

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



**February 18, 2026**  
**Noon & 7 P.M.**  
**Ash Wednesday**



### **GATHERING**

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

#### **OPENING MUSIC**

"Restore in Us, O God"

setting, Christopher Uehlein (One License)

*Please stand as you are able.*

#### **KYRIE**

ELW 152 (One License)

#### **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 and ever-living God, you hate nothing you have made, and you forgive the sins of all who are penitent. Create in us new and honest hearts, so that, truly repenting of our sins, we may receive from you, the God of all mercy, full pardon and forgiveness 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.*

#### **WELCOME**

### **WORD**

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

#### **FIRST READING:**

**Joel 2:1-2, 12-17**, *Pew Bible, Old Testament, pg. 846*

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

#### **PSALM:**

**Psalms 51:1-17**

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

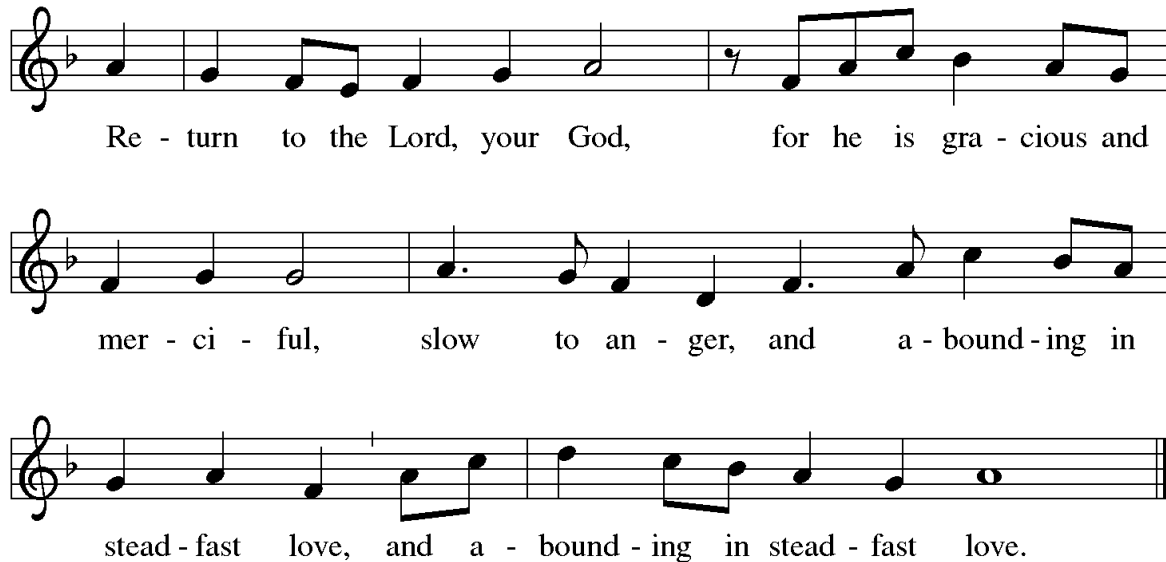
#### **SECOND READING:**

**2 Corinthians 5:20b—6:10**, *Pew Bible, New Testament, pg. 181*

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

*Please stand as you are able.*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and  
mer - ci - ful, slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in  
stead - fast love, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

