

Grace Lutheran Church

Companion Congregation: Msindo Parish in Tanzania

Welcome to Worship

Fourth Sunday of Easter

April 26, 2026

9:00 a.m.

Liturgical worship with piano

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
- 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

Listen! God Is Calling! *An East African Worship Service*

(based upon Tanzanian hymns and hymn tunes)

Prelude "I Am Jesus' Little Lamb" setting by John Leavitt

Welcome

Please stand as you are able

"Listen God is Calling!"

Brightly *Neno lake Mungu (T.M. 112)*

Leader Congregation

Lis - ten lis - ten God is call - ing through the Word in - vit - ing,

of - fer - ing for - give - ness, com - fort and joy. joy.

Leader Congregation

Hear the in - vi - ta - tion, sent forth to all.

Let us come and wor - ship; an - swer God's call.

Leader Congregation

Lis - ten, lis - ten, God is call - ing through the Word in - vit - ing,

of - fer - ing for - give - ness, com - fort and joy. joy.

Tanzanian Liturgy
 As we worship today, we celebrate the ways that we walk with our brothers and sisters in Christ from the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Tanzania, especially those of the Msindo and Mararo parishes with whom we share a Companion Congregation relationship. At Grace Lutheran Church, we set aside the last Sunday of each month to share in a worship setting with a Tanzanian liturgy and altar decorations. This serves as a reminder of our journey with these siblings, and others throughout the world.

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 “Blessed Be the Name” ELW #797

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 (Prayerfully)

Mfurahini (T.M. 33)



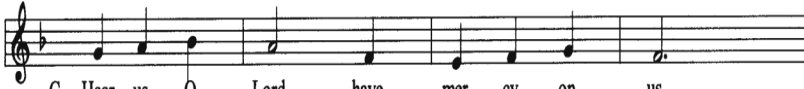
L. Let us now pray in peace to the Lord.



C. Hear us O Lord, have mer - cy on us.



L. For peace and sal - va - tion we pray to the Lord.



C. Hear us O Lord, have mer - cy on us.



For the whole world, for the one Church of God;



for Chris - tian u - ni - ty here and a - broad.



L. Help and de - fend us; com - fort and save.



C. Hear us O Lord, have mer - cy on us.

Hymn of Praise (Joyfully)

Kule Mbinguni (T. M. 62 arr.)



Leader

1. Praise God the Fa - ther; praise God the Son;

Congregation

2. On - ly be - got - ten Son of the Fa - ther

3. Now let our voi - ces join as we sing;



with Ho - ly Spir - it all three in one.
you are the Sav - ior; there is no o - ther.
praise and thanks - giv - ing glad - ly we bring.

Refrain (All)
 Lord now we praise you for your sal - va - tion,
 your grace ex - tends to each land and na - tion.

L: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

L: Let us pray,

C: O God our shepherd, you know your sheep by name and lead us to safety through the valleys of death. Guide us by your voice, that we may walk in certainty and security to the joyous feast prepared in your house, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Reading Notes:

Today's reading is a description of life in the community following Peter's sermon on the day of Pentecost, when the Spirit was poured out on God's people. The new community is sustained in worship and fellowship, shares what they have, and ensures that everyone has enough.

Please be seated

Reading: Acts 2:42-47

⁴² [The baptized] devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

⁴³ Awe came upon everyone because many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. ⁴⁴ All who believed were together and had all things in common; ⁴⁵ they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. ⁴⁶ Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, ⁴⁷ praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Anthem

"Here on Jesus Christ I Will Stand" (ACS 1024)
Chancel Choir

Psalms 23

¹ The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not be in want.

² **The LORD makes me lie down in green pastures and leads me beside still waters.**

- ³You restore my soul, O LORD, and guide me along right pathways for your name's sake.
- ⁴**Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.**
- ⁵You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.
- ⁶**Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.**

Please stand as you are able

Gospel Acclamation



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

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel: John 10:1-10

[Jesus said:]¹ "Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. ²The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. ³The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. ⁵They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers." ⁶Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

⁷So again Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. ⁸All who came before me are thieves and bandits, but the sheep did not listen to them. ⁹I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved and will come in and go out and find pasture. ¹⁰The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly."

L: The Gospel of the Lord.

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:

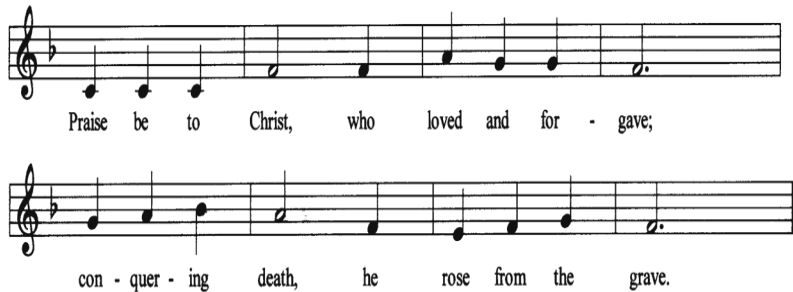
Jesus uses an image familiar to the people of his day to make a point about spiritual leadership. Those who listen to Jesus are led to abundant life.

Creed: *The Apostle's 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 Apostle's 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 because Jesus Christ died and rose again, not just for a

C:



Please be seated

Sermon

Please stand as you are able

Hymn of the Day "My Shepherd, You Supply My Need"

ELW #782

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 stand as you are able

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.

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

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.



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.

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.

The Distribution

"Jesus, O Lamb of God" is a haunting tune that comes from a traditional Maasai cry for help.

Prayerfully (free meter)

Engoipapayai Enanu (T.M.26)

Je - sus, O Lamb of God, who takes a - way the
sin of the world, have mer - cy up - on us.
Je - sus, O Lamb of God, who takes a - way the
sin of the world, have mer - cy up - on us.
Je - sus, O Lamb of God, who takes a - way the
sin of the world, grant us your peace.

Distribution Hymns: #642 (3x), #518, #777, #522

Please stand as you are able

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.

Joyfully

Kwa Neema na Pendo (T.M.64)



1. Lord, send your ser - vants in peace.
2. God's sav - ing work has been shown:



Ac - cord - ing to your good word.
A light all na - tions may see.



Your pro - mise now is com - plete:
To Is - rael glo - ry has come;



Sal - va - tion for the whole world.
God's peo - ple now are set free!

Refrain



So thank the Lord for such love - Give Thanks!



Tell ev' - ry - one what he's done.



Re - joice and car - ry his name - Go Forth!



That all may wor - ship the Son.

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."*

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

"Guide My Feet"

ACS #987

Dismissal

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

C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

"Gracious Spirit, Heed Our Pleading (Njoo kwetu, Roho mwema)"
arr. Anne Krentz Organ

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