



## Grace Lutheran Church

*Companion Congregation: Msindo Parish in Tanzania*

### Welcome to Worship

Second Sunday of Advent

December 8, 2024

9:00 a.m.

Liturgical worship with piano

## 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!*

*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 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** "Prepare the Royal Highway"

**Welcome**

*Please rise in body or in spirit*

**Call to Worship**

L: We come before our God with contrite hearts.

**C: We know we have sinned and fallen short.**

L: Our God loves us in our messiness and our mistakes.

**C: We praise God for God's grace and mercy.**

**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** "There Is a Longing in Our Hearts" ACS #1078

**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 this first candle in the hope of your coming.**

L: We anticipate the time when you will pour out your spirit upon all flesh.

**C: We light this second candle for peace on earth.**

**Hymn**

"Now the Heavens Start to Whisper"

*vs. 1*

ACS #901

**C: Now the heavens start to whisper,  
as the veil is growing thin.**

**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:**

*Reminding the Israelites of the goodness of God, Joel called his people to genuine repentance, to which God responded with the revelation of the Day of the Lord when God's Spirit would fill all people.*

**Jesse Tree prompts**

*Where do you find God's peace in the Old Testament?  
Where do you find God's peace 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 believe!"*

**Earth from slumber wakes to listen  
to the stirring, faint within:  
seed of promise, deeply planted,  
child to spring from Jesse's stem!  
Like the soil beneath the frostline,  
hearts grow soft to welcome him.**

L: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

**Prayer of the Day**

L: Almighty God, ,

**C: We heed Joel's call to return to you, and we seek your forgiveness. Renew our spirits and empower us to live in accordance with your ways. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

*Please be seated*

**Reading: Joel 2:12-13, 28-29**

<sup>12</sup>Yet even now, says the Lord, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; <sup>13</sup>rend your hearts and not your clothing. Return to the Lord, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and relents from punishing.

<sup>28</sup>Then afterward I will pour out my spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, and your young men shall see visions. <sup>29</sup>Even on the male and female slaves, in those days, I will pour out my spirit.

L: The Word of the Lord

**C: Thanks be to God**

**Sermon**

*Please rise in body or in spirit*

**Hymn of the Day** "Come Now, O Prince of Peace"

#247

**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, 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;

### 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.*



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.**

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

### **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**

### **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.*

**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**

“Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers”

#244

**Dismissal**

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

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**Postlude**

“On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry”