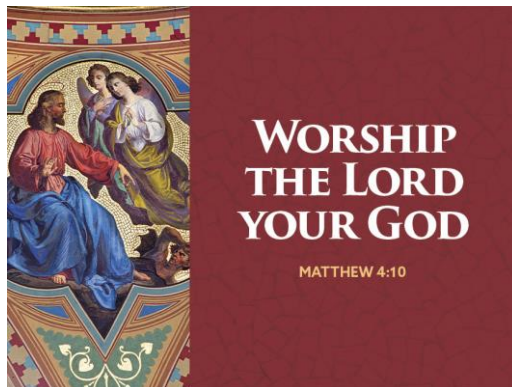


Grace Lutheran Church
1300 Kishwaukee Valley Road
Woodstock, IL 60098
www.gracewoodstock.org



February 22, 2026; 9:00 A.M.
1st Sunday in Lent



GATHERING

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

OPENING MUSIC

"When We Are Tested"

setting, Robert J. Powell (One License)

Please stand as you are able.

OPENING HYMN

"Oh, Love, How Deep"

ELW 322 vs. 1-4, 7 (One License)

Please kneel as you are able or be seated.

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 forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin before God, who removes our guilt and blots out all offenses.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For seeking worldly delights that deceive us and dishonor you: Gracious God,

have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

For desiring self-reliance instead of hungering for your word: Gracious God,

have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

For failing to recognize your coming reign, and for hindering the work of the Spirit:

Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For drawing from the well of self-serving ambition, and for disdaining the living water Christ offers: Gracious God,

have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

For disregarding voices from the margin, and for distrusting signs of your healing and hope in the world: Gracious God,

have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

For dwelling in tombs of self-pity and discontent, and for disregarding Christ's call to come forth to life: Gracious God,

have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

God's steadfast love, grace, and forgiveness abound. Through faith, the free gift of God, you have been clothed in the righteousness of Christ. In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. The Spirit of the One who raised Christ from the dead dwells in you, pours God's love into your hearts, and gives you life and peace.
Amen.

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.**

KYRIE

ELW 152 (One License)

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Lord God, our strength, the struggle between good and evil rages within and around us, and the devil and all the forces that defy you tempt us with empty promises. Keep us steadfast in your word, and when we fall, raise us again and restore us 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.**

WORD

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

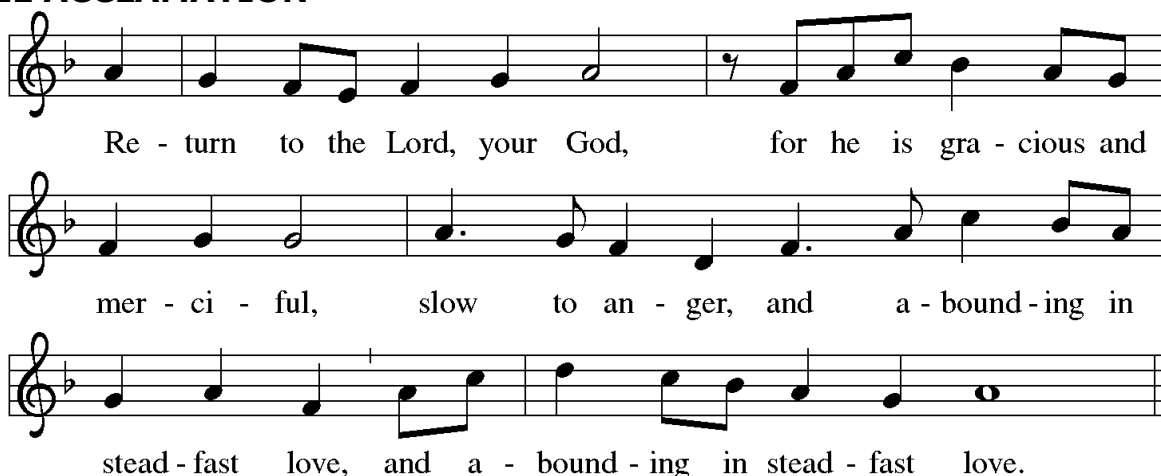
FIRST READING: **Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7**, *Pew Bible, Old Testament, pg. 2*
Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: **Psalm 32**
The Psalms are found in the ELW, in the front section, beginning on page 339. We will read them responsively together.

SECOND READING: **Romans 5:12-19**, *Pew Bible, New Testament, pg. 156*
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 4:1-11, Pew Bible, New Testament, pg. 3

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

"When We Are Tested"

ACS 922 (One License)



1 When we are test - ed and wres - tle a - lone,
2 When in the des - ert we cry for re - lief,
3 When we are tempt - ed to bar - ter our souls,
4 When we have strug - gled and searched through the night,



fam - ished for bread when the world of - fers stone,
plead - ing for paths marked by cer - tain be - lief,
trad - ing the truth for the pow'r to con - trol,
sort - ing and sift - ing the wrong from the right,



nour - ish us, God, by your word and your way,
lift us to love you be - yond sign and test,
teach us to wor - ship and praise on - ly you,
Sav - ior, sur - round us with cir - cles of care,



food that sus - tains us by night and by day.
trust - ing your pres - ence, our on - ly true rest.
seek - ing your will in the work that we do.
an - gels of heal - ing, of hope, and of prayer.

