

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



November 30, 2025; 9:00 A.M.
1st Sunday of Advent



GATHERING

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

OPENING MUSIC

"Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying"

J. S. Bach (Public Domain)

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 the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, whose home is heaven and earth, whose salvation is sure.

Amen.

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

Long-expected God, **we confess that we look to ourselves for the peace and security only you can provide. We reach for swords and spears, reluctant to release our grip on the ways of war. We become impatient while waiting and weary of keeping awake. Free us from self-reliance, and teach us to live in harmony with our neighbors. Increase our trust in God's timing, and awaken us to your advent among us, that we may abound in the hope you have promised.**

Amen.

God judges us not as we deserve, but according to God's own righteousness.

☩ You are freed and forgiven, saved by grace, and ready to welcome the Savior.

Amen.

OPENING HYMN

"Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding"

ELW 246 (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

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection save us from the threatening dangers of our sins, and enlighten our walk in the way of your salvation, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

ADVENT WREATH CANDLE LIGHTING

The congregation will sing a portion of "We Light a Candle" (David Bjorlin) before the lighting of the Advent candle.



Blessed are you, God of Jacob, for you promise to transform weapons of war into implements of planting and harvest and to teach us your way of peace; you promise that our night of sin is far gone and that your day of salvation is dawning.

As we light the first candle on this wreath, wake us from our sleep, wrap us in your light, empower us to live honorably, and guide us along your path of peace.

O house of Jacob, come, **let us walk in the light of the Lord. Amen.**

WORD

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

FIRST READING:

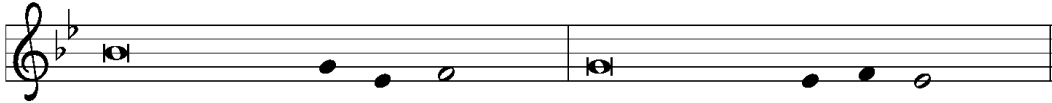
Isaiah 2:1-5, *Pew Bible, Old Testament, pg. 631*

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

PSALM:

Psalm 122

We will chant the psalm responsively together.



I was glad when they [|] said to me,
"Let us go to the house [|] of the LORD."

**Now our [|] feet are standing
within your gates, [|] O Jerusalem.**

Jerusalem is built [|] as a city
that is at unity [|] with itself;

**to which the tribes go up, the tribes [|] of the LORD,
the assembly of Israel, to praise the name [|] of the LORD.**

For there are the [|] thrones of judgment,
the thrones of the [|] house of David.

**Pray for the peace [|] of Jerusalem:
"May they pros- [|] per who love you.**

Peace be with- [|] in your walls
and quietness with- [|] in your towers.

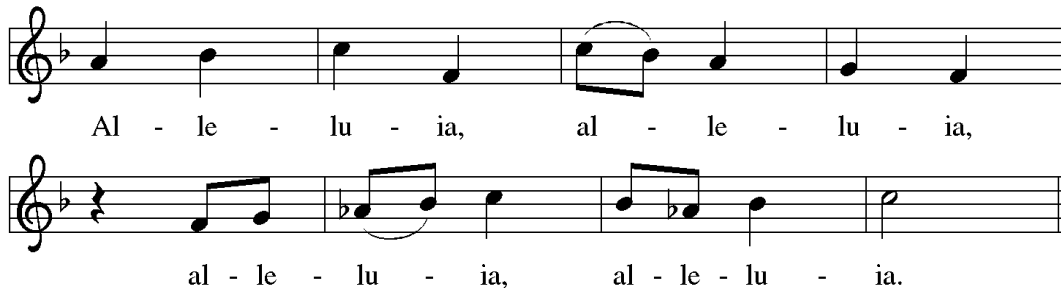
**For the sake of my kindred [|] and companions,
I pray for [|] your prosperity.**

Because of the house of the [|] LORD our God,
I will seek to [|] do you good."

SECOND READING: Romans 13:11-14, *Pew Bible, New Testament, pg. 162*
Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand as you are able.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL

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

Matthew 24:36-44, *Pew Bible, New Testament, pg. 27*

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

"Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying"

ELW 436 (Public Domain)

APOSTLES' CREED

ELW pg. 127

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

In our waiting and watching, we come to you in prayer, O God, trusting your promise to renew the church, the nations, and the whole creation. *A brief silence.*

God of the people, we come seeking wisdom and instruction. Uphold and strengthen lay leaders, teachers, deacons, pastors, and bishops. Teach us your ways and lead us in your paths. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

God of the earth, we seek your goodness in the grandeur of creation. Empower us to care for forests and oceans, as we see you in the world around us. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

God of the nations, grant wisdom to leaders, judges, and mediators. Cast out words of hate and transform them into words for building up community. Remake implements of war to sow peace. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

God of healing, bring comfort and strength. We pray for our kindred and companions who are ill or despairing, especially those we now name aloud or in the silence of our hearts _____. Surround all with care and consolation. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

God of new possibilities, when addiction wounds, jealousy tears down, and relationships fray, show us how to journey with one another. Nurture therapists, counselors, and sponsors in their care for others. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

God of all time, build up our lives that we would reflect your grace. At the last, bring us with all the saints to your holy city where peace and goodness make a home. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Draw near to us, O God, as we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy through Jesus Christ, Emmanuel. **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

Nourishing God, you are water in the wilderness and streams in the desert. Through this meal, satisfy our parched places, that we may rejoice and be for the world signs of your kingdom come. **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.



