



*What has
come into being
in him
was life*

JOHN 1:3-4

The Nativity of our Lord
Welcome to Worship on this Christmas Day

Grace Lutheran Church

Companion Congregation: Msindo Parish in Tanzania

December 25, 2025

10:00 a.m.

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.

Prelude

“Noel On The Flutes”

L-C. Daquin

Please prepare for worship through quiet reflection and meditation

Welcome

Please stand as you are able

Dialogue

L: Who are these angels who come to earth,

C: Bearing the news of the Christ child's birth?

L: Who are these shepherds who run to see,

C: And worship the babe on bended knee?

L: Who is this child, so small, so slight,

C: Of whom the angels sang that night?

L: Who is this king, a manger his throne,

C: Who humbles himself to make us his own?

L: Who is this God who sends a Son

C: Into our midst, the promised one?

Gathering Hymn

“Love Has Come”

ELW #292

Prayer of the Day

L: Almighty God,

C: you gave us your only Son to take on our human nature and to illumine the world with your light. By your grace adopt us as your children and enlighten us with your Spirit, through Jesus Christ, our Redeemer and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Special Music

Cheryl and Levi Wilner

O Come, All Ye Faithful
Go, Tell It on the Mountain

Please be seated

Reading: Isaiah 52:7-10

Isaiah proclaims news of great joy: “Your God reigns!” Just as God saved the people from oppression in Egypt, God delivers Israel from exile. All the earth will witness the saving acts of God.

⁷ How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace, who brings good news, who announces salvation, who says to Zion, “Your God reigns.” ⁸ Listen!

Your sentinels lift up their voices; together they shout for joy, for in plain sight they see the return of the Lord to Zion.⁹ Break forth; shout together for joy, you ruins of Jerusalem, for the Lord has comforted his people; he has redeemed Jerusalem.¹⁰ The Lord has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations, and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

L: The Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God

Psalm 98

¹ Sing a new song to the Lord, who has done marvelous things, whose right hand and holy arm have won the victory.

² O Lord, you have made known your victory, you have revealed your righteousness in the sight of the nations.

³ You remember your steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel; all the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.

⁴ Shout with joy to the Lord, all you lands; lift up your voice, rejoice, and sing.

⁵ Sing to the Lord with the harp, with the harp and the voice of song.

⁶ With trumpets and the sound of the horn shout with joy before the king, the Lord.

⁷ Let the sea roar, and all that fills it, the world and those who dwell therein.

⁸ Let the rivers clap their hands, and let the hills ring out with joy before the Lord, who comes to judge the earth.

⁹ The Lord will judge the world with righteousness and the peoples with equity.

Please stand as you are able

L: The Holy Gospel according to Saint John, the First Chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel: John 1:1-14

The prologue to the Gospel of John describes Jesus as the Word of God made flesh, the one who reveals God to be “full of grace and truth.”

¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came

into being. What has come into being ⁴ in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it.

⁶ There was a man sent from God whose name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸ He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹ The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world came into being through him, yet the world did not know him. ¹¹ He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹² But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³ who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

L: The Gospel of the Lord

C: Praise to you, O Christ

Please be seated

Sermon

Please stand as you are able

Hymn of the Day “O Little Town of Bethlehem”

ELW #279

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: With the joy of Christ's birth in our hearts, we commend our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your boundless mercy and eternal love; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

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 stand as you are able

Offering Prayer

L: God of glory,

C: great are your wonders among us and many are the blessings you bestow. Use us and these your gifts for the needs of the world, that all the ends of the earth may rejoice in your saving grace, through Christ our Savior. Amen.

Great Thanksgiving (tune: Good Christian Friends, Rejoice!)

L: Oh, may the good Lord be with you,

C: And may the Lord be with you too.

L: Lift your hearts to him in praise.

C: To the Lord our hearts we raise.

L: Let us offer praises true.

C: It is fitting so to do: Gratefully we sing to the Lord, our King.

Preface

The Sanctus (tune: Hark! The Herald Angels Sing)
Holy, holy, holy Lord! God of hosts, by all adored!
Heav'n and earth cannot contain all the glory of Your name!
Hail, hosanna, God most high! Blest is He who now draws nigh
In the name of God the King! Hallelujahs glad we sing:
Hail, hosanna! Praises due. Be for-ever, Lord to You!

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 (tune: Away in a Manger)

Our Father in heaven, all praise to your name!
Your kingdom among us, your will done the same
By mortals and angels. Come Lord, reign alone:
Oh, hear us and bless us from heaven's high throne.
The bread that we yearn for provide us each day;
As we forgive others, our sins take away;
In times of temptation, to lead us be near;
From evil deliver your children most dear,
For yours is the kingdom; o'er all things you reign.
And yours is the power; all things you maintain.
To you be the glory, resounding again
From all of creation, forever! Amen.

Invitation to Communion

L: God is now in flesh appearing. Come to the feast of joy!

Please be seated

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, grant us peace.

Distribution Hymns: #274, #286

Prayer after Communion

L: Incarnate God, you are among us at this table. May we treasure this gift and ponder in our hearts the mystery of your presence. Move us to discover the wonders of your love in the everyday moments of our lives, through Christ born in us.

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 "Hark, The Herald Angels Sing" ELW #270

Dismissal

L: Glory to God in the highest!

C: And peace to God's people on earth!

L: Go in joy. Embody God's redeeming grace.

C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude Setting of the hymn "From Heaven Above" (ELW 268)
 M. Luther arranged by W. Held



Lessons and Carols Worship

Sunday, December 28, at 9 a.m.

Join us for a joyful worship of readings and singing! There will be an opportunity for an abbreviated fellowship with coffee and donuts in the Gathering Hall after worship.

Exploring Grace With Pastor Mike, on January 4.

A warm invitation to learn about our community, faith, and life together. **Exploring Grace** is an opportunity for you to get answers about us and find out about what being a part of Grace might look like for you. Enjoy coffee and a donut hole after worship; then at 10:15 a.m., meet in the office on the main floor: just up the stairs and to the left from the main entry.



Grace Lutheran Church

5201 Urbandale Avenue

Des Moines, Iowa 50310

Pastor Michael Schmidt

515-276-6873

www.gracedm.org

