



Grace Lutheran Church

Companion Congregation: Msindo Parish in Tanzania

Welcome to Worship

Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 22, 2024

9:00 a.m.

Liturgical worship with organ

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: During times 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.

The Poinsettia "insert" can be found on pages 10 and 11 of this bulletin

Prelude “Savior of the Nations, Come”
 Grace Bells

Welcome

Please rise in body or in spirit

Call to Worship

L: Praise God,

C: From the rising sun to its setting!

L: God’s glory is in and through and beyond creation.

C: God is above all human-created barriers and distinctions, like nations and cultures.

L: Who is like our God?

C: No one, for God cares for those who are poor and oppressed.

Confession and Forgiveness

L: We confess our sins before God and one another.

Pause for silence and reflection.

L: Gracious God,

C: We confess to you and to our siblings in Christ that we have made decisions which have caused harm to you and our neighbors. We have put our selfish desires ahead of the needs of others. We have sought comfort in worldly things and forgotten you. For these and for all the ways in which we have fallen short, forgive us. Lead us back into a right relationship with you, our neighbors, and all of creation.

L: Beloved of God, I bring you good news of great joy for all people, for in Jesus Christ, all things are made new. For his sake, God forgives us all our sin and calls us into abundant life. Receive this gift with joy, in Jesus name.

C: Amen.

Gathering Hymn “Filled with Hope and Gratitude” ACS #907

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.

Lighting of Advent Wreath

L: O Come, O Come Emmanuel.

C: We light the first candle in the hope of your coming.

L: We light the second candle for peace on earth.

C: We light this candle with joy in the promise.

L: With Mary we hope for the love the promised messiah will share with all of creation.

C: We light this candle in love for you and our neighbors.

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).

Hymn

“Now the Heavens Start to Whisper”

vs. 2

ACS #901

**C: Heavy clouds that block the moonlight
now begin to drift away.**

**Diamond brilliance through the darkness
shines the hope of coming day.**

**Christ, the morning star of splendor,
gleams within a world grown dim.**

**Heaven's ember fans to fullness;
hearts grow warm to welcome him.**

L: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

L: Almighty God, ,

**C: Like Mary, help us embrace humility and readiness as we
navigate the unexpected. May we respond to your call with a
willing heart, trusting in your guidance and love. In Jesus name
we pray. Amen.**

Please be seated

Anthem “My Soul Now Magnifies the Lord”
Chancel Choir

Reading: Luke 1:26-56

²⁶In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸And he came to her and said, “Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you.” ²⁹But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰The angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³²He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. ³³He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.” ³⁴Mary said to the angel, “How can this be, since I am a virgin?” ³⁵The angel said to her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. ³⁶And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. ³⁷For nothing will be impossible with God.” ³⁸Then Mary said, “Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.” Then the angel departed from her.

Reading Notes:

An angel went to Mary and told her about the impending birth of Jesus. With faith, Mary believed the word of the angel and went to visit Elizabeth, who was also pregnant by the will of God. When the two women met, they both gave praise to God.

³⁹In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, ⁴⁰where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit ⁴²and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. ⁴³And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? ⁴⁴For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

⁴⁶And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, ⁴⁷and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, ⁴⁸for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; ⁴⁹for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. ⁵⁰His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. ⁵¹He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. ⁵²He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; ⁵³he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. ⁵⁴He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, ⁵⁵according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever." ⁵⁶And Mary remained with her about three months and then returned to her home.

L: The Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God

Sermon

Please rise in body or in spirit

Hymn of the Day "The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came" #265

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,

Jesse Tree prompts

*Where do you find
God's love in the Old
Testament?*

*Where do you find
God's love in your
life?*

Creed

*The Creed is our
response to God's
speaking to us.
Martyrs and saints
have been confessing
this creed since 325
A.D. The word
"creed" comes from
the Latin "credo"
which means, "I be-
lieve!"*

**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

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.

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.



Prayers of the People

L: God, in your mercy,
C: Hear our prayer.

L: We lift up all of our prayers, spoken and unspoken to you. In Jesus' name we pray.

