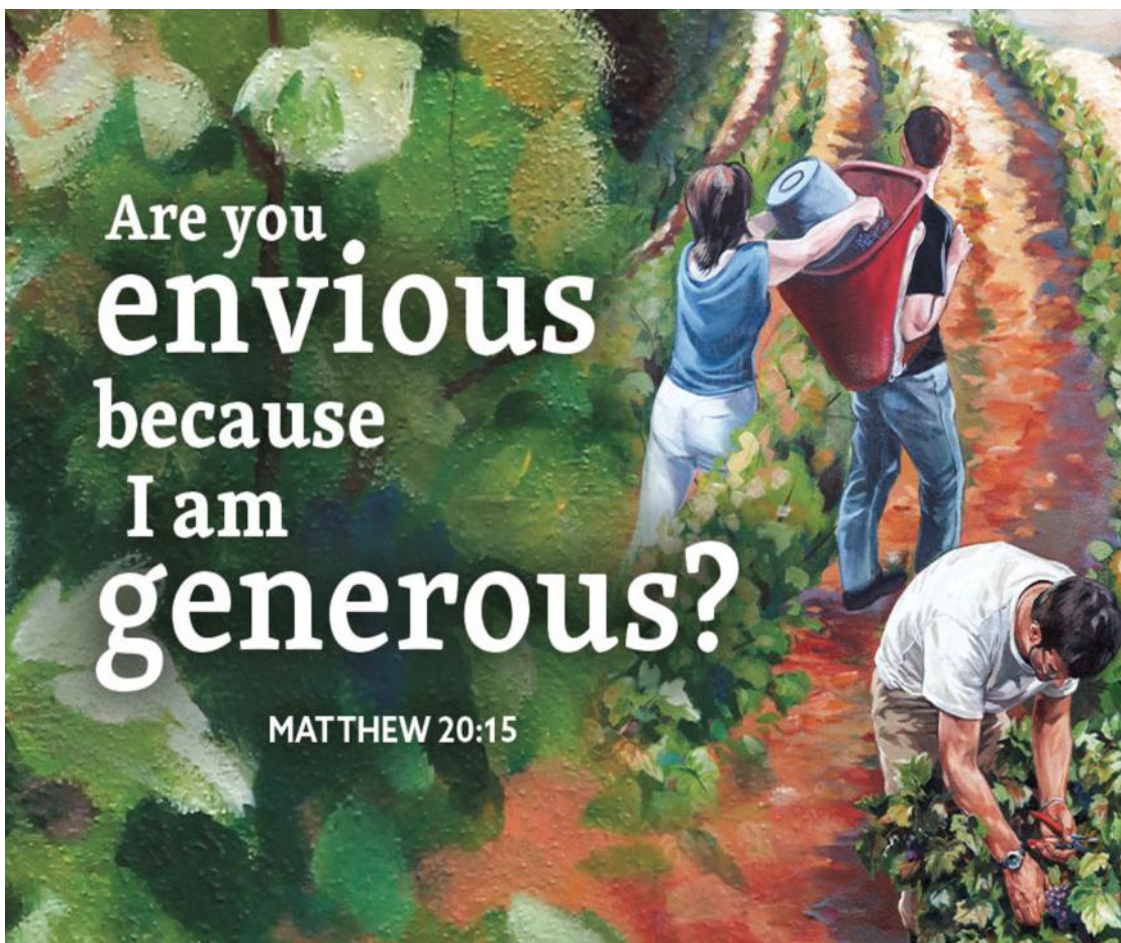




Grace Lutheran Church

Companion Congregation: Msindo Parish in Tanzania

Welcome to Worship

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 20, 2026

9:00 a.m.

Liturgical worship with organ

Setting 4

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

“Trust And Obey”

D. Towner arranged by C. Staszkeski

Welcome

Please rise in body or in spirit

Confession and Forgiveness

L: Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, who pours love into our hearts and healing upon the earth.

