



## **Grace Lutheran Church**

*Companion Congregation: Msindo Parish in Tanzania*

### **Welcome to Worship**

**Resurrection of Our Lord, Easter Day**

April 5, 2026

6:30 a.m.

Liturgical worship with organ

## 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 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.**

## Welcome

### Poetry Prayer — Birdsong

*L: Every morning the sun rises, majestic and steady.*

*She is greeted in all her strength with the joyous cacophony of birdsong.*

*I like to believe this holy chorus is the birds telling each other—  
I'm here.*

*We made it through the night.*

*You're not alone.*

*What good, good news.*

*I think the resurrection is a bit like that.*

*God is here.*

*We made it through the night.*

*We are not alone.*

*What good, good news.*

### Call to Worship

L: On Friday, we thought the good news had been silenced.

**C: On Friday, we thought the good news had taken its last breath.**

L: On Friday, we thought the good news had been buried.

**C: But today, we know the good news is alive and well.**

L: The good news is dancing!

**C: The good news is on the loose!**

L: The good news is out in the world, calling your name!

**C: Alleluia! Even death has lost its sting.**

L: Let us worship our good-news Christ.

### Confession and Forgiveness

L: Friends, on Easter Sunday we remember that the world did its worst to God. The world battered and bruised, betrayed and abandoned, crucified and buried our living God. And despite it all, Jesus *still* chose to return. Jesus rose again and immediately went to work spreading God's love to the very people who had hurt him. So hear me when I say, there is *nothing* you can do that could keep God's love at bay. With that good news mind, let us go to God in prayer, trusting that Jesus Christ loves, claims, and seeks us. Friends, let us pray:

**C: Gracious God, we want to be Easter people. We want to shout your good news from the rooftop. We want to follow the disciples, who ran to look for you. We want to follow the angels, who said, "Be not afraid," but we are afraid. And we don't know where to look. And we are worried we'll say the wrong thing. So forgive us, for we are imperfect Easter people. We are best intentions and best laid plans. We are an out-of-tune chorus of "alleluias." We are on our way, but we are not there yet. Show us how to embody your good news in this world.**

### Gathering

*On this day the Lord has acted! On the first day of the week God began creation, transforming darkness into light. On this, the "eighth day" of the week, Jesus Christ was raised from the dead. We celebrate this new creation in the waters of baptism and in the feast of victory. With great joy we celebrate this day of days, even as we begin the great fifty days of Easter. Filled with hope, we go forth to share the news that Christ is risen.*

### **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).*

**Show us how to be your Easter people. With hope for tomorrow, we pray, amen.**

L: Family of faith, even when we are an out-of-tune chorus of “alleluias,” we belong to God. Jesus died and rose for you. And there is nothing that could keep God’s love at bay. So join me in this good news declaration:

**C: Through Jesus Christ we are seen, saved, loved, and claimed. This is the good news of the gospel! Thanks be to God. Amen.**

**Special Music** “Were You There” Vicar Lotegeluaki Lengai

**Gathering Hymn** “A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing” ELW #393

### **Greeting**

L: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**C: Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

L: The joy and peace of God be with you all.

**C: And also with you!**

### **Prayer of the Day**

L: Let us pray,

**C: O God, you gave your only Son to suffer death on the cross for our redemption, and by his glorious resurrection you delivered us from the power of death. Make us die every day to sin, that we may live with him forever in the joy of the resurrection, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

*Please be seated*

### **Reading: Matthew 28:1-10**

<sup>1</sup>After the Sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. <sup>2</sup>And suddenly there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. <sup>3</sup>His appearance was like lightning and his clothing white as snow. <sup>4</sup>For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. <sup>5</sup>But the angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. <sup>6</sup>He is not here, for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. <sup>7</sup>Then go quickly and tell his disciples, ‘He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him.’ This is my message for you.” <sup>8</sup>So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy and ran to tell his disciples. <sup>9</sup>Suddenly Jesus met them and said, “Greetings!” And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshiped him. <sup>10</sup>Then Jesus said to them, “Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers and sisters to go to Galilee; there they

will see me.”

