



a **SOWER** went out to **SOW**

MATTHEW 13:3

Grace Lutheran Church

Companion Congregation: Msindo Parish in Tanzania

Welcome to Worship

Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

July 12, 2026

9:00 a.m.

Liturgical worship with piano

Eclectic Setting

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 at Grace, please contact Pastor Mike at Mike@gracedm.org, 515-276-6873.

Prelude “The Earth Adorned in Verdant Robe”
(Swedish “sommarsalm” or “summer hymn”)

Welcome
Please rise in body or in spirit

Confession and Forgiveness

L: Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, whose compassion endures forever.

C: Amen.

L: Let us confess our sin to God.
Silence is kept for reflection.

L: Compassionate God,

C: we confess to you all our sins. Our burden is heavy, and we cannot free ourselves. In your mercy, call us back to you. Your yoke is easy and your burden is light. Restore us to dwell in your peace. In Christ’s name we pray, Amen.

L: Jesus says, “Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest.” In the name of God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, your sins are forgiven. Rest in God’s love.

C: Amen.

Gathering Hymn “We Plow the Fields and Scatter” ELW #681

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

1, 3 Lord, . . . have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.
2 Christ, . . . have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy.

Lord, . . . have mer - cy.
Christ, . . . 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.

Canticle of Praise

Refrain



Now the feast and cel - e - bra - tion, all of cre - a - tion
sings for joy to the God of life and love and free-dom;
praise and glo - ry for - ev - er - more!

1 Now is the feast of the Lamb once slain, whose blood has
Refrain
freed and u - nit-ed us to be one great peo-ple of God.

2 Pow - er and rich-es, wis-dom and might, all hon - or and
Refrain
glo - ry to Christ for - ev - er.

3 For God has come to dwell with us, to make us peo-ple of
Refrain
God; to make all things new.

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

L: Let us pray,

C: Almighty God, we thank you for planting in us the seed of your word. By your Holy Spirit help us to receive it with joy, live according to it, and grow in faith and hope and love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Please be seated

Blessing for the Beginning of Internship

P: O God, who through the Holy Spirit illumines the mind and sanctifies the lives of those who are called to rostered leadership in your church: look with favor upon the seminaries of our church in their efforts to instruct and form those who are to serve in the Sacred Ministry of the Gospel. Bless your people in this congregation who by word and example aid your servant, Apou, in learning to grow into a pastoral identity, develop a pastoral imagination, and grow in the competencies of ministry.

P: I ask you, Apou, are you willing to embrace this time of intentional teaching and learning in your ministry here, and will you seek God's guidance to be challenged and grow for the sake of the Gospel and to the Glory of God? If so, answer, "I am ready. May God help me, empower me, and form me in this ministry."

V: I am ready. May God help me, empower me, and form me in this ministry.

P: It is our opportunity as members of this congregation to serve as a teaching and learning congregation for a student in formation for Rostered Ministry in the ELCA.

P: Now I ask you, will you accompany and support this servant of God during internship? Will you uphold her in prayer? Will you help her grow into God's call for her life? If so, answer, "Yes, with God's help."

C: Yes, with God's help.

P: Almighty God, by whose call we are at work, bless and empower us in our ministry that what we do together will be pleasing in your sight and bring honor to your holy name.

P: Let us pray, Almighty God, we ask you to bless Vicar Apou Aderbuk and this congregation. May this time of internship be rich in opportunities for growth. May we accompany Apou with grace. May we guide her with love. May we nurture her with compassion. Offer your continual help to all who labor in love and service. Grant us your spirit, power, and wisdom, steadfastness of faith, and hope for all good things; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

Reading Notes:

God's word to Israel's exiles is as sure and effective as never-failing precipitation. Their return to the Holy Land in a new exodus is cheered on by singing mountains and by trees that clap their hands.

Reading: Isaiah 55:10-13

¹⁰ For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there until they have watered the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, ¹¹ so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

¹² For you shall go out in joy and be led back in peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall burst into song, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands. ¹³ Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress; instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle, and it shall be to the LORD for a memorial, for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.

L: The Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God

Please be seated

Psalm 65:1-13

¹ You are to be praised, O God, in Zion; to you shall vows be fulfilled.

