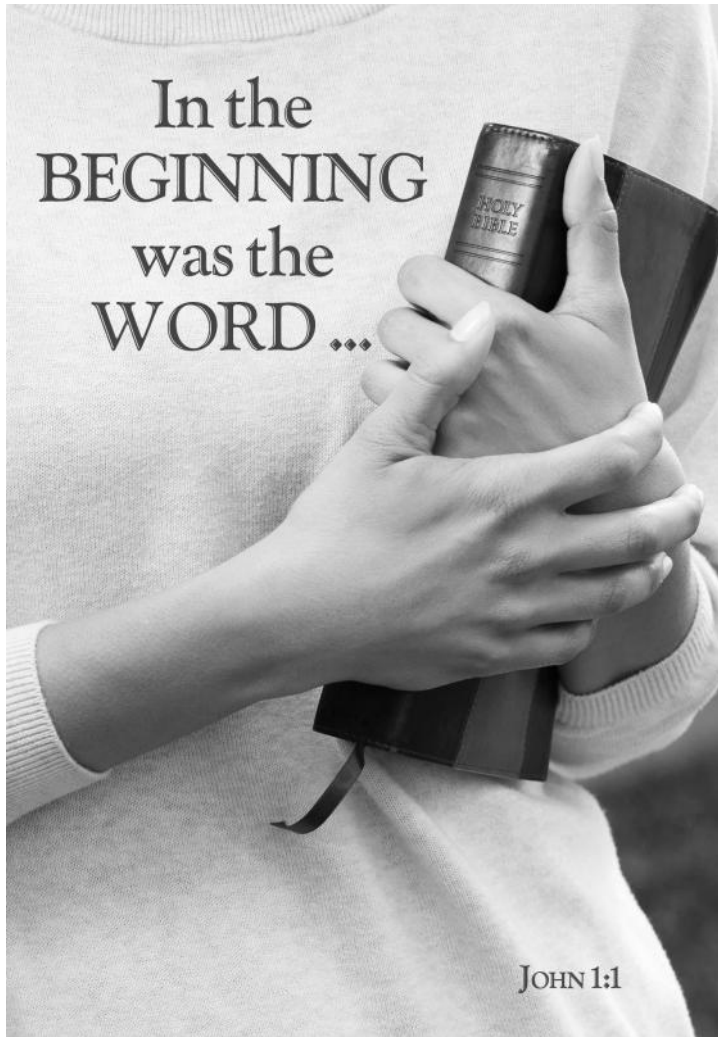




Grace Lutheran Church

Companion Congregation: Msindo Parish in Tanzania

Welcome to Worship

Creation in Christ Sunday

September 6, 2026

9:00 a.m.

Liturgical worship with organ

Setting 8

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 worshipping 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 Improvisation on the sending hymn "Praise My Soul, The God Of Heaven" (ELW 864) - J. Goss arranged by M. Burkhardt

Welcome

Please rise in body or in spirit

Confession and Forgiveness

L: Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, our hope, our heart, our home.

C: Amen.

L: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

L: Everlasting God, the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end,

C: we confess that we participate in systems that perpetuate oppression and injustice. We are often numb to the pain of the world around us, resistant to change that costs us something, and reluctant to love our neighbors as ourselves. We sin against your good creation, failing to be faithful stewards of the land, the sea, and all their creatures. Make your home among us once more, O God, naming us beloved and opening our hearts to do your will. Amen.

L: All you saints and sinners, this good news is for you: God knows you, forgives you by the self-giving of Jesus Christ, and frees you to love the world as you have been loved. Creation's story will not end until mourning, crying, and pain are no more. When everything else changes, God's love is steadfast and sure. Nothing can ever separate you from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

C: Amen.

L: Glory to you, O God: you speak a word of power, and so you create the world. We praise you, O God:

C: We praise you, O God.

L: For the Spirit hovering to bring forth life, for the earth ordered from chaos, and for light and dark, we bless you, O God:

C: We bless you, O God.

L: For the cosmos beyond our earth, for the sky above our heads, and for the cycle of evening and morning, we exalt you, O God:

C: We exalt you, O God.

