

A stylized orange graphic of a hand holding a heart, positioned to the left of the main title.

everything [in] between

power & humility

Grace Lutheran Church

Companion Congregation: Msindo Parish in Tanzania

Welcome to Worship

Maundy Thursday

April 17, 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.

Prelude Setting of the hymn "O Sacred Head Now Wounded"
- H. Hassler arranged by M. Burkhardt

Welcome

Poetry Prayer - Power Like a Seed

*In a world that wants power like a machine gun,
power like a bomber plane,
power like a gated fence to keep the hungry out,
I want power like a seed—
power that will crack me open and grow something good;
power like an open door,
an invitation that says, "Come on in;"
power that feels like a strong spine with a soft heart.
I want the power to listen, to lean in, to ask follow-up questions.
But more than anything, I want the power to bring us together, to
lift you up.
There are different kinds of power.
One will build a wall.
One will plant a garden.
We should know by now, only one will bear fruit.*

Please rise in body or in spirit

Call to Worship

L: The Last Supper shows us who is welcome at Christ's table:

C: People who sometimes trust, and sometimes question,

L: who are sometimes fearful, sometimes bold.

C: Liars and backsliders, doubters and deniers,

L: and those who struggle to get free of what the world calls
power,
but commit to revolution anyway.

C: Impulsive people. Imperfect people.

L: People who mess up over and over--but try again, and again,
and again.

C: In short: each and every one of us.

L: So let no one ever tell you that you are not welcome here:

C: Jesus wants you at his table, exactly as you are.

Confession and Forgiveness

L: We confess our sins before God and one another.

Pause for silence and reflection.

L: God of the journey,

**C: We do not want to follow where you lead. Instead, we turn
inward, focusing on satisfying our own wants, even at the ex-
pense of our neighbors. We do not see their suffering; we do**

Opening 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:

In his final hours, Jesus redefines power through acts of humility, including sharing a final meal with his closest friends and those who will soon betray him. After breaking bread, the disciples argue about who is the greatest, but Jesus tells them that the greatest must be the least and the leader must be the servant, turning their hierarchy on its head. According to

not act for their justice. We are motivated by the fear of not getting what we want, or of losing what we have. We ignore the example of your sacrificial love, which has the power to heal and make whole. Forgive us for refusing to heed your call. Change our hearts, our minds, and our actions, so that we might return to following you, no matter where your journey leads.

L: Our God is a God of abundant grace and mercy, and never lets us go. For the sake of Jesus, God With Us, who gave all for the redemption of creation, your sins are forgiven. Follow in Christ's loving footsteps.

C: Amen.

Gathering Hymn "Three Holy Days Enfold Us Now" #930

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.

Prayer of the Day

L: Holy God,

C: You came not to be served but to serve. Teach us by your example to have servant hearts in all that we do, that all might experience your loving care through our actions. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Please be seated

Reading: Luke 22:1-27

¹Now the festival of Unleavened Bread, which is called the Passover, was near. ²The chief priests and the scribes were looking for a way to put Jesus to death, for they were afraid of the people.

³Then Satan entered into Judas called Iscariot, who was one of the twelve; ⁴he went away and conferred with the chief priests and officers of the temple police about how he might betray him to them. ⁵They were greatly pleased and agreed to give him money. ⁶So he consented and began to look for an opportunity to betray him to them when no crowd was present.

⁷Then came the day of Unleavened Bread, on which the Passover lamb had to be sacrificed. ⁸So Jesus sent Peter and John, saying, "Go and prepare the Passover meal for us that we may eat it." ⁹They asked him, "Where do you want us to make preparations for it?" ¹⁰Listen, he said to them, "when you have entered the city, a man carrying a jar of water will meet you; follow him into the house he enters ¹¹and say to the owner of the house, 'The teacher asks you, "Where is the guest room, where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?"' ¹²He will show you a large

room upstairs, already furnished. Make preparations for us there." ¹³So they went and found everything as he had told them; and they prepared the Passover meal.