² **To you, the one who answers prayer, to you all flesh shall come.**

³ Our sins are stronger than we are, but you blot out our transgressions.

⁴ **Happy are they whom you choose and draw to your courts to dwell there! They will be satisfied by the beauty of your house, by the holiness of your temple.**

⁵ Awesome things will you show us in your righteousness, O God of our salvation, O hope of all the ends of the earth and of the oceans far away.

⁶ **You make firm the mountains by your power; you are girded about with might.**

⁷ You still the roaring of the seas, the roaring of their waves, and the clamor of the peoples.

⁸ **Those who dwell at the ends of the earth will tremble at your marvelous signs; you make the dawn and the dusk to sing for joy.**

⁹ You visit the earth and water it abundantly; you make it very plenteous; the river of God is full of water. You prepare the grain, for so you provide for the earth.

¹⁰ **You drench the furrows and smooth out the ridges; with heavy rain you soften the ground and bless its increase.**

¹¹ You crown the year with your goodness, and your paths overflow with plenty.

¹² **May the fields of the wilderness be rich for grazing, and the hills be clothed with joy.**

¹³ May the meadows cover themselves with flocks, and the valleys cloak themselves with grain; let them shout for joy and sing.

Please rise in body or in spirit

Gospel Acclamation

Celtic Alleluia



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

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel: Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

¹That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. ²Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. ³And he told them many things in parables, saying: "Listen! A sower went out to sow. ⁴And as he sowed, some seeds fell on a path, and the birds came and ate them up. ⁵Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. ⁶But when the sun rose, they were scorched, and since they had no root, they withered away. ⁷Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. ⁸Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. ⁹If you have ears, hear!"

¹⁸"Hear, then, the parable of the sower. ¹⁹When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. ²⁰As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy, ²¹yet such a person has no root but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. ²²As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of this age and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. ²³But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty."

L: The Gospel of the Lord

C: Praise to you, O Christ

Gospel: The Gospel Lesson is a selection from the accounts of the life of our Lord recorded by the four evangelists, St. Matthew, St. Mark, St. Luke, and St. John. Because Christ is with us in the Gospel reading, we stand to honor his presence. We also sing short verses before and after the reading of the Gospel.

Gospel Notes:

In Matthew's gospel, both Jesus and his disciples "sow the seed" of God's word by proclaiming the good news that "the kingdom of heaven is near." Now, in a memorable parable, Jesus explains why this good news produces different results in those who hear.

Please be seated

Sermon

Please rise in body or in spirit

Hymn of the Day “O God, Whose Word Well-Planted”

ACS #975

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

***ple:** 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 – for Kings and all those in authority, that we may live in peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness.”*

Prayers of the People

L: God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

L: Grateful for your abundant provision and trusting in your goodness, we cast all our cares upon you, through the abundant grace of Christ Jesus.

