

## **Grace Lutheran Church**

*Companion Congregation: Msindo Parish in Tanzania*

### **Welcome to Worship**

**Pentecost**

May 24, 2026

9:00 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 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** Choral prelude on the hymn "Now To The Holy Spirit, Let Us Pray" (ELW 743) - J. Walther arranged by D. Buxtehude

## 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 one 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** “Gracious Spirit, Heed Ours Plead” ELW #401  
*Sing verse 1 in Swahili and then verses 1-5 in English*

## 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)*



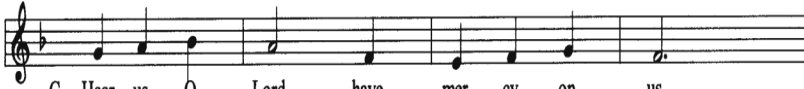
L. Let us now pray in peace to the Lord.



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, on this day you open the hearts of your faithful people by sending into us your Holy Spirit. Direct us by the light of that Spirit, that we may have a right judgment in all things and rejoice at all times in your peace, through Jesus Christ, your Son and our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

### Reading Notes:

*Pentecost was a Jewish harvest festival that marked the fiftieth day after Passover. Luke portrays the Holy Spirit being poured out upon the disciples before the gathered and astonished people assembled in Jerusalem for the festival. Filled with the Spirit, the disciples were able to witness to the power of Christ's resurrection.*

*Please be seated*

### Reading: Acts 2:1-21

<sup>1</sup>When the day of Pentecost had come, [the apostles] were all together in one place. <sup>2</sup>And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. <sup>3</sup>Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. <sup>4</sup>All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

<sup>5</sup>Now there were devout Jews from every people under heaven living in Jerusalem. <sup>6</sup>And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. <sup>7</sup>Amazed and astonished, they asked, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans?" <sup>8</sup>And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? <sup>9</sup>Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, <sup>10</sup>Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, <sup>11</sup>Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power." <sup>12</sup>All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?" <sup>13</sup>But others sneered and said, "They are filled with new wine."

<sup>14</sup> But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, "Fellow Jews and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. <sup>15</sup> Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o'clock in the morning. <sup>16</sup> No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:

<sup>17</sup> 'In the last days it will be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams. <sup>18</sup> Even upon my slaves, both men and women, in those days I will pour out my Spirit, and they shall prophesy. <sup>19</sup> And I will show portents in the heaven above and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and smoky mist. <sup>20</sup> The sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the coming of the Lord's great and glorious day. <sup>21</sup> Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.' "

L: The word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

### **Psalm 104:24-34, 35b**

<sup>24</sup> How manifold are your works, O LORD! In wisdom you have made them all; the earth is full of your creatures.

<sup>25</sup> **Yonder is the sea, great and wide, with its swarms too many to number, living things both small and great.**

<sup>26</sup> There go the ships to and fro, and Leviathan, which you made for the sport of it.

<sup>27</sup> **All of them look to you to give them their food in due season.**

<sup>28</sup> You give it to them; they gather it; you open your hand, and they are filled with good things.

<sup>29</sup> **When you hide your face, they are terrified; when you take away their breath, they die and return to their dust.**

<sup>30</sup> You send forth your Spirit, and they are created; and so you renew the face of the earth.

<sup>31</sup> **May the glory of the LORD endure forever; O LORD, rejoice in all your works.**

<sup>32</sup> You look at the earth and it trembles; you touch the mountains and they smoke.

<sup>33</sup> **I will sing to the LORD as long as I live; I will praise my God while I have my being.**

<sup>34</sup> May these words of mine please God. I will rejoice in the LORD.

<sup>35b</sup> **Bless the LORD, O my soul. Hallelujah!**

*Please stand as you are able*

**Gospel Acclamation**

**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.



Glo - ry to you, Lord, mas - ter and king;  
Words of sal - va - tion you came to bring.

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

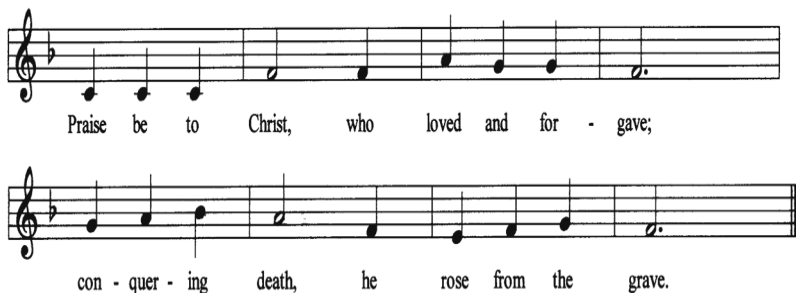
C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

**Gospel: John 20:19-23**

<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."

L: The Gospel of the Lord.

C:



Praise be to Christ, who loved and for - gave;  
con - quer - ing death, he rose from the grave.

**Apostles' 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

Please be seated  
**Sermon**

Please stand as you are able

**Hymn of the Day** "Holy Spirit, Ever Dwelling" ELW #582

## **Apostles' 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.**

*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 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.

### 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*

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

*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.

### 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** "O living Breath of God" ELW #407

### Dismissal

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

**C: Thanks be to God.**

### Postlude

Prelude on the hymn "Holy Spirit, Ever Dwelling" (ELW 582)  
German tune arranged by W. Held

**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."*