C: Amen.

L: Confident that God justifies us by grace through faith, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

L: Compassionate God,

C: we confess that we struggle to embody your goodness in the world and in our own hearts. Creation groans from over-use. Jealousy and bitterness strain our relationships. Indifference keeps us from seeking justice. Divisions disrupt your call to show genuine love to others. Turn our hearts back to you. Restore our world and reconcile us to one another. Renew us to live as your holy people, following the way of Jesus Christ. Amen.

L: Hear this good news: We have peace with God through Jesus Christ, in whom there is no condemnation, but only forgiveness and the promise of eternal life. Receive freely this healing gift of grace.

C: Amen.

Gathering Hymn

“Lord of Light”

ELW #688

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



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.

Kyrie: "Lord have mercy" is a translation of the ancient Greek "Kyrie Eleison" (pronounced KEE-ree-yay e-LAY-son) which is an ancient prayer sung in response to the forgiveness of sins. The Kyrie is not asking for forgiveness: rather it

is sung in awe of Christ Jesus who has overcome sin and death.

For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer - cy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,

and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer - cy.

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,

let us pray to the Lord. Lord have mer - cy.

Help, save, comfort, and de-fend us, gra-cious Lord. A - men.

The Hymn of Praise: One of two hymns of praise are generally sung after the Kyrie. The hymns, “Glory to God in the highest” and “This is the feast of victory,” give the congrega-

Canticle of Praise

Assisting minister

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia.

All

1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us
free to be peo - ple of God. Pow - er and rich - es and wis - dom and
strength, and hon - or and bless - ing and glo - ry are his.

Refrain

This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God. Al - le - lu - ia.

2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God and join in the
hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing and hon - or and glo - ry and
might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

Final refrain

This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain
has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

tion the opportunity to praise God and express joy because Jesus is our victorious Savior. "Glory to God in the highest," Luke 2:14; "This is the feast of victory," Revelation. 5:12

L: The Lord be with you.
C: And also with you.

Prayer of the Day:

This prayer is a bridge to the next part of the service. It also sets the tone for the day. It is related to the prescribed lectionary readings for the day.

Reading notes:

After Jonah's short sermon in 3:4, the Ninevites all repented and God decided to spare the city. Jonah objected to this and became even more angry when God ordered a worm to destroy a plant that was providing shade. The book ends with a question that challenges any who are not ready to forgive: You, Jonah, are all worked up about a bush, but shouldn't I be concerned about a hundred and twenty thousand Ninevites?

Prayer of the Day

L: Let us pray,

C: Almighty and eternal God, you show perpetual lovingkindness to us your servants. Because we cannot rely on our own abilities, grant us your merciful judgment, and train us to embody the generosity of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Please be seated

Reading: Jonah 3:10—4:11

¹⁰ When God saw what [the people of Ninevah] did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them, and he did not do it.

^{4:1} But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. ² He prayed to the Lord and said, "O Lord! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning, for I knew that you are a gracious and merciful God, slow to anger, abounding in steadfast love, and relenting from punishment. ³ And now, O Lord, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live." ⁴ And the Lord said, "Is it right for you to be angry?" ⁵ Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of the city.

⁶ The Lord God appointed a bush and made it come up over Jonah, to give shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort, so Jonah was very happy about the bush. ⁷ But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. ⁸ When the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that he might die. He said, "It is better for me to die than to live."

⁹ But God said to Jonah, "Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?" And he said, "Yes, angry enough to die." ¹⁰ Then the Lord said, "You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labor and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night. ¹¹ And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand persons who do not know their right hand from their left and also many animals?"

L: The Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God

Psalms 145:1-8

¹ I will exalt you, my God and king, and bless your name forever and ever.

² **Every day will I bless you and praise your name forever and**

ever.

³ Great is the LORD and greatly to be praised! There is no end to your greatness.