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

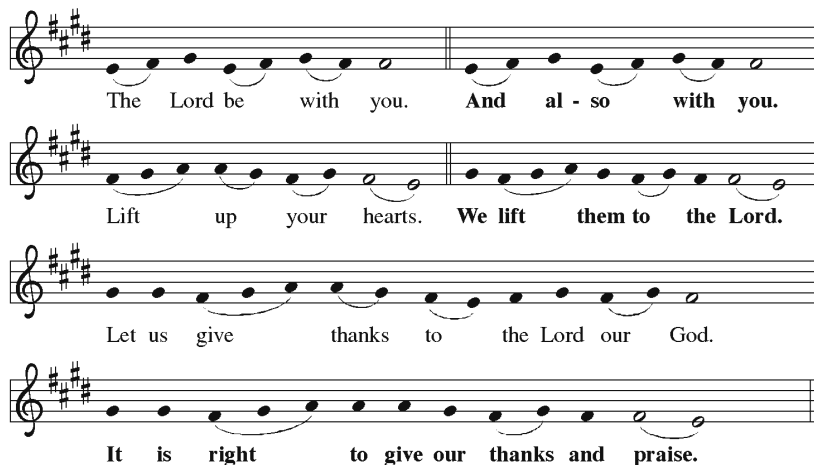
Please rise in body or in spirit

Offering Prayer

L: Loving God,

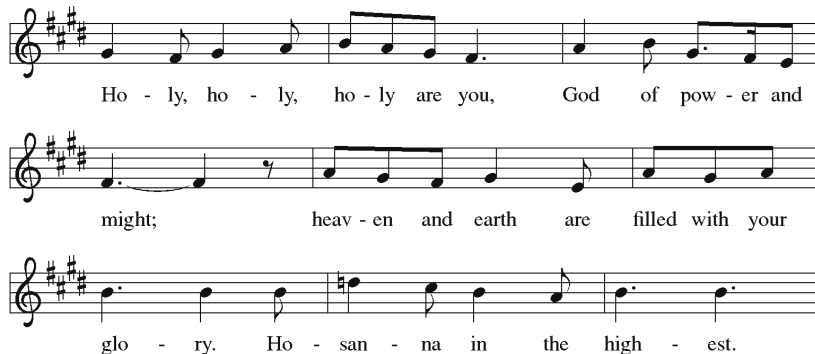
C: we offer at your table the gifts of our hearts. Help us take heart in you and share freely of your love, so that all creation can taste your abundance. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit abiding with us now and forever. Amen.

Great Thanksgiving



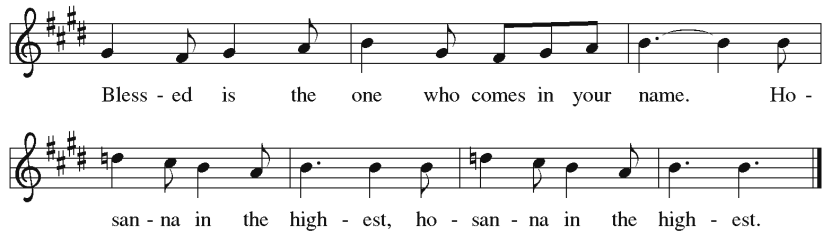
Preface

Holy, Holy, Holy



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.





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.

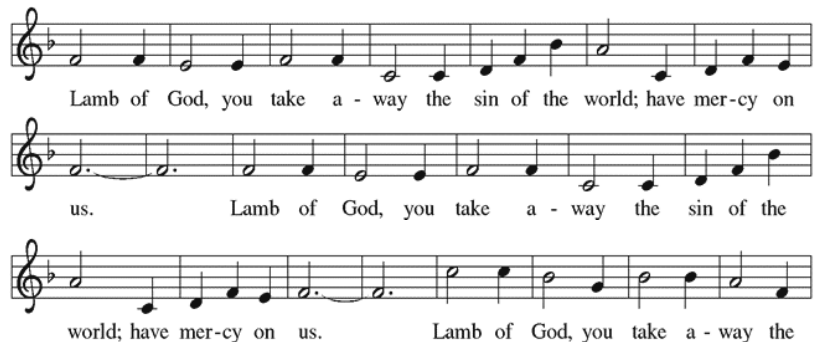
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. **Amen.**

Invitation to Communion

L: Heaven has come near. Come, share in the feast!

Please be seated

Lamb of God



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.

Welcome to Grace!

Pastor –

The Rev. Michael Schmidtmike@gracedm.org

Vicar

Apou Aderbuk.....apou@gracedm.org
(Apo- Ader-book)

Organist –

Rich Snyder.....rich@gracedm.org

Piano Accompanist, Music Ensemble Coordinator –

Kathy Bowermaster

Minister for Communications –

Michelle Voelkermichelle@gracedm.org

Bookkeeper –

Mike Hilsabeck.....mike.h@gracedm.org

Office Assistant for Worship –

Jessica Flannery.....jessica@gracedm.org

Property Manager –

Nichole Aubert.....nichole@gracedm.org

Custodian – Todd Haugen

Usher – Tom McCleary

Greeter – Linda Morevec

Lector – Carol Woodruff

Communion Assistants – Linda Morevec, Rich Snyder

Altar Guild – Carol Woodruff & Karri Brandsfield

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

Counters – Jon Rissman & Mark Stumme

Coffee & Donuts – Tammy Denton



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Pastor Michael Schmidt

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