

Whoever  
is faithful in  
a very little  
is faithful  
also in much

LUKE 16:10

## **Grace Lutheran Church**

*Companion Congregation: Msindo Parish in Tanzania*

### **Welcome to Worship**

**Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

September 21, 2025

9:00 a.m.

Liturgical worship with organ

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 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** Setting of the gathering hymn "Let Streams of Living Justice" - G. Holst arranged by T. Trenney

## Welcome

*Please rise in body or in spirit*

### Confession and Forgiveness

L: Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, our maker, our helper, and our keeper.

**C: Amen.**

L: Trusting in God's mercy, let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

L: Merciful and loving God,

**C: we are your stiff-necked people. We trample on the needy. We grumble about your grace to others. We turn away from the poor. Have mercy on us and forgive our sins. Rejoice over us as ones who were lost and have been found. Amen.**

L: Even when we are faithless, God remains faithful. Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners. You who were lost have been found. In the name of Jesus, your sins are forgiven!

**C: Amen.**

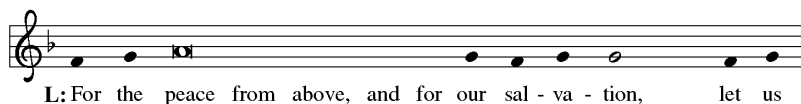
**Gathering Hymn** "Let Streams of Living Justice" ELW #710

### 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



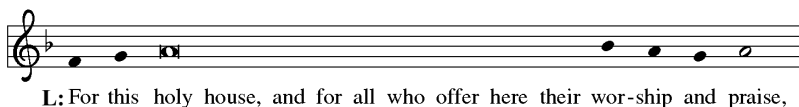
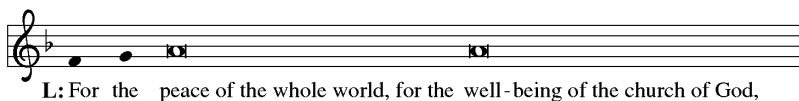
### Gathering Hymn

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: "Kyrle  
Eleison" ("Lord,  
have mercy"). We  
are totally depend-  
ent upon God, so  
we pray for mercy  
in every aspect of  
life.



## 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 the saints in heaven.

## Canticle of Praise



free to be peo-ple of God. Pow-er, rich-es, wis-dom, and  
strength, and hon-or, bless-ing, and glo-ry are his.  
*Refrain*  
This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le -  
lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.  
2 Sing with all the peo-ple of God, and join in the  
hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless-ing, hon-or, glo-ry, and  
might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.  
*Final refrain*  
This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God,  
for the Lamb who was slain has be - gun his reign.  
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

L: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

### Prayer of the Day

L: Let us pray,

**C: God among us, we gather in the name of your Son to learn love for one another. Keep our feet from evil paths. Turn our minds to your wisdom and our hearts to the grace revealed in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

*Please be seated*

**Psalm 113**

<sup>1</sup> Hallelujah! Give praise, you servants of the LORD; praise the name of the LORD.

<sup>2</sup> **Let the name of the LORD be blessed, from this time forth forevermore.**

<sup>3</sup> From the rising of the sun to its going down let the name of the LORD be praised.

<sup>4</sup> **The LORD is high above all nations; God's glory above the heavens.**

<sup>5</sup> Who is like the LORD our God, who sits enthroned on high,

<sup>6</sup> **but stoops to behold the heavens and the earth?**

<sup>7</sup> The LORD takes up the weak out of the dust and lifts up the poor from the ashes,

<sup>8</sup> **enthroning them with the rulers, with the rulers of the people.**

<sup>9</sup> The LORD makes the woman of a childless house to be a joyful mother of children. Hallelujah!

**Reading Notes:**

*The pastoral epistles offer insight into how early Christians understood many practical matters, such as church administration and worship. The church's focused prayer for others is an expression of the single-minded passion God has toward us in Jesus.*

**Reading: 1 Timothy 2:1-7**

<sup>1</sup> First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone, <sup>2</sup> for kings and all who are in high positions, so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and dignity. <sup>3</sup> This is right and acceptable before God our Savior, <sup>4</sup> who desires everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. <sup>5</sup> For there is one God; there is also one mediator between God and human-kind, Christ Jesus, himself human,

<sup>6</sup> who gave himself a ransom for all—this was attested at the right time.<sup>7</sup> For this I was appointed a herald and an apostle (I am telling the truth; I am not lying), a teacher of the gentiles in faith and truth.

