



Grace Lutheran Church

Companion Congregation: Msindo Parish in Tanzania

Welcome to Worship

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

August 31, 2025

9:00 a.m.

Liturgical worship with piano

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 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.

Listen! God Is Calling! An East African Worship Service

(based upon Tanzanian hymns and hymn tunes)

Prelude "Solace - A Mexican Serenade" S. Joplin

Welcome

Please rise in body or in spirit

Call to Worship "Listen God is Calling!" ELW #513

Refrain

L: Neno,

**C: neno lake Mungu lakuita wewe
neno la wokovu, tena jema.**

L: Neno,

**C: neno lake Mungu lakuita wewe
neno la wokovu, tena jema.**

First Verse

L: Yesu alisema,

C: Mkahubiri.

L: Neno lake Mungu

C: la wokauv.

Confession and Forgiveness

L: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

L: Baptized into Christ, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

L: Merciful God,

C: you free us to love others, but we neglect our neighbors and follow our own way. You lead us by the Spirit of joy and peace, but we turn away from the abundant life you offer. You surround us with patience, kindness, and generosity, but we grow weary in doing what is right. In your mercy, forgive us. Do not give up on us. Heal us, break our bonds, and show us the path of life. Amen.

L: You belong to Christ Jesus and you are God's children through faith. In the cross of Christ, and through the power of the Holy Spirit, your sins are forgiven. Clothed with Christ, you are a new creation.

C: Amen.

Gathering Hymn "We Are Marching in the Light of God"

ELW #866

Verse 1

Solo: Twatembea nuruni mwa Mungu.

Tanzanian Liturgy

As we worship today, we celebrate the ways that we walk with our brothers and sisters in Christ from the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Tanzania, especially those of the Msindo and Mararo parishes with whom we share a Companion Congregation relationship. At Grace Lutheran Church, every time we have a month with five Sundays, we set the fifth one aside as a time to share in a worship setting with a Tanzanian Liturgy as well as the Altar candle stands. In doing so, it serves as a reminder of our journey with these brothers and sisters, and others throughout the world.

All: Twatembea nuruni mwake. Repeat

Refrain

**C: Twatembea, mbea, twatembea, twatembea nuruni mwake
x2.**

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 (Prayerfully)

Mfurahini (T.M. 33)



L. Let us now pray in peace to the Lord.



C. Hear us O Lord, have mer - cy on us.



L. For peace and sal - va - tion we pray to the Lord.



C. Hear us O Lord, have mer - cy on us.



For the whole world, for the one Church of God;



for Chris - tian u - ni - ty here and a - broad.



L. Help and de - fend us; com - fort and save.



Hymn of Praise (Joyfully)

Kule Mbinguni (T. M. 62 arr.)



Leader

Congregation

2. On - ly be - got - ten Son of the Fa - ther

3. Now let our voi - ces join as we sing;



you are the Sav - ior; there is no o - ther.

praise and thanks - giv - ing glad - ly we bring.



Refrain (All)



L: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

L: Let us pray,

C: O God, you resist those who are proud and give grace to those who are humble. Give us the humility of your Son, that we may embody the generosity of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Please be seated

Special Music - Vicar Lotegeluaki

Psalm 112

- ¹ Hallelujah! Happy are they who fear the LORD and have great delight in God's commandments!
- ² **Their descendants will be mighty in the land; the generation of the upright will be blessed.**
- ³ Wealth and riches will be in their house, and their righteousness will last forever.
- ⁴ **Light shines in the darkness for the upright; the righteous are merciful and full of compassion.**
- ⁵ It is good for them to be generous in lending and to manage their affairs with justice.
- ⁶ **For they will never be shaken; the righteous will be kept in everlasting remembrance.**
- ⁷ They will not be afraid of any evil rumors; their heart is steadfast, trusting in the LORD.
- ⁸ **Their heart is established and will not shrink, until they see their desire upon their enemies.**
- ⁹ They have given freely to the poor, and their righteousness stands fast forever; they will hold up their head with honor.
- ¹⁰ **The wicked will see it and be angry; they will gnash their teeth and pine away; the desires of the wicked will perish.**

Reading Notes:

The conclusion of the letter to the Hebrews contains suggestions for the conduct of a holy life, all of which are shaped by God's love toward us in Jesus Christ.

Second Reading: Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16

¹ Let mutual affection continue. ² Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it. ³ Remember those who are in prison, as though you were in prison with them, those who are being tortured, as though you yourselves were being tortured. ⁴ Let marriage be held in honor by all, and let the marriage bed be kept undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterers. ⁵ Keep your lives free from the love of money, and be content with what you have, for he himself has said, "I will never leave you or forsake you." ⁶ So we can say with confidence, "The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can anyone do to me?"

⁷ Remember your leaders, those who spoke the word of God to you; consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith. ⁸ Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. ¹⁵ Through him, then, let us continually offer a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that confess his name. ¹⁶ Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Please rise in body or in spirit

Gospel Acclamation



L: The Holy Gospel according to Saint Luke, the Fourteenth Chapter

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel: Luke 14:1, 7-14

¹On one occasion when Jesus was going to the house of a leader of the Pharisees to eat a meal on the Sabbath, they were watching him closely.

⁷When he noticed how the guests chose the places of honor, he told them a parable. ⁸“When you are invited by someone to a wedding banquet, do not sit down at the place of honor, in case someone more distinguished than you has been invited by your host, ⁹and the host who invited both of you may come and say to you, ‘Give this person your place,’ and then in disgrace you would start to take the lowest place. ¹⁰But when you are invited, go and sit down at the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he may say to you, ‘Friend, move up higher’; then you will be honored in the presence of all who sit at the table with you. ¹¹For all who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.”

