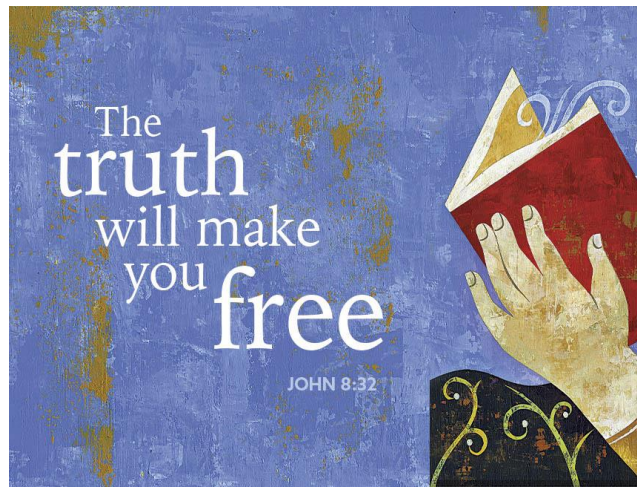


Grace Lutheran Church
1300 Kishwaukee Valley Road
Woodstock, IL 60098
www.gracewoodstock.org



October 26, 2025; 9:00 A.M.
Reformation Sunday



GATHERING

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

OPENING MUSIC

"A Mighty Fortress Is Our God" setting, Michael Helman (Augsburg Fortress)

Please stand as you are able.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

Blessed be God,
the Holy Trinity +
the giver of all good,
the source of all joy.

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

**God of all,
You have given us all that we need
and you ask that we share your abundance.
We confess that we have not responded to your call
to be open channels of your grace.
We clench our fists when you ask for open hands;
we close our minds when you ask for grace toward our neighbors.
Open our hearts to live in the abundance of your creation;
loosen our grip and restore our souls,
that we may freely give and receive. Amen.**

Beloved in Christ, God makes all things new. In the name of Christ, + you are forgiven. Your hearts are unfurled; your grasping is unbound. You are free to live as flowing streams of God's abundant grace. **Amen.**

OPENING HYMN

"A Mighty Fortress Is Our God"

ELW 504 (One License)

Please be seated.

WELCOME

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

God of all, you created us for humility and grace. Where there is contempt, may we share your mercy. Where there is brokenness, may we turn again toward healing. Hold us in your love, through Jesus Christ, your Son. **Amen.**

WELCOME OF NEW MEMBERS

As names are read, the new members come forward and face the altar.

These people have committed themselves to the ministry of Grace Lutheran Church and our community of faith. We welcome all of our new members.

Almighty God, by the love of Jesus Christ you draw people to yourself and welcome them into the household of faith. May we show your joy by embracing these new siblings as we bear your creative and redeeming word to all the world. Keep us close together in your Spirit, in the breaking of bread and the prayers and in service to others, following the example of Jesus Christ, our servant and Lord. **Amen.**

WORD

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

FIRST READING:

Jeremiah 31:31-34, *Pew Bible, Old Testament, pg. 735*

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

PSALM:

Psalm 46

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

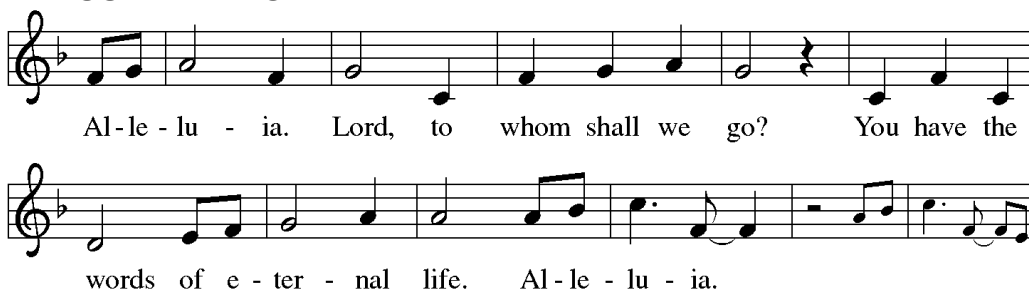
SECOND READING:

Romans 3:19-28, *Pew Bible, New Testament, pg. 154*

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.



GOSPEL

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

John 8:31-36, Pew Bible, New Testament, pg. 101

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

Please be seated.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Children are invited to come forward during the message.

SERMON

Please stand as you are able.

HYMN OF THE DAY

"The Church of Christ, in Every Age"

ELW 729 (One License)

APOSTLES' CREED

ELW pg. 105

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Renewed in God's everlasting grace, let us pray for the church, the world, and all creation. *A brief silence.*

Free your church, O God, with grace, mercy, and love to be transformed by your word. Direct your church to be united in word and deed so that all creation knows the uniting and transforming power of the gospel. Bless this community of faith as we rejoice in welcoming new members. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Renew creation, O God, so that all living creatures thrive together. Guide those who work to restore and renew creation. Preserve and care for endangered species throughout the world. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Bring peace among the nations, O God, so violence and terror are not the norm on your earth. Inspire leaders of communities to work for peace and justice. Unite our politicians with a common mission and purpose. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Heal all who suffer, O God, and bring them peace. Draw near to people who are incarcerated. Give hope to people experiencing housing or employment insecurity, oppression, or discrimination. Heal those who are ill, especially those we now name aloud or in the silence of our hearts _____. Be our stronghold at all times. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Forgive us our sins, O God, and grant us your grace. Move us to understanding and reconciliation between people of other faiths and other Christian traditions in our community. Mend hurt feelings and heal wounds we have caused one another. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

We give you thanks, O God, for the life and witness of all your saints. Give us hope in your son's victory through the cross. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

We offer our prayers, O God, trusting in your everlasting grace and mercy, through Jesus Christ our 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 sign of God's peace with one another.