## GOSPEL

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

**Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21,** Pew Bible, New Testament, pg. 5 & 6

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

*Please be seated.*

## CHILDREN'S SERMON – (7 p.m.)

*Children are invited to come forward during the message.*

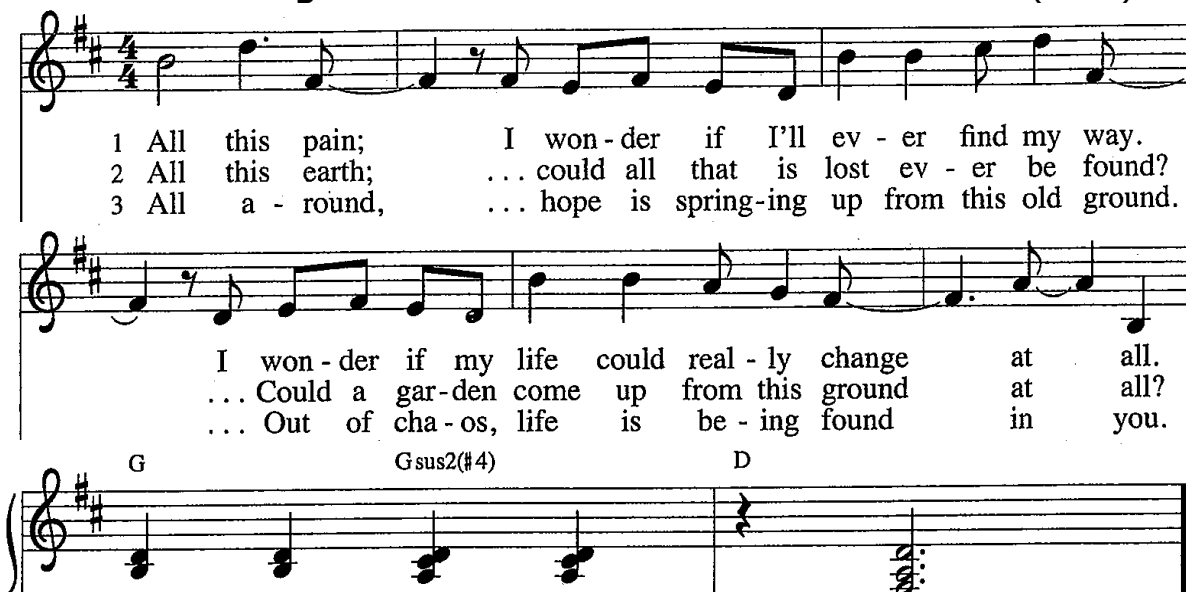
## SERMON

*Please stand as you are able.*

## HYMN OF THE DAY

### "Beautiful Things"

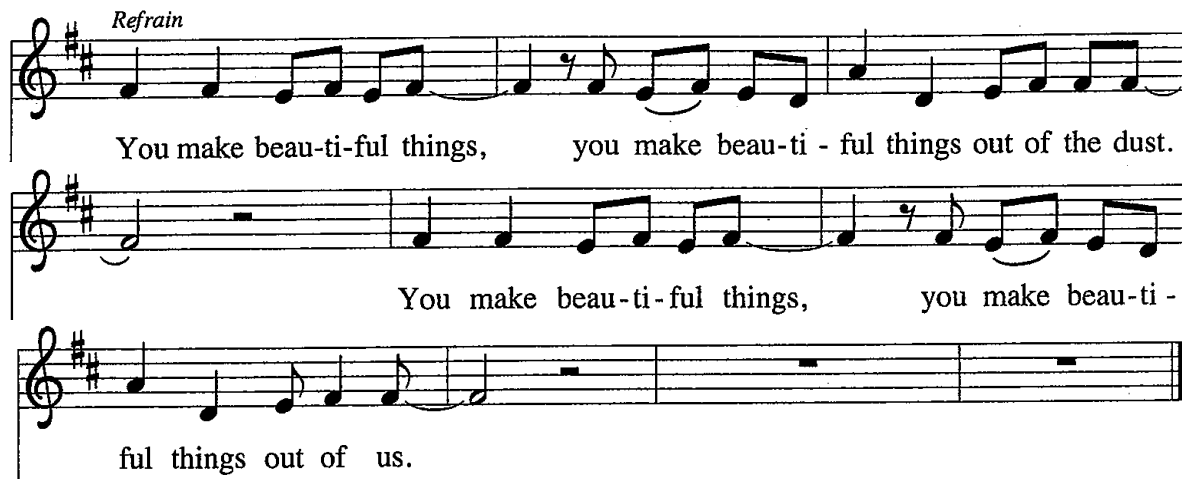
ACS 925 (CCLI)



1 All this pain; I won - der if I'll ev - er find my way.  
2 All this earth; ... could all that is lost ev - er be found?  
3 All a - round, ... hope is spring-ing up from this old ground.