L: The Word of the Lord

**C: Thanks be to God**

*Please stand as you are able*

## Gospel Acclamation



C: Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. *Repeat alleluia*

L: Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

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

**C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

### Gospel: Luke 16:1-13

<sup>1</sup>Then Jesus said to the disciples, "There was a rich man who had a manager, and charges were brought to him that this man was squandering his property. <sup>2</sup>So he summoned him and said to him, 'What is this that I hear about you? Give me an accounting of your management because you cannot be my manager any longer.' <sup>3</sup>Then the manager said to himself, 'What will I do, now that my master is taking the position away from me? I am not strong enough to dig, and I am ashamed to beg. <sup>4</sup>I have decided what to do so that, when I am dismissed as manager, people may welcome me into their homes.' <sup>5</sup>So, summoning his master's debtors one by one, he asked the first, 'How much do you owe my master?' <sup>6</sup>He answered, 'A hundred jugs of olive oil.' He said to him, 'Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it fifty.' <sup>7</sup>Then he asked another, 'And how much do you owe?' He replied, 'A hundred containers of wheat.' He said to him, 'Take your bill and make it eighty.' <sup>8</sup>And his master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly, for the children of this age are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than are the children of light. <sup>9</sup>And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of dishonest wealth so that when it is gone they may welcome you into the eternal homes.

<sup>10</sup>"Whoever is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much, and whoever is dishonest in a very little is dishonest also in much. <sup>11</sup>If, then, you have not been faithful with the dishonest wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? <sup>12</sup>And if you have not been faithful with what belongs to another, who will give you what is your own? <sup>13</sup>No slave can serve two masters, for a slave will either hate the one and love the other or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth."

## 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 tells the curious story of a dishonest manager who cheats his employer and then is commended by him for having acted so shrewdly. Jesus wonders why his own followers are less creative and diligent in their stewardship given that they are managers of a far more valuable household.

### **Creed**

*The Apostles' 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 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.*

L: The Gospel of the Lord.  
**C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Please be seated*  
**Sermon**

*Please rise in body or in spirit*  
**Hymn of the Day** "When the Poor Ones"

ELW #725

### **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: God of grace,  
**C: receive our prayer.**

L: We entrust these prayers to you, O God, in the name of Jesus Christ, our redeemer and friend.

**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**



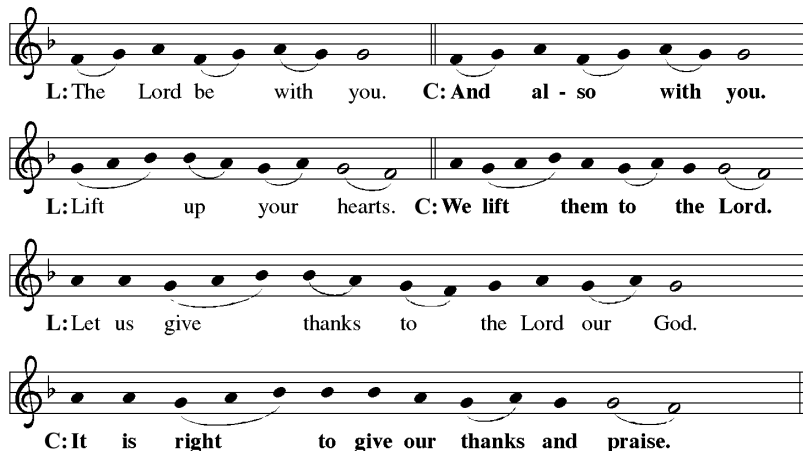
*Please rise in body or in spirit*

## Offering Prayer

L: Let us pray,

C: Lord of the harvest, we return to you a portion of what you have given to us. Turn us to set our hope not on the uncertainty of riches, but on you, who richly provides for us. Multiply what we have gathered to bless all who are suffering and in need, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## Great Thanksgiving



L: The Lord be with you. C: And al - so with you.