APOSTLES' CREED

ELW pg. 105

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.*

God of all grace, grant faith to your church. Give to all the baptized the will to resist temptation and to worship and serve you alone. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of all creation, tend this earth. When human greed and disobedience threaten this planet and the life it contains, lead us by your Spirit into ways of reverence, awe, and gentleness. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of all nations, preserve us from trouble. Surround all living in places of violence with your steadfast love and give resilience to all who work for peace. Grant courage to those who challenge, especially around issues of racism and systemic oppression. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of all healing, mend our wounds. Bring wholeness to all who are sick, give peace to all who groan in grief, and send companions to all who are lonely or isolated, especially those we now name aloud or in the silence of our hearts _____. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of all people, provide for our community. For any among us who hunger for bread, bring nourishment. For any among us who hunger for truth, speak your life-giving word. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of all life, bring us to you. We thank you for your free and abounding grace, and for those who, by that same grace, now rest eternally in you. 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.



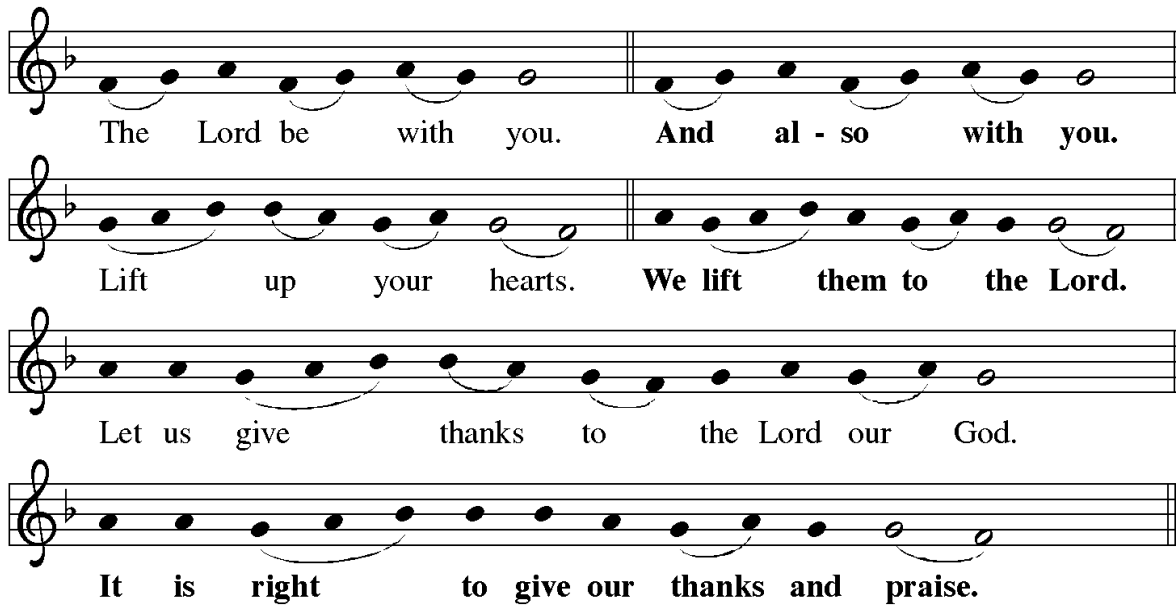
OFFERING ANTHEM

"Lord Jesus, Think On Me"

Aaron David Miller (One License)

Please stand as you are able.

GREAT THANKSGIVING



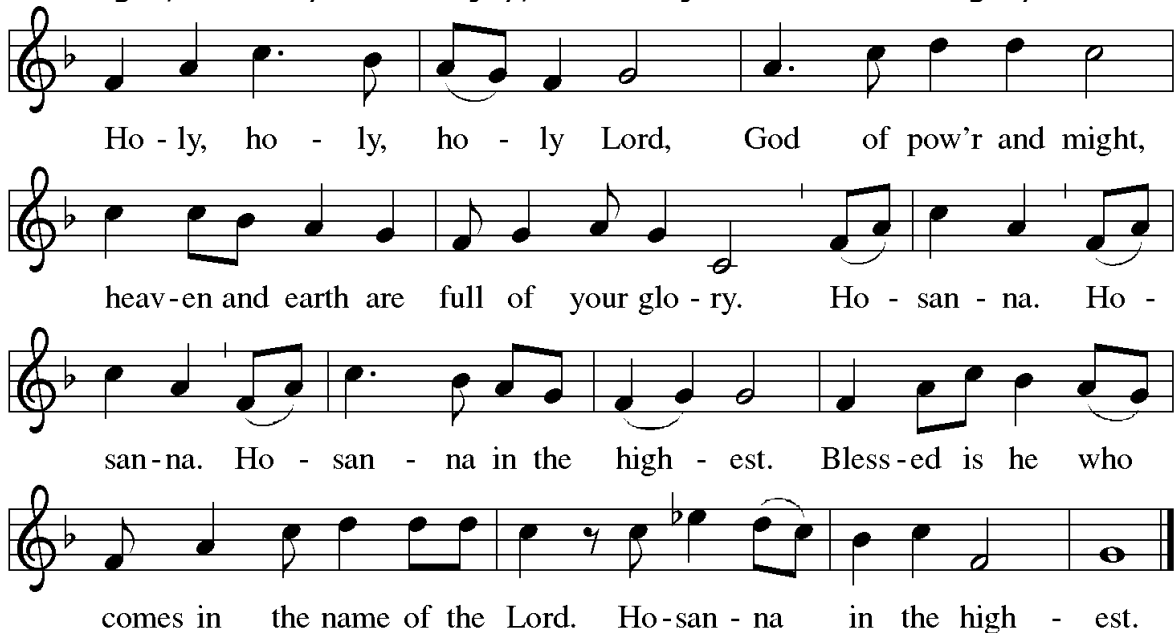
The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