Gathering:

We come to worship from different places. Some directly from work, others out of week-end activities. Some live around the corner and others from another county. We gather to "do liturgy", which means literally, the "work of the people". We gather to do the work of hearing the Scriptures read and proclaimed. We gather to act out the Gospel in the ritual drama of the meal. As we gather, God is at work also, making the Good News come alive in our midst.

L: For the seas, the lakes, and the rivers, for the land with its mountains and plains, and for the trees, the plants, and their fruits, we magnify you, O God:

C: We magnify you, O God.

L: For the sun to rule the day, for the moon to brighten the night, and for the shining stars, we extol you, O God:

C: We extol you, O God.

L: For the fish in the sea, for the birds of the air, and for the monsters in the deep, we glorify you, O God:

C: We glorify you, O God.

L: For wild animals and creatures of all kinds, for cattle and all livestock, and for everything that creeps on the earth, we adore you, O God:

C: We adore you, O God.

L: For humankind made in your image, for setting us on your good earth, and for providing us food to eat, we worship you, O God:

C: We worship you, O God.

L: Bless us, your creatures. Accept our praise, and make us worthy of your marvelous creation. We praise you, O God:

C: We praise you, O God.

L: Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to you, our God, forever and ever. Amen.

C: Amen.

Gathering Hymn

“Touch the Earth Lightly”

ELW #739

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

Refrain



Ky-ri-e e - lei - son, on our world and on our way.



Ky-ri-e e - lei - son, ev-'ry day.



1 For peace in the world, for the health of the church, for the
2 That we may live out your im - passioned re - sponse to the
3 For peace in our hearts, . . . for peace in our homes, . . . for
4 For your Spir - it to guide; that you cen - ter our lives in the



u - ni - ty of all; for
hun - gry and the poor; that
friends and fam - i - ly; for
wa - ter and the word; that you



this ho - ly house, for all who wor-ship and praise,
we may live out truth and jus - tice and grace,
life and for love, for our work and our play,
nour-ish our souls . . . with your bod - y and blood,



Refrain

let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.

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.

Hymn of Praise:

Quite often in the Bible, Jesus eats with people and shares parables about banquets and feasts. This hymn points us to the Lord's Supper as a foretaste of the feast to come. This is an opportunity for us to hear and sing the hymn of praise with all the saints in heaven.

Canticle of Praise

Refrain

This is the feast of vic - t'ry for our God, for the

Lamb who was slain has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be

peo - ple of God. Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and strength, and

Refrain

hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his. This is the feast of

vic - t'ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain has be - gun his reign. 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, hon - or,

glo - ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.



L: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

L: Let us pray,

C: O God, in whom we live and move and have our being, in Christ you created the worlds, and your Spirit breathes life into the universe. We praise you for your wondrous creation. Bless us and all your handiwork with your infinite light, and direct our lives to the care of this good earth, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Please be seated

Reading: Genesis 2:4b-25

^{4b} In the day that the Lord God made the earth and the heavens, ⁵ when no plant of the field was yet in the earth and no vegetation of the field had yet sprung up—for the Lord God had not caused it to rain upon the earth, and there was no one to till the ground, ⁶ but a stream would rise from the earth and water the whole face of the ground—⁷ then the Lord God formed man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being. ⁸ And the Lord God planted a garden in Eden, in the east, and there he put the man whom he had formed. ⁹ Out of the ground the Lord God made to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food, the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

¹⁰ A river flows out of Eden to water the garden, and from there it divides and becomes four branches. ¹¹ The name of the first is Pishon; it is the one that flows around the whole land of Havilah, where there is gold, ¹² and the gold of that land is good; bdellium and onyx stone are there. ¹³ The name of the second river is Gihon; it is the one that flows around the whole land of Cush. ¹⁴ The name of the third river is Tigris, which flows east of Assyria. And the fourth river is the Euphrates.

¹⁵ The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. ¹⁶ And the Lord God commanded the man, “You may freely eat of every tree of the garden, ¹⁷ but of the

Reading Notes:

Genesis 2 tells the beginning of the story of God's garden and includes several ambivalent foreshadowing's: appreciation of the gold of other lands, the combination of dust and spirit in the creation of humanity, the call to the human to “serve and protect” the garden, the introduction of healthy ecological limits that might be transgressed, and beautiful partnerships formed between humans and other creatures that

are vulnerable to being violated. Both profound goodness and fragile mortality are evident in the beginning—and both call for reverent attention today.

tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die.”

