



Grace Lutheran Church

Companion Congregation: Msindo Parish in Tanzania

Welcome to Worship

Palm Sunday

April 13, 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 worshipping 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.

Prelude Improvisation on the hymn of the day "My Song Is Love Unknown" - J. Ireland arranged by M. Burkhardt

Welcome

Poetry Prayer — If You Really Listen...

In the city you'll hear horns, the clatter of the subway, mothers calling to their children, saying, "Take my hand before we cross the street." You'll hear church bells, Salvation Army bells, people asking for spare change, while others ask for directions. You'll hear the whistle from the traffic cop, the exhaust from the bus, that a train is arriving in two minutes. You'll hear mothers selling fresh mango, theater kids selling tickets, and religious groups selling ideas. But even with all that shouting, even with all that noise, the birds still sing. Against all odds, thanks be to God, the birds still sing.

Please rise in body or in spirit

Call to Worship

L: On this day, Jesus marched

C: in between the city walls and the Temple, in between joyful Hosannas and doubtful whispers, in between oppressive poverty and greedy power, in between rampant fear and hope unfurled.

L: On this day, Jesus marched in between what had been and what could be.

C: So may we meet Christ in that liminal space. May we lay down our coats in that messy middle.

L: Hosanna in the highest!

C: Hosanna in between!

Processional Hymn "All Glory Laud and Honor" #344

Confession and Forgiveness

L: Friends, we are truth-tellers in the prayer of confession. We are honest about the fact that we are works in progress. We tell the truth of our lives. We lay it all out before God. But this moment of prayer isn't just about us. In the prayer of confession we also reveal who God is, and our God is merciful. Our God is slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. So let us pray, knowing that God's truth will always mean grace for us.

L: Great Creator, forgive me

C: when I speak before listening, when I speak over my neighbor, when I speak with barbed words.

L: Creator God, forgive me

C: when I listen to society, when I listen to my friends, when I listen to the news, but I do not listen to you.

L: Creator God, forgive me

Processional Hymn

Palm Sunday is the day in Lent when we first begin to hear the story of the Passion of Jesus. That long ago day, Jesus entered Jerusalem riding a young horse or donkey, thus fulfilling the Old Testament prophesy. Crowds of pilgrims were gathered to celebrate Jesus' arrival, and they waved palm branches and threw them at his feet as he passed. They also chanted "Hosanna", which can be literally translated as "deliver us." The events of Holy Week and the Resurrection followed this triumphal procession. We remember and observe Jesus' entrance into Jerusalem by waving palm branches as the cross processes to the altar. Please remain in your pew, but wave your palm branch high in the air as we sing the processional hymn together.

C: when I shout out, but do not shout your name, when I listen, but do not listen for your voice. Forgive me.

L: Create in me a heart like yours.

C: Amen.

L: Friends, whether or not you stuck to your Lenten goals this year, whether or not this is your first time in church or your thousandth time, whether or not you know to speak to God or listen for God's voice, God listens to you. God is merciful. God is abounding in steadfast love. There is nothing you could do or leave undone that could keep God from loving you. So hear and believe the good news of the gospel:

C: We are seen. We are heard. We are loved. We are forgiven. Not a day goes by that we ever walk alone. Hosanna in the highest! Amen.

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.

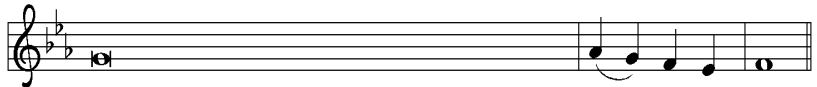
Kyrie



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



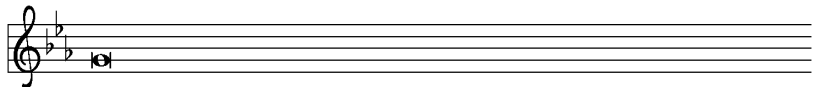
Lord, have mer - cy.



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



Lord, have mer - cy.



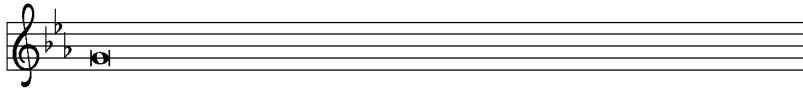
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



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



Lord, have mer - cy.



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



let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



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



A - men, a - men.

L: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

L: Speaking God,

C: Most days we are inundated with noise. Some of it is good—laughter, music, storytelling. Some of it is hard—arguments, slurs, the sound of bomber planes. Every day we live between silence and shouting, rotating through quiet and noise. So in the midst of this messy middle, help us to hear what is yours. Help us to hear your song, your story, your good news. Help us to hear your voice, your Spirit, your will. And show us how to release the rest. We are listening. Amen.

