

Grace Lutheran Church

Companion Congregation: Msindo Parish in Tanzania

Welcome to Worship

Baptism of Our Lord

January 7, 2024

9:00 a.m.

Liturgical worship with piano

Setting 2

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 worshiping at Grace Lutheran, we're glad you are here!*

You can learn more about our congregation

- *on our website at www.gracedm.org*
- *by asking a greeter or other members of the congregation*
- *picking up one of our brief brochures from the Visitor Center in the Gathering Hall, or newsletters in the Entryway.*

Worship Online: When you cannot be with us in person, you can participate in worship on our website or Facebook page @gracelutherandm.

*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.

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 needed, the **Kids Corner** in the Gathering Hall has puzzles, books, coloring pages and Mega-blocks! This space is intended to offer a place for children to be and play if they need to step out of worship and during fellowship times.*

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.*

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

Prelude Music for the Epiphany, “We Three Kings”
J. Hopkins, arranged by C. Taylor

Welcome

Please rise in body or in spirit

Confession and Forgiveness

L: Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, creator of darkness and light, word of truth, wind sweeping over the waters.

C: Amen.

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

L: God, our rock and refuge,

C: we pour out our hearts before you. We have known you but have not always loved you. We have wounded one another and sinned against you. We have not always recognized the Holy Spirit dwelling in each of us. Remember your covenant. Renew your creation. Restore us, that we might proclaim your good news to all. Amen.

L: The voice of the Lord is upon the waters. God has spoken: The time of grace is now. In Jesus, the reign of God has come near. By the authority of Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. You are God's beloved.

C: Amen.

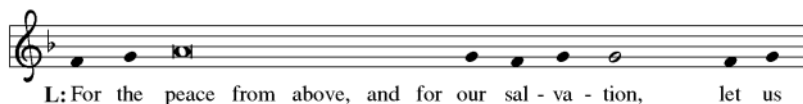
Gathering Hymn “This is the Spirit's Entry Now” #448

Greeting

L: 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



L: 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.
C: Lord, have mer - cy.
L: For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,
let us pray to the Lord. C: Lord, have mer - cy.
L: Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.
C: 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

Canticle of Praise

Refrain
This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God. Al - le -
lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.
1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us

*hymn of praise with
all the saints in heav-
en.*

free to be peo-ple of God. Pow-er, rich-es, wis-dom, and
strength, and hon-or, bless-ing, and glo-ry are his.

Refrain
This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-
lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, 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.

Final refrain
This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God,
for the Lamb who was slain has be-gun his reign.
Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia.

L: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

L: Let us pray,

C: Holy God, creator of light and giver of goodness, your voice moves over the waters. Immerse us in your grace, and trans-

Reading Notes: *Out of chaos, God brings order. Out of the formless void, God brings light. This familiar story was good news for the Israelites, who experienced much chaos in their history. It remains good news for us. God created and continues to create new life.*

Reading Notes: *In Ephesus, Paul encounters people who had received John's*

form us by your Spirit, that we may follow after your Son, 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

First Reading: Genesis 1:1-5

¹In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, ²the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. ³Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. ⁴And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. ⁵God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

L: The Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God

Psalm 29

¹Ascribe to the LORD, you gods, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.

²**Ascribe to the LORD the glory due God's name; worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.**

³The voice of the LORD is upon the waters; the God of glory thunders; the LORD is upon the mighty waters.

⁴**The voice of the LORD is a powerful voice; the voice of the LORD is a voice of splendor.**

⁵The voice of the LORD breaks the cedar trees; the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon;

⁶**the LORD makes Lebanon skip like a calf, and Mount Hermon like a young wild ox.**

⁷The voice of the LORD bursts forth in lightning flashes.

⁸**The voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness; the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.**

⁹The voice of the LORD makes the oak trees writhe and strips the forests bare. And in the temple of the LORD all are crying, "Glory!"

¹⁰**The LORD sits enthroned above the flood; the LORD sits enthroned as king forevermore.**

¹¹O LORD, give strength to your people; give them, O LORD, the blessings of peace.

Second Reading: Acts 19:1-7

¹While Apollos was in Corinth, Paul passed through the interior regions and came to Ephesus, where he found some disciples. ²He said to them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you became believers?" They replied, "No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit." ³Then he said, "Into what then were

you baptized?" They answered, "Into John's baptism." ⁴Paul said, "John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, in Jesus." ⁵On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. ⁶When Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied—⁷altogether there were about twelve of them.

