



## **Grace Lutheran Church**

*Companion Congregation: Msindo Parish in Tanzania*

### **Welcome to Worship**

**Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

September 27, 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](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 at Grace, please contact Pastor Mike at [Mike@gracedm.org](mailto:Mike@gracedm.org), 515-276-6873.**

# Listen! God Is Calling! *An East African Worship Service*

(based upon Tanzanian hymns and hymn tunes)

**Prelude** "Pachelbel Canon" arr. Nancy Faber

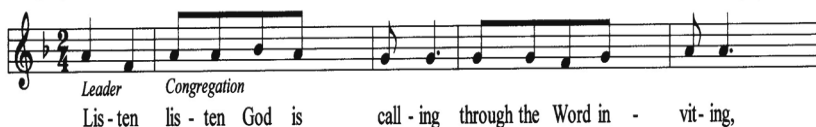
## Welcome

*Please stand as you are able*

### "Listen God is Calling!"

*Brightly*

*Neno lake Mungu (T.M. 112)*



## 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, 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** “The Trumpets Sound, the Angels Sing”

ELW #531

### **Greeting**

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

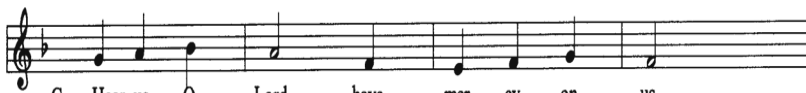
**C: And also with you.**

*Kyrie (Prayerfully)*

*Mfurahini (T.M. 33)*



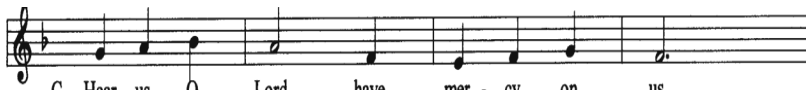
L. Let us now pray in peace to the Lord.



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: God of love, giver of life, you know our frailties and failings. Give us your grace to overcome them, keep us from those things that harm us, and guide us in the way of salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

### Reading Notes:

*Ezekiel challenges those who think they cannot change because of what their parents were and did, or who think they cannot*

*Please be seated*

### Reading: Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32

<sup>1</sup> The word of the Lord came to me: <sup>2</sup> What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, "The parents have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge"? <sup>3</sup> As I live, says the Lord God, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. <sup>4</sup> Know that all lives are mine; the life of the parent as well as the life of the child is mine: it is only the per-

son who sins who shall die.

<sup>25</sup> Yet you say, "The way of the Lord is unfair." Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? <sup>26</sup> When the righteous turn away from their righteousness and commit iniquity, they shall die for it; for the iniquity that they have committed, they shall die. <sup>27</sup> Again, when the wicked turn away from the wickedness they have committed and do what is lawful and right, they shall save their life. <sup>28</sup> Because they considered and turned away from all the transgressions that they had committed, they shall surely live; they shall not die. <sup>29</sup> Yet the house of Israel says, "The way of the Lord is unfair." O house of Israel, are my ways unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair?

<sup>30</sup> Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, all of you according to your ways, says the Lord God. Repent and turn from all your transgressions; otherwise iniquity will be your ruin. <sup>31</sup> Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed against me, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? <sup>32</sup> For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, says the Lord God. Turn, then, and live.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

### Psalm 25:1-9

<sup>1</sup> To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul.

<sup>2</sup> **My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be put to shame, nor let my enemies triumph over me.**

<sup>3</sup> Let none who look to you be put to shame; rather let those be put to shame who are treacherous.

<sup>4</sup> **Show me your ways, O LORD, and teach me your paths.**

<sup>5</sup> Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all the day long.

<sup>6</sup> **Remember, O LORD, your compassion and love, for they are from everlasting.**

<sup>7</sup> Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions; remember me according to your steadfast love and for the sake of your goodness, O LORD.

<sup>8</sup> **You are gracious and upright, O LORD; therefore you teach sinners in your way.**

<sup>9</sup> You lead the lowly in justice and teach the lowly your way.

*Please stand as you are able*

### Gospel Acclamation



*reverse their own previous behavior. God insistently invites people to turn and live.*

### 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.



L: The Holy Gospel according to Saint Luke, the First Chapter.

