

Grace Lutheran Church

Companion Congregation: Msindo Parish in Tanzania

Welcome to Worship

Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 30, 2025 9:00 a.m.

Liturgical worship with organ 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 <u>www.gracedm.org</u>
- •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 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 Setting of the hymn tune "Detroit" that is used in the choir anthem today and in ELW hymn #605 - American folk tune arranged by W. Held

Welcome

Poetry Prayer — The Good Shepherd

Jesus said, "Who among you wouldn't leave the 99? Who among you wouldn't look for the one?" Someone in the crowd probably rolled their eyes. Someone squirmed and looked at their palms. Someone sighed and thought to themselves, "This man doesn't understand the business. What fool would leave 99 to look for one?" But maybe God was not talking about us. Maybe God was talking about her own reckless love. Maybe God was talking about her own willingness to turn the world upside down for me.

Please rise in body or in spirit

Call to Worship

L: Our God is a shepherding God.

C: Our God knows us by name.

L: Our God will never stop searching for us. So if you feel lost,

C: then know that God is seeking you.

L: If you feel found,

C: then know that God will never leave.

L: This is the promise of scripture.

C: This is the promise of God's love.

L: Let us worship our with-us God.

Confession and Forgiveness

L: Friends, in the Christian tradition many have used "lost" and "found" labels to describe people "out there" versus people "in here." Many have used "lost" and "found" language to create a damaging dichotomy that Christians are found and non-Christians are lost. But the truth is, each and every one of us is a little bit lost and a little bit found from time to time. Each and every one of us needs the love of the Good Shepherd. So join me in the prayer of confession, as people who know both ends of that spectrum. Join me as we go to God in prayer:

L: If God is a painter,

C: let us be the brush.

L: If God is a musician,

C: let us be the song.

L: If God is an architect,

C: let us be the tools. Let us be the hands. Let us be the builders.

L: But if God is a shepherd, who never stops seeking,

C: let us be willing to be found, no matter how lost we feel.

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).

L: Our God is never far away.

C: Forgive us for forgetting this good news. Amen.

L: Family of faith, we are all a little bit lost and a little bit found. We grumble. We push back. We doubt God. We doubt ourselves. We leave the flock and lose our way. But fortunately for us, our God is a shepherding God who is always by our side. So hear and believe the good news of the gospel:

C: No matter how far we wander, we can never wander from the bounds of God's grace. We are loved. We are forgiven. We are not alone. Thanks be to God! Amen.

Gathering Hymn "Love Has Brought Us Here Together" ACS #1040

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



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.





For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

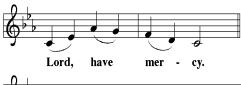


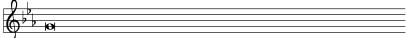


For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,

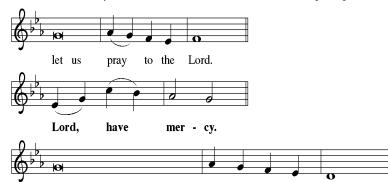


and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.





For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



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



L: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

L: Shepherding God,

C: You look for us. You search for us. You turn every corner and climb every mountain. You call our name until your voice is hoarse. When we lose our way, you never stop seeking after us. So once again we pray, find us in this moment. Look for us. And then surround us with your presence, so that we might feel you near. With hope we pray, with hope we listen. Amen.

Please be seated
Anthem "For You Alone, O God I Wait"
Chancel Choir

Reading Notes:

Herding sheep is a never-endina task. As soon as one is found, another may go missing. Our lives have a similar ebb and flow—in one moment we might feel like we have it all together, and in the next. we're struggling to survive. The promise of this parable is that no matter how "lost" we feel, the Good shepherd is by our side.

Reading: Luke 15:1-7

¹Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him. ²And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them."

³So he told them this parable: ⁴Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninetynine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it? ⁵When he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices. ⁶And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.' ⁷Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.

L: The Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God

Sermon

Please rise in body or in spirit **Hymn of the Day** "What Wondrous Love is This"

Affirmation of Faith

C: We believe in a seeking God, a with-us and before-us God, a chasing-after-us God. We believe that no matter where we wander or what mountains we climb, this God—the God who walked the streets of Jerusalem, shook hands with lepers, patted children on the head, and told stories of love—is always close at hand. So on the good days and the hard days, on the mountains and in the valleys, we believe that we are always being found. Thanks be to God for a love like that. Amen.

#666

Prayers of the People

L: Merciful God,

C:





L: We entrust all these prayers and those of our hearts to you, O God. In Jesus name we pray. Amen.

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: Holy God, gracious and merciful, you bring forth food from the earth and nourish your whole creation. Turn our hearts toward those who hunger in any way, that all may know your care; and prepare us now to feast on the bread of life, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Thanksgiving at the Table

L: God of our weary years, God of our silent tears, you have brought us this far along the way.

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.



L: In times of bitterness you did not abandon us, but guided us into the path of love and light. In every age you sent prophets to make known your loving will for all humanity. The cry of the poor has become your own cry; our hunger and thirst for justice is your own desire. In the fullness of time, you sent your chosen servant to preach good news to the afflicted, to break bread with the outcast and despised, and to ransom those in bondage to prejudice and sin.

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 all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

L: For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

C: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

L: Remembering, therefore, his death and resurrection, we await the day when Jesus shall return to free all the earth from the bonds of slavery and death.

Come, Lord Jesus! And let the church say, Amen.

C: Amen.

L: Send your Holy Spirit, our advocate, to fill the hearts of all who share this bread and cup with courage and wisdom to pursue love and justice in all the world. Come, Spirit of freedom! And let the church say, Amen.

C: Amen.

L: Join our prayers and praise with your prophets and martyrs of every age, that, rejoicing in the hope of the resurrection, we might live in the freedom and hope of your Son. Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father, 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: Jesus, our neighbor, invites us and all of his neighbors throughout the world to come together at this table and feast in his presence. Be nourished by this holy meal that you might go forth with joy and love your neighbors as yourselves. *Please be seated*

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

Centering Prayer

There will be two minutes of silence for centering prayer.

Please rise in body or in spirit

Prayer after Communion

L: Compassionate God, you have fed us with the bread of heaven. Sustain us in our Lenten pilgrimage: may our fasting be hunger for justice; our alms, a making of peace; and our prayer, the song of grateful hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

Benediction

L: As you leave this place, may you find God in every messy middle. May you know that the world is bigger than two sides. May you trust that you are made in the image of God, and therefore, you contain multitudes. So may you move through this world with an open heart, with a curious mind, and with the confidence that you do not go alone. God is with you in the mountains, in the valleys, and everywhere in between. Believe that good news, and go in peace.

C: Amen

Communion

Todav 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 trav. 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 vou return to the pew.

Dismissal

L: Go in Peace, Serve in Love

C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Choral Prelude on "When on the Cross the Savior Hung" arranged by J. S. Bach

Poetry and Liturgy by Rev. Sarah A. Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org Graphic Design by Rev. Lauren Wright Pittman | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

Welcome to Grace!

Ministers —the people of Grace

Pastor -

The Rev. Michael Schmidtmike@gracedm.org

Vicar

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

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Custodian – Todd Haugen

Usher – Carter Woodruff

Greeter - Lenny Palmer

Liturgist – Mary Freimuth Helt

Lector - Jenny Rehder

Communion Assistant – Jenny Rehder

Altar Guild - Sue Anderson & Jane Ridnour

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

Counters - Carter Woodruff & Mark Stumme

Coffee & Donuts - Cherrie Rissman



Grace Lutheran Church

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