⁴ **One generation shall praise your works to another and shall declare your power.**

⁵ I will speak of the glorious splendor of your majesty and all your marvelous works.

⁶ **They shall tell of the might of your wondrous acts, and I will recount your greatness.**

⁷ They shall publish the remembrance of your great goodness; they shall sing joyfully of your righteousness.

⁸ **The LORD is gracious and full of compassion, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.**

Please rise in body or in spirit

Gospel Acclamation



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

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel: Matthew 20:1-16

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹“The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. ² After agreeing with the laborers for a denarius for the day, he sent them into his vineyard. ³ When he went out about nine o’clock, he saw others standing idle in the market-place, ⁴ and he said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.’ So they went. ⁵ When he went out again about noon and about three o’clock, he did the same. ⁶ And about five o’clock he went out and found others standing around, and he said to them, ‘Why are you standing here idle all day?’ ⁷ They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard.’ ⁸ When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, ‘Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.’ ⁹ When those hired about five o’clock came, each of them received a denarius. ¹⁰ Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received

Gospel

Acclamation: *We stand for the reading of the Gospel as a way to show respect. The Gospels share with us the story of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.*

Gospel Notes:

Jesus tells a parable about God’s generosity, challenging the common assumption that God rewards people according to what they have earned or deserve.

a denarius. ¹¹ And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, ¹² saying, 'These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.' ¹³ But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for a denarius? ¹⁴ Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. ¹⁵ Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?' ¹⁶ So the last will be first, and the first will be last."

L: The Gospel of the Lord

C: Praise to you, O Christ

Please be seated

Sermon

Please rise in body or in spirit

Hymn of the Day "God, Be the Love to Search and Guide Me"
ACS #1084

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: *We respond
to God's love by
speaking to God,
and expressing our
concern for the
whole church, for all
people in the world,
and for people in
our congregation.*

Prayers of the People

L: Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

L: Grant the prayers we have offered, what we have forgotten to ask, and whatever else you see that we need. We ask this in Jesus' name.

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: God of creation,

C: you send rain and the earth springs forth abundantly. All blessings are from you; make us generous with what we have. Use our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts in service to you and in love to our neighbors, today and always. Amen.

Thanksgiving for the Word

L: Praise and thanks to you, holy God, for by your Word you made all things: you spoke light into darkness, called forth beauty from chaos, and brought life into being. For your Word of life, O God,

C: we give you thanks and praise.

L: By your Word you called your people Israel to tell of your wonderful gifts: freedom from captivity, water on the desert journey, a pathway home from exile, wisdom for life with you. For your Word of life, O God,

C: we give you thanks and praise.

L: Through Jesus, your Word made flesh, you speak to us and call us to witness: forgiveness through the cross, life to those entombed by death, the way of your self-giving love. For your Word of life, O God,

C: we give you thanks and praise.

L: Send your Spirit of truth, O God; rekindle your gifts within us: renew our faith, increase our hope, and deepen our love, for the sake of a world in need. Faithful to your Word, O God, draw near to all who call on you; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever.

C: Amen.

L: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

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.



The Lord's Prayer:

is, in a way, our table grace before the meal. As we gather in this meal, the table, or altar, becomes the collection of all of our tables for meals at home.

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."*

The 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.**

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

"Rise Up, O Saints of God"

ELW #669

Dismissal

L: Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace.

C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Festival Postlude on "Holy, Holy, Holy" (ELW 413)

J. Dykes arranged by J. Dixon

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 –

Brian Gerling.....brian@gracedm.org

Custodian – Todd Haugen

Usher – Eric Weber

Greeter –

Liturgist – Kathy Bowermaster

Lector – Pam Palmer

Altar Guild – Rita Stackhouse, Jenny Rehder, & Val Culp

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

Counters – Tom McCleary & Aaron Brandsfield

Coffee & Donuts – Mike and Marilyn Nizzi



Grace Lutheran Church

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Pastor Michael Schmidt

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