Please be seated

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:

Jesus doesn't instigate his own parade. Instead, just his quiet presence alone inspires the multitude to shout out and praise God. When the religious leaders try to silence the crowd, Jesus tells them that the noise level isn't the point—even the stones would cry out if they were silent. It takes wisdom to know when our voice is needed and when it's just noise.

Anthem

"Hosanna! Hosanna!"

Chancel Choir

Reading: Luke 19:29-40

²⁹When he had come near Bethphage and Bethany, at the place called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of the disciples, ³⁰saying, "Go into the village ahead of you, and as you enter it you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden. Untie it and bring it here. ³¹If anyone asks you, 'Why are you untying it?' just say this, 'The Lord needs it.'" ³²So those who were sent departed and found it as he had told them. ³³As they were untying the colt, its owners asked them, "Why are you untying the colt?" ³⁴They said, "The Lord needs it." ³⁵Then they brought it to Jesus; and after throwing their cloaks on the colt, they set Jesus on it. ³⁶As he rode along, people kept spreading their cloaks on the road. ³⁷As he was now approaching the path down from the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to praise God joyfully with a loud voice for all the deeds of power that they had seen, ³⁸saying, "Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven, and glory in the highest heaven!" ³⁹Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, order your disciples to stop." ⁴⁰He answered, "I tell you, if these were silent, the stones would shout out."

L: The Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God

Sermon

Please rise in body or in spirit

Hymn of the Day "My Song is Love Unknown"

#343

Affirmation of Faith

C: We believe that many years ago a peaceful parade wove its way through the streets of Jerusalem. We believe that on that day the people cried out, longing and praying for a better world. We believe that these longings came from a place of deep hope, and we believe that hope cannot be silenced. So we listen for the Spirit. We sing Hosanna. We pay attention. For in between the silence and the song, we believe the Spirit is speaking. Amen.

Prayers of the People

L: Merciful God,

C:

Christ, our peace, you break down the walls that di - vide us;

Christ, our peace, come, make us one bod-y in you.

The image shows a musical score for two voices, likely Soprano and Alto, in a key of B-flat major (two flats). The first system contains the lyrics 'Christ, our peace, you break down the walls that di - vide us;'. The second system contains the lyrics 'Christ, our peace, come, make us one bod-y in you.' The music is written on a grand staff with a treble and bass clef. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with a final cadence at the end of the second system.

L: We entrust all these prayers and those of our hearts to you, O God. 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

Lutheran World Relief Quilt and Kit Blessing

L: Holy God, your Spirit speaks to our hearts and helps us to see your presence in our neighbors both near and far.

C: We see that so many of our neighbors around the world are in need of hope and help. May we be guided by your Spirit to serve them.

L: Generous God, we give you thanks for the all the resources you have provided us to make into kits and quilts.

C: We give you thanks for all the hands that fashioned your love into quilts, for the hands that collected and sorted kits, for the hands that donated time and offerings, for the hands that pack and deliver them to Lutheran World Relief so that no one

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.



feels left out.

L: May these quilts wrap our neighbors in your unending love, and may these kits offer dignity and healing.

C: God, we ask you to guide the staff and partners at Lutheran World Relief. May their voices and hands be a beacon of hope. Keep them safe. Keep them filled with your strength and perseverance.

L: God, be with our neighbors who will receive these gifts. May they be wrapped in love, may they taste your goodness, may they touch signs of your hope.

All: We pray all this in the name of Jesus, the One who is our hope. Amen.

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.

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

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.

Celebrating First Communion Today:

Owen Chenoweth, Zayden Curry, Livia Ocken, Kylie Radermacher, and Lucas Radermacher.

Distribution Hymns: #752 (3x), #466, #479, #471

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

Sending Hymn

“Prepare the Royal Highway”

#264

Dismissal

L: Go in Peace, Serve in Love

C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Improvisation on the hymn "Hosanna, Loud Hosanna"
18th century tune arranged by M. Burkhardt

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

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 – Linda Moravec

Greeter – Nolan Irwin

Liturgist – Emma Stammer

Lector – Ro Zimany

Communion Assistant – Carol Woodruff

Altar Guild – Jenny Rehder, Carol Woodruff, Jill Boeschen

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

Counters – Mark Stumme & Tom McCleary

Coffee & Donuts –



GRACE
LUTHERAN
CHURCH

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Pastor Michael Schmidt

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www.gracedm.org