

**Grace Lutheran Church**  
1300 Kishwaukee Valley Road  
Woodstock, IL 60098  
www.gracewoodstock.org



**April 28, 2024; 9:00 A.M.**  
**Fifth Sunday of Easter**



**GATHERING**

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

**OPENING MUSIC**

"Great Things"

by Wickham and Myrin (CCLI)

*Please stand as you are able.*

**THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM**

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
the wellspring of grace,  
our Easter and our joy.

**Amen.**

Look, here is water!

**Here is our water of life! Alleluia!**

Immersed in the promises of baptism,  
let us give thanks for what God has done for us.

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning  
your voice thundered over the deep  
and water became the essence of life.

Adam and Eve beheld Eden's verdant rivers.

The ark carried your creation through the flood into a new day.

Miriam led the dancing as your people passed through the sea  
into freedom's land.

In a desert pool the Ethiopian official  
entered your boundless baptismal life.

Look, here is water!

**Here is our water of life! Alleluia!**

At the river your beloved Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit.

By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection you opened the floodgates of your reconciling love, freeing us to live as Easter people.

We rejoice with glad hearts, giving all honor and praise to you, through the risen Christ, our source of living water, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

**Amen.**

Look, here is water!

**Here is our water of life! Alleluia!**

*Please stand as you are able.*

**OPENING HYMN**

**"Alleluia! Jesus is Risen!"**

ELW 377 (One License)

*Please be seated.*

**WELCOME**

*Please stand as you are able.*

**GREETING**

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

**And also with you.**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

O God, you give us your Son as the vine apart from whom we cannot live. Nourish our life in his resurrection, that we may bear the fruit of love and know the fullness of your joy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

**WORD**

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

*Please be seated.*

**FIRST READING:**

**Acts 8:26-40**, *Pew Bible, New Testament, pg. 127*

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM:**

**Psalm 22:25-31**

*The Psalms are found in the ELW, in the front section, beginning on page 339. We will read them responsively together.*

**SECOND READING:**

**1 John 4:7-21**, *Pew Bible, New Testament, pg. 241*

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand as you are able.

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the  
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

### GOSPEL

The holy gospel according to John. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

**John 15:1-8**, Pew Bible, New Testament, pg. 109

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Please be seated.

### CHILDREN'S SERMON

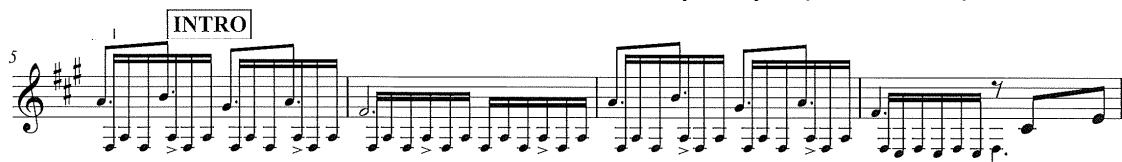
### SERMON

Please stand as you are able.

### HYMN OF THE DAY

#### "Abide"

by Keyes, Williams, and Fauber (CCLI)



- 1. For my
- (2. Where my)
- (3. As I)

#### VERSE



wak - ing breath, for my dai - ly bread I de - pend on You,  
Spir - it leads, as I'm fol - low - ing I de - pend on You,  
pass through death, as I en - ter rest, I de - pend on You,



I de - pend on You. For the sun to rise, for my sleep at night, I de - pend on  
I de - pend on You. For the vic - to - ries still in front of me I de - pend on  
I de - pend on You. For e - ter - nal life, to be raised with Christ, I de - pend on

#### CHORUS 1 & 2



You, I de - pend on You. You're the way, the truth and the life,  
You, I de - pend on You.  
you, I de - pend on You.

27 E(4) Bm7 F#m7  
You're the well that nev - er runs dry. I'm the branch and You are the vine.

**TURNAROUND 1**

37 D Esus E A D2  
Draw me close and teach me to a - bid e. 2. Where the

Esus E A Bm7 A/C# E(4)

37 2  
teach me to a - bid e. Be my strength, my song in the night. Be my all, my trea - sure, my prize.