¹⁴When the hour came, he took his place at the table, and the apostles with him. ¹⁵He said to them, "I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer; ¹⁶for I tell you, I will not eat it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God." ¹⁷Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he said, "Take this and divide it among yourselves; ¹⁸for I tell you that from now on I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes." ¹⁹Then he took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." ²⁰And he did the same with the cup after supper, saying, "This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood. ²¹But see, the one who betrays me is with me, and his hand is on the table. ²²For the Son of Man is going as it has been determined, but woe to that one by whom he is betrayed!" ²³Then they began to ask one another which one of them it could be who would do this.

²⁴A dispute also arose among them as to which one of them was to be regarded as the greatest. ²⁵But he said to them, "The kings of the Gentiles lord it over them; and those in authority over them are called benefactors. ²⁶But not so with you; rather the greatest among you must become like the youngest, and the leader like one who serves. ²⁷For who is greater, the one who is at the table or the one who serves? Is it not the one at the table? But I am among you as one who serves.

L: The Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God

Sermon

Please rise in body or in spirit

Hymn of the Day "Taste and See" #493
Solo on verses, congregation sings on the refrain

Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;**

*Jesus, humility is
powerful, and real
power is shown
through humility.*

Creed

*The Apostles' Creed is
in a way the
"Reader's Digest Bi-
ble". If you took the
Bible and did to it
what Southern chefs
do to green beans
(cook them for 24
hours), you would
find the Apostles'
Creed at the bottom
of the pot when you
lifted the lid.*

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 – for Kings and all those in authority, that we may live in peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness."

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.



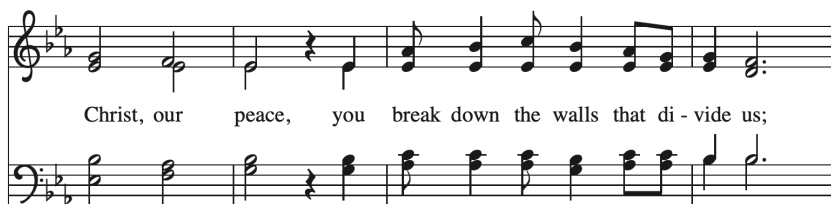
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

Prayers of the People

L: Merciful God,

C:



L: Receive these prayers, loving God, for the sake of the One who loved us to the end, Jesus Christ, our redeemer.

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!

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.

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.*

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: #348(3x), 494, 962, 966

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.

Please be seated

Stripping of the Altar

Psalm 88

¹O LORD, God of my salvation, when, at night, I cry out in your presence,

²**let my prayer come before you; incline your ear to my cry.**

³For my soul is full of troubles, and my life draws near to Sheol.

⁴**I am counted among those who go down to the Pit; I am like those who have no help,**

⁵like those forsaken among the dead, like the slain that lie in the grave, like those whom you remember no more, for they are cut off from your hand.

⁶**You have put me in the depths of the Pit, in the regions dark and deep.**

⁷Your wrath lies heavy upon me, and you overwhelm me with all your waves. Selah

⁸**You have caused my companions to shun me; you have made me a thing of horror to them. I am shut in so that I cannot escape;**

⁹my eye grows dim through sorrow. Every day I call on you, O LORD; I spread out my hands to you.

¹⁰**Do you work wonders for the dead? Do the shades rise up to praise you? Selah**

¹¹Is your steadfast love declared in the grave, or your faithfulness in Abaddon?

¹²**Are your wonders known in the darkness, or your saving help in the land of forgetfulness?**

¹³But I, O LORD, cry out to you; in the morning my prayer comes before you.

¹⁴**O LORD, why do you cast me off? Why do you hide your face from me?**

¹⁵Wretched and close to death from my youth up, I suffer your terrors; I am desperate.

¹⁶**Your wrath has swept over me; your dread assaults destroy me.**

¹⁷They surround me like a flood all day long; from all sides they close in on me.

¹⁸**You have caused friend and neighbor to shun me; my companions are in darkness.**

You are asked to leave the sanctuary in silence.

You are welcome to remain for silent prayer.

Worship continues on Good Friday at 6:30 p.m.

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 – Jenny Rehder

Communion Assistant – Carol Woodruff

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



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Pastor Michael Schmidt

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