¹²He said also to the one who had invited him, “When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers and sisters or your relatives or rich neighbors, in case they may invite you in return, and you would be repaid. ¹³But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. ¹⁴And you will be blessed because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.”

L: The Gospel of the Lord.

C:



Gospel Acclamation

Old Lutheran liturgies often call this verse the "Gradual" which is based upon a Latin word meaning "step". We step up, with the Gospel acclamation, to hear the words of eternal life.

Gospel Notes:

Jesus observes guests jockeying for position at the table. He uses the opportunity to teach his hearers to choose humility rather than self-exaltation. Jesus also makes an appeal for hosts to imitate God's gracious hospitality to those in need.



Please be seated

Sermon

Please rise in body or in spirit

Hymn of the Day “Commonwealth is God's Commandment”
ACS #1036

Creed

The Apostle's Creed is in a way the “Reader's Digest Bible”. 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 Apostle's Creed at the bottom of the pot when you lifted the lid.

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 every one: 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.

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: Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

L: Confident in God's presence and promise, we entrust our prayers to the one who always receives them; through Jesus Christ, our wisdom and companion.

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: Creator God, in your wisdom you bring forth all that is good and the harvest is plentiful. Strengthen us at your table with these gifts of the earth and our labor, that we may work for the good of all; through Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

Thanksgiving for the Word

L: Praise and thanks to you, holy God, for by your Word you made all things: you spoke light into darkness, called forth beauty from chaos, and brought life into being. For your Word of life, O God,

C: we give you thanks and praise.

L: By your Word you called your people Israel to tell of your wonderful gifts: freedom from captivity, water on the desert journey, a pathway home from exile, wisdom for life with you. For your Word of life, O God,

C: we give you thanks and praise.

L: Through Jesus, your Word made flesh, you speak to us and call us to witness: forgiveness through the cross, life to those entombed by death, the way of your self-giving love. For your Word of life, O God,

C: we give you thanks and praise.

L: Send your Spirit of truth, O God; rekindle your gifts within us: renew our faith, increase our hope, and deepen our love, for the sake of a world in need. Faithful to your Word, O God, draw near to all who call on you; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory 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.

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.

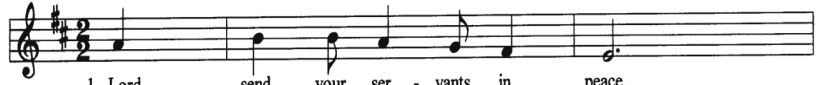


Lord's Prayer

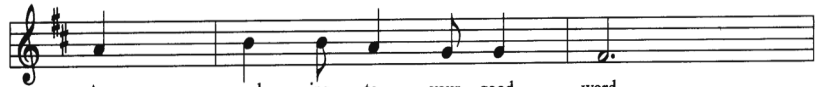
We gather in prayer in response to the gospel heard in the proclamation that this meal is given "for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin." We find ourselves at the very heart of the gospel message. Christ not only speaks to us in the supper, but gives us what he is speaking about: his body and blood for the forgiveness of sins.

Joyfully

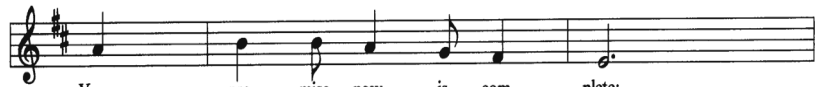
Kwa Neema na Pendo (T.M.64)



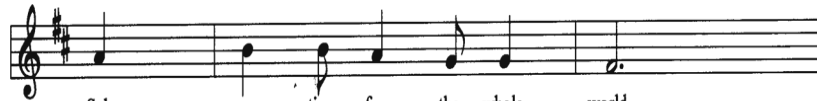
1. Lord, send your ser - vants in peace.
2. God's sav - ing work has been shown:



Ac - cord - ing to your good word.
A light all na - tions may see.



Your pro - mise now is com - plete:
To Is - rael glo - ry has come;



Sal - va - tion for the whole world.
God's peo - ple now are set free!

Refrain



So thank the Lord for such love - Give Thanks!



Tell ev' - ry - one what he's done.



Re - joice and car - ry his name - Go Forth!



That all may wor - ship the Son.

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

“Blessed Be the Name”

ELW #797

**C: 'Heri ni jina,
heri ni jina,
heri ni jina la Yesu.
Heri ni jina,
heri ni jina,
heri ni jina la Yesu.
Amini!
Alleluya, alleluya.
Heri ni jina la Yesu.
Amini!
Alleluya, alleluya.
Heri ni jina la Yesu.**

**²Twende kwa Yesu,
twende kwa Yesu,
twende kwa Yesu mbinguni.
Twende kwa Yesu,
twende kwa Yesu,
twende kwa Yesu mbinguni.
Amini!
Alleluya, alleluya.
Twende kwa Yesu mbinguni.
Amini!
Alleluya, alleluya.
Twende kwa Yesu mbinguni.**

Dismissal

L: Go in peace. Live by the Spirit.

C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

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(www.bangsund.co.tz). Tunes (and refrain from "Listen, Listen' God Is Calling") ©1987
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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

Lotegeluaki Lengai.....lotegeluaki@gracedm.org
(Loh-tay-gay-loo-WAHK-ee Lain-guy)

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Usher – Dave Gronert

Greeter – Chris & Dakota Johnson

Liturgist – Mary Freimuth Helt

Lector – Ro Zimany

Altar Guild – Jane Ridnour & Rita Stackhouse

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

Counters – Jon Rissman & Mark Stumme

Coffee & Donuts – Cherie Rissman



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