

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



**May 15, 2022; 9:00 A.M.**  
**5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter**

Thank you for extending care and respect for one another. Grace is following CDC recommendations for universal indoor masking; at this time, masks are not required in the church building.

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)*



### **GATHERING**

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

### **OPENING MUSIC**

"Earth and All Stars!"

setting, Robert Hobby (Augsburg Fortress)

### **WELCOME**

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

*Please stand as you are able.*

## **GATHERING HYMN**

**"Earth and All Stars!"**

ELW 731 (One License)

## **THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM**

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

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

In the name of the Father, and of the +Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Rejoicing in the resurrection of Jesus Christ,  
joined to Christ and to one another in the waters our of baptism,  
we yet call to mind a world so filled with suffering—  
from war and violence, Covid and hunger,  
homelessness and prejudice,  
national disaster and personal loss.  
We who are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness  
give thanks for the gift of baptism,  
and we plead for the Spirit to strengthen us  
by the mystery of Christ's resurrection.

*Water may be poured into the font as the presiding minister gives thanks.*

Holy God, holy and merciful, holy and mighty, you are the river of life, you are the everlasting wellspring, you are the fire of rebirth.

Glory to you for oceans and lakes, for rivers and streams. Honor to you for cloud and rain, for dew and snow. Your waters are below us, around us, above us: our life is born in you. You are the fountain of resurrection.

Praise to you for your saving waters: Noah and the animals survive the flood, Hagar discovers your well. The Israelites escape through the sea, and they drink from your gushing rock. Naaman washes his leprosy away, and the Samaritan woman will never be thirsty again.

At this font, holy God, we pray: Praise to you for the water of baptism and for your Word that saves us in this water. Breathe your Spirit into all who are gathered here and into all creation. Illumine our days. Enliven our bones. Dry our tears. Wash away the sin within us, and drown the evil around us.

Satisfy all our thirst with your living water, Jesus Christ, our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

## **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.**

# HYMN OF PRAISE

## "This Is the Feast"

ELW pg. 140

(verse 1- low voices, verse 2- high voices, verse 3, 4 & refrain- all)

*Refrain*

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb

who was slain, whose blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.

*Refrain*

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 2 Pow - er, rich-es, wis - dom, and

strength, and hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.

*Refrain*

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 3 Sing with all the peo - ple of

God, and join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon - or,

glo - ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

*Refrain*

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 4 For the Lamb who was  
 slain has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.  
*Final refrain*  
 This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.  
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

**PRAYER**

O Lord God, you teach us that without love, our actions gain nothing. Pour into our hearts your most excellent gift of love, that, made alive by your Spirit, we may know goodness and peace, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

**BLESSING OF GRADUATES**

**WORD**

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

**FIRST READING:**

**Acts 11:1-18**

A reading from Acts.

Now the apostles and the believers who were in Judea heard that the Gentiles had also accepted the word of God. So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him, saying, "Why did you go to uncircumcised men and eat with them?" Then Peter began to explain it to them, step by step, saying, "I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision. There was something like a large sheet coming down from heaven, being lowered by its four corners; and it came close to me. As I looked at it closely I saw four-footed animals, beasts of prey, reptiles, and birds of the air. I also heard a voice saying to me, 'Get up, Peter; kill and eat.' But I replied, 'By no means, Lord; for nothing profane or unclean has ever entered my mouth.' But a second time the voice answered from heaven, 'What God has made clean, you must not call profane.' This happened three times; then everything was pulled up again to heaven. At that very moment three men, sent to me from Caesarea, arrived at the house where we were. The Spirit told me to go with them and not to make a distinction between them and us. These six brothers also

accompanied me, and we entered the man's house. He told us how he had seen the angel standing in his house and saying, 'Send to Joppa and bring Simon, who is called Peter; he will give you a message by which you and your entire household will be saved.' And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as it had upon us at the beginning. And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said, 'John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.' If then God gave them the same gift that he gave us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could hinder God?" When they heard this, they were silenced. And they praised God, saying, "Then God has given even to the Gentiles the repentance that leads to life."

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

**PSALM:**

**Psalm 148**

Hallelujah! Praise the LORD from the heavens;  
praise God in the heights.

**Praise the LORD, all you angels;  
sing praise, all you hosts of heaven.**

Praise the LORD, sun and moon;  
sing praise, all you shining stars.

**Praise the LORD, heaven of heavens,  
and you waters above the heavens.**

Let them praise the name of the LORD,  
who commanded, and they were created,  
**who made them stand fast forever and ever,  
giving them a law that shall not pass away.**

Praise the LORD from the earth,  
you sea monsters and all deeps;

**fire and hail, snow and fog,  
tempestuous wind, doing God's will;**

mountains and all hills,  
fruit trees and all cedars;

**wild beasts and all cattle,  
creeping things and flying birds;**

sovereigns of the earth and all peoples,  
princes and all rulers of the world;

**young men and maidens,  
old and young together.**

Let them praise the name of the LORD,  
whose name only is exalted, whose splendor is over earth and heaven.

**The LORD has raised up strength for the people and praise for all faithful servants,  
the children of Israel, a people who are near the LORD. Hallelujah!**

**SECOND READING:**

**Revelation 21:1-6**

A reading from Revelation.

