



## **Grace Lutheran Church**

*Companion Congregation: Msindo Parish in Tanzania*

### **Welcome to Worship**

**Third Sunday after Epiphany**

January 25, 2026

9:00 a.m.

Liturgical worship with piano

Setting 8

## 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: 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 sending hymn “Go My Children, With My Blessing” (ELW 543) - Irish folk tune arranged by T. Shaw

## 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** “You Have Come Down to the Lakeshore”  
ELW #817

## 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.**

## **Gathering:**

*We come to worship from different places. Some directly from work, others out of week-end activities. Some live around the corner and others from another county. We gather to "do liturgy", which means literally, the "work of the people". We gather to do the work of hearing the Scriptures read and proclaimed. We gather to act out the Gospel in the ritual drama of the meal. As we gather, God is at work also, making the Good News come alive in our midst.*

## 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.

## Kyrie



2 That we may live out your im - passioned re - sponse to the

3 For peace in our hearts, . . . for peace in our homes, . . . for

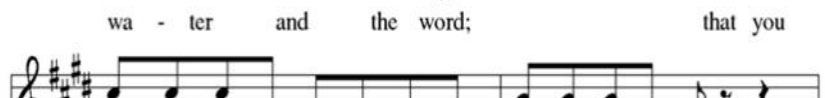
4 For your Spir - it to guide; that you cen - ter our lives in the



hun - gry and the poor; that

friends and fam - i - ly; for

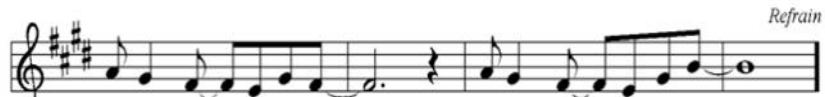
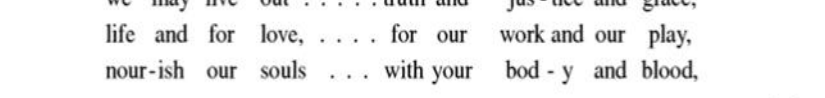
wa - ter and the word; that you



we may live out . . . . truth and jus - tice and grace,

life and for love, . . . . for our work and our play,

nour-ish our souls . . . with your bod - y and blood,



## Canticle of Praise

*Refrain*

This is the feast of vic-t'ry for our God, for the

Lamb who was slain has be-gun his reign. Al-le-lu-ia.

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

*Refrain*

hon-or, bless-ing, and glo-ry are his. This is the feast of

vic-t'ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain has be-gun his reign. 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.

## 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.



L: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

### Prayer of the Day

L: Let us pray,

**C: Lord God, your lovingkindness always goes before us and follows after us. Summon us into your light, and direct our steps in the ways of goodness that come through the cross of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

*Please be seated*

### Reading Notes:

*The northern tribes of Zebulun and Naphtali experienced the gloom of defeat by Assyrian military forces, but they are assured that their condition will be reversed when God makes a light-filled appearance. The joy they will experience will resemble celebrations of great harvests, because God will deliver them from everything that diminishes or oppresses them.*

### Reading: Isaiah 9:1-4

<sup>1</sup> There will be no gloom for those who were in anguish. In the former time [the Lord] brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he will make glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations.

<sup>2</sup> The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined. <sup>3</sup> You have multiplied exultation; you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. <sup>4</sup> For the yoke of their burden and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian.

L: The Word of the Lord

**C: Thanks be to God**

### Psalm 27:1, 4-9

<sup>1</sup> The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom then shall I fear?

The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

<sup>4</sup> **One thing I ask of the LORD; one thing I seek; that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life; to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to seek God in the temple.**

<sup>5</sup> For in the day of trouble God will give me shelter, hide me in the hidden places of the sanctuary, and raise me high up on a rock.

<sup>6</sup> **Even now my head is lifted up above my enemies who surround me. Therefore I will offer sacrifice in the sanctuary, sacrifices of rejoicing; I will sing and make music to**

the LORD.

<sup>7</sup> Hear my voice, O LORD, when I call; have mercy on me and answer me.

<sup>8</sup> **My heart speaks your message—"Seek my face." Your face, O LORD, I will seek.**

<sup>9</sup> Hide not your face from me, turn not away from your servant in anger. Cast me not away—you have been my helper; forsake me not, O God of my salvation.

