

Grace Lutheran Church

Companion Congregation: Msindo Parish in Tanzania

Welcome to Worship Seventh Sunday after Epiphany

February 23, 2025 9:00 a.m. Liturgical worship with piano Setting 8

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 Megablocks! This space is intended to offer a place for children to be and play if they need to step of 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

"Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling"

Arr. Tom Fettke

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: God of light,

C: You reveal yourself to us, but we do not see. You call to us, but we do not hear. You reach out to us, but we do not feel. Instead we live as though you are not our God. We act in ways that bring disunity, oppression, and pain to ourselves, our neighbors, and the world. Forgive us for our constant wandering. Draw us back into your loving arms and re-direct our steps onto your path of love, justice, and healing, for the sake of all that you have made.

L: Children of light, God will always find us where we wander, and carry us safely home. Receive now the entire forgiveness of all your sins, for the sake of Jesus Christ, whose sacrificial selflessness has redeemed you and all of creation.

C: Amen.

Gathering Hymn "All Are Welcome"

#641

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.

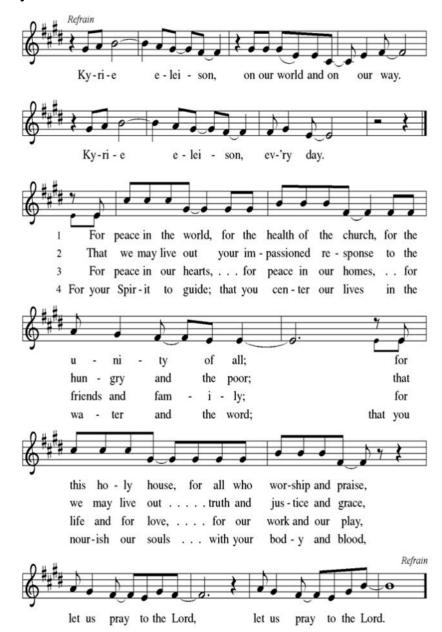
Gathering

We come to worship from different places. Some directly from work, others out of weekend activities. Some live around the corner and others from another county. We gather to "do liturgy", which means literally, the "work of the people". We gather to do the work of hearing the Scriptures read and proclaimed. We gather to act out the Gospel in the ritual drama of the meal. As we gather, God is at work also, making the Good News come alive in our midst.

Kyrie

In Mark 10 we hear of Jesus' journey through Jericho to Jerusalem where he encounters Bartimaeus, a blind man, who hears this is Jesus and shouts, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me." From that time to the present, Jesus' followers have prayed that same prayer to God: "Kyrie Eleison" ("Lord, have mercy"). We are totally dependent upon God, so we pray for mercy in every aspect of life.

Kyrie



Canticle of Praise



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.



L: The Lord be with you. **C: And also with you.**

Prayer of the Day

L: Gracious God,

C: Help us embrace and extend the forgiveness and compassion we witness in Jesus' actions. May we live in grateful and faithful response to your immeasurable love. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Please be seated

Anthem "Sing Praise To God Who Reigns Above" Chancel Choir

Reading Notes:

Jesus visits a Pharisee's house, and the Pharisee thinks nothing of it. But a woman, who everyone gathered knows is a sinner, cannot stop caring for Jesus's feet.

