



# Grace Lutheran Church

Companion Congregation: Msindo Parish in Tanzania

## Welcome to Worship

Third Sunday of Easter

May 4, 2025

9:00 a.m.

Liturgical worship with organ

Setting 10

## 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](http://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 we are online-only, or 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](mailto:Mike@gracedm.org), 515-276-6873.**

**Prelude** Improvisation on the sending hymn "Alleluia, Sing To Jesus" - R. Prichard arranged by P. Manz

## Welcome

*Please rise in body or in spirit*

## Confession and Forgiveness

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

*Pause for silence and reflection.*

L: God of new life,

**C: We live as though you are still in the grave. We do not rejoice in the good news of liberation for all people without exception. We continue to sin against you and our neighbors by our actions and our failure to act. Shake us out of our complacency, cleanse our hearts of selfishness, and make us joyful participants in the work of bringing about your reign in the world today.**

L: We are an Easter people! Through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, God has redeemed all of creation. Know that you are made whole, forgiven of all your sins, and empowered to live out the gospel in joy.

**C: Amen.**

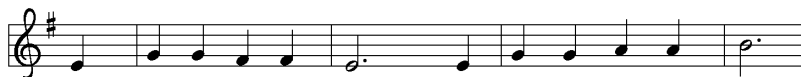
**Gathering Hymn** "Now All the Vault of Heaven Resound"  
ELW #367

## 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



- 1 Have mer - cy on us, Lord, and hear our sol - emn prayer.
- 2 Have mer - cy on us, Christ, and wash a - way our sin.
- 3 Have mer - cy on us, Lord; make sin and shame de - part.



We come to hear your liv - ing word; it saves us from de - spair.  
Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may be - gin.  
Re - new us with your sav - ing pow'r; cre - ate in us new hearts!

## 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).

**Kyrie** In Mark 10 we hear of Jesus' journey through Jericho to Jerusalem where he encounters Bartimaeus, a blind man, who hears this is Jesus and shouts, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me." From that time to the present, Jesus' followers have prayed that same prayer to God: "Kyrie

*Eleison” (“Lord, have mercy”). We are totally dependent upon God, so we pray for mercy in every aspect of life.*

## Canticle of Praise



1 Glo-ry be to God in heav-en; peace, good-will to all the earth.  
 2 Glo-ry be to Christ for - ev - er, Lamb of God and Lord of love.  
 3 Ho - ly One we now ac-claim you; Lord a - lone, to you we call;



Might-y God of all cre - a - tion, Fa - ther of sur - pass - ing worth:  
 Son of God and gra-cious Sav - ior, you have come from heav'n a - bove;  
 Ho - ly One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to all:



we ex - alt you, we a - dore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.  
 on the cross you died to save us; now you reign at God's right hand.  
 Je - sus Christ, with God the Spir - it, in the Fa - ther's splen - dor bright.



Saints and an - gels bow be - fore you; here on earth our songs we raise.  
 Hear our prayer; re - store, for-give us; in your prom-ise firm we stand.  
 For the peace that we in - her - it, glo - ry be to God on high!

**L:** The Lord be with you.

**C:** And also with you.

## Prayer of the Day

**L:** Gracious God,

**C:** So often when we hear testimony, even from those we know and trust, we doubt the truth of your presence in our lives. Forgive us for our stubborn shortsightedness, and open our hearts to recognize the truth of your love for us. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

## Reading Notes:

*Stephen is among seven men chosen to attend to the daily needs of the growing Christian community. When some members of the Synagogue falsely accuse him*

*Please be seated*

## Reading: Acts 6:1-7

<sup>6:1</sup> Now during those days, when the disciples were increasing in number, the Hellenists complained against the Hebrews because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution of food. <sup>2</sup> And the twelve called together the whole community of the disciples and said, "It is not right that we should neglect the word of God in order to wait on tables. <sup>3</sup> Therefore, friends, select from among yourselves seven men of good standing, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we may appoint to this task, <sup>4</sup> while

we, for our part, will devote ourselves to prayer and to serving the word.” <sup>5</sup>What they said pleased the whole community, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit, together with Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolaus, a proselyte of Antioch. <sup>6</sup>They had these men stand before the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them. <sup>7</sup>The word of God continued to spread; the number of the disciples increased greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests became obedient to the faith.

**L:** The Word of the Lord

**C:** Thanks be to God

### Sermon

*Please rise in body or in spirit*

**Hymn of the Day** “Lord You Give the Great Commission”

ELW #579

### 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;  
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:** Holy and wonderful God,

**C:** Receive our prayer.

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

**C:** Amen.

*of blasphemy, he delivers a daring speech, and is stoned to death for his witness.*

**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.*



**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: Risen One, you have gathered us around your table of grace along with these gifts we bring. Come among us again, breathe your life into us, and enliven us with this meal, that we may live as your risen body in the world. Amen.**

### **Thanksgiving at 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:** Come to the table of grace. Receive the gift of new life.

*Please be seated*

### ***Celebrating First Communion Today:***

*Cecelia Stammer*

## Lamb of God



1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;  
2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;  
3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;



you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.  
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.  
e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

*Distribution Hymns: #473 (x3), #496, #484, #492*

*Please rise in body or in spirit*

## Prayer after Communion

L: Living One, in this feast you have made yourself known to us. Send us now to tell of your wonders, sing of your glory, and proclaim your risen life to a wounded and weary world.

**C: Amen**

## Blessing

L: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine upon you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen**

## Sending Hymn

"Alleluia! Sing to Jesus"

ELW #392

## Dismissal

L: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**C: Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

L: Go in peace. In Christ you are made new. Alleluia! Alleluia!

**C: Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!**

## Postlude

Setting of "Christ Is Alive, Let Christians Sing"

T. Williams arranged by W. Held

## 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.

## Blessing

Here as we leave to continue our journey through the wilderness to the Promised Land, God uses the pastor to say words that were said first through Aaron in the wilderness more than 3,000 years ago.

## Welcome to Grace!

**Ministers** —the people of Grace

**Pastor** –

The Rev. Michael Schmidt .....[mike@gracedm.org](mailto:mike@gracedm.org)

**Vicar**

Jesse Hershberger.....[jesse@gracedm.org](mailto:jesse@gracedm.org)

**Organist** –

Rich Snyder.....[rich@gracedm.org](mailto:rich@gracedm.org)

**Piano Accompanist, Music Ensemble Coordinator** –

Kathy Bowermaster

**Minister for Communications** –

Michelle Voelker .....[michelle@gracedm.org](mailto:michelle@gracedm.org)

**Bookkeeper**

Mike Hilsabeck.....[mike.h@gracedm.org](mailto:mike.h@gracedm.org)

**Office Assistant for Worship**

Jessica Flannery.....[jessica@gracedm.org](mailto:jessica@gracedm.org)

**Custodian** – Todd Haugen

**Usher** – Tom McCleary

**Greeter** –

**Lector** – Carol Woodruff

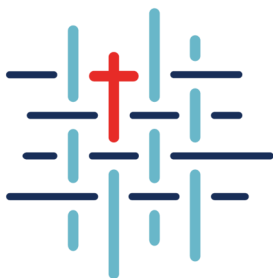
**Communion Assistant** –

**Altar Guild** – Kathy Bowermaster & Jenny Rehder

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

**Counters** – Tom McCleary & Aaron Brandsfield

**Coffee & Donuts** – Tammy Denton



GRACE  
LUTHERAN  
CHURCH

### Grace Lutheran Church

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Des Moines, Iowa 50310

**Pastor Michael Schmidt**

515-276-6873

[www.gracedm.org](http://www.gracedm.org)