



Grace Lutheran Church

Companion Congregation: Msindo Parish in Tanzania

Welcome to Worship

Resurrection of Our Lord, Easter Day

April 20, 2025

6:30 a.m., 8:15 a.m., & 10 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: 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 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 sending hymn "Thine Is the Glory" (ELW 376)
G. Handel arranged by J. Correll

Welcome

Poetry Prayer — In the Direction of Hope

*I am on my way.
Wait for me in the garden;
I will be there soon.
I'm not the fastest runner,
Lord knows that,
but these legs are moving.
I suppose I could blame my weary spirit for the slow speed.
I could blame the grief I've shoved into my pockets and
laid around my neck.
I could blame my own hesitation to hope,
a hesitation that clings like mud.
But I don't know that Jesus cares about my speed.
So tell God when you see them—
I am on my way.
Wait for me in the garden.
I will be there soon.*

Confession and Forgiveness

L: Faithful friends, today is a joyful day! If I were to ask you what parts of today's service feel joyful, you'd probably say the music, the passing of the peace, the flowers in the sanctuary. You might say the children's sermon, or the crowded room. But it's unlikely that any of you would name the prayer of confession, because the prayer of confession has a reputation for being somber and serious. But perhaps the prayer of confession can feel like a fresh page. Maybe the prayer of confession can allow us to start again. When we move closer to God, we are always met with grace, mercy, and abundant love. And my friends, *that* is joyful. That feels like Easter, doesn't it? So join me in the prayer of confession. It's a joyful day. That joy doesn't stop here. Let us pray:

C: Forgive us, God, when good news lands in our lap and we refuse to believe it. Forgive us, God, when grief and fear crowd out any room in our hearts for hope. Forgive us, God, when we dismiss the stories of others and minimize the voices of our neighbors.

L: In a world that teeters between grief and hope, show us how to be like Peter.

C: Show us how to hold onto hope. Show us how to run toward you. Amen.

Gathering

*On this day the
Lord has acted! On
the first day of the
week God began
creation, transform-
ing darkness into
light. On this, the
"eighth day" of the
week, Jesus Christ
was raised from the
dead. We celebrate
this new creation in
the waters of bap-
tism and in the
feast of victory.
With great joy we
celebrate this day
of days, even as we
begin the great fifty
days of Easter.
Filled with hope, we
go forth to share
the news that
Christ is risen.*

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: Family of Faith, At first, the disciples didn’t believe that Jesus had risen. They stayed locked in an upper room, shaking and afraid. Peter was the only exception. Fortunately, Jesus loves us on our best days and our worst days.

C: God’s grace exists for us when we are hopeful and when we’re grieving when we’re shouting and when we’re silent, when we’re full of faith and when we’re full of fear. God’s grace exists for us on the best days, the worst days, and every day in between. Thanks be to God for this good news! Alleluia! Amen.

Gathering Hymn

“Jesus Christ is Risen Today”

#365

Greeting

L: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C: Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

L: The joy and peace of God be with you all.

C: And also with you!

Call to worship

L: My dear friends,
we have known grief.
We have known loss.
We have known the long road, tired and winding.
We have whispered prayers on bended knees.
We have stared at the sky, empty of stars.

L: But today—

C: today we know hope.

L: Today we know life.

C: Today we know the sound of Alleluias.

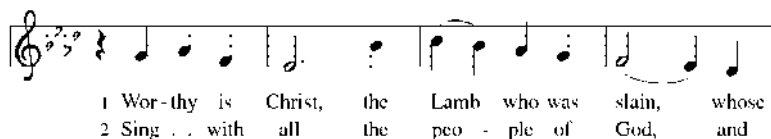
L: Today we know that death does not have the last word.

C: Today we know that nothing can separate us from the love of God.

L: It is Easter. May hope find you. And may you know, deep in your bones, that today is a new day.

C: Alleluia! Amen.

Hymn 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.

Reading Notes:
Grief is a healthy response to Jesus' death and a valid way to enter worship on Easter morning. And yet, the women at the empty tomb are given hope amidst their mourning. The other disciples don't believe the women's message, but Peter, living in the in-between of grief and hope, runs to the tomb to see for himself. Grieving doesn't have to make us hopeless. Hope can compel us to take action when we are deep in grief.

Prayer of the Day

L: Let us pray,

C: God of Alleluias and empty tombs, God of garden plots and good news, it is Easter. It is finally Easter. In a world full of grief and heartache, in a world full of violence and oppression, in a world full of loss and separation, we long for this day because Easter sings a different song. Easter sings a song of hope. Easter sings a song of new life. Easter sings a song of love that makes you want to jump out of your chair and run barefoot to the tomb.

Easter smells of fresh flowers and baked bread. It sounds like trumpets and laughter. It feels like a crowded table and a warm hug. Yes, Easter sings a different song. So in a world full of grief, help us to cling to Easter's hope. In a world full of grief, help us hear this story of good news. In a world full of grief, we're ready to jump out of our chairs and run barefoot to the tomb. With hope we pray, with hope we listen, amen.