I won - der if my life could real - ly change at all.  
... Could a gar - den come up from this ground at all?  
... Out of cha - os, life is be - ing found in you.

G Gsus2(#4) D



## INVITATION TO LENT

Friends in Christ, today with the whole church we enter the time of remembering Jesus' passover from death to life, and our life in Christ is renewed.

We begin this holy season by acknowledging our need for repentance and for God's mercy. We are created to experience joy in communion with God, to love one another, and to live in harmony with creation. But our sinful rebellion separates us from God, our neighbors, and creation, so that we do not enjoy the life our creator intended.

As disciples of Jesus, we are called to a discipline that contends against evil and resists whatever leads us away from love of God and neighbor. I invite you, therefore, to the discipline of Lent—self-examination and repentance, prayer and fasting, sacrificial giving and works of love—strengthened by the gifts of word and sacrament. Let us continue our journey through these forty days to the great Three Days of Jesus' death and resurrection.

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

*Please kneel as you are able or be seated.*

Most holy and merciful God,  
**we confess to you and to one another,**  
**and before the whole company of heaven,**  
**that we have sinned by our fault,**  
**by our own fault,**  
**by our own most grievous fault,**  
**in thought, word, and deed,**  
**by what we have done and by what we have left undone.**

We have not loved you with our whole heart, and mind, and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not forgiven others as we have been forgiven. **Have mercy on us, O God.**

We have shut our ears to your call to serve as Christ served us. We have not been true to the mind of Christ. We have grieved your Holy Spirit. **Have mercy on us, O God.**

Our past unfaithfulness, the pride, envy, hypocrisy, and apathy that have infected our lives, we confess to you. **Have mercy on us, O God.**  
Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our exploitation of other people, we confess to you. **Have mercy on us, O God.**  
Our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to share the faith that is in us, we confess to you. **Have mercy on us, O God.**  
Our neglect of human need and suffering, and our indifference to injustice and cruelty, we confess to you. **Have mercy on us, O God.**  
Our false judgments, our uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors, and our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us, we confess to you. **Have mercy on us, O God.**  
Our waste and pollution of your creation, and our lack of concern for those who come after us, we confess to you. **Have mercy on us, O God.**  
Restore us, O God, and let your anger depart from us.  
**Hear us, O God, for your mercy is great.**

*Please be seated.*

### **IMPOSITION OF ASHES**

Almighty God, you have created us out of the dust of the earth. May these ashes be a sign of our mortality and penitence, reminding us that only by the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ we are given eternal life; through the same Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

*People may come forward and kneel or stand to receive the ashes. Those worshipping at home may mark the sign of the cross on their foreheads (do not mix ashes with water).*

**Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.**

### **MUSIC**

12:00 p.m.- "On My Heart Imprint Your Image"                      setting, Robert A. Hobby (One License)

7:00 p.m.- "O, My God, Bestow Thy Tender Mercy"                      arr., Hal Hopson

Accomplish in us, O God, the work of your salvation,  
**that we may show forth your glory in the world.**  
By the cross and passion of your Son, our Savior,  
**bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.**

Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life. **Amen**

### **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Reconciled by God's mercy and sustained by God's presence, let us pray for the world and its needs. *A brief silence.*

Guide your church, O God. Accompany all Christians in this season of repentance, and renew our faith in the riches of grace you give to us in baptism. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Heal this earth, O God. Satisfy the needs of every parched place, every diverse ecosystem, every suffering creature. Though all return to dust, grant beauty and purpose to each living thing. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Restore the nations, O God. Let your healing spring up quickly across the world. Give all in authority the will to loose the bonds of injustice and let any who are oppressed go free. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Deliver your people, O God. Comfort any whose hearts are rent by grief, uphold any who are sick, bring food to those who hunger, and give housing to all without shelter, especially those we now name aloud or in the silence of our hearts  
\_\_\_\_\_. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Bless this assembly, O God. Reconcile us to one another and to you. Strengthen our resolve to fast from evil, open our hands in sharing, and quicken our prayer. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Hold us forever, O God. We thank you for all who now know their treasure in heaven, and for all who on earth proclaimed your abounding, steadfast love. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Receive our prayers, O God, through Jesus Christ, our strength and salvation.  
**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**

