

# Grace Lutheran Church

*Companion Congregation: Msindo Parish in Tanzania*

## Welcome to Worship Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

February 1, 2026

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 worshiping 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 traditional hymn “Simple Gifts”  
Shaker hymn tune arranged by W. Held

**Welcome**

*Please rise in body or in spirit*

**Confession and Forgiveness**

L: Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, the Creator of heaven and earth, the Word who spoke life into being, the Wind stirring the waters.

**C: Amen.**

L: Let us turn in confession to the one who knows us completely.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

L: Mighty God, lover of justice,

**C: you call us to life in community, but we have served our own interests at the expense of our neighbors. We have sown deceit where honesty was needed. We say the right words, but our hearts are far from you. Turn us to seek your face. Knit us together and give us the mind of Christ, that we may do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with you, our God. Amen.**

L: The former things have passed away, and new things God now declares: Like a spring of water that never fails, God covers you in the righteousness of Christ, and forgives your sin in Jesus' name. May the Spirit give you strength to live for others, and bless you with the gift of peace.

**C: Amen.**

**Gathering Hymn** “Look Who Gathers at Christ's Table”  
ACS #977

**Greeting**

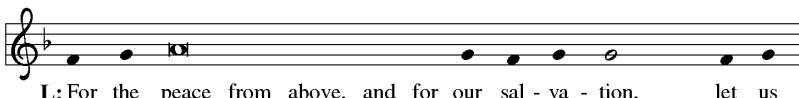
L: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C: And also with you.**

**Kyrie**



L: In peace, let us pray to the Lord. C: Lord, have mercy.



L: For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us

**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.

pray to the Lord. C: Lord, have mercy.

L: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

L: For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,

let us pray to the Lord. C: Lord, have mercy.

L: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

C: Amen.

**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

### Canticle of Praise

*Refrain*

This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

1 Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us  
 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.

*the feast to come.  
 This is an opportunity for us to hear  
 and sing the hymn  
 of praise with all the  
 saints in heaven.*

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

### Prayer of the Day

L: Let us pray,

**C: Holy God, you confound the world's wisdom in giving your kingdom to the lowly and the pure in heart. Give us such a hunger and thirst for justice, and perseverance in striving for peace, that in our words and deeds the world may see the life of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

*Please be seated*

### Reading: Micah 6:1-8

<sup>1</sup>Hear what the LORD says: Rise, plead your case before the mountains, and let the hills hear your voice. <sup>2</sup>Hear, you mountains, the case of the LORD, and you enduring foundations of the earth, for the LORD has a case against his people, and he will contend with Israel

<sup>3</sup>“O my people, what have I done to you? In what have I wearied you? Answer me! <sup>4</sup>For I brought you up from the land of Egypt and redeemed you from the house of slavery, and I sent before you Moses, Aaron, and Miriam. <sup>5</sup>O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab devised, what Balaam son of Beor answered him, and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal, that you may know the saving acts of the LORD.”

<sup>6</sup>“With what shall I come before the LORD and bow myself before God on high? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old? <sup>7</sup>Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousands of rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?” <sup>8</sup>He has told you, O mortal, what is good, and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice and to love kindness and to walk humbly with your God?

L: The Word of the Lord

**C: Thanks be to God**

### Psalm 15

<sup>1</sup>LORD, who may dwell in your tabernacle? Who may abide upon your holy hill?

