



# Wandering Heart

*"Rescue me from danger"*

## **Grace Lutheran Church**

*Companion Congregation: Msindo Parish in Tanzania*

### **Welcome to Worship** **Second Sunday in Lent**

February 25, 2024

9:00 a.m.

Liturgical worship with organ

Setting 4

## 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, we're glad you are here!*

*The following information pertains to how things normally work. Pandemic changes to worship and communion will be announced in worship, and/or in the margins of the bulletin. However our mission, the love we feel for all people, and the ways we care for each other will remain unchanged.*

*You can learn more about our congregation*

- on our website at [www.gracedm.org](http://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: During times when we are online-only, or 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 of 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** Choral prelude on "O Innocent Lamb of God" ELW #337  
- N. Decius arranged by G. Telemann

## Welcome

### Poetry Prayer

#### Rescue Me

I'd rather not need rescue.  
I'd prefer a five-step plan  
and a quick-fix solution.  
I'd prefer stubborn insistence  
over honest vulnerability,  
because rescue requires  
asking for help.  
Rescue names  
the rising water.  
Rescue sees  
the tired, treading feet.  
Rescue feels  
the swell of the wind  
and the rain at a slant.  
But when the floor falls out  
and the world is on fire  
and my small hands  
cannot fix  
the hurt welling in me,  
the prayer that slips out  
is *rescue*  
*rescue*  
*rescue me.*

*Please rise in body or in spirit*

#### Call to Worship

L: God welcomes the dreamers and the doubters,

**C: the courageous and the fearful,**

L: the hungry and the hopeful,

**C: the impatient and the reserved.**

L: God welcomes the young and the old,

**C: the poets and the prophets,**

L: the faithful and the tired,

**C: the curious and the convicted.**

L: Wherever you are on your journey, wherever your boat is at sea,

**C: there is room for all to gather here.**

L: This is God's house.

**C: Let us worship the one whom even the seas obey.**

**Gathering Hymn**  
*We are a "singing church," so we follow the advice of the apostle Paul to teach and admonish "one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord" (Colossians 3:16).*

## **Confession and Forgiveness**

L: In our scripture passage for today, Peter is out on a boat with the disciples when a storm hits. Instead of cowering in fear, Peter spots Jesus on the water and bravely crawls out of the boat to move closer to Christ. Friends, I think the prayer of confession is one way that we do the same; it's one way that we can crawl out of our boats. And here's what I mean: In the prayer of confession, we are honest about the storms that rage within and around us. In this prayer, we speak with honesty in an effort to move closer to God. This is our moment to crawl out of the boat. So friends, let's be like Peter. Join me in being courageous. Join me in truth-telling. Join me in prayer. It's time to get our feet wet. Let us pray together:

**C: Gracious God, There are days that threaten to swallow us, days when the storms of life feel too big. In those moments, we often cling to the sides of our ships in fear, spending more energy hiding from storms than looking for you. Forgive us for doubting ourselves. Forgive us for doubting you. Rescue us from the storms of today and from the fears that trap us. With hope in our hearts we pray, amen.**

L: Family of faith, You could get out of the boat and walk on water like Peter, or fall to your knees and stay in one place. No matter what you do, Christ's love for you is unchanging. Fearful or brave, faithful or doubting, Christ is always walking toward you. So hear and believe this good news: God's love is stronger than any storms. On our best days, and on our worst days, we are seen, forgiven, and loved. God is always walking toward you. Thanks be to God!

**C: Amen.**

**Gathering Hymn** "Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing"  
*To the tune of "Alleluia! Sing to Jesus" #392*

Come, thou Fo-unt of ev'ry blessing,  
tune my heart to si-ng thy grace;  
streams of me-rcy, never cea-sing,  
call for songs of loud-est praise.  
While the ho-pe of endless glo-ry  
fills my hea-rt with jo-y and love,  
Te-ach me e-ver to- ado-re thee;  
may I sti-ll thy goodness prove.

Here I rai-se my Ebene-zer:  
"Hither by thy he-lp I've come";  
and I ho-pe, by thy good plea-sure,  
safely to arri-ve at home.  
Jesus sou-ght me when a stran-ger,

wand'ring fro-m the fo-ld of God;  
He-, to re-scue me- from da-nger,  
Interpos-ed his precious blood.

Oh, to gra-ce how great a de-btor  
daily I'm constrai-ned to be;  
let that gra-ce now like a fe-tter  
bind my wand'ring he-art to thee.  
Prone to wan-der, Lord, I fee-l it;  
prone to lea-ve the Go-d I love.  
He-re's my he-art, oh, ta-ke and se-al it;  
seal it fo-r thy courts above.