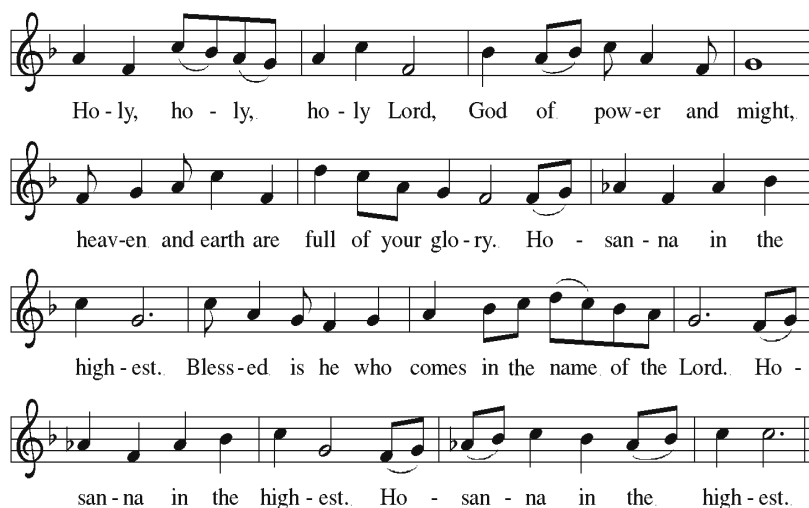
L: Lift up your hearts. C: We lift them to the Lord.

L: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

## Preface

### Holy, Holy, Holy



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,

heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the

high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -

san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

## 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. **Holy, Holy, Holy** Sanctus is a Latin word meaning "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.

## 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

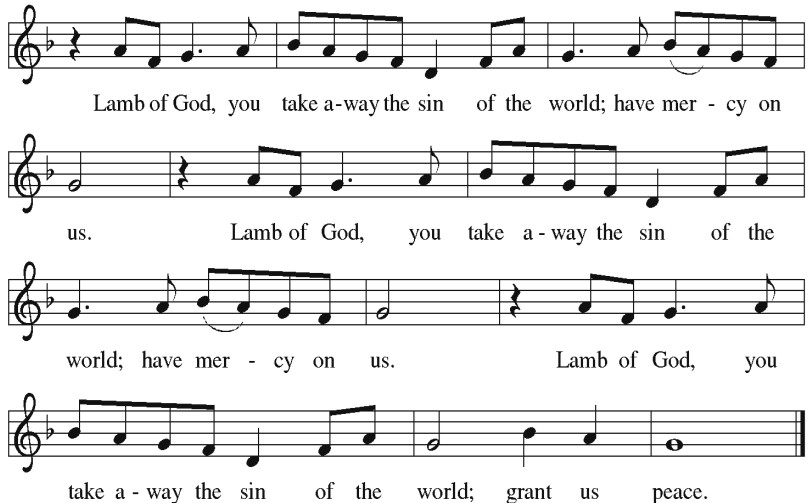
L: Jesus welcomes sinners and eats with them. Come to this meal of mercy.

*Please be seated*

### 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.*

### Lamb of God



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on  
us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the  
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you  
take a - way the sin of the world; grant us peace.

*Distribution Hymns: #473 (3x), #496, #484, #492*

*Please rise in body or in spirit*

### **Prayer after Communion**

L: O God, through this meal you have strengthened us and appointed us to be your servants. Send us to do good and to share our possessions with all in need. We ask this in Jesus' name.

**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**      "Let Justice Flow Like Streams"      ELW #717

### **Dismissal**

L: Go in peace. Do not lose heart.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**Postlude**      Little Prelude and Fugue in A minor      J. S. Bach

### ***Blessing***

*Here as we leave  
to continue our  
journey through the  
wilderness to the  
Promised Land,  
God uses the pas-  
tor 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**

Lotegeluaki Lengai.....[lotegeluaki@gracedm.org](mailto:lotegeluaki@gracedm.org)  
(Loh-tay-gay-loo-wahk-ee Lain-guy)

**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** – Carter Woodruff

**Greeter** –

**Liturgist** – Paul Kallenbach

**Lector** – Carol Woodruff

**Communion Assistant** – Cherie Rissman

**Altar Guild** – Jenny Rehder & Rita Stackhouse

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

**Counters** – Tom McCleary & Aaron Brandsfield

**Coffee & Donuts** – Mike & Marilyn Nizzi



GRACE  
LUTHERAN  
CHURCH

**Grace Lutheran Church**

5201 Urbandale Avenue  
Des Moines, Iowa 50310

**Pastor Michael Schmidt**

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