



## **Grace Lutheran Church**

*Companion Congregation: Msindo Parish in Tanzania*

### **Welcome to Worship**

**Second Sunday of Easter**

April 7, 2024

9:00 a.m.

Liturgical worship with piano

Setting 1

## 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: 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 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**      This Easter Day With Joy Was Bright  
Arr. Anne Krentz Organ

**Welcome**

**Poetry Prayer**

Here's My Hear  
As a child I made a nativity set for my mother—  
pinch pot clay, uneven angel wings,  
hair made with the help of a garlic press,  
Joseph's staff rolled out like I was God  
and it was an earthworm.  
There was nothing beautiful about it,  
nothing whispering of talent,  
but I made it for my mother!  
So I wrapped  
that questionable piece of art in a box  
and gave it to her  
like I was handing her a Picasso.  
Here, mother,  
you carried me in your womb.  
You bandaged my knees when I fell.  
You made soup when I was sick.  
You rocked me to sleep as an infant  
and sewed my costumes by hand.  
In return, I made you this haphazard nativity!  
And in my childlike mind,  
I thought that the small white lamb,  
molded from a lumpy piece of clay,  
could somehow make us even,  
could somehow balance the scales,  
could somehow pay her back.  
And bless my mother,  
because in her grace,  
she smiled and she displayed that  
hodge-podge nativity set  
on the mantel  
as if it were her pride and joy.  
(I believed that it was.)  
Maybe that's the way it is with God.  
I say, Here's my heart  
and God smiles.  
And God takes it.  
And despite the ragtag nature of my  
human-hearted faith,  
whatever I can give always ends up on  
God's mantel.  
Whatever I can give always calls for  
pride and joy.

*Please rise in body or in spirit*

### **Call to Worship**

L: Jesus said,

**C: "Follow me."**

L: Jesus said,

**C: "Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid."**

L: Jesus said,

**C: "Forgive seventy times seven."**

L: Jesus said,

**C: "Feed my sheep."**

L: In response, we say:

**C: "Here's my heart. Take and seal it. Seal it for thy courts above."**

L: Let us worship God with all our hearts.

### **Confession and Forgiveness**

L: For the last seven weeks we have been following the life and faith of Peter. Despite being one of Jesus' most loyal disciples, Peter still made mistakes. He was faithful and messy, humble and afraid, loving and cautious. Friends, we're a lot like Peter. Despite our faith, we make mistakes. Despite our belief, we carry unbelief. Despite our love, we can cause hurt. So like Peter, let us return to God in prayer, confessing the truth of our lives. God's grace does not stop with that humble yet fearful disciple. God's grace reaches all the way to us. Let us pray:

**C: Gracious God, Like Peter, we crawl out of the boat only to sink. You tell us your truth and we push it away. We ask about forgiveness and are surprised by abundance. We profess our faith and deny it three times. We run to the empty tomb and leave in silence. Over and over again, we find ourselves wandering along the journey of faith. Tether us to your heart. Forgive our surprise, our denial, and our limited imagination. Call us out of the boat once more. We are eager to return to you. With humble hearts we pray, amen.**

L: Friends, the first time that Peter saw Jesus after the crucifixion, Jesus asked him three times, "Do you love me?" This repetition was not because Jesus doubted Peter's word. This repetition was Jesus offering Peter grace. You see, the last time Jesus and Peter were together, Peter said three times, "I do not know that man." So when Jesus returned, he asked Peter, "Do you love me?" And in that moment, he allowed Peter to turn his denials into love. Friends, the grace of our God knows no end. When we stumble, when we fall, when we deny God or cause harm, Jesus meets us where we are and offers us a second chance. So rest in this good news. Does God love you? Yes, yes, yes. God loves you. We are forgiven. Thanks be to God for a love that never ends.

**C: Amen**

**Gathering Hymn** “Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain” #363

L: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

**Prayer of the Day**

L: God of second chances and God of new life,

**C: we have spent our days wandering. Like Peter, we have had milled about through nearly every state of faith. We have had courageous days and convicted days, learning days and questioning days. We have had days where we run to you, days for diving out of the boat, days for deep joy, and days where the pain of the world feels too close to bear. So as we bring our wandering hearts to you, we ask that you draw us in. Allow this story to spark something new in us. Allow this story of grace to give us pause and pull us in. We are listening. Amen.**

*Please be seated*

**First Reading: Acts 4:32-35**

<sup>32</sup>Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. <sup>33</sup>With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. <sup>34</sup>There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. <sup>35</sup>They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

L: The Word of the Lord

**C: Thanks be to God**

**Psalm 133**

<sup>1</sup>How good and how pleasant it is, when kindred live together in unity!

<sup>2</sup>**It is like fine oil upon the head, flowing down upon the beard, upon the beard of Aaron, flowing down upon the collar of his robe.**

<sup>3</sup>It is like the dew of Hermon flowing down upon the hills of Zion. For there the LORD has commanded the blessing: life forevermore.

*Please rise in body or in spirit*

**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).

**Reading Notes**

While the apostles testified to others about the resurrection of Jesus, the early Christian community shared what they owned or sold their possessions to help their fellow believers who were in need.

## 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.

## 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 John the Twenty First Chapter.

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

## Gospel: John 21:1-19

<sup>1</sup>After these things Jesus showed himself again to the disciples by the Sea of Tiberias, and he showed himself in this way. <sup>2</sup>Gathered there together were Simon Peter, Thomas called the Twin, Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others of his disciples. <sup>3</sup>Simon Peter said to them, "I am going fishing." They said to him, "We will go with you." They went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing.