**TURNAROUND 2**

42 Bm7 F#m7 D Esus E A  
I am Yours, for - ev - er You're mine. Draw me close and teach me to a - bid e.

47 Asus D.S. al Coda  
3. When I

## NICENE CREED

ELW pg. 104

### PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Rejoicing that Jesus is risen and love has triumphed over fear, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need of good news. *A brief silence.*

We pray for the church around the world, for all ministers, and for the mission of the gospel. Keep all the newly baptized and confirmed in your care. Cleanse our hearts with your word and help us to abide in you always. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

For the well-being of the earth and of all created things: for rivers and lakes, streams and estuaries, melting glaciers and polluted waters. Renew the face of the earth and shower us with your goodness. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

For the nations and all those in authority: for local, state, and national leaders, for elected representatives at every level, and for international organizations, that justice and peace may reign. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

For all those in need: for any experiencing homelessness or unemployment, for those fleeing from oppression or seeking asylum, and for all who are ill or suffering, especially those we now name aloud or in the silence of our hearts \_\_\_\_\_. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

For this congregation: for the caring ministries of this faith community, for all who visit and minister to one another, for all who take communion to homes or care centers, and for all who seek to share your love with the world. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

With thanksgiving for the saints who rest from their labors. Help us, like them, to bear much fruit and to become your disciples, and at the last, bring us to that heavenly banquet where all will feast together at your table. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Into your hands, most merciful God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your abiding love; through Jesus Christ, our resurrected and living Lord. **Amen.**

### **PEACE**

*After praying for the whole world, we receive and extend to one another the gift of Christ's peace. We invite you to share a physically distant sign of God's peace with one another—wave a greeting of peace to people around you, and/or text a greeting of peace to someone.*

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

### **MEAL**

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

*Please be seated.*

### **OFFERING PRAYER**

Let us pray. Risen One,  
you call us to believe and bear fruit.  
May the gifts that we offer here  
be signs of your abiding love.  
Form us to be your witnesses in the world,  
through Jesus Christ, our true vine. **Amen.**

### **OFFERING**

*Thank you for your generous offerings and commitment to Grace's mission and ministry. You are invited to place your financial offerings in the offering plate. Additional ways to give include mailing your offering to the church office, or by giving online: by texting the amount you would like to give to 877-698-3604, through the Vanco Mobile App, or online at Grace's website (Use the QR code provided). You are also invited to call the church office to learn more about the automatic withdrawal Electronic Giving Program.*



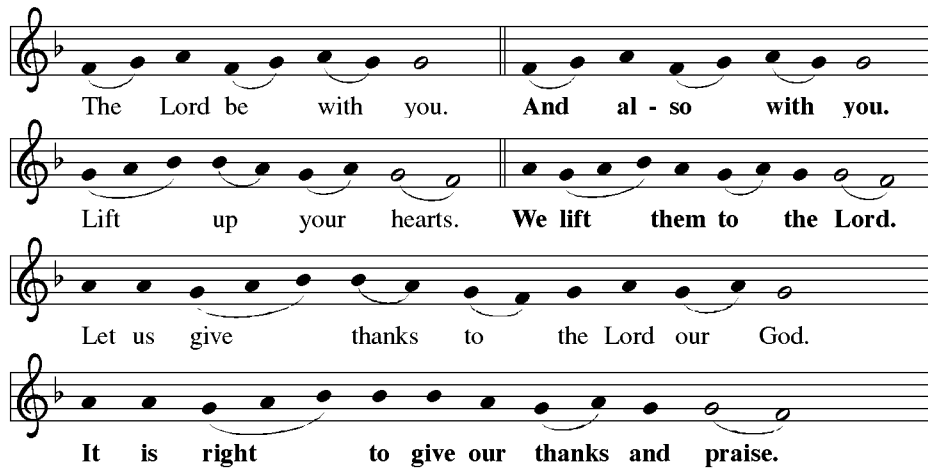
### **OFFERING ANTHEM**

"Less Like Me"

by Williams, Bentley, and Fieldes (CCLI)

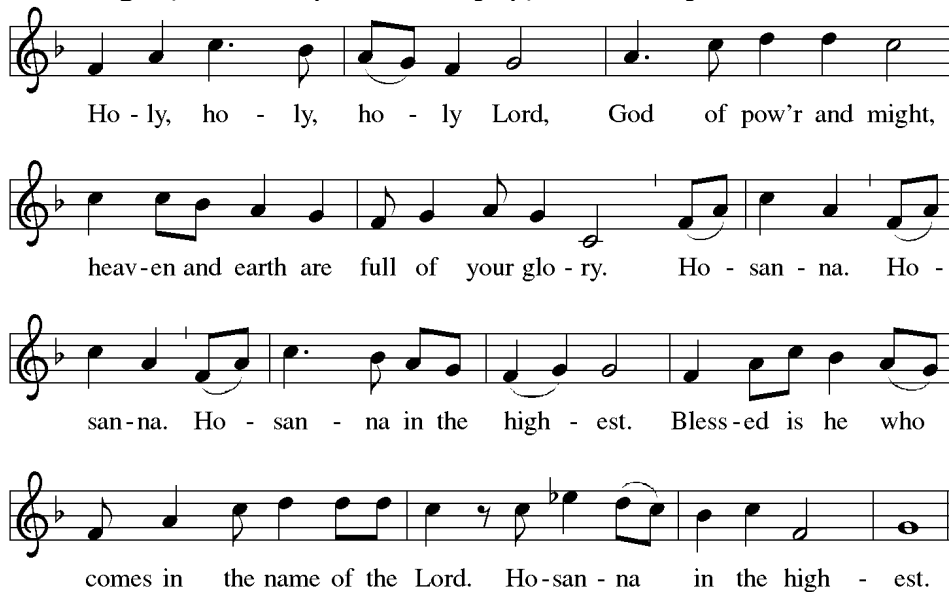
Please stand as you are able.

