

Grace Lutheran Church

Companion Congregation: Msindo Parish in Tanzania

Welcome to Worship

Fourth Sunday of Easter

May 11, 2025 9:00 a.m.

Liturgical worship with piano Setting 2

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 <u>www.gracedm.org</u>
- •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 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

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

"All are Welcome"

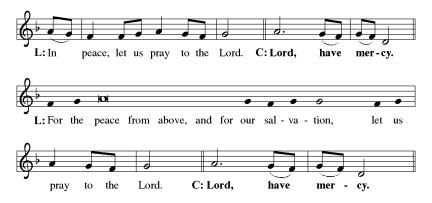
ELW #641

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



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.

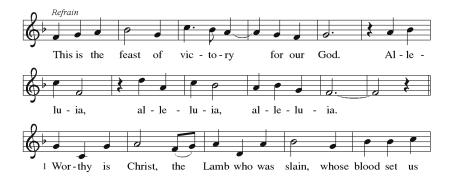


O

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

Canticle of Praise



the saints in heaven.



L: The Lord be with you. **C: And also with you.**

Prayer of the Day

L: Gracious God,

C: We read your holy word and often find ourselves confused. Send your Holy Spirit into our community that we might discern together what it is you are calling us to do. Give us hearts of welcome to all our neighbors, and make us examples of your love in action. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Reading Notes:

Philip was called by the Holy Spirit into the wilderness to meet an Ethiopian Eunuch. When the eunuch learned from Philip that Jesus was the Messiah that Isaiah was talking about, he asked to be baptized. Please be seated

Reading: Acts 8:26-39

²⁶Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a wilderness road.) ²⁷So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace. queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship ²⁸ and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah, ²⁹Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." 30So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" ³¹He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. ³²Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this: "Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter, and like a lamb silent before its shearer, so he does not open his mouth. ³³In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth." ³⁴The eunuch asked Philip, "About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" ³⁵Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. ³⁶As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?" ³⁸He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. 39When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing.

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

Sermon

Please rise in body or in spirit **Hymn of the Day** "Baptized and Set Free"

ELW #453

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.

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.

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.

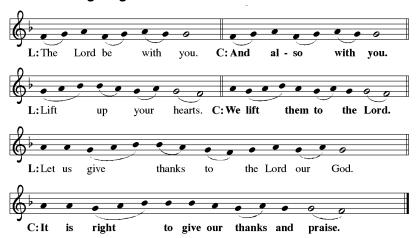


Preface

Preface means "introduction." The pastor and people get ready to celebrate the Holy Meal by greeting each other and with an exhortation as how to celebrate the meal. These words state why we should give thanks using words and ideas appropriate for the season of the church year.

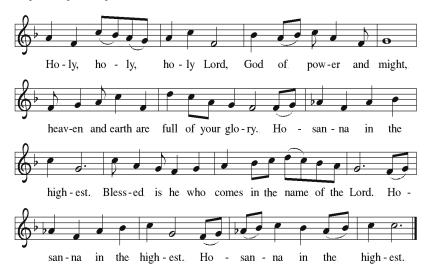
Holv. Holv. Holv Sanctus is a Latin word meanina "Holy." The Sanctus contains words from Isaiah's vision of God (Isaiah 6:3) and the crowd's response on Palm Sunday when Jesus entered the city of Jerusalem. We join them in spirit by singing their words as we anticipate Christ's coming in the sacrament.

Great Thanksgiving



Preface

Holy, Holy, Holy



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**

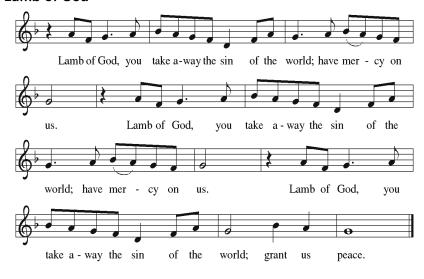
Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,

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*

Lamb of God



Distribution Hymns: #528(x3), #595, #592, #790

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

Communion

Today we will receive Holv 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.

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 "Go My Children With my Blessing" ELW #543

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 "Praise Him! Praise Him!"

Chester G. Allen, arr. Mark Hayes

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 – Tom McCleary

Greeter - Rich Snyder

Liturgist – Emma Stammer

Lector - Jenny Rehder

Communion Assistant - Carol Woodruff

Altar Guild – Kathy Bowermaster & Jenny Rehder

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

Counters - Mark Stumme & Carter Woodruff

Coffee & Donuts - Dean Watson



Grace Lutheran Church

5201 Urbandale Avenue Des Moines, Iowa 50310 Pastor Michael Schmidt 515-276-6873 www.gracedm.org