



Grace Lutheran Church

Companion Congregation: Msindo Parish in Tanzania

Welcome to Worship

Good Friday

April 18, 2025

6:30 p.m.

Liturgical worship with organ

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 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.

Enter in silence

Prelude

Welcome

Call to Worship

L: We have come to worship the Trinity,

**C: One God, three persons,
beyond our understanding
yet constantly revealing themselves to us.**

L: We have come to worship an infinite being
who took on finite flesh: fully human and fully divine--

L: a being who is love itself,

C: yet loathes injustice;

L: who is almighty,

**C: yet let go of power
to be in solidarity with outcasts and criminals.**

L: We gather to worship the living God

C: who died.

Prayer of the Day

L: Holy God,

**C: Help us to not look away from the darkness of this day. May
we take in the fullness of the story, and sit a while with its
truth. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

Lamenting Injustice

L: The sin of racism and prejudice hurts communities, fractures human relationships, and denies God's good creation. Lament is a way for us to recognize the harm caused by racism, sexism, prejudice, homophobia, transphobia, and all other forms of discrimination.

L: Nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus (Romans 8:35-39). God's grace in Christ frees us for the difficult work of recognizing and lamenting racism and prejudice.

L: We are all part of one body in Christ, called to act with equity, fairness, and justice. God's saving love creates grace-filled spaces within us and within our relationships. God's saving love calls and leads us toward rooting out the racism and prejudice that continues to infect the body.

L: Within the whole human family, people of color have experienced both interpersonal aggression and structural oppression instead of abundant life. We recognize and lament

the harm racism has caused to African Descent communities; American Indian and Alaskan Native communities; Indigenous Peoples within Canada; Arab and Middle Eastern communities; Asian and Pacific Islander communities; and Latina communities. We cry out to you,

C: hear our lament, O God.

L: We have assigned the notion of race to human beings created in God's own divine image. We have judged God's beautiful diversity by our flawed and artificial standards. We cry out to you,

C: hear our lament, O God.

L: We have accepted practices in our churches and in our society that privilege whiteness over diversity and equity. We have been complicit in how racism continues to exclude and harm people of color. We cry out to you,

C: hear our lament, O God.

L: We have accepted practices in our churches and in our society that privilege males and have limited the rights of women and all people within the LGBTQIA+ community. We have been complicit in how sexism, homophobia, and transphobia continue to harm women and people within the LGBTQIA+ community. We cry out to you.

C: hear our lament, O God.

L: When one part of the body of Christ hurts, the whole-body hurts. As we listen to people who are harmed by racism and discrimination, we call to you,

C: open our hearts, O God.

L: As we reflect on our daily interactions with people and communities of color and LGBTQIA+, we call to you,

C: open our hearts, O God.

L: As we reconsider what we have been taught about race and racism, we call to you,

C: open our hearts, O God.

L: As we reconsider what we have been taught about gender and sexism, we call to you.

C: open our hearts, O God.

L: As we contemplate what we have done and what we have left undone, we call to you,

C: open our hearts, O God.

L: As we labor to create a loving and safe community for all of our siblings, we call to you,

C: open our hearts, O God.

L: Holy and merciful God, as your people we recommit ourselves to loving one another as you have loved us. Prepare us for this time of listening and discovery. We pray in the name of the one who has made us one, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

Please be seated

Reading: Luke 23:32-49

³²Two others also, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with him. ³³When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. [[³⁴Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing."]] And they cast lots to divide his clothing. ³⁵And the people stood by, watching; but the leaders scoffed at him, saying, "He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God, his chosen one!" ³⁶The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine, ³⁷and saying, "If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!" ³⁸There was also an inscription over him, "This is the King of the Jews."

³⁹One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, "Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!" ⁴⁰But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? ⁴¹And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong." ⁴²Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." ⁴³He replied, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise."

⁴⁴It was now about noon, and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon, ⁴⁵while the sun's light failed; and the curtain of the temple was torn in two. ⁴⁶Then Jesus, crying with a loud voice, said, "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit." Having said this, he breathed his last. ⁴⁷When the centurion saw what had taken place, he praised God and said, "Certainly this man was innocent." ⁴⁸And when all the crowds

Reading Notes:

As Jesus dies on the cross, one thief resists him and the other accepts him as Messiah. Jesus resists the empire but accepts his fate. We also are called to resist systems of power and oppression, and yet we ultimately have to accept that Jesus dies—and one day we will too. We have to discern what to accept as given and what to resist, what is "God's will" and what is the result of our own unquestioned systems.

who had gathered there for this spectacle saw what had taken place, they returned home, beating their breasts. ⁴⁹But all his acquaintances, including the women who had followed him from Galilee, stood at a distance, watching these things.

L: The Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God

Sermon

Please rise in body or in spirit

Hymn of the Day

“Ah, Holy Jesus”

#349

Bidding Prayers

L: Let us pray, siblings in Christ, for the holy church throughout the world...

..... We ask this through Christ our Lord"

C: Amen.

L: Finally, let us pray for all those things for which our Lord would have us ask.

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.

Adoration of the Cross

L: We glory in your cross, O Lord,

and we praise your holy resurrection,

for by your cross joy has come into the world.

May God be merciful and bless us;

may the light of God's face shine upon us.

Let your way be known upon earth,

your saving health among all nations.

We glory in your cross, O Lord,

and we praise your holy resurrection,
for by your cross joy has come into the world.
Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you.
May God give us blessing,
and may all the ends of the earth stand in awe.
We glory in your cross, O Lord,
and we praise your holy resurrection,
for by your cross joy has come into the world.

a brief silence

L: We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

C: By your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

Sending hymn

“There in God's Garden”

#342

EASTER SUNDAY

6:30 a.m. – Holy Communion

8:15 a.m. – Holy Communion

7:00 – 10:00 a.m. – Fellowship & Breakfast

10:00 a.m. – Holy Communion

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 – Carter Woodruff

Greeter –

Lector – Carol Woodruff

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



Grace Lutheran Church

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Pastor Michael Schmidt

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www.gracedm.org