L: The Word of the Lord
C: Thanks be to God

Please rise in body or in spirit
Gospel Acclamation



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

L: The Holy Gospel according to Saint Mark, the First Chapter.
C: Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel: Mark 1:4-11

⁴John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵And 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. ⁶Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷He 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. ⁸I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

⁹In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. ¹¹And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

L: The Gospel of the Lord.
C: Praise to you, O Christ.

baptism of repentance but had never heard of the Holy Spirit or of baptism in the name of Jesus. After Paul baptizes them, the Holy Spirit comes upon them and empowers them with gifts of the Spirit.

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: Mark's gospel reports the story of Jesus' baptism with some irony: the one on whom the Spirit descends is himself the one who will baptize others with the Holy Spirit.

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.

Please be seated

Sermon

Please rise in body or in spirit

Hymn of the Day "We Are Baptized in Christ Jesus"

#451

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: God of grace,

C: receive our prayer.

L: Knowing the Holy Spirit intercedes for us, we offer these prayers and the silent prayers of our hearts in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

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

L: The peace of the Lord be with you all,

C: And also with you!

Please be seated

Announcements

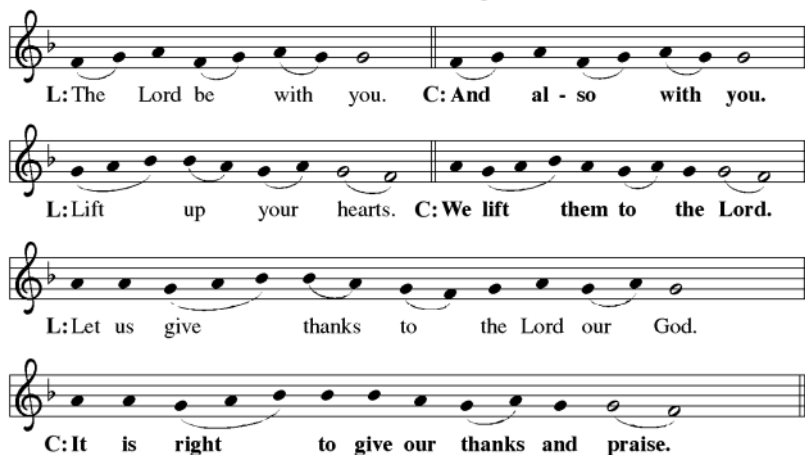
Please rise in body or in spirit

Offering Prayer

L: Let us pray,

C: Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: ourselves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Great Thanksgiving



L: The Lord be with you. C: And al - so with you.

L: Lift up your hearts. C: We lift them to the Lord.

L: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Preface

Holy, Holy, Holy



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,

heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the

high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -

san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Offering: As Lutherans, we believe that Christian giving is about worship AND action. As an option to the offering plate, scan this QR code to access our secure digital offering plate.



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

Communion

Today we will receive Holy Communion through wafers and pouring chalice. The line forms from the front pews to the back, with the ambo side of the aisle going first followed by the organ side. Please use the hand sanitizer provided before you receive the gluten free wafer. Then proceed to the tray of cups. Both wine and grape juice will be available.

Thanksgiving at the Table

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

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

Lord's Prayer

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

**Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

Invitation to Communion

L: At Jesus' table, heaven and earth are joined as one. Come and see.

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: #642 (3x), #518, #777, #522

Please rise in body or in spirit

Prayer after Communion

L: Giver of every gift, Christ's body is our food, and we are Christ's body. Raise us to life by your power for the benefit of all and to your glory, now and forever.

C: Amen

Blessing

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

C: Amen.

Sending Hymn

"We Know that Christ is Raised"

#449

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. You are God's beloved.

C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Music for a baptism, "Wade In The Water"
American Folk Tune, arranged by W. Townsend

*Please place your cup
in the basket by the
side aisle as you re-
turn to the pew.*

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 ser-
vice, but a start to
what the next week
will bring in our walk
with Christ. So it is
fitting that the re-
sponse is a resound-
ing "Thanks be to
God."*

Welcome to Grace!

Ministers —the people of Grace

Pastor –

The Rev. Michael Schmidtmike@gracedm.org

Vicar

Adam Bardenadam@gracedm.org

Organist –

Rich Snyder.....rich@gracedm.org

Minister for Communications –

Michelle Voelkermichelle@gracedm.org

Administrative Assistant –

Kami Chicas.....kami@gracedm.org

Bookkeeper

Mike Hilsabeck.....mike.h@gracedm.org

Office Assistant for Worship

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

Custodian – Todd Haugen

Usher – Dave Gronert

Greeter – Pam Palmer

Lector – Jenny Rehder

Communion Assistant – Carol Woodruff

Altar Guild –

Tech Crew – Greg Boeschen, Jamie Briggs, Chuck Denton, Paul Nelson, Jon Rissman, & Amy Schmelzer

Counters – Mark Stumme & Carter Woodruff

Coffee & Donuts – Mike & Marilyn Nizzi



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Pastor Michael Schmidt

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