

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: 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.

Prelude “For Elise” by L. Beethoven arranged by C. Taylor

Welcome

Please rise in body or in spirit

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.

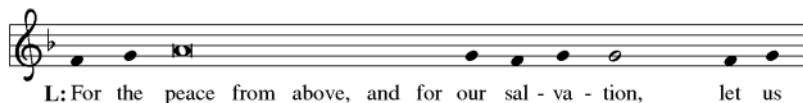
Gathering Hymn “Dearest Jesus, at Your Word” #520

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.

Kyrie



L: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,

and for the u - ni - ty of all, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mer - cy.

L: For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,

let us pray to the Lord. C: Lord, have mer - cy.

L: Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.

C: A - - men.

Hymn of Praise
 Quite often in the Bible, Jesus eats with people and shares parables about banquets and feasts. This hymn points us to the Lord's Supper as a foretaste of the feast to come. This is an opportunity for us to hear and sing the hymn of praise with all the saints in heaven.

Canticle of Praise

Refrain

This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God. Al - le -

lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us

free to be peo-ple of God. Pow-er, rich-es, wis-dom, and

strength, and hon-or, bless-ing, and glo-ry are his.

Refrain

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-

lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia.

2 Sing with all the peo-ple of God, and join in the

hymn of all cre-a-tion: Bless-ing, hon-or, glo-ry, and

might be to God and the Lamb for-ev-er. A-men.

Final refrain

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God,

for the Lamb who was slain has be-gun his reign.

Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia.

L: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

L: Almighty God,

C: As Mary treasured Jesus' words though she did not quite understand them, may we too treasure our experiences of your presence in our lives, even when we are faced with suffering and confusion. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Reading Notes

On their way leaving Jerusalem after the festival of the Passover, Mary and Joseph realize that Jesus has gone missing. After three days, they finally find him in the temple, sitting among the teachers. It was in this environment of faithful adherence to the law that Jesus grew into spiritual maturity and an understanding of his identity and mission.

Please be seated

Reading: Luke 2:41-52

⁴¹Now every year his parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. ⁴²And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. ⁴³When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. ⁴⁴Assuming that he was in the group of travelers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. ⁴⁵When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. ⁴⁶After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. ⁴⁷And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. ⁴⁸When his parents saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, "Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety." ⁴⁹He said to them, "Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" ⁵⁰But they did not understand what he said to them. ⁵¹Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart. ⁵²And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favor.

L: The Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God.

Please be seated

Sermon

Please rise in body or in spirit

Hymn of the Day "He Comes To Us As One Unknown" #737

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: Lord, in your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

L: We commend these prayers to you, O God, trusting your grace made known to all, through the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

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: God of heaven and earth, from the beginning, you have called forth life, in which you take delight. The trees, the fields, and the seas sing for joy. Bless now these gifts, received from your bounty, that we may join the chorus of creation to tell of your salvation from day to day. Amen.

Creed

The Apostles' Creed is in a way the

"Reader's Digest Bible". If you took the Bible and did to it what Southern chefs do to green beans (cook them for 24 hours), you would find the Apostles' Creed at the bottom of the pot when you lifted the lid.

Prayers of the People

In the middle of worship, we pause to pray not only for ourselves and our loved ones and their needs, but for everyone: the whole church, the world, and its leaders, and the local community. This kind of all-inclusive prayer is at the heart of Christian worship precisely because Jesus Christ died and rose again, not just for a few but for all people.

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.



Sanctus

As we draw close to God in this meal, we sing these words from the angels. The words hearken back to Isaiah's vision in the temple, where he hears the seraphim singing "Holy, holy, holy, Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory."

Great Thanksgiving

L: The Lord be with you. C: And al - so with you.

L: Lift up your hearts. C: We lift them to the Lord.

L: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Preface

Holy, Holy, Holy

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,

heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the

high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -

san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

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: A child has been born for us, a Son given to us. Come, receive the gift of Jesus.

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.

Distribution Hymns: #751 (3x), #474, #515, #488

Please rise in body or in spirit

Lord's Prayer

We gather in prayer in response to the gospel heard in the proclamation that this meal is given "for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin." We find ourselves at the very heart of the gospel message. Christ not only speaks to us in the supper, but gives us what he is speaking about: his body and blood for the forgiveness of sins.

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.

Dismissal

With the dismissal from worship, we are sent to serve the Lord through the unique gifts, talents, and relationships of each one of us. This is not a conclusion of service, but a start to what the next week will bring in our walk with Christ. So it is fitting that the response is a resounding "Thanks be to God."

Prayer after Communion

L: Merciful God, we thank you for Jesus, who is our heavenly food. Strengthened by this goodness, send us forth to announce your peace, comfort the afflicted, and share the good news of great joy.

C: Amen

Blessing

P: 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

"Cold December Flies Away"

#299

Dismissal

L: Christ the Savior is born! Go in peace. Proclaim this good news.

C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

"Largo" from the opera "Xerxes"

by G. Handel arranged by C. Taylor

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 – Dave Gronert

Greeter – Lenny Palmer

Liturgist – Paul Kallenbach

Lector – Jenny Rehder

Communion Assistant – Jessica Flannery

Altar Guild – Kathy Bowermaster & Jenny Rehder

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

Counters – Tom McCleary & Mark Stumme

Coffee & Donuts – Mike and Marilyn Nizzi



Grace Lutheran Church

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Pastor Michael Schmidt

515-276-6873

www.gracedm.org