**<sup>2</sup>Those who lead a blameless life and do what is right, who speak the truth from their heart;**

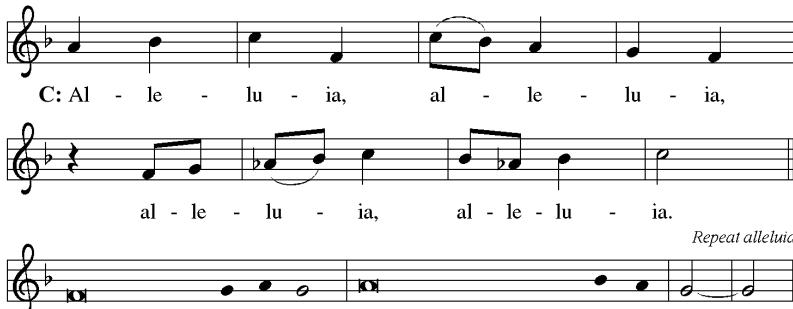
**<sup>3</sup>they do not slander with the tongue, they do no evil to their friends; they do not cast discredit upon a neighbor.**

**<sup>4</sup>In their sight the wicked are rejected, but they honor those who fear the LORD. They have sworn upon their health and do not take back their word.**

**<sup>5</sup>They do not give their money in hope of gain, nor do they take bribes against the innocent. Those who do these things shall never be overthrown.**

*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 Matthew, the Fifth Chapter.

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

**Gospel: Matthew 5:1-12**

<sup>1</sup>When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. <sup>2</sup>And he began to speak and taught them, saying:

<sup>3</sup>“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. <sup>4</sup>“Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. <sup>5</sup>“Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. <sup>6</sup>“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. <sup>7</sup>“Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy. <sup>8</sup>“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. <sup>9</sup>“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. <sup>10</sup>“Blessed are those who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. <sup>11</sup>“Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. <sup>12</sup>Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

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** “How Clear Is Our Vocation, Lord”

ELW #580

**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 opens the Sermon on the Mount by naming those who are blessed in the reign of God.

**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.

**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.

**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:** Merciful God,

**C:** receive our prayer.

**L:** Confident that the Holy Spirit receives our prayers and answers us, we commend all for whom we pray to God's loving-kindness made known to us in Christ Jesus 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**

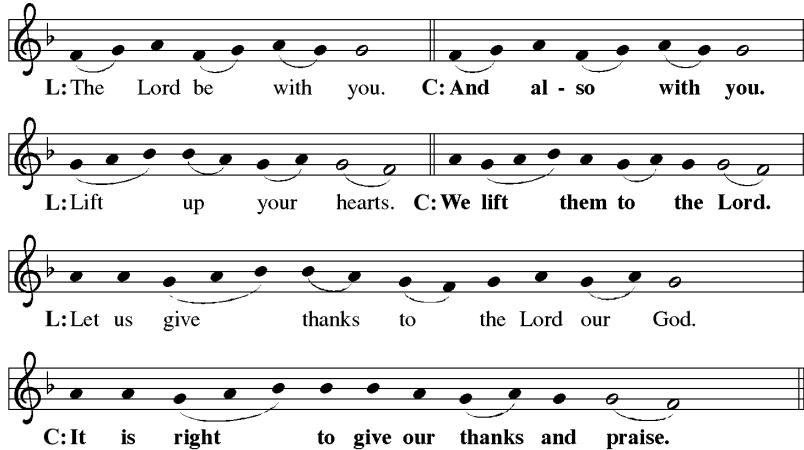
**Please rise in body or in spirit**

**Offering Prayer**

**L:** God of majesty,

**C: no eye has seen, no ear has heard what you have prepared for those who love you, yet in this meal you reveal the wide-ness of your mercy. Use what we have gathered to feed us with the reign of God come near, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