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: Creator God,

C: you made the whole world, even the farthest stars, and you draw near to feed us. We praise you for these gifts of bread and wine. Strengthen us with this food that we may live in expectation for the advent of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Thanksgiving at the Table

L: Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:

Blessed are you for the birth of creation.

Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.

Blessed are you for your promise to your people.

Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.

Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.

Blessed are you for your Son Jesus,
the Word made flesh.

L: In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

L: Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

L: Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

C: Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

L: With this bread and cup
we remember your Word dwelling among us,
full of grace and truth.
We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection.
We look with hope for his coming.

C: Come, Lord Jesus.

L: Holy God, we long for your Spirit.

Come among us.

Bless this meal.

May your Word take flesh in us.

Awaken your people.

Fill us with your light.

Bring the gift of peace on earth.

C: Come, Holy Spirit.

L: All praise and glory are yours,

Holy One of Israel,

Word of God incarnate,

Power of the Most High,

one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

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.**

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.

Invitation to Communion

L: God feeds us with tender mercy. Come to the 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: #473 (3x), #496, #484, #492

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, we thank you for the gift of life, for the bread of salvation. We thank you for coming among us, for leading us into peace. We thank you for showering us with mercy, for sending us into the world. Come, Lord Jesus, and go with us as we feed the hungry in your name.

C: Amen

Blessing

L: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine upon you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen

Sending Hymn

“All Earth is Hopeful”

#266

Dismissal

L: Go in peace. Prepare the way for Emmanuel.

C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

J. Wade arranged by L. Line

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.



**Thank you to all who sponsored poinsettias
to brighten our sanctuary this Christmas.**

Poinsettias are given by:

Jenny Rehder in memory of my parents.

Carli Stee in memory of Connie Beall.

Jane and Ed Ridnour in honor of family and friends.

Marla Gowdey in memory of Carolyn Lehnus.

*Carter and Carol Woodruff in honor of our children, Dmitri, Emily, and Bailey;
and all children around the world.*

Virgil Olson In memory of my wife Gayle and to honor my family.

Carrie Schall and Bob and Rita Stackhouse in memory of John David Schall.

Jason and Laura Irwin in memory of Geno Zamarripa.

*Louie and Sue Anderson in memory of our parents, Bob and JoAnn Young
and Lou and Sue Anderson; brother Steve Young; and loving friend Connie
Heuton.*

Patty Allen in memory of my parents and brother and in honor of family.



Poinsettias are given by:

Lenny and Pam Palmer in honor of our families, past and present.

Karla Swanson in memory of my parents: Erwin and Karin Swanson.

Brent and Valerie Culp in memory of Dean and Betty Culp, Mary Vasey, and John Barkley.

Mike, Jenie, Allison, and Samantha in memory of loved ones.

Larry and Mary Weaverling in memory of our parents.

Jason Galle in memory of Kristina Galle.

Dean and Cathy Watson in memory of our loved ones.

Jon and Cherie Rissman in memory of our loved ones and in honor of God's glory.

The Brandsfield family in memory of Bob Brandsfield.

The Brandsfield family in memory of Barb Mixdorf.

Ernie and Cheryl Weatherington in memory of our parents.

Deanna and Erik Weber in memory of Elmer Weber .

Welcome to Grace!

Ministers —the people of Grace

Pastor –

The Rev. Michael Schmidtmike@gracedm.org

Vicar

Jesse Hershberger.....jesse@gracedm.org

Organist –

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

Piano Accompanist, Music Ensemble Coordinator –

Kathy Bowermaster

Minister for Communications –

Michelle Voelkermichelle@gracedm.org

Bookkeeper

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

Office Assistant for Worship

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

Custodian – Todd Haugen

Usher – Carter Woodruff

Greeter –

Lector – Jenny Rehder

Communion Assistant – Cherie Rissman

Altar Guild – Sue Anderson & Carol Woodruff

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

Counters – Tom McCleary & Jason Galle

Coffee & Donuts –



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Pastor Michael Schmidt

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