Gabby Clutter, soprano

Second Reading Titus 2:11-14

¹¹The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, ¹²training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, ¹³while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. ¹⁴He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

L: The Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God.

Please stand as you are able

Gospel Proclamation

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 St. Luke, the second Chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel Luke 2:1-14

¹In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. ⁵He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

⁸In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, ¹⁴"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

P: The Gospel of the Lord

C: Praise to you, O Christ

Please be seated

Sermon

"One More Time"

Please stand as you are able

Hymn of the Day

"Love Has Come"

#292

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,**

Gospel Notes

God's greatest gift comes as a baby in a manger. Angels announce the "good news of great joy" and proclaim God's blessing of peace.

The Creed is a statement of belief. Tradition ascribes this creed to the Apostles. We do know that it is very early and was hand-

ed down through the years. It was primarily used at Baptismal services. It appears in written form in the 2nd century and reaches its final form in 750.

We respond to God's love by speaking to God, and expressing our concern for the whole church, for all people in the world, and for people in our congregation.

This is the bridge between the proclamation of the Word and Communion. We express our forgiveness for each other, and our unity as we prepare for the meal.

**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 outstretched arms, O God, we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting in Jesus Christ, the light and life of the world.

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

The Offering

Offertory Setting of "Silent Night, Holy Night" Carlson

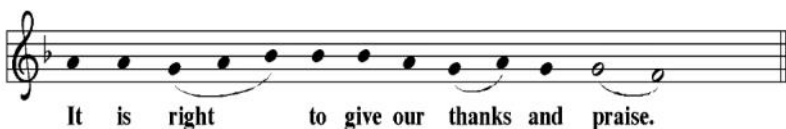
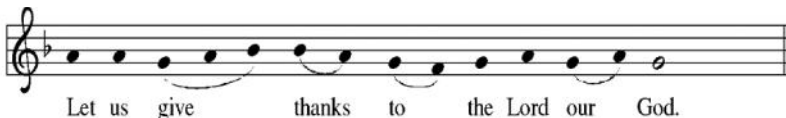
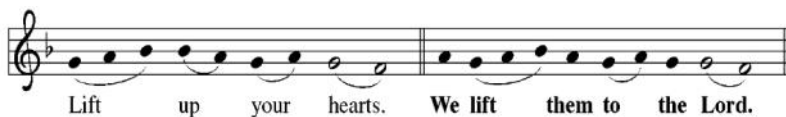
Please stand as you are able

Offering Prayer

P: God with us: You came as a baby to a manger. You slept on straw and greeted shepherds. You come again in bread and wine. Remind us how good you are at blessing ordinary things. And then, through these gifts, help us to bless the lives of others in the strength of your holy name.

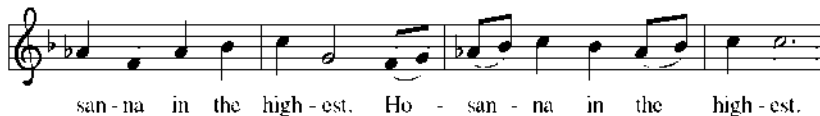
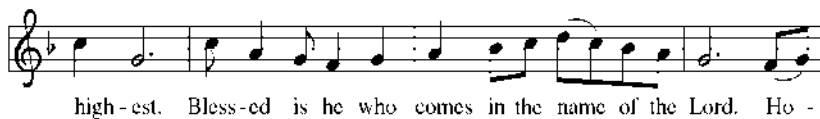
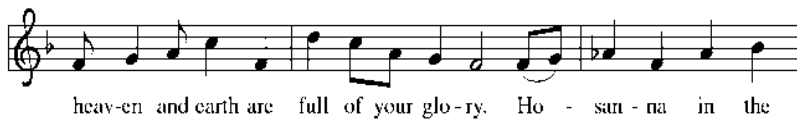
C: Amen

Great Thanksgiving



Preface

Holy, Holy, Holy



Thanksgiving at the Table

P: In the night in which he was betrayed...

The Great

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

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.

The congregation responds to the hearing of God's mighty acts by singing **Holy, Holy, Holy** which Isaiah and Revelation say is sung by all the angels in heaven and will also be sung by all creatures and people here on earth.

The Lord's Prayer is, in a way, our table grace before the meal.

Biblical Reference:
Matthew 6:9-13

*As we sing together the **Lamb of God**, we ask God to have mercy on us, and grant us peace as we prepare to receive the bread and wine, the body and blood of Christ.*

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

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: Joy to the world! The Lord is come. Let every heart receive your Savior.

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.

Distribution Hymns 269, 276, 277, 279, 290

Prayer after Communion

P: On this day, O God, you gave us Christ the Son to save us. As you sent the one foretold, send us now with good news for all people. Let the gladness of this feast have no end as we share with others the joy that fills us; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen

Gospel of the Incarnation John 1:1-14

Hymn of Light “Silent Night” #281

Blessing

P: The Lord bless you and keep you... in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

Sending Hymn “Joy to the World” #267

Dismissal

P: Glory to God in the highest!

C: Peace to God’s people on earth!

P: Go in peace. Share the gift of Jesus.

C. Thanks be to God.

Postlude Setting in the style of Vivaldi of “Joy to the World”
Konkel

Please join us for worship Christmas Day at 10:00 a.m.

You may pick up you poinsettias on Monday, after the Christmas Day worship. The building will also be open on Tuesday.

Instructions: Lighting of the Candles

Candles will be lit from the center aisle.

Tip your unlit candle over the flame to light your candle.

Hold your lit candle upright, and let your neighbor tilt their unlit candle over yours until lit.

Continue until each person in the pew has a lit candle.

Welcome to Grace!

Ministers —the people of Grace

Pastor –

The Rev. Michael Schmidt mike@gracedm.org

Minister for Worship and Music –

Emma Stammer emma@gracedm.org

Minister for Youth and Family –

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

Organist –

Rich Snyder rvdlsnyder@centurylink.net

Grace Kids' Care Director –

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

Minister for Administration –

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

Minister for Communications –

Michelle Voelker michelle@gracedm.org

Office Assistant for Worship

Jessica Flannery..... jessica@gracedm.org

Custodian – Todd Haugen

Ushers – 5:00 Kevin Krause, Carol Krause, Norm & Lenore Iverson

11:00 Linda Biegger, Tom McCleary, Paul Nelson, & Jay Wangerin

Acolytes – 5:00 Allison Olson Schmidt & Drake Carney

11:00 – Mira Volker

Liturgist – Emma Stammer

Lector – 5:00 Felicia Adams 11:00 Carla Peterman

Communion Servers – 5:00 Susanne, McKenzie, & Sierra Carney, & Rita Stackhouse

11:00 Carla Peterman, Jessica & Beth Flannery, & Kate Schaller

Altar Guild – 5:00 Connie Heuton & Jane Ridnour

11:00 Sue Anderson

Counters – Tom McCleary and Mike Carney



Grace Lutheran Church

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