L: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

### **Prayer of the Day**

L: Holy God,

**C: There are days where the wind is loud. There are days where the rain tears through the trees and the storms of life beg for our attention. So just as you stilled the wind and the sea, still our wandering hearts. Quiet our restless minds. Reach out your hand to us and pull us into your Word so that we might hear, really hear, your message to us today. With one foot out of the boat, we pray, amen.**

*Please be seated*

### **First Reading: Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16**

<sup>1</sup>When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the Lord appeared to Abram, and said to him, "I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless. <sup>2</sup>And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous." <sup>3</sup>Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, <sup>4</sup>"As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. <sup>5</sup>No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. <sup>6</sup>I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. <sup>7</sup>I will establish my covenant between me and you, and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you."

<sup>15</sup>God said to Abraham, "As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. <sup>16</sup>I will bless her, and moreover I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall give rise to nations; kings of peoples shall come from her."

L: The Word of the Lord

**C: Thanks be to God**

### **Reading Notes**

*As with Noah, God makes an everlasting covenant with Abraham and Sarah. God promises this old couple that they will be the ancestors of nations, though they have no child together. God will miraculously bring forth new life from Sarah's womb. The name changes emphasize the firmness of God's promise.*

**Reading Notes:** Paul presents Abraham as the example for how a person comes into a right relationship with God not through works of the law but through faith. Though Abraham and Sarah were far too old for bearing children, Abraham trusted that God would accomplish what God had promised to accomplish.

### **Psalm 22:23-31**

- <sup>23</sup>You who fear the LORD, praise him! All you offspring of Jacob, glorify him; stand in awe of him, all you offspring of Israel!
- <sup>24</sup>**For he did not despise or abhor the affliction of the afflicted; he did not hide his face from me, but heard when I cried to him.**
- <sup>25</sup>From you comes my praise in the great congregation; my vows I will pay before those who fear him.
- <sup>26</sup>**The poor shall eat and be satisfied; those who seek him shall praise the LORD. May your hearts live forever!**
- <sup>27</sup>All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD; and all the families of the nations shall worship before him.
- <sup>28</sup>**For dominion belongs to the LORD, and he rules over the nations.**
- <sup>29</sup>To him, indeed, shall all who sleep in the earth bow down; before him shall bow all who go down to the dust, and I shall live for him.
- <sup>30</sup>**Posterity will serve him; future generations will be told about the LORD,**
- <sup>31</sup>and proclaim his deliverance to a people yet unborn, saying that he has done it.

### **Second Reading: Romans 4:13-25**

<sup>13</sup>The promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. <sup>14</sup>If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. <sup>15</sup>For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation. <sup>16</sup>For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, <sup>17</sup>as it is written, “I have made you the father of many nations”)—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. <sup>18</sup>Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become “the father of many nations,” according to what was said, “So numerous shall your descendants be.” <sup>19</sup>He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was already as good as dead (for he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah’s womb. <sup>20</sup>No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, <sup>21</sup>being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. <sup>22</sup>Therefore his faith “was reckoned to him as righteousness.” <sup>23</sup>Now the words, “it was reckoned to him,” were written not for his sake alone, <sup>24</sup>but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, <sup>25</sup>who was handed over to death for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.

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

*Please rise in body or in spirit*  
**Gospel Acclamation**



L: The Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew the Fourteenth Chapter.

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

**Gospel: Matthew 14:22-33**

<sup>22</sup>Immediately he made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. <sup>23</sup>And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, <sup>24</sup>but by this time the boat, battered by the waves, was far from the land, for the wind was against them. <sup>25</sup>And early in the morning he came walking toward them on the sea. <sup>26</sup>But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out in fear. <sup>27</sup>But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, "Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid." <sup>28</sup>Peter answered him, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water." <sup>29</sup>He said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came toward Jesus. <sup>30</sup>But when he noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried out, "Lord, save me!" <sup>31</sup>Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, "You of little faith, why did you doubt?" <sup>32</sup>When they got into the boat, the wind ceased. <sup>33</sup>And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."

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

*Please be seated*  
**Sermon**

*Please rise in body or in spirit*  
**Hymn of the Day** "Precious Lord, Take My Hand" #773

**Gospel**

*The Gospel Lesson is a selection from the accounts of the life of our Lord recorded by the four evangelists, St. Matthew, St. Mark, St. Luke, and St. John. Because Christ is with us in the Gospel reading, we stand to honor his presence. We also sing short verses before and after the reading of the Gospel.*

### **Prayers of the People**

*This prayer in the service follows the directive of the Apostle Paul to young Timothy, a pastor: "I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone – for Kings and all those in authority, that we may live in peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness."*

#### **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.*



#### **The Table**

*In Holy Communion we share in a meal which breaks down barriers. Baptism is profoundly personal, as we are called by name. Holy Commu-*

### **Affirmation of Faith**

L: I believe in a God who moves toward me when storms rage.

