

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



November 25, 2025; 7:00 P.M.
Thanksgiving Eve Eve



GATHERING

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

OPENING MUSIC

"Sing Praise to God, the Highest Good"

setting, Walter L. Pelz (Augsburg Fortress)

Please stand as you are able.

THANKSGIVING AT THE FONT

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 fountain of living water, the rock who gave us birth, our light and our salvation. **Amen.**

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning you created us in your image and placed us in a well-watered garden. In the desert, you promised pools of water for the parched, and you gave us water from the rock. When we did not know the way, you sent the Good Shepherd to lead us to still waters. At the cross, you washed us from Jesus' wounded side, and on this day, you shower us again with the water of life.

We praise you for your salvation through water, for the water in this font, and for all water everywhere.

Bathe us in your forgiveness, grace, and love. Satisfy all who thirst, and give us the life only you can give.

To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ, our living water, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **Amen.**

OPENING HYMN

"Sing Praise to God, the Highest Good"

ELW 871 (Public Domain)

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

Almighty God our Father, your generous goodness comes to us new every day. By the work of your Spirit lead us to acknowledge your goodness, give thanks for your benefits, and serve you in willing obedience, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

WORD

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

FIRST READING:

Deuteronomy 26:1-11, *Pew Bible, Old Testament, pg. 180*

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

PSALM:

Psalm 100

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

SECOND READING:

Philippians 4:4-9, *Pew Bible, New Testament, pg. 198*

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

Please stand as you are able.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

"Praise, God, from Whom All Blessings Flow" ELW 885 (Public Domain)

The musical notation is written on three staves in G major (one sharp). The melody is simple and hymn-like. The lyrics are written below the notes.

Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; praise God, all
crea - tures here be - low; praise God a - bove, ye
heav'n - ly host; praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

GOSPEL

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

John 6:25-35, *Pew Bible, New Testament, pg. 98*

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

"Now Thank We All Our God"

ELW 840 (Public Domain)

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Gathered with one voice, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all who are in need. *A brief silence.*

God who is known in grain and vine, the baptismal waters, and in your word, renew the church's bishops, pastors, deacons, church staff, and all leaders of faith communities, that they live into the fruitful nurturing of disciples. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of creation, we give you thanks for sheltering trees, shifting sands, and stabilizing hills. Remind us, as we also learn from our Indigenous siblings, that your care and intention are behind the shaping of all life. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of the widow and the orphan, we give thanks for all who serve and protect your most beloved. Let us accompany elected officials and civic leaders as faithful advocates for peace and safety. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of tender assurance, we give thanks for your continued presence in times of need. Accompany those who are displaced from native lands, victims of injustice, or in need of your sustenance. Comfort those unable to rejoice because of worry or illness, especially those we now name aloud or in the silence of our hearts
_____. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of abundance, we give thanks for the gifts and talents shared in this community of faith. In our diverse experiences of your presence, bless each ministry, gathering, and shared space of prayer and fellowship. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God who feeds us the bread of eternal life, we give thanks for the lives of the saints and our shared memories with those who have died. With full confidence in the resurrection, we honor their faith with our own. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We offer these and all our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your grace and unyielding love; 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 healing and hope, you bless those who are hungry, promising to fill them with good things. Fulfill that promise through us and these your gifts. Nourish us with the abundance of your feast and unite us into the blessed body of Jesus Christ our Savior, now and forever. **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

"Praise Canon"

Michael Sharp (One License)

Please stand as you are able.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

LORD'S PRAYER

ELW pg. 191, left column

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

All are welcome at the Lord's table.

There is a place for you at the table of God.

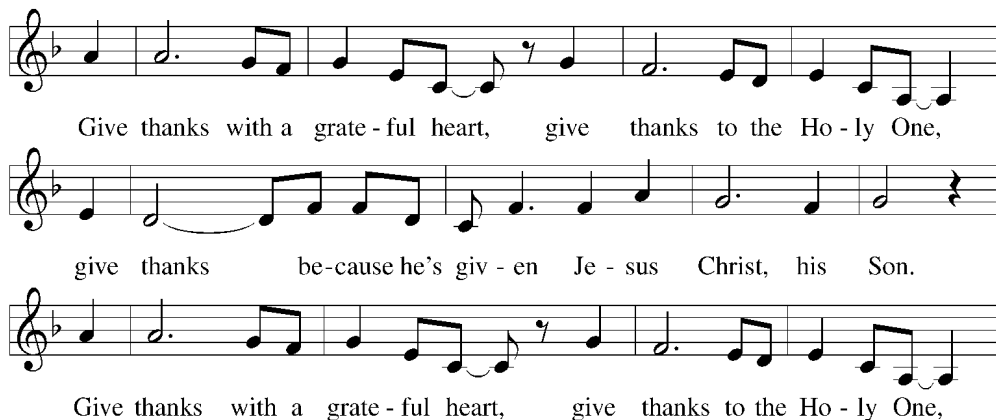
Come, receive the food that does not perish, a taste of life eternal.

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 HYMN

"Give Thanks"

Henry Smith



Give thanks with a grate-ful heart, give thanks to the Ho-ly One,

give thanks be-cause he's giv-en Je-sus Christ, his Son.

Give thanks with a grate-ful heart, give thanks to the Ho-ly One,

give thanks be - cause he's giv - en Je - sus Christ, his Son.

And now let the weak say, "I am strong," let the poor say, "I am

rich," be - cause of what the Lord has done for us. And

now let the weak say, "I am strong," let the poor say, "I am

rich," be - cause of what the Lord has done for us. Give thanks!

Last time

Please stand as you are able.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

God of field and flower, wheat and grape, you have nourished us with the bread of heaven that gives life to the world. Strengthened by the body and blood of your Son, send us out to gather your good gifts for all who hunger and thirst, and embolden us to love and serve in Christ's name. **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

The love of God the Sovereign strengthen you, God the Son save you, and God the Holy Spirit anoint you for the work ahead. The holy Trinity bless you ☩ and grant you a faithful and courageous heart now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

"Let All Things Now Living"

ELW 881 (One License)

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share the harvest.

Thanks be to God.

CLOSING MUSIC

"Now Thank We All Our God"

Karg-Elert (Public Domain)



Worship Team

A/V Team: Andy Bellavia

Communion Assistants: Michelle Anderson, Robin Gibbs, Faith Metze,
Madeline Thomas, Norah Thomas

Greeters: Nancy Kreznor, Ann Metze

Acolyte: Tim Nellessen

Reader: Sheri Conover

Ushers: Nancy Kreznor, Bob Teuber

Children's Sermon: Pastor Amanda Bergstrom

Altar Guild: Janette Hess, Cindy Meyer, Nan Behrns, Sheri Conover

Musicians: Jan Burns, Carrie Filetti, Chancel Choir, Grace Tones

Lead Pastor: Pastor Amanda Bergstrom

Bulletin Sponsors:

To the glory of God for all our blessings; given by Marylee & Don 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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Holden Evening Prayer Service

Sunday, December 7, 2025 6 p.m.



Join us for

Christmas Eve Service

Wednesday, December 24, 2025 4 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.