<sup>4</sup>Just after daybreak, Jesus stood on the beach, but the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. <sup>5</sup>Jesus said to them, "Children, you have no fish, have you?" They answered him, "No." <sup>6</sup>He said to them, "Cast the net to the right side of the boat, and you will find some." So they cast it, and now they were not able to haul it in because there were so many fish. <sup>7</sup>That disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord!" When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on his outer garment, for he had taken it off, and jumped into the sea. <sup>8</sup>But the other disciples came in the boat, dragging the net full of fish, for they were not far from the land, only about a hundred yards off.

<sup>9</sup>When they had gone ashore, they saw a charcoal fire there, with fish on it, and bread. <sup>10</sup>Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish that you have just caught." <sup>11</sup>So Simon Peter went aboard and hauled the net ashore, full of large fish, a hundred fifty-three of them, and though there were so many, the net was not torn. <sup>12</sup>Jesus said to them, "Come and have breakfast." Now none of the disciples dared to ask him, "Who are you?" because they knew it was the Lord. <sup>13</sup>Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them and did the same with the fish. <sup>14</sup>This was now the third time that Jesus appeared to the disciples after he was raised from the dead. <sup>15</sup>When they had finished breakfast, Jesus

said to Simon Peter, “Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?” He said to him, “Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.” Jesus said to him, “Feed my lambs.”<sup>16</sup> A second time he said to him, “Simon son of John, do you love me?” He said to him, “Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.” Jesus said to him, “Tend my sheep.”<sup>17</sup> He said to him the third time, “Simon son of John, do you love me?” Peter felt hurt because he said to him the third time, “Do you love me?” And he said to him, “Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you.” Jesus said to him, “Feed my sheep.”<sup>18</sup> Very truly, I tell you, when you were younger, you used to fasten your own belt and to go wherever you wished. But when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will fasten a belt around you and take you where you do not wish to go.”<sup>19</sup> (He said this to indicate the kind of death by which he would glorify God.) After this he said to him, “Follow me.”

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** “We Walk By Faith”

#635

**Affirmation of Faith**

**C: We believe in a God who shows up in our lives—  
surprising and catching us off-guard in the best of ways.  
We believe in a God who cares for God’s people—  
a shepherd who longs for her sheep to be fed and tended.  
We believe in a God who took on flesh—  
a God whose love changed the world as we know it.  
We believe that this here-and-now God invites us out of the  
boat,  
calling ordinary people like Peter, like us, into a life of service  
and community.  
And so we give our hearts. We give our whole hearts and nothing less. Amen.**

**Prayers of the People**

L: God of grace,  
**C: hear our prayer.**

L: Into your hands, most merciful God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your abiding love; through Jesus Christ, our resurrected and living Lord.

**C: 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.*

**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*

### **Blessing of Lutheran World Relief Kits & Quilts**

L: Holy God, your Spirit speaks to our hearts and helps us to see your presence in our neighbors both near and far.

**C: We see that so many of our neighbors around the world are in need of hope and help. May we be guided by your Spirit to serve them.**

L: Generous God, we give you thanks for the all the resources you have provided us to make into kits and quilts.

**C: We give you thanks for all the hands that fashioned your love into quilts, for the hands that collected and sorted kits, for the hands that donated time and offerings, for the hands that pack and deliver them to Lutheran World Relief so that no one feels left out.**

L: May these quilts wrap our neighbors in your unending love, and may these kits offer dignity and healing.

**C: God, we ask you to guide the staff and partners at Lutheran World Relief. May their voices and hands be a beacon of hope. Keep them safe. Keep them filled with your strength and perseverance.**

L: God, be with our neighbors who will receive these gifts. May they be wrapped in love, may they taste your goodness, may they touch signs of your hope.

**All: We pray all this in the name of Jesus, the One who is our hope. Amen.**

### **Offering Prayer**

L: Let us pray,

**C: Risen One, you call us to believe and bear fruit. May the gifts that we offer here be signs of your abiding love. Form us to be your witnesses in the world, through Jesus Christ, our true vine. Amen.**

### **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.*





## 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: The risen Christ is made known to us in the breaking of the bread. Come and eat at God's table.

*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: #472 (3x), #423, #464, #542*

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

## **Blessing**

*Here as we leave to continue our journey through the wilderness to the Promised Land, God uses the pastor to say words that were said first through Aaron in the wilderness more than 3,000 years ago.*

## **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: Shepherd God, you have prepared a table before us and nourished us with your love. Send us forth from this banquet to proclaim your goodness and share the abundant mercy of Jesus, our redeemer and friend.

**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**

"Thine Is The Glory"

#376

## **Dismissal**

L: Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.

**C: Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

## **Postlude**

I Know That My Redeemer Lives

Setting: Anne Krentz Organ



## 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** – Linda Morevec

**Greeter** – Cathy Watson

**Poem Reader** – Julie Honsey

**Lector** – Jenny Rehder

**Communion Assistant** – Cathy Watson

**Altar Guild** – Jenny Rehder

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

**Counters** – Mark Stumme & Aaron Brandsfield

**Coffee & Donuts** – Mike & Marilyn Nizzi



GRACE  
LUTHERAN  
CHURCH

**Grace Lutheran Church**

5201 Urbandale Avenue  
Des Moines, Iowa 50310

**Pastor Michael Schmidt**

515-276-6873

[www.gracedm.org](http://www.gracedm.org)