

Grace Lutheran Church

Companion Congregation: Msindo Parish in Tanzania

Welcome to Worship

Fifth Sunday in Lent April 6, 2025

9:00 a.m. Liturgical worship with piano 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 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 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.

Welcome

Poetry Prayer — Righteousness & Mercy

As children we were taught to tell the teacher. (Justice was dealt when we spoke up.) As children we were taught to always be kind. (Friends were made when we spoke love.) As children we were taught that Zaccheus climbed a tree. (But we cut that tree down a long time ago.) So what are the rules for this day and age? Can we turn black and white into shades of gray? Do we call each other out, for righteousness sake? Do we call each other in? Do we grab something to eat? As always, love is somewhere in between.

Please rise in body or in spirit

Call to Worship

L: We come to worship because we long for mercy.

C: We long for community. We long for God.

L: We come to worship because we need a good word.

C: We need connection. We need moral reminders.

L: We come to worship because we are in between:

C: hope and grief, faith and doubt, joy and longing, curiosity and conviction.

L: So we come to worship and God meets us here.

C: Surely, we are not alone. Thanks be to God for meeting us in the middle! Amen.

Confession and Forgiveness

L: Friends, our faith calls us to live with both mercy and righteousness. Somewhere along the way, however, we have forgotten that truth. Somewhere along the way, we began arguing about who deserves mercy and whether or not they had acted with enough righteousness to receive it. Fortunately, God does not act that way. No matter what mistakes we have made or wrong turns we've taken, God consistently meets us with mercy and invites us to try again. So let us lean into that good news, and go to God in prayer:

C: Merciful God, When we fail to be righteous, show us mercy. When we fail to be merciful, show us what is right. Again and again, bring us closer to you. Again and again, show us the way. Amen.

L: Family of faith, hear and believe this good news: When we fail to be righteous,

C: God is merciful.

L: When we fail to be merciful,

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).

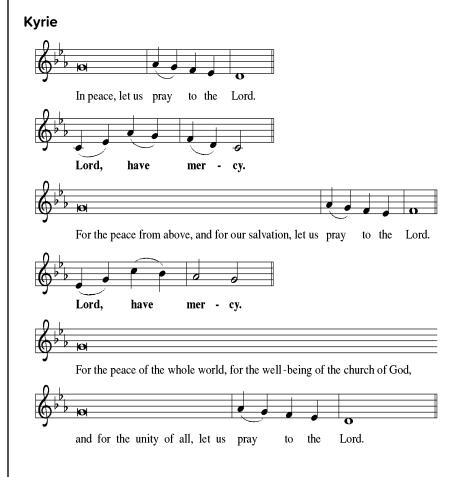
C: God invites us to try again.

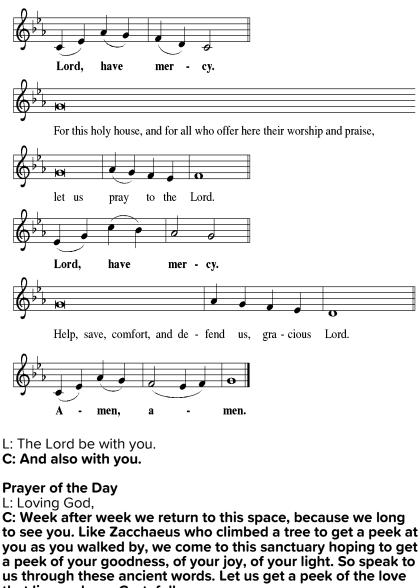
- L: Again and again,
- C: God moves closer to us.
- L: Again and again,
- C: God shows us the way.
- L: Thanks be to God for this unending love.
- C: Amen.

Gathering Hymn	"Gather Us In"	#532
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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.**





that lingers here. Gratefully we pray, amen.

Please be seated Reading: Luke 19:1-10

¹He entered Jericho and was passing through it. ²A man was there named Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was rich. ³He was trying to see who Jesus was, but on account of the crowd he could not, because he was short in stature. ⁴So he ran

Reading Notes:

The crowds grumble at Jesus' selfinvitation to stay with Zacchaeus, and their righteous indignation isn't without cause. As a tax collector. Zacchaeus has extorted monev and acted in collusion with the empire, using his position to oppress his own people. It is important to call out oppression, and yet, Jesus offers mercy. That mercy then begets more mercy as Zacchaeus, unprompted. offers to return what he took, and then some.

ahead and climbed a sycamore tree to see him, because he was going to pass that way. ⁵When Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, hurry and come down; for I must stay at your house today." ⁶So he hurried down and was happy to welcome him. ⁷All who saw it began to grumble and said, "He has gone to be the guest of one who is a sinner." ⁸Zacchaeus stood there and said to the Lord, "Look, half of my possessions, Lord, I will give to the poor; and if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I will pay back four times as much." ⁹Then Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, because he too is a son of Abraham. ¹⁰For the Son of Man came to seek out and to save the lost."

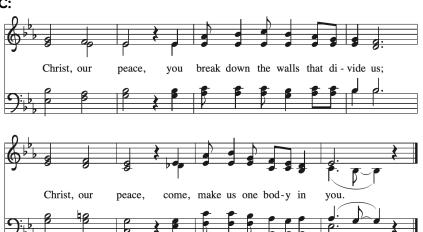
L: The Word of the Lord **C: Thanks be to God**

Sermon

Please rise in body or in spirit Hymn of the Day "Faith Begins by Letting Go" ACS #1004

Affirmation of Faith

C: In a world that loves to cast blame and point fingers, Jesus loved by different rules. He offered mercy. He invited people to dinner. He told stories of love. He chose to see the best in others. We believe that small acts of mercy and compassion have ripple effects in our lives. We believe that small acts of righteousness and justice are integral to a life of faith. So like Christ, we believe in offering mercy, inviting people to dinner, telling stories of love, and choosing to see the best in others. With God's help, may it be so. Amen. 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 Praver Our Father in heaven. hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, vour 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 alory 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: #642 (3x), #518, #777, #522

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

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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 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 you return to the pew.

Sending Hymn

"Build a Longer Table " ACS #1062

Dismissal L: Go in Peace, Serve in Love C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

"Promised Land" (American folk tune, arr. John Carter)

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 Schmidt <u>mike@gracedm.org</u>		
Vicar		
Jesse Hershbergerj <u>esse@gracedm.org</u>		
Organist –		
Rich Snyderrich@gracedm.org		
Piano Accompanist, Music Ensemble Coordinator – Kathy Bowermaster		
Minister for Communications –		
Michelle Voelker <u>michelle@gracedm.org</u>		
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Mike Hilsabeckmike.h@gracedm.org		
Office Assistant for Worship		
Jessica Flanneryj <u>essica@gracedm.org</u>		
Custodian – Todd Haugen		
Usher – Linda Moravec		
Greeter –		
Lector – Carol Woodruff		
Communion Assistant – Cherie Rissman		
Altar Guild – Jenny Rehder, Carol Woodruff, Jill Boeschen		
Tech Crew – Greg Boeschen, Jamie Briggs, Chuck Denton, Paul Nelson, Jon Rissman, & Amy Schmelzer		
Counters – Aaron Brandsfield & Jon Rissman		
Coffee & Donuts – Jill Boeschen		



Grace Lutheran Church

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