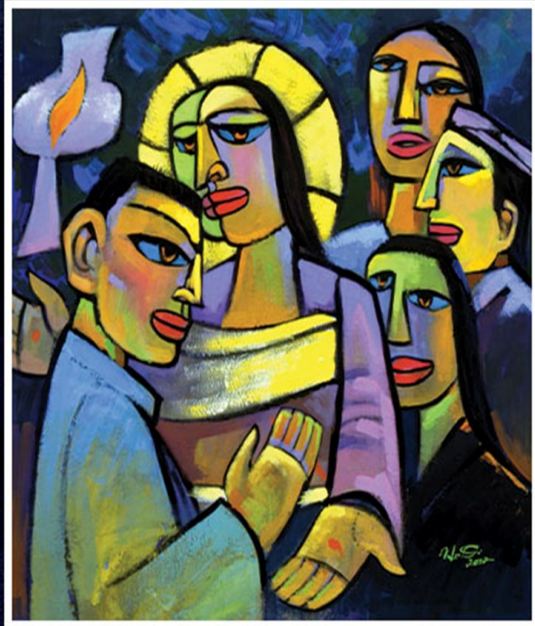


**DO NOT  
DOUBT  
BUT  
BELIEVE**

**JOHN 20:27**



## **Grace Lutheran Church**

*Companion Congregation: Msindo Parish in Tanzania*

### **Welcome to Worship**

**Second Sunday of Easter**

April 12, 2026

9:00 a.m.

Liturgical worship with piano

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.**

Grace Lutheran Church commits to welcoming and celebrating all people; those in the LGBTQIA+ community, Black, Indigenous, People of Color, and their allies.

We commit to the work of anti-racism, liberation, social and environmental justice for all of God's creation. We affirm the sacredness of all people, regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression.

We affirm the sacredness of all those who have experienced exclusion because of race, ability, age, culture, or nationality. We affirm the sacredness of those who wrestle with addiction, physical or mental health, imprisonment, socio-economic circumstances, or anything that too often divides us.

No matter the labels others may place upon you, or the labels you may place upon yourself, here at Grace you will find a home among friends in need of a Savior. You are welcome here.

**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** Partita on “Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds” (movements I, III, IV) Setting by Anne Krentz Organ

## Welcome

*Please rise in body or in spirit*

### Thanksgiving for Baptism

L: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

### C: Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

L: Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne and to the Lamb!

### C: Amen.

L: Let us give thanks for the gifts of baptism.

L: Merciful God, you are the one who was, who is, and who is to come. You lead us beside still waters. We thank you for the waters of creation: morning dew, gentle rain, roaring waves. We thank you for the waters that nourish us. Blessed are you.

### C: You guide us to springs of the water of life.

L: Jesus Christ, you are the faithful witness who accompanies us on our journeys. We give you thanks for your life-giving death and resurrection. We praise you for joining us in joy and sorrow. Blessed are you.

### C: You guide us to springs of the water of life.

L: Holy Spirit, you anoint our head with oil and our cup overflows. Break down barriers that divide us. Fill us with the breath of peace. Blessed are you.

### C: You guide us to springs of the water of life.

L: Holy One, we thank you for the gifts and grace of baptism, and for making us a new creation. We join with saints and angels, giving you honor and praise, now and forever.

### C: Amen.

**Gathering Hymn** “Touch That Soothes and Heals” ACS #939

### 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 mer-cy.

### **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.

L: For the peace from above, and for our sal - va - tion, let us

pray to the Lord. C: Lord, have mer - cy.

L: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,

and for the u - ni - ty of all, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mer - cy.

L: For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,

let us pray to the Lord. C: Lord, have mer - cy.

L: Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.

C: A - men.

**Hymn of Praise:**  
Quite often in the Bible, Jesus eats with people and shares parables about banquets

**Canticle of Praise**

*Refrain*  
This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God. Al - le -

lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, 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 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.

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: Almighty and eternal God, the strength of those who believe and the hope of those who doubt, may we, who have not seen, have faith in you and receive the fullness of Christ's blessing, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

*Please be seated*

### Reading: Acts 2:14a, 22-32

<sup>14a</sup> Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd: <sup>22</sup> "Fellow Israelites, listen to what I have to say: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with deeds of power, wonders, and signs that God did through him among you, as you yourselves know <sup>23</sup> this man, handed over to you according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of those outside the law. <sup>24</sup> But God raised him up, having released him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for him to be held in its power. <sup>25</sup> For David says concerning him, 'I saw the Lord always before me, for he is at my right hand so that I will not be shaken;

<sup>26</sup> therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced; moreover, my flesh will live in hope. <sup>27</sup> For you will not abandon my soul to Hades or let your Holy One experience corruption. <sup>28</sup> You have made known to me the ways of life; you will make me full of gladness with your presence.'

<sup>29</sup> "Fellow Israelites, I may say to you confidently of our ancestor David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. <sup>30</sup> Since he was a prophet, he knew that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would put one of his descendants on his throne. <sup>31</sup> Foreseeing this, David spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, saying, 'He was not abandoned to Hades, nor did his flesh experience corruption.'<sup>32</sup> "This Jesus God raised up, and of that all of us are witnesses."

L: The Word of the Lord

**C: Thanks be to God**

### Psalm 16

<sup>1</sup> Protect me, O God, for I take refuge in you; I have said to the LORD, "You are my Lord, my good above all other."

<sup>2</sup> **All my delight is in the godly that are in the land, upon those who are noble among the people.**

<sup>3</sup> But those who run after other gods shall have their troubles multiplied.