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

ELW pg. 145, left column

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

All are welcome at the Lord's table.

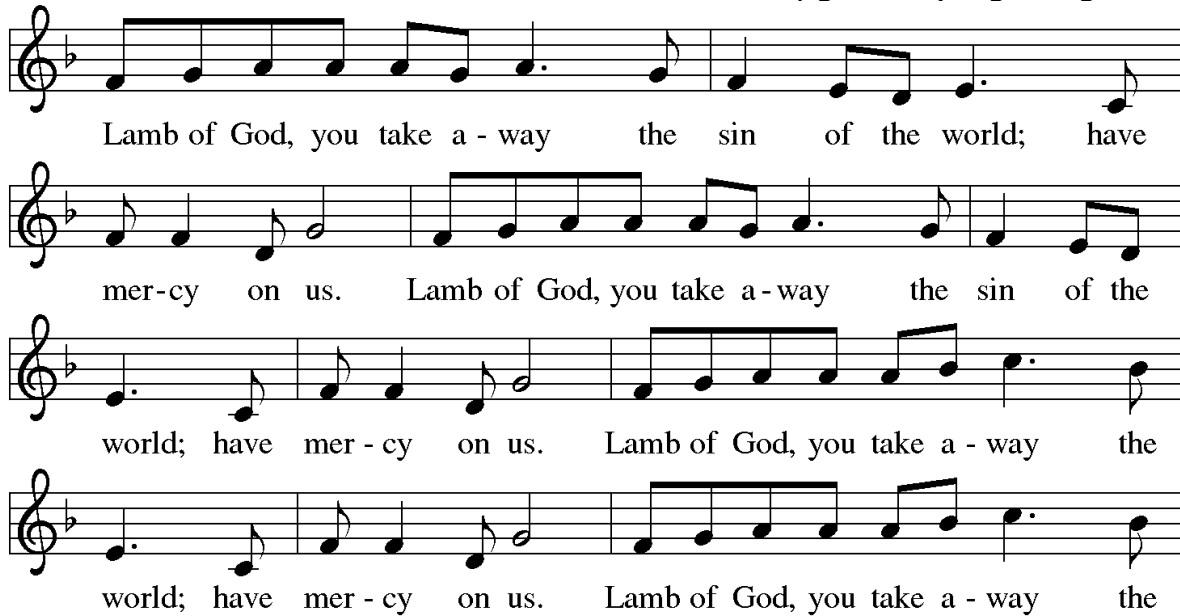
Come to the table. Feast on God's goodness and mercy.

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

"I Want Jesus to Walk with Me"

ELW 325 (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

"Jesus, Still Lead On"

ELW 624 (Public Domain)

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Believe the good news. **Thanks be to God.**

CLOSING MUSIC

"Agincourt Hymn"

John Dunstable (Public Domain)



Worship Team

A/V Team: Bill Nattress

Communion Assistants: Michelle Anderson, Sonia Brzezinski, Robin Gibbs, Mary Noe, Mike Phillips

Greeters: Mike Phillips, Fay Wilson

Acolyte: Braxton O'Leary

Reader: Paul Lockwood

Ushers: Al Wilson, Fay Wilson, John Widmayer

Children's Sermon: Kim Ethridge

Altar Guild: Andy Bellavia, Mary Beth Bellavia, Tammy Baier, Michelle Anderson

Musicians: Jan Burns, Chancel Choir, Carrie Filetti

Lead Pastor: Pastor Amanda Bergstrom

Presence Light Sponsor:

In honor of our 60th wedding anniversary; given by Ken & Kathy Zank.

Bulletin Sponsors:

In honor of our 60th wedding anniversary; given by Ken & Kathy Zank.

In memory of Marlene L. Teuber and in honor of Robert W. Teuber; given by Robert B. Teuber.



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

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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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)



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!