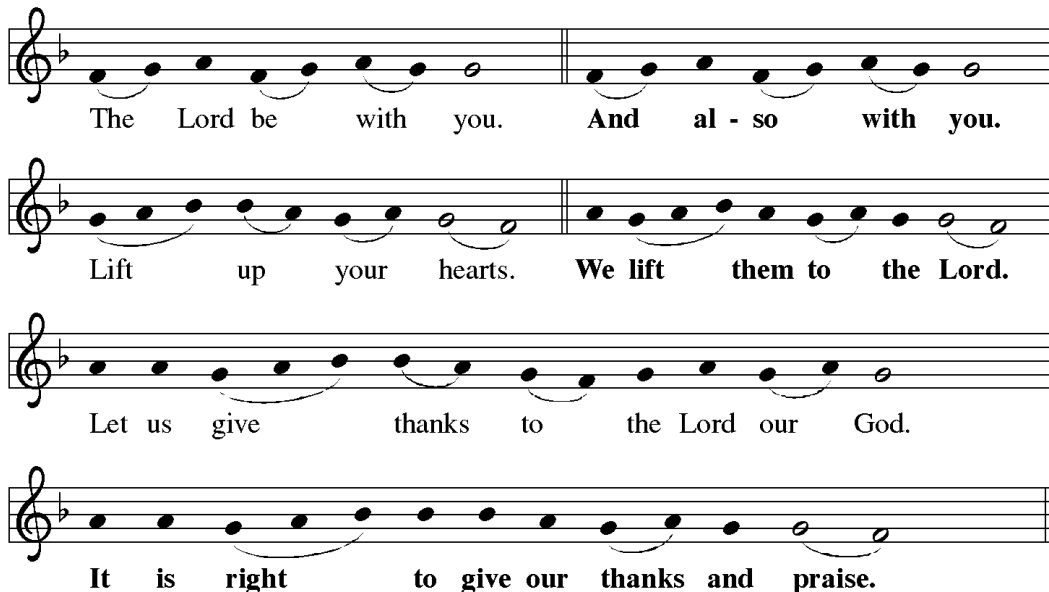
OFFERING ANTHEM

"The King Shall Come"

Thomas Keesecker (Augsburg Fortress)

Please stand as you are able.

GREAT THANKSGIVING



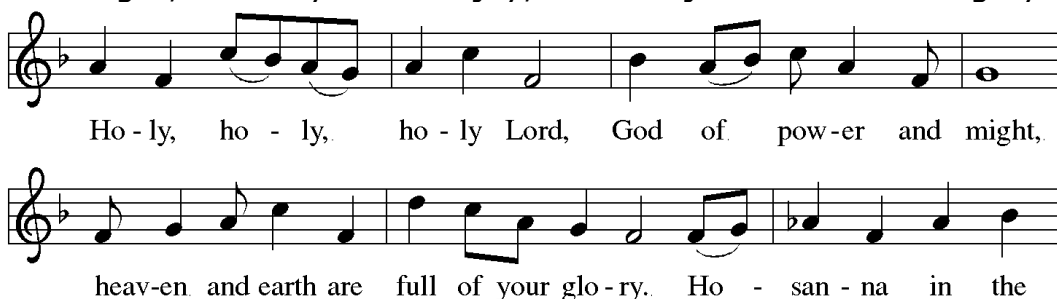
The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

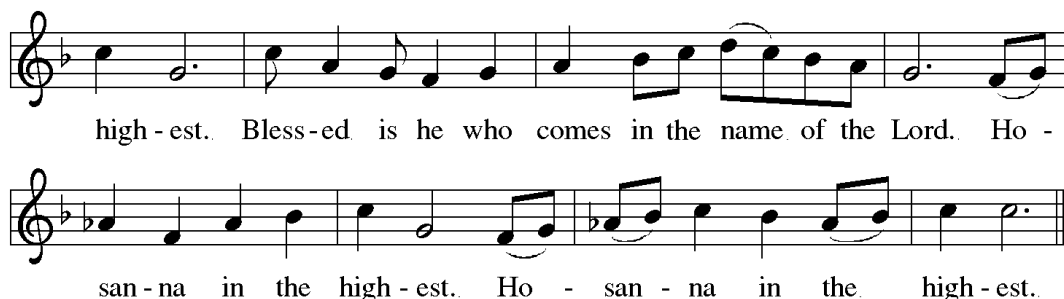
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,

heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the



THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

LORD'S PRAYER

ELW pg. 134, left column

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

All are welcome at the Lord's table.