L: The Word of the Lord

**C: Thanks be to God**

## Sermon

*Please rise in body or in spirit*

**Hymn of the Day** “Now The Green Blade Rises” ELW #379

## Affirmation of Faith

**C: I believe in the good news of Jesus Christ. It sounds like welcome and feels like home. It sounds like laughter and feels like mercy. It sounds like love and feels like a seat at the table, so I believe in the good news of Jesus Christ. I have seen it alive in the world. And even when my heart aches, even when wars rage, even when mercy feels out of reach, I remember the one who welcomed the children and led with nonviolence. I remember the one who cared for the vulnerable and inspired those around him. I remember that the good news really is good news, for I have seen it alive in the world. Thanks be to God! 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: O God, maker of heaven and earth,

**C: your steadfast love embraces all creation. You send rain and sunshine to nourish the earth and bring forth its bounty. Through these gifts of bread and wine, draw us into the death**

## 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 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.*



**and life of your Son, who calls us to bear witness to his saving work. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.**

### **Invitation to the Table**

L: On Easter morning, the women went looking for Jesus. The angel said he was not in the tomb, so they ran, afraid yet filled with joy. They sought after him. They hurried to Galilee, looking for their risen Christ. And in their seeking, the text tells us: "Suddenly, Jesus met them" Jesus met the women in their seeking. Jesus met them in their moment of fear and grief. Jesus met them when they felt lost. Jesus met them and provided hope. Friends, if like the women you are seeking Christ, if you have known grief or fear, if you have ever felt lost, or if you are in need of some hope, then come to this Table. All are welcome here. For just as Jesus met the women in their seeking, I am confident that Jesus meets us here, saying, "Do not be afraid."

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me. Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Risen Christ, good-news God, and ever-present Spirit, today is a day we've been waiting for. We've been waiting for the holy mystery of this morning. We've been waiting for the good news of an empty grave. We've been waiting for the sound of alleluias. Today is a day we've been waiting for, and now that we're here, all we can say is thank you.

Holy One, so many days feel like Good Friday, but the promise of Easter is that Good Friday does not have the last word. So may we live like that is true. May we speak this hope to our neighbors. May we look for you in our midst. May we see you at this Table, in this ordinary bread and cup. And may we always remember: alleluias came after the grave.

As we live like Easter people, let us continue to pray the words Jesus taught 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.**

### **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 for-  
giveness 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 for-  
giveness of sins*

**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*

*Distribution Hymns: #472 (3x), #423, #464, #542*

*Please rise in body or in spirit*

### **Prayer after Communion**

L: Loving Christ, thank you for the bread that nourishes our bodies. Thank you for the cup that quenches our thirst. Thank you for this community, which reminds us who we are. Thank you for this Table that brings us together. Thank you for the music that lifts our spirits. Thank you for the promise that at this Table, and every table, you will be there. May this holy meal nourish us to go out into the world speaking of your good, good news. With joy and hope we pray,

**C: Amen.**

### **Benediction**

L: As you leave this place, when you meet anger, speak with love. When you meet fear, speak with hope. When you meet pain, speak with gentleness. But no matter what, speak this good news. For the good news of the gospel is love and justice for all. It is joy that surprises, and nonviolence that transforms. The good news of the gospel is alive in the world, so go forth speaking. For if you won't, then who will? Thanks be to God for this good, good news.

**C: Amen**

### **Sending Hymn**

“Alleluia, Sing to Jesus”

ELW #392

### **Dismissal**

L: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

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

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

**C: Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

**Postlude** Carillon on the hymn “Good Friends, Rejoice and Sing” (ELW 385) - M. Vulpius arranged by C. Callahan

### **Communion**

*Today we will receive Holy Communion through wafers and pouring chalice. The line forms from the front pews to the back, with the ambo side of the aisle going first followed by the organ side. 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** –

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**Office Assistant for Worship** –

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**Property Manager** –

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

**Custodian** – Todd Haugen

**Usher** – Carter Woodruff

**Greeter** – Pam & Lenny Palmer

**Poetry Reader** – Pam Palmer

**Lector** – Carol Woodruff

**Communion Assistant** – Carol Woodruff

**Altar Guild** – Sue Anderson, Kathy Bowermaster, Jenny Rehder,  
Jane Ridnour, Carol Woodruff

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

**Counters** – Mark Stumme & Tom McCleary



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