



**Grace Lutheran Church**  
 1300 Kishwaukee Valley Road  
 Woodstock, IL 60098  
[www.gracewoodstock.org](http://www.gracewoodstock.org)



**March 7, 2021; 9:00 a.m.**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Lent**  
**Livestream!** Worship service at 9:00 a.m.  
**Grace Lutheran Church YouTube Channel**  
 and video posted on Grace's website.

**GATHERING**

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

*In preparation for worship at home, you may wish to light a candle. It can be a symbol of the presence of Christ, the light of the world. If you wish to commune, please prepare wine (or grape juice) and bread to be at hand when that part of the service arrives.*

*God of grace, you have given us minds to know you, hearts to love you, and voices to sing your praise. Fill us with your Spirit, that we may celebrate your glory and worship you in spirit and truth, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen (ELW pg. 72)*

**OPENING MUSIC**

"Chorale Prelude on 'Holy God, Holy and Glorious'"

Franklin Ashdown (Augsburg Fortress)

**WELCOME**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

Again and again,

**We come to this space.**

Again and again,

**We gather as a community.**

Again and again,

**We move closer to God.**

And again and again,

**God is here.**

We are met.

**We are heard.**

We are shown the way.

**So again and again,**

**Let us worship holy God.**

## **CALL TO CONFESSION**

Science tells us that a person makes about 35,000 choices in a day.  
35,000 choices each and every day!

In the prayer of confession, we pause to take a moment to think and to ask:  
How many of our decisions are choices God would have us make?  
How many are not?

So let us pray together, knowing that we need guidance, and trusting that even if  
we fall, God is showing us the way.

## **PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

God of Justice,

We are guilty of building tables.

**We have built tables that oppression dines on,  
Sexism thrives on, and racism lives on.**

God of Justice,

We are guilty of forgetting where we are,

**Of turning faith into a negotiation tool  
And the church into a place for insiders.**

God of Justice,

We are guilty of ignoring the point;

**For you taught that the temple was for worship  
And your message was for all.**

God of our hearts,

**Be in our decision making.**

Draw near to our choices.

**Forgive our mistakes.**

And as you do,

**Flip every table, habit, belief, or point of view that needs adjusting.**

With hope we pray for a better day. Amen.

## **WORDS OF FORGIVENESS**

Family of faith,

The good news is that God took on flesh and walked this earth to show us the way.

God took on flesh so that we could see what it looks like to disrupt and overturn  
systems of corruption.

God took on flesh to teach us another way.

God took on flesh to point us to restoration.

God took on flesh so that we might be forgiven.

Friends, we are held, loved, and forgiven by a just and merciful God.

Thanks be to God for a love like that.

## **PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

Creator God,  
We don't just want to listen.  
We want to hear you.  
We want to read scripture aloud and  
Know that you are as close as you have always been.  
We want to read scripture aloud and  
Feel your word resonating inside our bones.  
We want to read scripture aloud and  
Have your words stuck in our heads like a melody,  
Falling off our lips like a love song.

Creator God,  
We don't just want to listen,  
We want to hear you.  
So turn our hearts toward you,  
Just as you turned strangers into disciples.  
Turn our ears toward you,  
Just as you turned tables in the temple.  
We are listening. **Amen.**

### **WORD**

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

### **FIRST READING:**

**Exodus 20:1-17**

A reading from Exodus.

God spoke all these words: I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; you shall have no other gods before me. You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I the LORD your God am a jealous God, punishing children for the iniquity of parents, to the third and the fourth generation of those who reject me, but showing steadfast love to the thousandth generation of those who love me and keep my commandments.

You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not acquit anyone who misuses his name. Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work. But the seventh day is a sabbath to the LORD your God; you shall not do any work—you, your son or your daughter, your male or female slave, your livestock, or the alien resident in your towns. For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but rested the seventh day; therefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day and consecrated it. Honor your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you. You shall not murder. You shall not commit adultery. You shall not steal. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor. You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not

covet your neighbor's wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

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

**PSALM:**

**Psalm 19**

The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky proclaims its maker's handiwork. One day tells its tale to another, and one night imparts knowledge to another. Although they have no words or language, and their voices are not heard, their sound has gone out into all lands, and their message to the ends of the world, where God has pitched a tent for the sun. It comes forth like a bridegroom out of his chamber; it rejoices like a champion to run its course. It goes forth from the uttermost edge of the heavens and runs about to the end of it again; nothing is hidden from its burning heat. The teaching of the LORD is perfect and revives the soul; the testimony of the LORD is sure and gives wisdom to the simple. The statutes of the LORD are just and rejoice the heart; the commandment of the LORD is clear and gives light to the eyes. The fear of the LORD is clean and endures forever; the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether. More to be desired are they than gold, more than much fine gold, sweeter far than honey, than honey in the comb. By them also is your servant enlightened, and in keeping them there is great reward. Who can detect one's own offenses? Cleanse me from my secret faults. Above all, keep your servant from presumptuous sins; let them not get dominion over me; then shall I be whole and sound, and innocent of a great offense. Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O LORD, my strength and my redeemer.