Please be seated

Anthem "Alleluia, Alleluia! Hearts to Heaven" (8:15 & 10)
Chancel Choir

Reading: Luke 24:1-12

¹But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they came to the tomb, taking the spices that they had prepared. ²They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, ³but when they went in, they did not find the body. ⁴While they were perplexed about this, suddenly two men in dazzling clothes stood beside them. ⁵The women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen. ⁶Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, ⁷that the Son of Man must be handed over to sinners, and be crucified, and on the third day rise again." ⁸Then they remembered his words, ⁹and returning from the tomb, they told all this to the eleven and to all the rest. ¹⁰Now it was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them who told this to the apostles. ¹¹But these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them. ¹²But Peter got up and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; then he went home, amazed at what had happened.

L: The Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God

Sermon

Please rise in body or in spirit

Hymn of the Day “Christ is Risen! Alleluia!”

#382

Affirmation of Faith

L: In the dark before dawn,

C: we believe that God is alive.

L: In the midst of our grief,

C: we believe the Spirit is at work.

L: In the chaos of our broken world,

C: we believe that love is on the loose.

L: For no stone could keep God at bay,

C: and no violence could keep God’s love from us.

L: So today we sing,

C: Alleluia!

L: For somewhere in between our belief and doubt,

C: hope lives.

L: Christ has died,

C: and Christ has also risen. Thanks be to God! Amen.

Prayers of the People

L: Risen God,

C: Receive our prayer.

L: These and the prayers of all creation we lift to you in Jesus’ name.

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: Gracious Provider,

C: you set your immense treasures among us, opening your heart to the world. As we prepare to feast on your bountiful love, deepen our commitment to sharing those treasures with others, through our Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

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.*



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. 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.

Invitation to 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.**

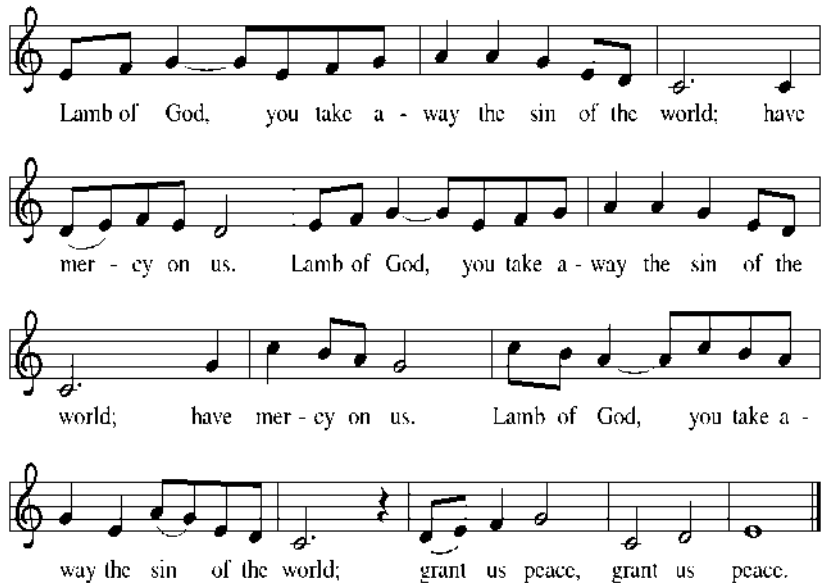
**Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

Invitation to Communion

L: All who are hungry, come! The feast of grace is spread.
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, grant us peace.

Distribution Hymns: #472 (3x), #423, #464, #542

Please rise in body or in spirit

Prayer after Communion

L: Generous Host, you have shared your feast with us and made us new. Send us now to set tables of love and grace in our communities, that your liberating love might nourish the world into freedom, in the name of the crucified one, Jesus Christ our 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

"Thine is the Glory"

#376

Dismissal

L: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

C: Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

L: Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.

C: Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

Postlude Setting of "Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain of
Triumphant Gladness"

J. Horn arranged by W. Held

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."



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

Ushers – Carter Woodruff, Linda Moravec, Larry Cramer

Greeters – Joan Fumetti, Lenny Palmer

Lectors – Pam Palmer, Carol Woodruff, Ro Zimany

Grace Brass: Marty and Kari Dostalík, Pastor Mike, Tom Selander, Rich Voelker, Jenny Rehder, Kiley Brandsfield

Communion Assistants – Julie Honsey, Cathy Watson, Carol Woodruff, Jessica Flannery, Cheryl Weatherington

Altar Guild – Sue Anderson, Jill Boeschen, Kathy Bowermaster, Karri Brandsfield, Mary Jo McCleary, Jenny Rehder, Jane Ridnour, Rita Stackhouse, Carol Woodruff

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

Counters – Mark Stumme & Tom McCleary



Grace Lutheran Church

5201 Urbandale Avenue
Des Moines, Iowa 50310

Pastor Michael Schmidt

515-276-6873

www.gracedm.org