Here is life. God is with us.

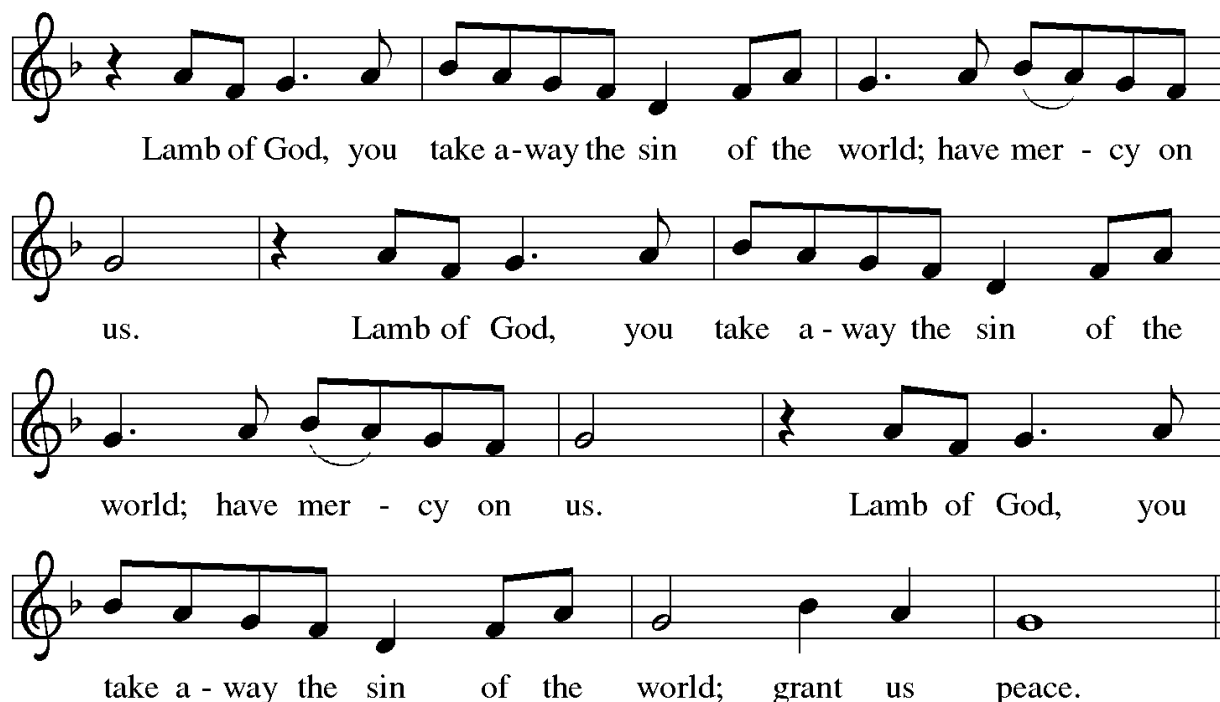
Come, receive what God has promised.

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. 135 (Augsburg Fortress)



"Each Winter As the Year Grows Older"

ELW 252 (One License)

Please stand as you are able.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

God our host, **at this table you have fed us with joy and gladness. Send us forth, eager to share the feast, welcome the stranger, and bear good fruit in the name of Jesus. 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 who comes among us, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, grant you patience in waiting, peace in the darkness, and good news to share today and always. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

"Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers"

ELW 244 (Public Domain)

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Keep awake.
Thanks be to God.

CLOSING MUSIC

"Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers" setting, Michael D. Costello (One License)



Worship Team

A/V Team: Bill Nattress

Communion Assistants: Michelle Anderson, Sheri Conover, Doug Noe, Mary Noe, Mike Phillips

Greeters: Doug Noe, Mary Noe

Acolyte: Cai Given

Reader: Michael Liedtke

Ushers: Faith Metze, Al Wilson, Fay Wilson

Children's Sermon: Kim Ethridge

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

Musicians: Jan Burns, Carrie Filetti, Chancel Choir

Guest Preacher: Deacon Cheryl Erdmann

Lead Pastor: Pastor Amanda Bergstrom

Advent Candle Lighting: Noe Family

Presence Light Sponsor:

In memory of Mrs. B, Dorothy Bartram; given by her family.

Bulletin Sponsors:

In memory of my dear husband Charles; given by Sharon Sinkoske.



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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