

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

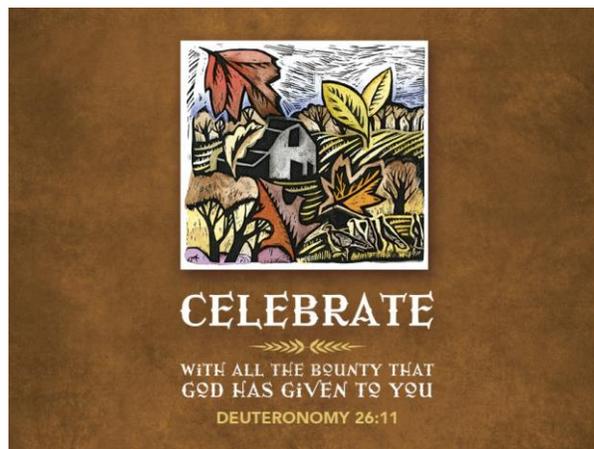


November 23, 2022; 7:00 P.M.
Thanksgiving Eve

Thank you for extending care and respect for one another. Grace is following CDC recommendations for universal indoor masking.

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

"Now Thank We All Our God" setting, Robert Hobby (Augsburg Fortress)

WELCOME

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,
who redeems us in Christ Jesus,
whose steadfast love endures forever. **Amen.**

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

Most merciful God,

**we confess that we have sinned against you
and our neighbors.**

**We have ignored voices
that call for your justice.**

**We have neglected actions
that witness to your righteousness.**

**We have spoken and acted
in ways that disrupt your beloved community.**

**We truly repent of things we have done
and left undone.**

For the sake of Jesus Christ, have mercy on us.

**Restore our troubled spirits,
so that we may live in newness,
follow the way of the Spirit,
and build up the body of Christ. Amen.**

Rejoice and be glad!

God hears the prayers of all who cry out,
and restores us to life through the death
and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Therefore, I declare to you the forgiveness of all your sins,
in the name of the Father,
and of the † Son,
and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

OPENING HYMN

"Now Thank We All Our God"

ELW 839 (Public Domain)

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

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.

Please be seated.

FIRST READING:

Deuteronomy 26:1-11

A reading from Deuteronomy.

When you have come into the land that the LORD your God is giving you as an inheritance to possess, and you possess it, and settle in it, you shall take some of the first of all the fruit of the ground, which you harvest from the land that the LORD your God is giving you, and you shall put it in a basket and go to the place that the LORD your God will choose as a dwelling for his name. You shall go to the priest who is in office at that time, and say to him, "Today I declare to the LORD your God that I have come into the land that the LORD swore to our ancestors to give us." When the priest takes the basket from your hand and sets it down before the altar of the LORD your God, you shall make this response before the LORD your God: "A wandering Aramean was my ancestor; he went down into Egypt and lived there as an alien, few in number, and there he became a great nation, mighty and populous. When the Egyptians treated us harshly and afflicted us, by imposing hard labor on us, we cried to the LORD, the God of our ancestors; the LORD heard our voice and saw our affliction, our toil, and our oppression. The LORD brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with a terrifying display of power, and with signs and wonders; and he brought us into this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey. So now I bring the first of the fruit of the ground that you, O LORD, have given me." You shall set it down before the LORD your God and bow down before the LORD your God. Then you, together with the Levites and the aliens who reside among you, shall celebrate with all the bounty that the LORD your God has given to you and to your house.

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

PSALM:

Psalm 100

Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all you lands!

Serve the LORD with gladness; come into God's presence with a song.

Know that the LORD is God, our maker to whom we belong;

we are God's people and the sheep of God's pasture.

Enter the gates of the LORD with thanksgiving and the courts with praise;
give thanks and bless God's holy name.

**Good indeed is the LORD, whose steadfast love is everlasting,
whose faithfulness endures from age to age.**

SECOND READING:

Philippians 4:4-9

A reading from Philippians.