**SECOND READING:**

**1 Corinthians 1:18-25**

A reading from 1st Corinthians.

The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written, "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart." Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

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

## GOSPEL

The holy gospel according to John.

**John 2:13-22**

### Glory to you, O Lord.

The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money changers seated at their tables. Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. He told those who were selling the doves, "Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father's house a marketplace!" His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for your house will consume me." The Jews then said to him, "What sign can you show us for doing this?" Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." The Jews then said, "This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?" But he was speaking of the temple of his body. After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this; and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

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

## CHILDREN'S SERMON

### SERMON

### HYMN OF THE DAY

#### "Holy God, Holy and Glorious"

ELW 637 (Augsburg Fortress)



1 Ho - ly God, ho - ly and glo - ri - ous,  
2 Ho - ly God, ho - ly and pow - er - ful,  
3 Ho - ly God, ho - ly and beau - ti - ful,  
4 Ho - ly God, ho - ly and on - ly wise,  
5 Ho - ly God, ho - ly and liv - ing one,



glo - ry most sub - lime, you come as one a - mong us  
pow - er with - out peer, you bend to us in weak - ness;  
beau - ty un - sur - passed, you are de - spised, re - ject - ed;  
wis - dom of great price, you choose the way of fol - ly;  
life that nev - er ends, you show your love by dy - ing,



in - to hu - man time, and we be - hold your glo - ry.  
emp - tied, you draw near, and we be - hold your pow - er.  
scorned, you hold us fast, and we be - hold your beau - ty.  
God the cru - ci - fied, and we be - hold your wis - dom.  
dy - ing for your friends, and we be - hold you liv - ing.

## CREED

Let us confess our faith with the words of the 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,  
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 INTERCESSION

Relying on the promises of God, we pray boldly for the church, the world, and all in need. *A brief silence.*

There is no God before you. Purify the faith of your church, that your people place their trust in nothing beside you. Your name is holy. Guide your church, that in every situation your people's words and actions honor your name. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

The heavens declare your glory. Renew your creation. Provide leaders in the struggle for clean air and water; protect creatures and crops that rely on healthy ecosystems; give all people the willingness to repent when our way of life pollutes the earth and skies. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Your foolishness is wiser than human wisdom. Fill leaders with the foolishness of your peace and mercy. Your law defends the vulnerable. Work through legislators, judicial systems, and systems of law enforcement to protect the wellbeing and freedom of all. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Your weakness is stronger than human strength. Protect those who are vulnerable and give courage to all who are suffering, especially those we name aloud or silently in our hearts \_\_\_\_\_. Defend victims of crime and bring redemption to those who have harmed others. Give sabbath rest to all who labor. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We praise you for the development of COVID-19 vaccines, and we pray for their fair and prompt distribution. Increase in our land a commitment to limit contagion to others. Visit all who have contracted the coronavirus and all who are experiencing the long-term effects of COVID-19. Strengthen medical workers and home health aides. Receive our prayers for those we name before you: \_\_\_\_\_. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You call us to proclaim Christ crucified. Give clarity to this congregation and our leaders, so that we might follow Christ beyond our own habits and comfort. Clear out anything in our common life that would obscure the gospel or that serves our own interests. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

The cross of Christ is your power for all who are being saved. We give thanks for Vernon Stenoien, and pray for all who grieve. Strengthen us through the promise and power of the cross. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We entrust ourselves and all our prayers to you, O faithful God, through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

#### **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

**We believe in a God who knows holy rage—  
A God who stands with the underdog,  
Who passionately protects the suffering,  
And who overturns systems of corruption.**

**We believe in a God who leads by example—  
Feeding the hungry,  
Welcoming the children,  
Offering water to the Samaritan,  
Eating with the tax collector,  
Healing the sick,  
Preaching from the mountaintop,  
And offering second chances.**

**We believe in a God who knew that we would lose our way,  
And still said, "This is my body broken for you."  
We believe in a God who knew our capacity for mistakes,  
And still said, "I'm going to prepare a place for you."**

**And because of this love,  
We believe that God shows us the way,  
Again and again and again.  
Thanks be to God. Amen.**

## **PEACE**

*After praying for the whole world, we receive and extend to one another the gift of Christ's peace. In addition to sharing God's peace in a safe way with anyone who is with you, such as a wave or a peace sign, we invite you to share with others using a text of greeting of peace.*

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

## **MEAL**

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

## **OFFERING**

*Thank you for your generous offerings and commitment to Grace's mission and ministry. 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 Give+ Mobile App, or online at Grace's website. You are also invited to call the church office to learn more about the automatic withdrawal Electronic Giving Program.*

Let us pray. Faithful God,  
you walk beside us in desert places,  
and you meet us in our hunger with bread from heaven.  
Accompany us in this meal,  
that we may pass over from death to life  
with Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