*Please rise in body or in spirit*

### **Gospel Acclamation**



### **Gospel Acclamation**

L: The Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew, the Fourth Chapter.

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

### **Gospel: Matthew 4:12-23**

<sup>12</sup> Now when Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew to Galilee. <sup>13</sup> He left Nazareth and made his home in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, <sup>14</sup> so that what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled:

<sup>15</sup> "Land of Zebulun, land of Naphtali, on the road by the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the gentiles—<sup>16</sup> the people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death light has dawned." <sup>17</sup> From that time Jesus began to proclaim, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near."

<sup>18</sup> As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Si-

### **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 begins his public ministry shortly after John the Baptist is imprisoned by Herod. He proclaims the nearness of God's reign and calls four fishermen to be his first disciples.*

**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:** *In the middle of worship, we pause to pray not only for ourselves and our loved ones and their needs, but for everyone: 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*

mon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea—for they were fishers. <sup>19</sup> And he said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of people." <sup>20</sup> Immediately they left their nets and followed him. <sup>21</sup> As he went from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John, in the boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. <sup>22</sup> Immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.

<sup>23</sup> Jesus went throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness among the people.

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** "Light Shone in Darkness" ELW #307

**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

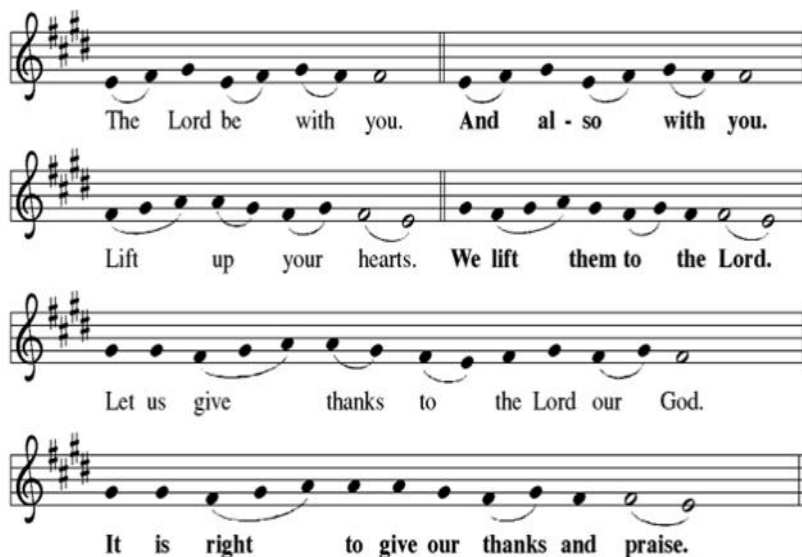
*Please rise in body or in spirit*

### 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 wideness 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



### Preface

*because Jesus Christ died and rose again, not just for a few but for all people.*

### 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.*



### The Great Thanksgiving:

*These are among the oldest words in the liturgy. We lift our hearts to give attention to God.*

### Preface:

*We praise God for God's mighty acts. These words change with the seasons of the church year and serve as an invitation into the Sanctus.*

**Sanctus:**

*As we draw close to God in this meal, we sing these words from the angels.*

*The words hearken back to Isaiah's vision in the temple, where he hears the seraphim singing "Holy, holy, holy, Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory."*

**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.*

**Holy, Holy, Holy**

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,  
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry, full of your glo-ry. Ho -  
san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high -  
est. Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -  
san - na, ho - san - na, 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.**

**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



*Distribution Hymns: #751 (3x), #474, #515, #488*

*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

“Go, My Children, With My Blessing”

ELW #543

### Dismissal

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

**C: Thanks be to God.**

### Postlude

Setting of “We Three Kings of Orient Are”

J. Hopkins arranged by J. Kraybill

## 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.

## 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 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** – Dave Gronert

**Greeter** – Chris, Nicole, Dakota Johnson

**Lector** – Ro Zimany

**Communion Assistants** – Tammy Denton, Jessica Flannery

**Altar Guild** – Jenny Rehder & Kathy Bowermaster

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

**Counters** – Mark Stumme & Aaron Brandsfield

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



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**Pastor Michael Schmidt**

515-276-6873

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