¹⁸ Then the Lord God said, “It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper as his partner.” ¹⁹ So out of the ground the Lord God formed every animal of the field and every bird of the air and brought them to the man to see what he would call them, and whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name. ²⁰ The man gave names to all cattle and to the birds of the air and to every animal of the field, but for the man there was not found a helper as his partner. ²¹ So the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and he slept; then he took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. ²² And the rib that the Lord God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. ²³ Then the man said, “This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; this one shall be called Woman, for out of Man this one was taken.” ²⁴ Therefore a man leaves his father and his mother and clings to his wife, and they become one flesh. ²⁵ And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed.

L: The Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God

Psalm 148

¹ Hallelujah! Praise the LORD from the heavens; praise God in the heights.

² **Praise the LORD, all you angels; sing praise, all you hosts of heaven.**

³ Praise the LORD, sun and moon; sing praise, all you shining stars.

⁴ **Praise the LORD, heaven of heavens, and you waters above the heavens.**

⁵ Let them praise the name of the LORD, who commanded, and they were created,

⁶ **who made them stand fast forever and ever, giving them a law that shall not pass away.**

⁷ Praise the LORD from the earth, you sea monsters and all deeps;

⁸ **fire and hail, snow and fog, tempestuous wind, doing God's will;**

⁹ mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars;

¹⁰ **wild beasts and all cattle, creeping things and flying birds;**

¹¹ sovereigns of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the world;

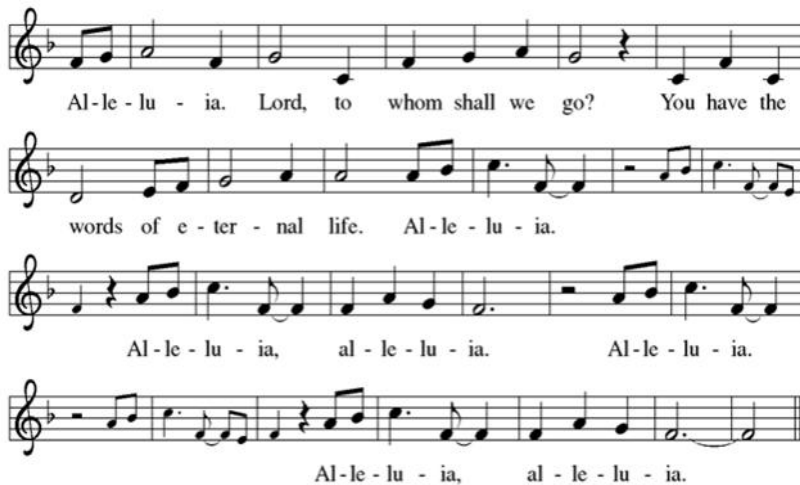
¹² **young men and maidens, old and young together.**

¹³ Let them praise the name of the LORD, whose name only is exalted, whose splendor is over earth and heaven.

¹⁴ **The LORD has raised up strength for the people and praise for all faithful servants, the children of Israel, a people who are near the LORD. Hallelujah!**

Please rise in body or in spirit

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 Acclamation

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

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel: John 1:1-5

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it.

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 "Before the Waters Nourished Earth"

ACS #1049

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,**

Gospel Notes:

John begins his gospel with this prologue: a hymn to the Word through whom all things were created. This Word became flesh and brought grace and truth to the world.

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 Apostles' 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.



**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: Into your hands, O God, our maker and keeper, we commend ourselves and your whole creation, trusting in your mercy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and 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 rise in body or in spirit

Offering Prayer

L: O God, maker of heaven and earth,

C: **your steadfast love embraces all creation. You send rain and sunshine to nourish the earth and bring forth its bounty. Through these gifts of bread and wine, draw us into the death and life of your Son, who calls us to bear witness to his saving work. We ask this in Jesus' name. 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.

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 "Praise My Soul the God of Heaven" ELW #864

Dismissal

L: Go in peace. Flourish with creation.

C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Trumpet Tune in D-Flat Major

W. Fuhrer

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.

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."

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 –

Lector – Ro Zimany

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 & Mark Stumme

Coffee & Donuts – Cheryl & Ernie Weatherington



Grace Lutheran Church

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Pastor Michael Schmidt

515-276-6873

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