## Great Thanksgiving



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



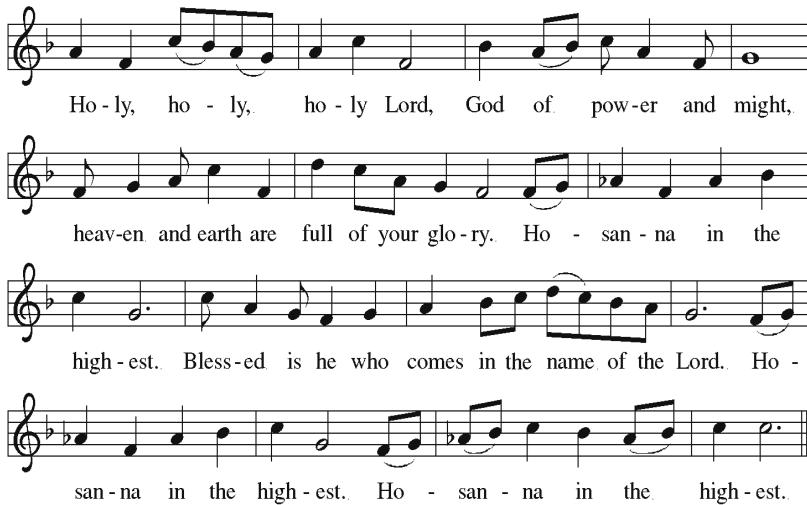
### Preface:

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.

### 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.

### 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.

### **Communion:**

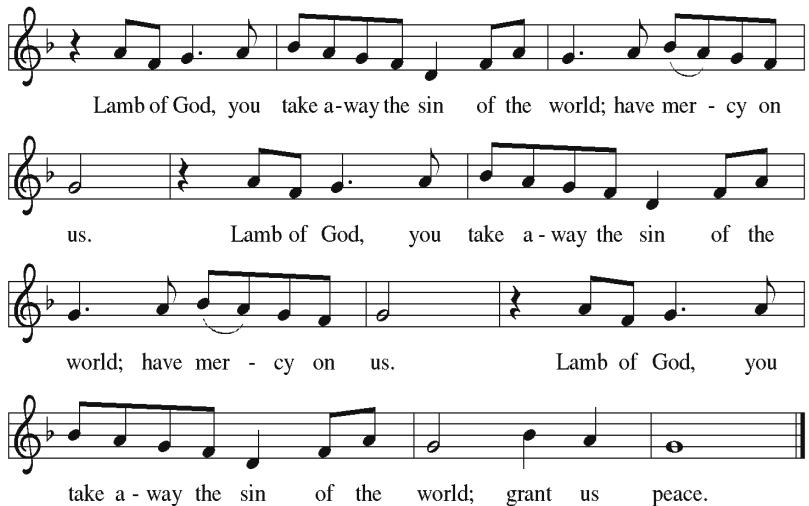
Today we will receive Holy Communion through wafers and pouring chalice. Two lines will form from the front pews to the back. Please use the hand sanitizer provided and take a cup from the tray. Then proceed to receive the gluten-free wafer. Both wine and grape juice will be available. Please place your cup in the basket by the side aisle as you return to the pew.

### **Invitation to Communion**

L: Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!  
Come to the table; taste and see.

*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.

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

*Please rise in body or in spirit*

### **Prayer after Communion**

L: Radiant God, we have seen your glory in the face of Jesus Christ. In the sacrament of his body and blood you have drawn us to your heart. Send us from this table with delight, that our lives may reflect the beauty of your love, and bear witness to all we have seen and heard, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**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**

“To Be Your Presence”

ELW #546

**Dismissal**

L: Go in peace. Do justice. Love mercy.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**Postlude**

Setting of “Let All Things Now Living” (ELW 881)

Welsh folk tune arranged by W. Held

**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** —

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)

**Property Manager** —

Nichole Aubert.....[nichole@gracedm.org](mailto:nichole@gracedm.org)

**Custodian** — Todd Haugen

**Usher** — Eric Weber

**Greeter** — Pam and Lenny Palmer

**Liturgist** — Jenny Rehder

**Lector** — Carol Woodruff

**Communion Assistants** — Pam Palmer

**Altar Guild** — Carol Woodruff & Rita Stackhouse

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

**Counters** — Tom McCleary & Eric Weber

**Coffee & Donuts** —



**Grace Lutheran Church**

5201 Urbandale Avenue  
Des Moines, Iowa 50310

**Pastor Michael Schmidt**

515-276-6873

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