O God, maker of heaven and earth, your steadfast love embraces all creation. You send rain and sunshine to nourish the earth and bring forth its bounty. Through these gifts of bread and wine, draw us into the death and life of your Son, who calls us to bear witness to his saving work. We ask this in Jesus' name. **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 HYMN**

**"On My Heart Imprint Your Image"**

ELW 811, repeated (Public Domain)

*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.

The musical notation is written on four staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. The first staff has a repeat sign after the first measure. The second staff also has a repeat sign after the first measure. The third and fourth staves end with a double bar line.

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.

The musical notation is written on four staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is more complex than the first hymn, with some eighth and sixteenth notes. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff ends with a repeat sign. The second staff ends with a repeat sign. The third and fourth staves end with a double bar line.

## **THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

### **LORD'S PRAYER**

ELW pg. 145, left column

### **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

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

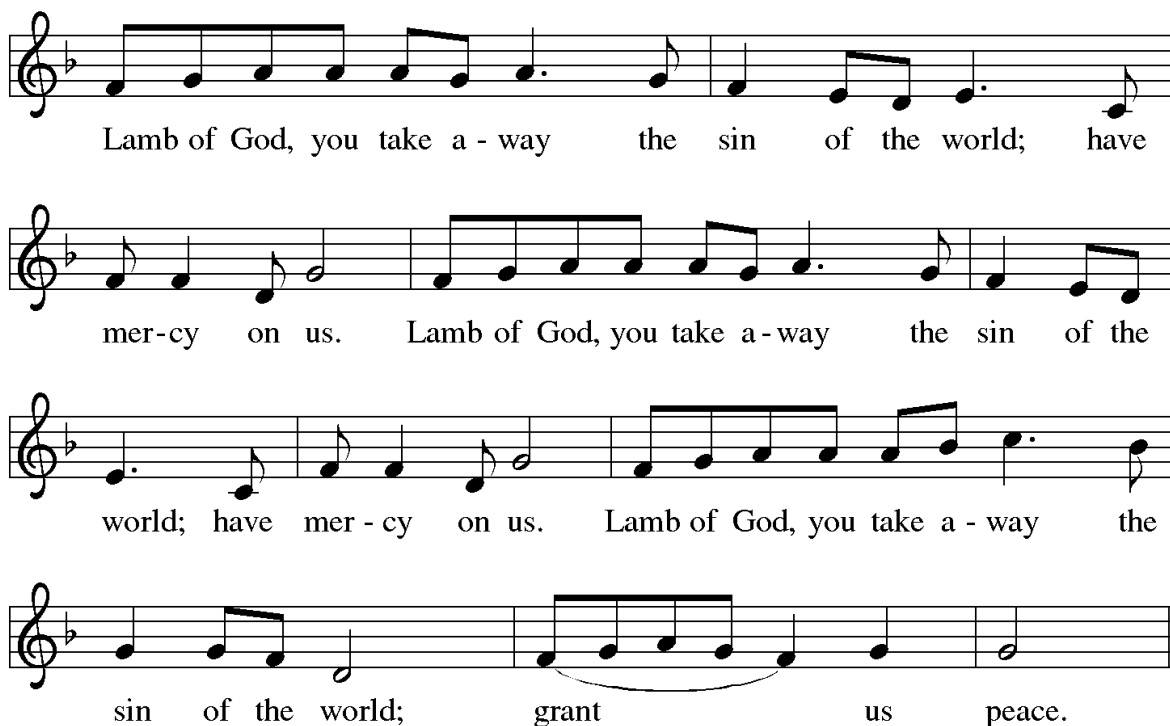
Come to the table. Feast on God's goodness and mercy.