## GREAT THANKSGIVING



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.  
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.  
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, . . . and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,  
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -  
san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who  
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

## THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

### LORD'S PRAYER

ELW pg. 145, left column

### INVITATION TO COMMUNION

*All are welcome at the Lord's table.*

The risen Christ is made known to us  
in the breaking of the bread.

Come and eat at God's table.

*Please be seated. The congregation will commune, beginning with the front pews, you are invited to come forward to receive the bread and wine or juice. Extend your hands to receive a wafer from the pastor or communion assistant. Then please pick up one cup from the trays (red wine or white grape juice), and then place empty cup in a tray on the front pew before returning to your seat. Gluten free elements are available upon request. If you would like the communion elements to be brought to you, please notify an usher.*

## **DISTRIBUTION HYMN**

### **"What a Beautiful Name"**

by Fielding and Ligertwood (CCLI)

#### *Verse 1*

You were the Word at the beginning  
One with God the Lord Most High  
Your hidden glory in creation  
Now revealed in You our Christ

#### *Chorus 1*

What a beautiful Name it is  
What a beautiful Name it is  
The Name of Jesus Christ my King  
What a beautiful Name it is  
Nothing compares to this  
What a beautiful Name it is  
The Name of Jesus

#### *Verse 2*

You didn't want heaven without us  
So Jesus You brought heaven down  
My sin was great Your love was greater  
What could separate us now

#### *Chorus 2*

What a wonderful Name it is  
What a wonderful Name it is  
The Name of Jesus Christ my King  
What a wonderful Name it is  
Nothing compares to this  
What a wonderful Name it is  
The Name of Jesus  
What a wonderful Name it is  
The Name of Jesus

#### *Bridge*

Death could not hold You  
The veil tore before You  
You silence the boast of sin and grave  
The heavens are roaring  
The praise of Your glory  
For You are raised to life again

#### *Bridge*

You have no rival  
You have no equal  
Now and forever God You reign  
Yours is the kingdom  
Yours is the glory  
Yours is the Name above all names

*Chorus 3*

What a powerful Name it is  
What a powerful Name it is  
The Name of Jesus Christ my King  
What a powerful Name it is  
Nothing can stand against  
What a powerful Name it is  
The Name of Jesus

*Ending*

What a powerful Name it is  
The Name of Jesus  
What a powerful Name it is  
The Name of Jesus

*Please stand as you are able.*

**COMMUNION BLESSING**

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

**SENDING**

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

**BLESSING**

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

The God of resurrection power,  
the Christ of unending joy,  
and the Spirit of Easter hope

✠ bless you now and always. **Amen.**

**SENDING HYMN**

**"Let All Things Now Living"**

ELW 881 (One License)

**DISMISSAL**

Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.

**Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

**CLOSING MUSIC**

"The Ash Grove"

Welsh Folk Tune





## **Worship Team**

A/V Team: Mark Miller

Communion Assistants: Michelle Anderson, Sandy Olson, Doug Noe,  
Mary Noe, Sally Sheahan

Acolyte: Wilson Robbins

Greeters: Howard Hoyt, Sally Sheahan

Reader: Paul Lockwood

Ushers: Faith Metze, Bob Teuber, John Widmayer

Children's Sermon: Cindy Meyer

Altar Guild: Janette Hess, Cindy Meyer, Mary Johnson, Judy Rooney

Musicians: Grace Tones

Lead Pastor: Pastor Amanda Bergstrom

## **Presence Light Sponsor:**

In loving memory of Sheri's mom, Joan Russell; given by the Conover family.

## **Bulletin Sponsors:**

In honor of Zach's birthday, given by Andy and MB.

Thank you for sharing time to hear God's word and pray together. A video recording of worship will be posted to Grace's website later in the day.



You are welcome to join Grace Lutheran Church's Facebook group for news & ministry opportunities. Peace be with you as you go forth to share God's grace.

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