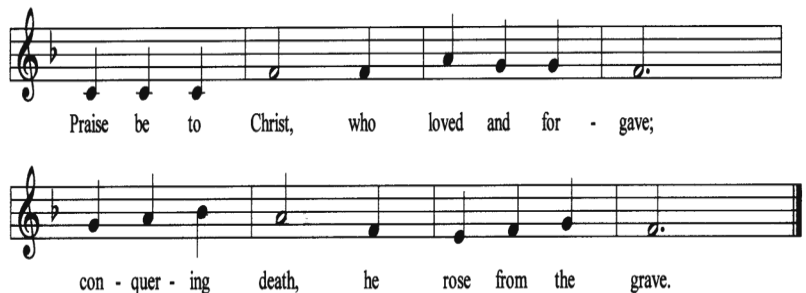
C: Glory to you, O Lord.

### Gospel: Luke 1:39-45, 56

<sup>39</sup>In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, <sup>40</sup>where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. <sup>41</sup>When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit <sup>42</sup>and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. <sup>43</sup>And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? <sup>44</sup>For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. <sup>45</sup>And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord." <sup>56</sup>And Mary remained with her about three months and then returned to her home.

L: The Gospel of the Lord.

C:



*Please be seated*

### Sermon

*Please stand as you are able*

**Hymn of the Day** "Oh, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways"

ELW #772

### 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*

### 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: 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 stand as you are able*

### 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 at the Table

L: In the night in which he was betrayed...

*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.*

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: Christ invites you to this table. All who are thirsty, all who are hungry, come!

*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 Enamu (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.



*Distribution Hymns: ACS #1037, ELW #466, ELW #482, & ELW #494*

*Please stand as you are able*

### **Prayer after Communion**

L: Sustaining God, with this bread and cup, you nourish us with mercy and abundant life. By your Spirit, send us from this table to serve a needy world. Make us living signs of your liberation, healing, and love, following the way of Jesus, in whose name we pray.

**C: Amen.**

### **Communion:**

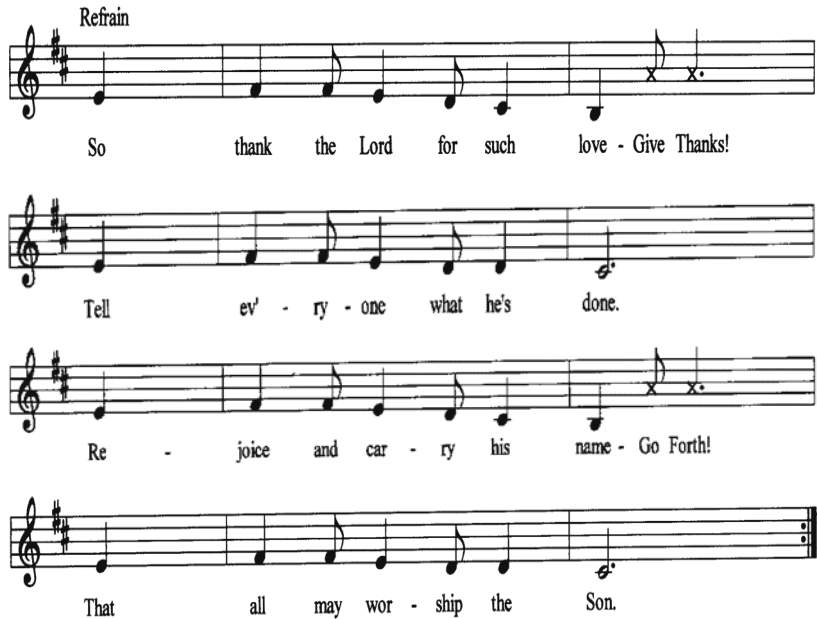
*Today we will receive Holy Communion through wafers and pouring chalice. Two lines will form from the front pews to the back. Please use the hand sanitizer provided and take a cup from the tray. Then proceed to receive the gluten-free wafer. Both wine and grape juice will be available. Please place your cup in the basket by the side aisle as you return to the pew.*

*Joyfully*

*Kwa Neema na Pendo (T.M.64)*



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** "Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us With Your Love" ELW #708

### Dismissal

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

**C: Thanks be to God.**

### Postlude

"In Thee Is Gladness" arr. Nancy Raabe

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