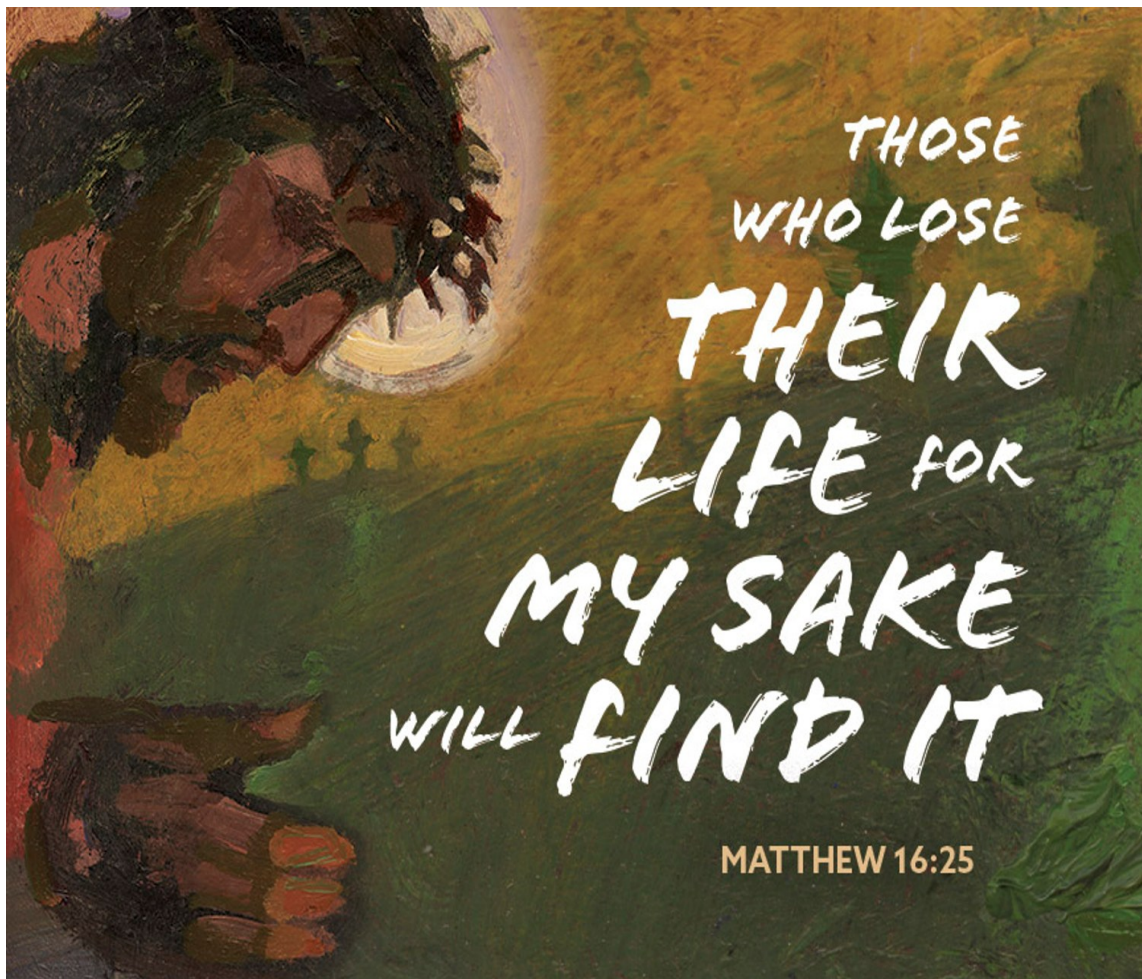




Grace Lutheran Church

Companion Congregation: Msindo Parish in Tanzania

Welcome to Worship

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

August 30, 2026

9:00 a.m.

Liturgical worship with piano
Tanzanian

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 Setting of the hymn "Guide Me Ever Great Redeemer" (ELW 618) - J. Hughes arranged by T. Shaw

Welcome

Please stand as you are able

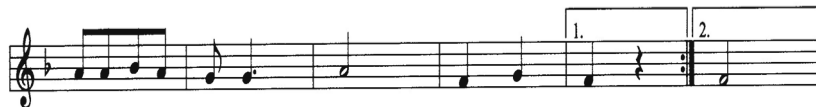
"Listen God is Calling!"

Brightly

Neno lake Mungu (T.M. 112)



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.



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



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



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.

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 "Here on Jesus Christ I Will Stand"

ACS #1024

Greeting

L: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

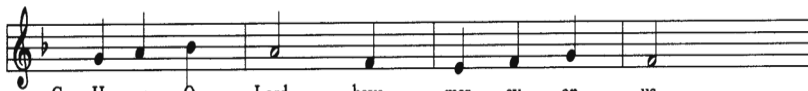
C: And also with you.

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.



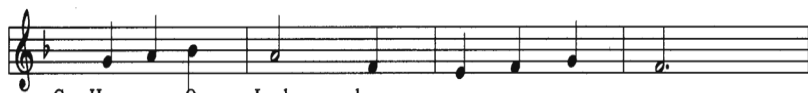
For the whole world, for the one Church of God;



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, we thank you for your Son, who chose the path of suffering for the sake of the world. Humble us by his example, point us to the path of obedience, and give us strength to follow your commands, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Reading Notes:

Jeremiah's delight in the word of the Lord is contradicted by the heaviness of God's hand upon him and God's seeming unfaithfulness. God's tough love to Jeremiah says that if he repents, he will be allowed to continue in his strenuous ministry. Jeremiah is strengthened by the simple words, "I am with you."