*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. 146 (Augsburg Fortress)



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have  
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the  
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the  
sin of the world; grant us peace.

### "Restore in Us, O God"

ELW 328 (One License)

*Please stand as you are able.*

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

God of our salvation, **we give you thanks for this meal that restores our souls, reconciles us to you, and strengthens us for the journey. Through the body and blood of your Son, may we become Christ's body in the world, bearing witness to your love for all creation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. 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

Receive the blessing of the holy Trinity: God, who calls all things into existence, Jesus Christ, who redeems us, and the Holy Spirit, whose breath sustains creation, ✠ bless you now and always. **Amen.**

## SENDING HYMN

**"O Lord, throughout These Forty Days"**

ELW 319 (One License)

## DISMISSAL

Go forth into the world to serve God with gladness; be of good courage; hold fast to that which is good; render to no one evil for evil; strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak; help the afflicted; honor all people; love and serve God, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. **Thanks be to God.**

## CLOSING MUSIC

**"O Lord, Throughout These Forty Days"**

setting, Roberta Rowland-Raybold



## Worship Team

A/V Team: Andrew Thomas

### 12pm Service

Communion Assistants:

Michelle Anderson, Robin Gibbs, Mary Noe

Greeters: Doug Noe, Mary Noe

Reader: Caryl Dierksen

Ushers: Laure Boal, Nancy Kreznor,

Bill Kreznor

### 7pm Service

Communion Assistants: Elena Ayala,

Grace Ayala, Addie Jo Wedoff, Elle Wedoff,

Jamielynn Wedoff

Acolyte: Grace Ayala, Cai Given, Serenity Roy

Ushers: Carrie Jarnecke, Kevin Jarnecke, Faith Metze

Children's Sermon: Pastor Amanda Bergstrom

Altar Guild: Brian Gerloff, Carole Gerloff, Laura Boal, Terry Figard

Musicians: Jan Burns, Chancel Choir, Carrie Filetti, Karen Reinhard

Lead Pastor: Pastor Amanda Bergstrom

## Presence Light Sponsor:

Given to the Glory of God.

## Bulletin Sponsors:

Given to the Glory of God.

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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# FAITH FACTORY FRIDAY

**Play Bold. Love Big. Grow in Faith.**  
**February 27th 5:30pm–7:30pm**  
**All Ages Welcome!**  
**Register with Ms. Nyji: [nsirreayah@gracewoodstock.org](mailto:nsirreayah@gracewoodstock.org)**



## *Rooted & Renewed*

*Exploring Boundaries, Burnout, & Belonging*  
*February 25th 6:30pm–7:30pm*



## Palm Passion Sunday

March 29  
 9:00 a.m. (Sanctuary & Livestream)



Maundy Thursday  
 April 2

12:00 p.m. (Sanctuary)  
 7:00 p.m. (Sanctuary & Livestream)

## Holy Week



Good Friday  
 April 3

12:00 p.m. (Sanctuary)  
 7:00 p.m. (Sanctuary & Livestream)



Easter Sunday  
 April 5

8:00 a.m. (Sanctuary & Livestream)  
 10:00 a.m. (Sanctuary & Livestream)

## Easter Flowers



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 \$18.00 in an envelope and mail to the office (1300 Kishwaukee Valley Road, Woodstock, IL 60098), drop it off at the church office, or drop it in the offering plate on Sunday.

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

Anyone donating is welcome to pick up a lily following the 10:00 a.m. Easter worship on Sunday. If any are left over, we are going to share them with our homebound members.

**DEADLINE FOR DONATION FORMS & MONEY: March 27, 2026.**

EASTER FLOWERS DONATION	
	Amount \$ _____
	CHOOSE ONE PER COUPON
	In Memory Of: _____
	In Honor of: _____
	To the Glory of God: _____
	GIVEN BY: _____
	

*A Sincere Thanks to our Worship Volunteers!*