Reading: Luke 7:36-50

³⁶One of the Pharisees asked Jesus to eat with him, and he went into the Pharisee's house and took his place at the table. ³⁷And a woman in the city, who was a sinner, having learned that he was eating in the Pharisee's house, brought an alabaster jar of ointment. ³⁸She stood behind him at his feet, weeping, and began to bathe his feet with her tears and to dry them with her hair. Then she continued kissing his feet and anointing them with the ointment. 39 Now when the Pharisee who had invited him saw it. he said to himself, "If this man were a prophet, he would have known who and what kind of woman this is who is touching him - that she is a sinner." ⁴⁰Jesus spoke up and said to him, "Šimon, I have something to say to you." "Teacher," he replied, "Speak." ⁴¹"A certain creditor had two debtors; one owed five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. 42When they could not pay, he canceled the debts for both of them. Now which of them will love him more?" 43Simon answered, "I suppose the one for whom he canceled the greater debt." And Jesus said to him, "You have judged rightly." 44Then turning toward the woman, he said to Simon, "Do you see this woman? I entered your house; you gave me no water for my feet, but she has bathed my feet with her tears and dried them with her hair. ⁴⁵You gave me no kiss, but from the time I came in she has not stopped kissing my feet. ⁴⁶You did not anoint my head with oil, but she has anointed my

feet with ointment. ⁴⁷Therefore, I tell you, her sins, which were many, have been forgiven; hence she has shown great love. But the one to whom little is forgiven, loves little." ⁴⁸Then he said to her, "Your sins are forgiven." ⁴⁹But those who were at the table with him began to say among themselves, "Who is this who even forgives sins?" ⁵⁰And he said to the woman, "Your faith has saved you; go in peace."

L: The Word of the Lord C: Thanks be to God

Sermon

Please rise in body or in spirit **Hymn of the Day** "Softly and Tenderly Jesus is Calling" #608

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, draw near, C: Receive our prayer.

L: Trusting in your mercy and grace, we lift up all of our prayers to you.

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.

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.



Preface:

We praise God for God's mighty acts. These words change with the seasons of the church year and serve as an invitation into the Sanctus.

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

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 grace, your love reaches to the heavens, and your abundance to the depths of the seas. Bless what we offer to your service: our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts. Let us overflow with gratitude and generosity, now and always. Amen.

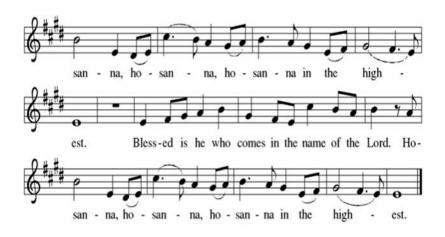
Great Thanksgiving



Preface

Holy, Holy, Holy





temple, where he hears the seraphim singing "Holy, holy, holy, Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory."

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.

Invitation to Communion

now and forever. Amen.

L: The joy of the Lord is our strength. Come, eat this meal of gladness.

Please be seated

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.

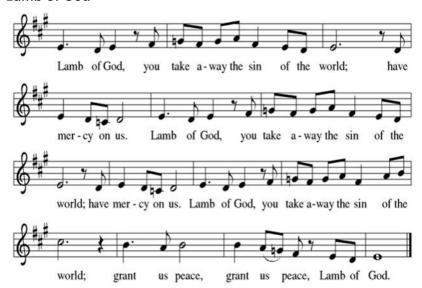
Communion

Today we will receive Holy Communion through wafers and pouring chalice. 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 aluten-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."

Lamb of God



Distribution Hymns: #473 (3x), #496, #484, #492

Please rise in body or in spirit

Prayer after Communion

L: Nourishing God, at this table you have refreshed us with holy gifts of food and drink. Strengthen us for service, and send us out to embody your good news of liberation and healing for the sake of the world. In the name of Christ we pray,

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

"O Christ, Our Hope"

#604

Dismissal

L: Go in peace. Live in hope.

C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude "O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright"

Arr. David M. Cherwien

Welcome to Grace!

Ministers —the people of Grace

Pastor -

The Rev. Michael Schmidt.....mike@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 - Eric Weber

Greeter – Rich Snyder

Lector – Rich Snyder

Communion Assistant - Rich Snyder

Altar Guild - Carol Woodruff & Rita Stackhouse

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

Counters - Jon Rissman & Aaron Brandsfield

Coffee & Donuts – Mike & Marilyn Nizzi



Grace Lutheran Church

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Pastor Michael Schmidt 515-276-6873

www.gracedm.org