



# Wandering Heart

of  
"Songs of  
loudest praise"

## **Grace Lutheran Church**

*Companion Congregation: Msindo Parish in Tanzania*

### **Welcome to Worship**

**Palm Sunday**

March 24, 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 worshiping at Grace Lutheran, we're glad you are here!*

*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: 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](mailto:Mike@gracedm.org), 515-276-6873.**

**Prelude** Improvisation on "Hosanna, Loud Hosannas"  
H. Hofkepalla arranged by M. Burkhardt

## Welcome

### Poetry Prayer

#### *Courage*

We summon every ounce of courage.  
We give ourselves pep talks  
and we call our friends.  
We dig deep within.  
We practice the words out loud,  
rolling them around in our mouths,  
imagining the response.  
We deal out every "what if" card our brain holds on to  
and spend absurd amounts of time  
imagining all the ways it could go wrong.  
And then finally, blessedly, we say it:  
I love you.  
To speak the truth of your heart takes courage.  
It always has.  
But please,  
summon your courage,  
join the parade,  
and speak with conviction.  
For God has been saying to the world since day one:  
I love you.  
What is your response?

*Please rise in body or in spirit*

### Call to Worship

L: Sing songs of loudest praise!

**C: Hosanna!**

L: Sing songs that are unashamed.

**C: Hosanna!**

L: Sing songs without being afraid.

**C: Hosanna!**

L: Sing for the God of tomorrow and today.

**C: Hosanna!**

L: Let us worship the One worthy to be praised.

**Processional Hymn** "All Glory, Laud, and Honor" #344  
with Grace Bells

### Confession and Forgiveness

L: The Gospel of John tells us that crowds gathered to praise Jesus as he entered Jerusalem, singing and shouting with confidence. After describing the crowd, however, the Gospel writer

### **Processional Hymn**

*Palm Sunday is the day in Lent when we first begin to hear the story of the Passion of Jesus. That long ago day, Jesus entered Jerusalem riding a young horse or donkey, thus fulfilling the Old Testament prophesy. Crowds of pilgrims were gathered to celebrate Jesus' arrival, and they waved palm branches and threw them at his feet as he passed. They also chanted "Hosanna", which can be literally translated as "deliver us." The events of Holy Week and the Resurrection followed this triumphal procession. We remember and observe Jesus' entrance into Jerusalem by waving palm branches as the cross processes to the altar. Please remain in your pew, but wave your palm branch high in the air as we sing the processional hymn together.*

zooms in on the disciples and tells us that while the crowds shouted praise at Jesus, the disciples were confused. The text says, “the disciples did not understand what was happening” (John 12:16). A lot of our lives may look like this: either we understand God’s presence in our lives and want to shout it from the rooftop—or we’re standing on the side of the parade missing our chance to sing. That is why we need the prayer of confession. Because life happens fast, and without a doubt, we have stood where the disciples stood. So let us pray, for we don’t want to miss our chance to sing:

L: Holy God,

**C: we want to run into the streets and sing your praise! We want to be bold and unashamed of this good-news Gospel. However, too often we find ourselves standing against the wall. Too often we stay quiet. Too often we let others carry the song. Forgive us for the moments when we could lead the parade but instead find ourselves standing on the sidelines. Show us which songs are ours to sing. Show us which parades are ours to lead, and then give us the courage and conviction to do both. With hope and honesty we pray, amen.**

L: Friends, no matter where you are on the parade route—whether you are waving palm branches through the streets or standing against the wall, quiet and cautious—Jesus marched for you. Jesus’ love, his striving for justice and mercy, it was for you. You are included in this story and nothing can ever change that. So hear these words and trust them deep in your bones: We have reason to sing, for Jesus Christ loved you yesterday. Jesus Christ loves you today. And Jesus Christ will love you tomorrow. You are forgiven, claimed, and sent to serve. Go out and sing. Go out trusting these words.

**C: Amen.**

L: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

### **Prayer of the Day**

L: God of grace,

**C: your Word is like a song. It is the melody that we long to sing, the refrain that we pray will get stuck in our heads. So as we return to scripture once more, we pray that you would allow us to sink into this song. Allow us to hear the truth in between the words. Allow the cries of the crowd’s “hosannas” to feel like our own. With open hearts and open ears we pray, amen.**

*Please be seated*

### First Reading: Isaiah 50:4-9a

<sup>4</sup>The Lord GOD has given me the tongue of a teacher, that I may know how to sustain the weary with a word. Morning by morning he awakens—wakens my ear to listen as those who are taught. <sup>5</sup>The Lord GOD has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious, I did not turn backward. <sup>6</sup>I gave my back to those who struck me, and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard; I did not hide my face from insult and spitting.

<sup>7</sup>The Lord GOD helps me; therefore I have not been disgraced; therefore I have set my face like flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame; <sup>8</sup>he who vindicates me is near. Who will contend with me? Let us stand up together. Who are my adversaries? Let them confront me. <sup>9a</sup>It is the Lord GOD who helps me; who will declare me guilty?

L: The Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God

### Psalm 31:9-16

<sup>9</sup>Have mercy on me, O LORD, for I am in trouble; my eye is consumed with sorrow, and also my throat and my belly.