Please be seated

Reading: Jeremiah 15:15-21

¹⁵ O LORD, you know; remember me and visit me, and bring down retribution for me on my persecutors. In your forbearance do not take me away; know that on your account I suffer insult. ¹⁶ Your words were found, and I ate them, and your words became to me a joy and the delight of my heart, for I am called by your name, O LORD, God of hosts. ¹⁷ I did not sit in the company of merrymakers, nor did I rejoice; under the weight of your hand I sat alone, for you had filled me with indignation. ¹⁸ Why is my pain unceasing, my wound incurable, refusing to be healed? Truly, you are to me like a deceitful brook, like waters that fail.

¹⁹ Therefore thus says the LORD: If you turn back, I will take you back, and you shall stand before me. If you utter what is precious and not what is worthless, you shall serve as my mouth. It is they who will turn to you, not you who will turn to them. ²⁰ And I will make you to this people a fortified wall of bronze; they will fight against you, but they shall not prevail over you, for I am with you to save you and deliver you, says the LORD.

²¹ I will deliver you out of the hand of the wicked and redeem you from the grasp of the ruthless.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalms 26:1-8

¹ Give judgment for me, O LORD, for I have lived with integrity; I have trusted in the LORD and have not faltered.

² **Test me, O LORD, and try me; examine my heart and my mind.**

³ For your steadfast love is before my eyes; I have walked faithfully with you.

⁴ **I have not sat with the worthless, nor do I consort with the deceitful.**

⁵ I have hated the company of evildoers; I will not sit down with the wicked.

⁶ **I will wash my hands in innocence, O LORD, that I may go in procession round your altar,**

⁷ singing aloud a song of thanksgiving and recounting all your wonderful deeds.

⁸ **LORD, I love the house in which you dwell and the place where your glory abides.**

Please stand as you are able

Gospel Acclamation



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

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel: Matthew 16:21-28

²¹ From that time on, [after Peter confessed that Jesus was the Messiah,] Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes and be killed and on the third day be raised. ²² And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you." ²³ But he turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me, for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

²⁴ Then Jesus told his disciples, "If any wish to come after me, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ²⁵ For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. ²⁶ For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life?"

²⁷ "For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. ²⁸ Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom."

Gospel Acclamation:

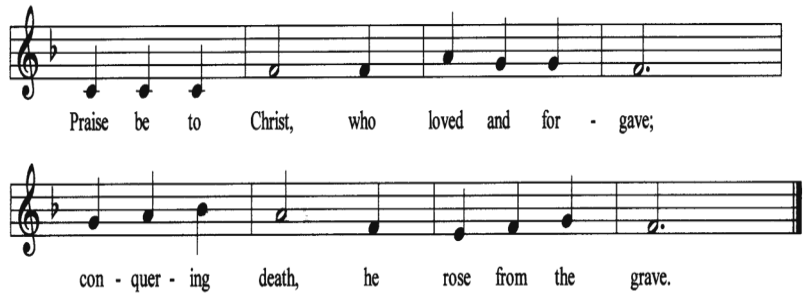
Old Lutheran liturgies often call this verse the "Gradual" which is based upon a Latin word meaning "step". We step up, with the Gospel acclamation, to hear the words of eternal life.

Gospel Notes:

After Peter confesses that Jesus is "the Messiah, the Son of the living God" (16:16), Jesus reveals the ultimate purpose of his ministry. These words prove hard to accept, even for a disciple whom Jesus has called a "rock."

L: The Gospel of the Lord.

C:



Please be seated

Sermon

Apostles' 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 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*

Please stand as you are able

Hymn of the Day

"We Walk By Faith"

ELW #635

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: Receive our prayers and answer, O God, as you have promised. All this we ask in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

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: 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.

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

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.

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: #473 (3x), #496, #484, #492

Please stand as you are able

Prayer after Communion

L: Compassionate God, through the gifts of bread and wine our hearts are filled with the abundance of your love. Strengthen us that we, through this holy meal, may share your love freely, as you have shared with us. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit nourishing us now and forever.

C: Amen.

Joyfully

Kwa Neema na Pendo (T.M.64)



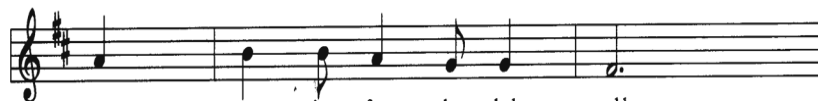
1. Lord, send your ser - vants in peace.
2. God's sav - ing work has been shown:



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: Heaven has come near. Go, share the good news!

C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude Setting of the hymn "Lord, Dismiss Us With Your Blessing" (ELW 545) - Sicilian folk tune arranged by T. Shaw

Text ©2000 James C. and Judith A. Bangsund, Makumira University College
(www.bangsund.co.tz). Tunes (and refrain from "Listen, Listen' God Is Calling") ©1987
Makumira University College of Tumaini University (Tanzania).