<sup>4</sup> **I will not pour out drink offerings to such gods, never take**

### Reading Notes:

*After the Holy Spirit comes to the apostles on Pentecost, Peter preaches the gospel to the gathered crowd. He tells them that Jesus, who obediently went to his death according to God's plan, was raised from the dead by God. Finally, he appeals to scripture, quoting Psalm 16:8-11, to show that Jesus is the Messiah: though crucified, the risen Jesus is now enthroned.*

their names upon my lips.

<sup>5</sup> O LORD, you are my portion and my cup; it is you who uphold my lot.

<sup>6</sup> **My boundaries enclose a pleasant land; indeed, I have a rich inheritance.**

<sup>7</sup> I will bless the LORD who gives me counsel; my heart teaches me night after night.

<sup>8</sup> **I have set the LORD always before me; because God is at my right hand, I shall not be shaken.**

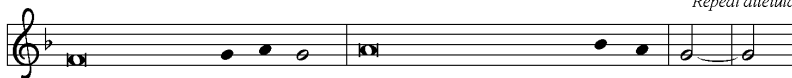
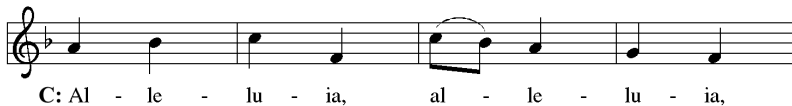
<sup>9</sup> My heart, therefore, is glad, and my spirit rejoices; my body also shall rest in hope.

<sup>10</sup> **For you will not abandon me to the grave, nor let your holy one see the pit.**

<sup>11</sup> You will show me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy, and in your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

*Please stand as you are able*

### Gospel Acclamation



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

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

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

### Gospel: John 20:19-31

<sup>19</sup> When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors were locked where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." <sup>20</sup> After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. <sup>21</sup> Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." <sup>22</sup> When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. <sup>23</sup> If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

<sup>24</sup> But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve,

### 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:

*The risen Jesus appears to his disciples, offering them a benediction, a commission, and the gift of the Holy Spirit. But one of their number is missing, and his unbelief prompts another visit from the Lord.*

was not with them when Jesus came. <sup>25</sup> So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord.” But he said to them, “Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.”

<sup>26</sup> A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” <sup>27</sup> Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.” <sup>28</sup> Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!” <sup>29</sup> Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.”

<sup>30</sup> Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples that are not written in this book. <sup>31</sup> But these are written so that you may continue to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

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** “Will You Let Me Be Your Servant” ELW #659

**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.*

**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: God of resurrection power, use us and these prayers to proclaim the good news of new life to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen 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*

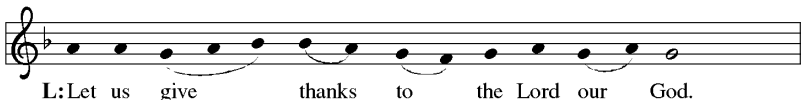
## Offering Prayer

L: Merciful God,

**C: accept the fruits of our labor, gathered to give you glory.**

**You have set a table before us, a glimpse of that great day when we will hunger and thirst no more. Nourish us with the body and blood of Jesus, that goodness and mercy may follow us and bless the world you love. In the name of Jesus, Amen.**

## Great Thanksgiving



## 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.*



### **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.**

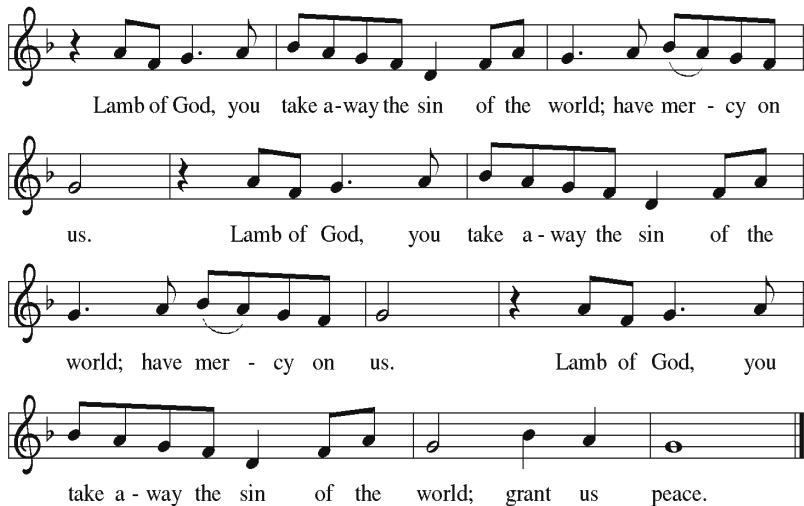
**For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours,  
now and forever. Amen.**

#### **Invitation to Communion**

L: Come to the table of new life. Receive the risen Lord.

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

*Please rise in body or in spirit*

### **Prayer after Communion**

L: Holy One, through this meal you have made your home among us and are making all things new. Send us now to speak peace to anxious hearts, to love our enemies, and to bring your healing to the nations. In the name of Jesus,

**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**

“Signs and Wonders”

ELW #672

### **Dismissal**

L: Go in peace. Praise the Lord. Alleluia!

**C: Thanks be to God.**

### **Postlude**

“Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds” (movement II)

### **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.

### **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** – Linda Morevec

**Greeter** –

**Liturgist** – Jenny Rehder

**Lector** –

**Communion Assistants** – Cherie Rissman

**Altar Guild** – Jenny Rehder, Kathy Bowermaster, & Carol Woodruff

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

**Counters** – Tom McCleary & Eric Weber

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



GRACE  
LUTHERAN  
CHURCH

**Grace Lutheran Church**

5201 Urbandale Avenue  
Des Moines, Iowa 50310

**Pastor Michael Schmidt**

515-276-6873

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