<sup>10</sup>**For my life is wasted with grief, and my years with sighing; my strength fails me because of affliction, and my bones are consumed.**

<sup>11</sup>I am the scorn of all my enemies, a disgrace to my neighbors, a dismay to my acquaintances; when they see me in the street they avoid me.

<sup>12</sup>**Like the dead I am forgotten, out of mind; I am as useless as a broken pot.**

<sup>13</sup>For I have heard the whispering of the crowd; fear is all around; they put their heads together against me; they plot to take my life.

<sup>14</sup>**But as for me, I have trusted in you, O LORD. I have said, “You are my God.**

<sup>15</sup>My times are in your hand; rescue me from the hand of my enemies, and from those who persecute me.

<sup>16</sup>**Let your face shine upon your servant; save me in your steadfast love.”**

### Second Reading: Philippians 2:5-11

<sup>5</sup>Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup>who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, <sup>7</sup>but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, <sup>8</sup>he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross.

<sup>9</sup>Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, <sup>10</sup>so that at the name of Jesus

### Reading Notes

*The image of the servant of God is one of the notable motifs in the book of Isaiah. Today's reading describes the mission of the servant, whom early Christians associated with Jesus. Like Jesus, the servant does not strike back at his detractors but trusts in God's steadfast love.*

### Reading Notes:

*Christ did not act to attain status and glory but was obedient to God even to the point of death. Following Christ's example, we do not seek personal status or*

*glory but care for others as God cared for us in Christ's death.*

### **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 Gospel.*

every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, <sup>11</sup>and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

L: The Word of the Lord

**C: Thanks be to God**

*Please rise in body or in spirit*

**Gospel Acclamation**



Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and mer - ci - ful,



slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

L: The Holy Gospel according to Saint John the Twelfth Chapter.

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

**Gospel: John 12:12-16**

<sup>12</sup>The next day the great crowd that had come to the festival heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. <sup>13</sup>So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, shouting, "Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord — the King of Israel!" <sup>14</sup>Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it; as it is written: <sup>15</sup>"Do not be afraid, daughter of Zion. Look, your king is coming, sitting on a donkey's colt!" <sup>16</sup>His disciples did not understand these things at first; but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that these things had been written of him and had been done to him.

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** "Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing"

To the tune "Through the Night of Doubt and Sorrow" #327

Come, tho-u Fount of e-v'ry bles-sing,  
tune my he-art to si-ng thy grace;  
streams of- mercy, ne-ver cea-sing,  
call f-or so-ngs of lou-dest praise.  
While th-e hope of en-dless glory

fills my- heart with joy a-nd love,  
teach me- ever to a-dore thee;  
may I- sti-ll thy good-ness prove.

Here I- raise my E-be-ne-zer;  
"Hi-ther by- thy he-lp I've come";  
and I- hope, by thy go-od plea-sure,  
safe-ly to arrive at-- home.  
Jesu-s sought me when a- stranger,  
wand'r-ing from the fold of- God;  
he, to- rescue me fro-m dan-ger,  
inte-rpo-sed his pre-cious blood.

Oh, to- grace how great a- deb-tor  
Dail-y I'm- constrai-ned to be;  
let tha-t grace now like a- fetter  
bind my- wa-nd'ring he-art to thee.  
Prone to wander, Lord, I- feel it;  
prone to leave the God I- love.  
Here's my- heart, oh, take a-nd se-al it;  
seal it- f-or thy cou-rts above.

### **Affirmation of Faith**

L: We believe in Jesus of Nazareth,

**C: who rode through the streets of Jerusalem on a donkey.**

L: We believe in Jesus of Nazareth,

**C: who challenged Rome's oppressive power with peaceful protest.**

L: We believe in Jesus of Nazareth,

**C: who was surrounded by crowds of dreamers and believers.**

L: We believe in Jesus of Nazareth,

**C: so even today, we will sing songs of loudest praise.**

L: Hosanna!

**C: Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!**

### **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.**

### ***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 Communion 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 exten-*

### **Passing of the Peace**

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

**C: And also with you!**

*Please be seated*

### **Announcements**

#### **Temple Talk—Mission Trip**

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

### 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*

### 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** "Go, My Children, With My Blessing" #543

*sions 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 and take a cup from the tray. Then proceed to receive the gluten-free wafer. Both wine and grape juice. 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.

**Dismissal**

L: Go in peace. Share your bread.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**Postlude**

Setting of “Hosanna, Loud Hosannas”

H. Hofkepalla arranged by A. Fedak

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

## How to do Centering Prayer

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** –

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**Office Assistant for Worship**

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

**Custodian** – Todd Haugen

**Usher** – Carter Woodruff

**Greeter** –

**Poem Reader** – Jenny Rehder

**Lector** – Roland Zimany

**Communion Assistant** – Julie Honsey

**Altar Guild** – Sue Anderson & Jane Ridnour

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

**Counters** – Tom McCleary & Aaron Brandsfield

**Coffee & Donuts** –



## Grace Lutheran Church

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**Pastor Michael Schmidt**

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