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

God of life, You have blessed us with every good gift. Open us to share all that we have been given and to love the world in Jesus' name. **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.



what we
can do

responding to
God's generosity

On this Commitment Sunday, we bring forward our gifts in thanksgiving for God's grace. All are invited to come forward to place your offering and Estimate of Giving card in the baskets. If you do not have an offering or Estimate of Giving card with you today, please come forward in recognition of the gift of your presence in worship.

OFFERING ANTHEM

"Be Thou My Vision"

arr. Sandra Eithun (One License)

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, 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, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

LORD'S PRAYER

ELW pg. 191, left column

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

All are welcome at the Lord's table.

Jesus welcomes sinners and eats with them. Come to this meal of mercy.

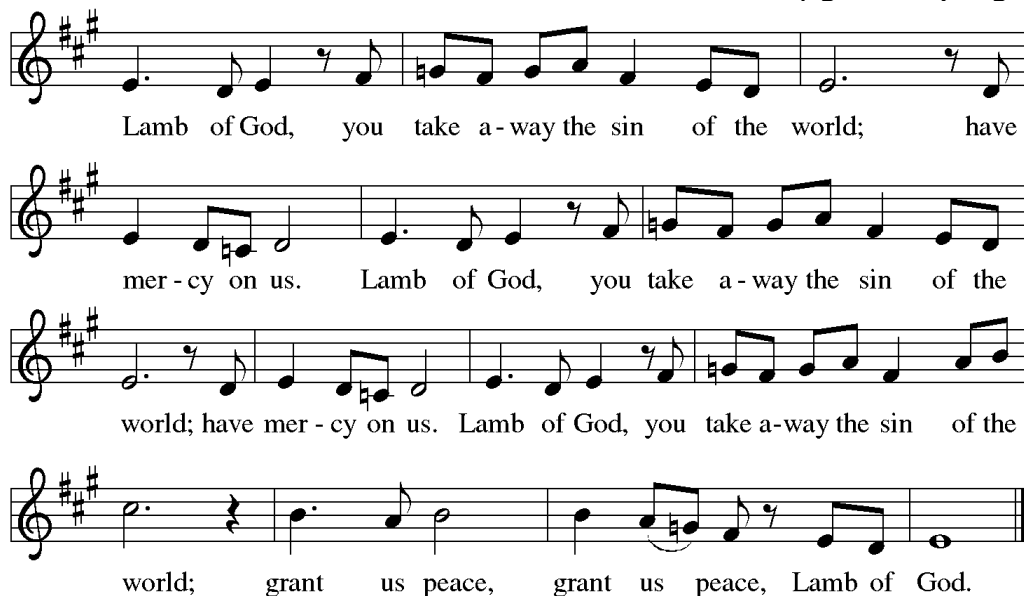
Please be seated. The congregation will then commune, beginning with the front pews, you are invited to come forward to receive the bread and wine or juice. Extend your hands to receive a wafer from the pastor or communion assistant. Then please pick up one cup from the trays (red wine or white grape juice), and then place the 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 HYMNS

"Lamb of God"

ELW pg. 191 (Augsburg Fortress)



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have
mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
world; grant us peace, grant us peace, Lamb of God.

"Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation"

ELW 645 (Public Domain)

Please stand as you are able.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Abundant God, **you have nourished us with life, love, and grace. Fill us to the brim with your care, that we may go into the world with open arms and open hearts to share your peace with the world. Amen.**

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

May God bless you and keep you. May God's mercy flow freely through you. May you be filled with the abundance of God's love + and held in God's peace. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

"Soli Deo Gloria"

ELW 878 (One License)

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Do not lose heart.

Thanks be to God.

CLOSING MUSIC

"Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation"

setting, David Lasky (Augsburg Fortress)



Worship Team

A/V Team: Bill Nattress

Communion Assistants: Michelle Anderson, Doug Noe, Mary Noe,
Mike Phillips, Karen Reinhard

Greeters: Ann Metze, Mary Noe

Acolyte: Riley Poremba

Reader: Karen Reinhard

Ushers: Faith Metze, Adele Petersen, Robert Tueber

Children's Sermon: Kim Ethridge

Altar Guild: Barb Aavang, Joy Aavang, Brian Gerloff, Carole Gerloff

Musicians: Jan Burns, Revelation Ringers, Judy Reilly

Lead Pastor: Pastor Amanda Bergstrom

Presence Light Sponsor:

In honor of our son Philip's 38th birthday; given by Bill & Nancy Kreznor.

Bulletin Sponsors:

In memory of Gayle Hoch; given by Bev Unglaube & Marylee Steinwehe.

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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