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

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.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

GOSPEL

John 6:25-35

The holy gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

When [the disciples] found [Jesus] on the other side of the sea, they said to him, "Rabbi, when did you come here?" Jesus answered them, "Very truly, I tell you, you are looking for me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate your fill of the loaves. Do not work for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures for eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For it is on him that God the Father has set his seal." Then they said to him, "What must we do to perform the works of God?" Jesus answered them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent." So they said to him, "What sign are you going to give us then, so that we may see it and believe you? What work are you performing? Our ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, 'He gave them bread from heaven to eat.'" Then Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, it was not

Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is that which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world." They said to him, "Sir, give us this bread always."

Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty."

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

Please be seated.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SERMON

Please stand as you are able.

HYMN OF THE DAY

"Praise to the Lord, the Almighty"

ELW 858 (Public Domain)

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

United with your saints across time and place, we pray for our shared world.

A brief silence.

We give thanks for the church in every land. Sustain the faithful with your living word. Inspire radical hospitality toward all who are searching, and call us into a more generous way of living. Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

We give thanks for the earth. Bring forth plentiful harvests and renew our commitment to share abundantly. Preserve the lands and waters that bring nourishment. Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

We give thanks for leaders in our communities. Kindle a passion for justice and peace in every national and local elected official. Curb selfish impulses and guide us toward collaborative solutions. Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

We give thanks for all who provide for others. Sustain caregivers, social workers, and volunteers in their efforts. Provide homes, food, employment, and medical care to all who are struggling. Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

We give thanks for this congregation and those who plan worship. Guide deacons, pastors, musicians, and lay leaders in their creation of meaningful experiences. Instill in us a sense of joy and wonder when we come to worship you. Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

We give thanks for the faithful who now rest in you. Teach us by their example and bring us with them into your loving embrace. Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Accept these prayers, gracious God, and those known only to you; 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 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 (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

"For the Beauty of the Earth"

ELW 879 vs. 1 & 4 (Public Domain)

Let us pray. Blessed are you, Maker of all things.
As you have entrusted us with all that you have created,
now gather our gifts,
nourish us with this sacrament,
and send us to those who hunger and thirst,
for the sake of Jesus Christ our Savior. **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, 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

**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.

Christ spreads a table before you.
Gather here with all the saints.

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

"Give Thanks"

Henry Smith (CCLI)

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.

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 God of peace,
who creates all things and calls them good,
who makes us alive in Jesus,
and who breathes on us the Spirit of hope,
✠ bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

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

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Be a blessing in the world.
Thanks be to God.

CLOSING MUSIC

"Praise to the Lord, the Almighty" setting, Paul Manz (One License)



Worship Team

A/V Team: Bill Nattress, Andy Bellavia, Mark Miller
Communion Assistants: Marylee Steinwehe, Bev Unglaube
Acolyte: Liliana Wietermann
Greeters: Grace Nellessen, Kristy Nellessen
Reader: Cindy Meyer
Ushers: Doug Noe, Mary Noe
Children's Sermon: Elaine Burcham
Altar Guild: Carole Gerloff, Beth Miller
Musicians: Jon Bergstrom, Jan Burns
Lead Pastor: Pastor Amanda Bergstrom

Bulletin Sponsors:

To the glory of God in thankfulness for our blessings, given by Don & Marylee Steinwehe.

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.



You are welcome to join Grace Lutheran Church’s Facebook group for news & ministry opportunities.

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CHRISTMAS FLOWERS AT GRACE

Help provide decorations for our sanctuary this Christmas. Give a gift in “honor of someone” or “in memory of a loved one” or “to the glory of God.” Mail in or drop off your coupon below, along with your \$15.00 gift to Grace Lutheran Church, 1300 Kishwaukee Valley Rd., Woodstock, IL 60098. Please **print clearly**, as you want it to appear. Payments due in the office by **December 12, 2022.**

Poinsettias available for pickup after our service on December 25.

Amount: _____

CHOOSE ONE PER COUPON: (Please print)

In Memory Of: _____

In Honor Of: _____

To the Glory of God: _____

GIVEN BY : _____