**C: I believe in a God who invites me to be brave.**

L: I believe in a God whom the wind and waves obey.

**C: I believe in a God who knows my name.**

L: I believe in a God of love. I am not afraid.

**C: Amen.**

### **Prayers of the People**

L: Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

L: Accompany us on our journey, God of grace, and receive the prayers of our hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

**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: Jesus, you are the bread of life and the host of this meal. Bless these gifts that we have gathered that all people may know your goodness. Feed us not only with this holy food but with hunger for justice and peace. We pray this in your name. Amen.**

### **Invitation to 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: Bread for the journey. A feast for hungry hearts. Come!

*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, grant us peace.

*Distribution Hymns: #616 (3x), #712, #779, #482*

### Centering Prayer

*There will be two minutes of silence for centering prayer. Speak this invitation in the silence of your heart: I consent and surrender to your action and presence in my life.*

*Please rise in body or in spirit*

*ion moves from personal into connecting us with one another. In this meal, we are all made one. There is no one higher or lower, worthy than another. We gather around The Table in worship and then as we gather in other places, at home, work, or other, the tables become extensions of the Table. The work of unity in this meal, initiated by Christ, is extended out into the world.*

### 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. Please place your cup in the basket by the side aisle as you return to the pew.*

**Prayer after Communion**

L: Generous God, at this table we have tasted your immeasurable grace. As grains of wheat are gathered into one bread, now make us one loaf to feed the world; in the name of Jesus, the Bread of life.

**C: Amen.**

**Benediction**

L: Beloved wanderer, as you leave this place, may you carry your curious heart on your sleeve. May you look for God in every face. May you find the courage to get out of the boat, to run to the tomb, and to speak of your faith. And when the world falls apart, may you hear God's voice deep within, saying, "Take heart, it is I, be not afraid." You are called. You are blessed. In both your ups and your downs, you always belong to God. Go now in peace. Go trusting that good news.

**C: Amen**

**Sending Hymn** "Let Us Ever Walk With Jesus"

#802

**Dismissal**

L: Go in peace. Share your bread.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**Postlude** Improvisation on "Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing"  
- J. Wyeth arranged by M. Burkhardt

*Liturgy adapted from Sarah Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC |  
sanctifiedart.org*

## How to do Centering Prayer

Find a quiet space where you are unlikely to be disturbed.

Sit in a way that allows you to be relaxed in body and alert in mind. Use a chair, meditation cushion or prayer rug, according to your own physical needs and preferences.

Gently close your eyes.

Allow your heart to open toward that invisible but always present Origin of all that exists.

Use a “sacred word.” This is a word that helps you to let go of thoughts. It is a reminder of your intention to remain open to the silence and return to God. Whenever you become aware of a thought, no matter what its nature, let it go, returning to God through the sacred word.

Continue this practice for 20 minutes. At the end of the time get up and go about your business, leaving the practice behind, in the same way you let go of your thoughts.

People who are just beginning, and are particularly restless in mind and body, may find it easier to start off with shorter prayer periods, perhaps only 5 minutes per sit to start. Then after a few days extend the time to 10 minutes and so on until you are able to sit for 20 minutes. Give the practice at least 2 weeks before you decide if it is right for you.

Two 20-30 minute sits per day are considered ideal. It is strongly recommended that no one meditate for more than 60 minutes a day unless you are attending a structured retreat with experienced leaders

## Welcome to Grace!

**Ministers** —the people of Grace

**Pastor** –

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

**Vicar**

Adam Barden .....[adam@gracedm.org](mailto:adam@gracedm.org)

**Organist** –

Rich Snyder.....[rich@gracedm.org](mailto:rich@gracedm.org)

**Piano Accompanist, Music Ensemble Coordinator** –

Kathy Bowermaster

**Minister for Communications** –

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

**Administrative Assistant** –

Kami Chicas.....[kami@gracedm.org](mailto:kami@gracedm.org)

**Bookkeeper**

Mike Hilsabeck.....[mike.h@gracedm.org](mailto:mike.h@gracedm.org)

**Office Assistant for Worship**

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

**Custodian** – Todd Haugen

**Usher** – Eric Weber

**Greeter** –

**Poem Reader** – Charlotte Nielsen

**Lector** – Carol Woodruff

**Communion Assistant** – Tammy Denton

**Altar Guild** – Rita Stackhouse, & Carol Woodruff

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

**Counters** – Tom McCleary & Jon Rissman

**Coffee & Donuts** –



## Grace Lutheran Church

5201 Urbandale Avenue

Des Moines, Iowa 50310

**Pastor Michael Schmidt**

515-276-6873

[mike@gracedm.org](mailto:mike@gracedm.org)