## **THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

Holy God,  
our living Water and our merciful Guide,  
together with rivers and seas, wells and springs  
we bless and magnify you.  
You led your people Israel through the desert,  
and provided them water from the rock.  
We praise you for Christ, our Rock and our Water,  
who joined us in our desert,  
pouring out his life for the world.  
In the night in which he was betrayed,  
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;  
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.  
Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,  
and gave it for all to drink, saying:  
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.  
Remembering, therefore,  
his life, death, and resurrection,  
we await your salvation for all this thirsty world.  
Pour out your Spirit on this holy food  
and on all the baptized gathered for this feast:  
wash away our sin,  
that we may be revived for our journey by the love of Christ.  
Through him all glory and honor is yours,  
Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit,  
in your holy Church,  
both now and forever. **Amen**

### **LORD'S PRAYER**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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.**

### **COMMUNION**

*To receive communion at home: As the pastor announces, "the body of Christ, given for you", participate in eating a piece of the bread. As the pastor announces, "the blood of Christ, shed for you", participate by drinking the wine (or grape juice).*

The body of Christ, given for you.  
The blood of Christ, shed for you.

### **COMMUNION BLESSING**

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

## SENDING SONG

### "O Master, Let Me Walk with You"

ELW 818 (Public Domain)

1 O Mas - ter, let me walk with you in low - ly  
2 Help me the slow of heart to move by some clear,  
3 Teach me your pa - tience; share with me a clos - er,  
4 In hope that sends a shin - ing ray far down the

paths of ser - vice true; tell me your se - cret;  
win - ning word of love; teach me the way - ward  
dear - er com - pa - ny, in work that keeps faith  
fu - ture's broad - 'ning way, in peace that on - ly

help me bear the strain of toil, the fret of care.  
feet to stay, and guide them in the home - ward way.  
sweet and strong, in trust that tri - umphs o - ver wrong,  
you can give; with you, O Mas - ter, let me live.

## SENDING

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

## SENDING OF COMMUNION

Gracious God, loving all your family with a mother's tender care: As you sent the angel to feed Elijah with heavenly bread, assist those who set forth to share your word and sacrament with those who are sick, homebound, and imprisoned. In your love and care, nourish and strengthen those who will receive this sacrament, and give us all the comfort of your abiding presence through the body and blood of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

## BLESSING

As you leave this space,  
May your mouth speak of God's goodness.  
May your arms hold those in need.  
May your feet walk toward justice.  
May your heart trust its worth.  
May your soul dance in God's grace.  
And may this be your rhythm—  
Again and again and again,  
Until God's promised day.  
In the name of the Lover, the Beloved, and Love itself,  
Go with courage, go with heart, go in peace. **Amen.**

## **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Share the good news.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **CLOSING MUSIC**

“Improvisation on ‘O Master, Let Me Walk with You’” Dlanor (Public Domain)



## **Worship Team**

A/V Team: Bill Nattress & Andy Bellavia

Readers: Karen Reinhard, Nellessen Family

Children’s Sermon: Pastor John Cunningham

Musicians: Judy Reilly, Jan Burns, Ron Fredriksen

Pastors: Pastor Amanda Bergstrom, Pastor John Cunningham

**Worship Videos Online.** A video recording of Sunday morning worship will be posted to Grace’s website later on Sunday.

Thank you for sharing time to hear God’s word and pray together. Peace be with you as you go forth to share God’s grace.

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## **Again & Again, A Lenten Refrain**

Lent 2021, Sundays at 9:00 a.m.

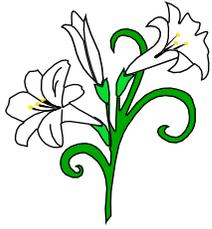
**Midweek Gatherings – Lent 2021**  
**Holden Evening Prayer and ‘Claimed Gathered Sent’**  
**Conversation Wednesdays,**  
March 10 through March 24, 7:00 p.m. on Zoom

### **Passion Sunday**

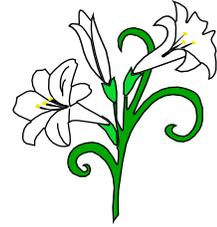
March 28

### **Holy Week Worship Schedule**

Maundy Thursday, April 1  
Good Friday, April 2  
Easter Vigil, Saturday, April 3  
Easter Sunday, April 4



*Easter Flowers*  
*At Grace*



Help provide flowers for our sanctuary on Easter. Give a gift in “honor of someone” or “in memory of a loved one” or “to the glory of God.”

Place the coupon below, along with your \$15.00 in an envelope and mail to the office (1300 Kishwaukee Valley Road, Woodstock, IL 60098) or drop it off at the church office.

Please **print clearly**, as you want it to appear in the newsletter.

Anyone donating is welcome to pick up a lily outside following Easter worship on Sunday and if any are left over, we are going to share them with our homebound members.

**DEADLINE FOR DONATION FORMS & MONEY: March 19, 2021.**

Amount: _____	
CHOOSE ONE PER COUPON:	
In Memory Of: _____	
In Honor Of: _____	
To the Glory of God: _____	
GIVEN BY : _____	