I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them; he will wipe every tear



## **CREED**

Let us confess our faith with the words of the Nicene Creed.

**We believe in one God,**

**the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,**

**the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation**

**he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary  
and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven**

**and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,**

**who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.**

**We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.**

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Set free from captivity to sin and death, we pray to the God of resurrection for the church, people in need, and all of creation. *A brief silence.*

Loving God, lead us to follow your Spirit, rather than our own prejudices or desires, as the church cares for one another. Open us to perceive your gifts in those we least expect. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Inspire us to praise you through the beauty and majesty of the natural world around us. Urge us toward more deliberate care of the world you have made. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Humble the rulers of nations before your splendor. Direct them to the people who need their attention most, and turn them from the temptation to hoard wealth or power. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Hasten to dwell among those who are in pain or distress, especially those we now name aloud or in the silence of our hearts \_\_\_\_\_. As Christ enters our deepest suffering, remain with those experiencing despair and great need. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Place holy love at the center of all our relationships and communities. By your love heal us, convict us, and renew us. Bring an end to racism in our churches and communities. Bless and guide all who celebrate graduations, especially Kylie Boal, Sidney Green, Makenzie Klesch, Jacob Piquette, Michael Rank, Seth Leroy Rowe, Chase Simonton, and Connor Wietermann. Let everyone know your goodness by the love we show one another. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Give us a place in the diverse company of your beloved saints. Teach us the value of each person's identity, and bless us with a shared identity as your children, kindred of Christ. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

In your mercy, O God, respond to these prayers, and renew us by your life-giving Spirit; through Jesus Christ, our Savior. **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**

*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 as you leave today. 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. You are also invited to call the church office to learn more about the automatic withdrawal Electronic Giving Program.*

## ANTHEM

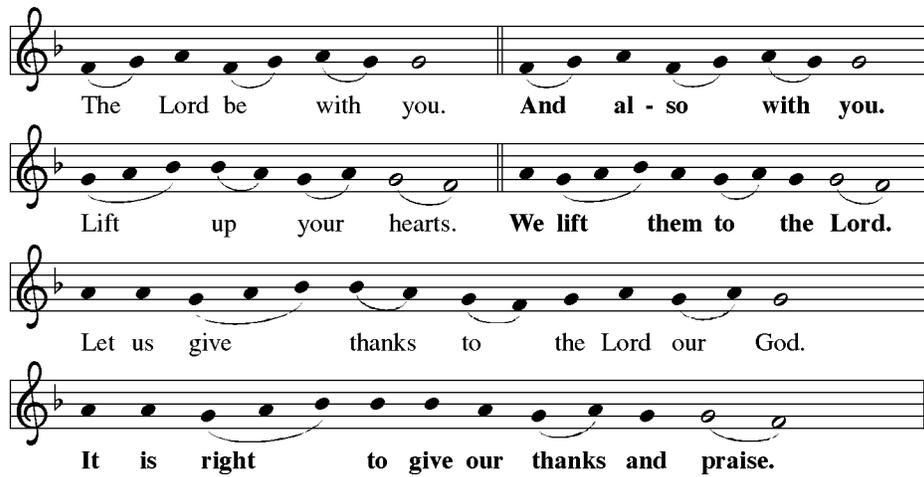
"Sing Praise to God, Who Reigns Above"

Michael R. Keller (One License)

Let us pray. Living God,  
you gather the wolf and the lamb to feed together  
in your peaceable reign,  
and you welcome us all at your table.  
Reach out to us through this meal,  
and show us your wounded and risen body,  
that we may be nourished and believe  
in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

*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**

**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.**

## **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

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

Here is bread and drink for the journey. Take and be filled.

*Please be seated. Beginning with the front pews, you are invited to come forward, extend your hands to receive the bread and grape juice from the pastor or communion assistant, and return to your seat to commune. 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** **"I Come with Joy"**

ELW 482 (One License)

*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**

God, the Author of life,  
Christ, the living Cornerstone,  
and the life-giving Spirit of adoption,  
✠ bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

## **SENDING HYMN**

**"Go, My Children, with My Blessing"**

ELW 543 (One License)

## **DISMISSAL**

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

Go in peace. Tell what God has done.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **CLOSING MUSIC**

"Go, My Children, with My Blessing" setting, David Lasky (Augsburg Fortress)



## **Worship Team**

A/V Team: Bill Nattress, Andy Bellavia, Mark Miller

Communion Assistants: Al Beckman, Gayle Hoch

Greeters: Donna Freeman, Denise Klabunde

Reader: Paul Lockwood

Ushers: Jen & Mike Freeman

Children's Sermon: Dee Brown

Musicians: Jan Burns, Revelation Ringers

Lead Pastor: Pastor Amanda Bergstrom

## **Presence Light Sponsor:**

In memory of Mary Figard, given by Terry Figard & family.

## **Bulletin Sponsors:**

In memory of Mary Figard, given by Terry Figard & family.

In memory of Bill Lagerhausen, given by Peg Lagerhausen & family.

**Worship Videos Online.** A video recording of worship will be posted to Grace's website later in the day.

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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