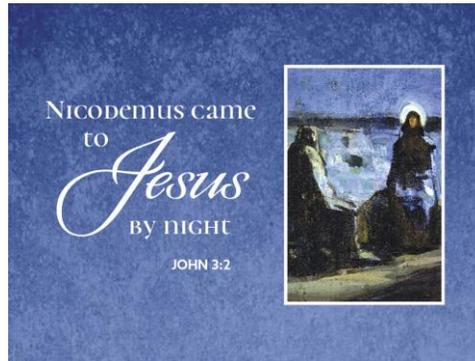


Grace Lutheran Church
1300 Kishwaukee Valley Road
Woodstock, IL 60098
www.gracewoodstock.org



March 1, 2026; 9:00 A.M.
2nd Sunday in Lent



GATHERING

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

OPENING MUSIC

Please stand as you are able.

OPENING HYMN

"We Are Baptized in Christ Jesus"

ELW 451 (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

O God, our leader and guide, in the waters of baptism you bring us to new birth to live as your children. Strengthen our faith in your promises, that by your Spirit we may lift up your life to all the world 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 12:1-4a, *Pew Bible, Old Testament, pg.10*

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

PSALM:

Psalm 121

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

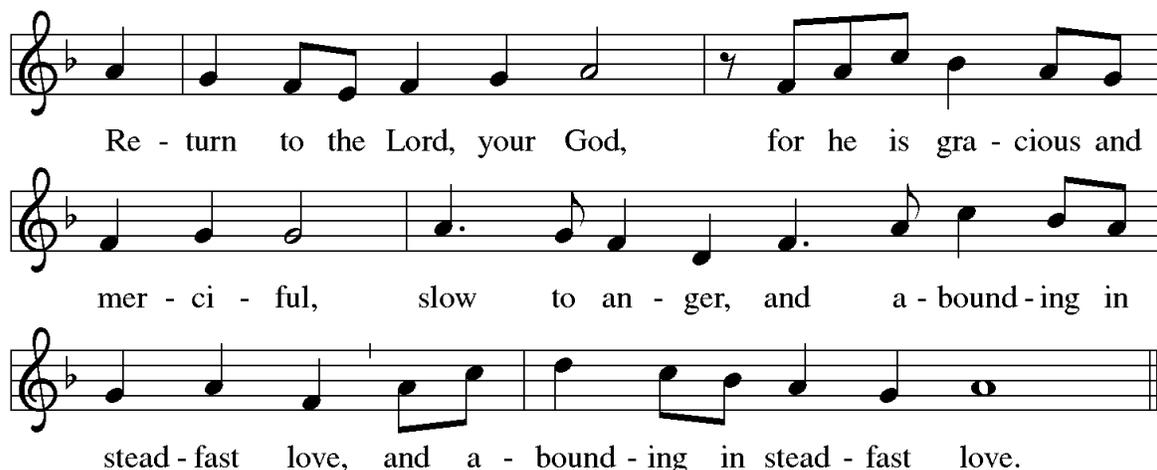
SECOND READING:

Romans 4:1-5, 13-17, *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 John. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

John 3:1-17, Pew Bible, New Testament, pg. 93

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

"God Loved the World"

ELW 323 (Public Domain)

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.*

Faithful One, you renew us by grace. As you have inspired faith through the work of church artists and hymnwriters throughout the ages, give your church the means to praise your beauty today. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Living One, you delight in this world. The sun and moon, the wind and the water declare your goodness. Preserve this earth, and protect conservationists, scientists, and all who labor in service to creation. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Ruling One, you bless us to be a blessing. Open the hearts of all leaders to seek the flourishing of every person and lend your help to all who wait for justice, deliverance, and peace. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Compassionate One, you send your Son to save. Declare your word of acceptance to any who feel condemned and lift up any brought low by hatred and exclusion. Tend to all who are struggling with illness or loss, especially those we now name aloud or in the silence of our hearts _____. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Guiding One, you watch over our going out and coming in. Bless newcomers and new members in this assembly and accompany those who have recently left this community to journey elsewhere. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Eternal One, you neither slumber nor sleep. Be our keeper in life and in death. Thank you for our beloved who have died, and for your promise which saves this whole world by your 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 ANTHEM

"Let's Sing About God's Love"

Natalie Sleeth (One License)

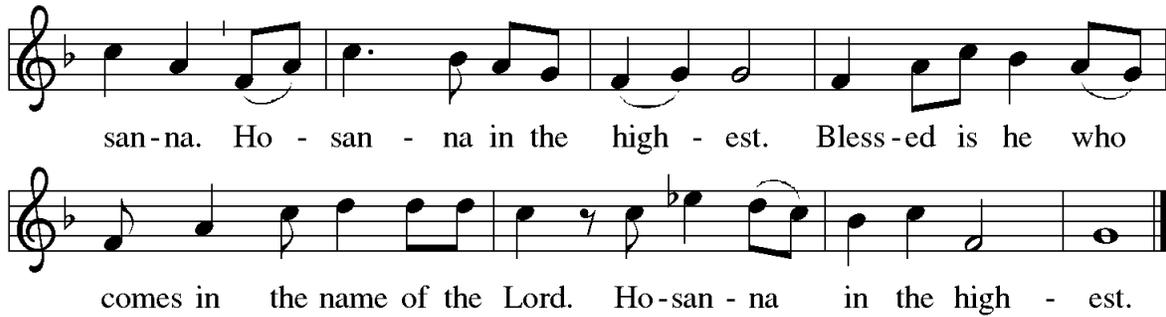
Please stand as you are able.

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

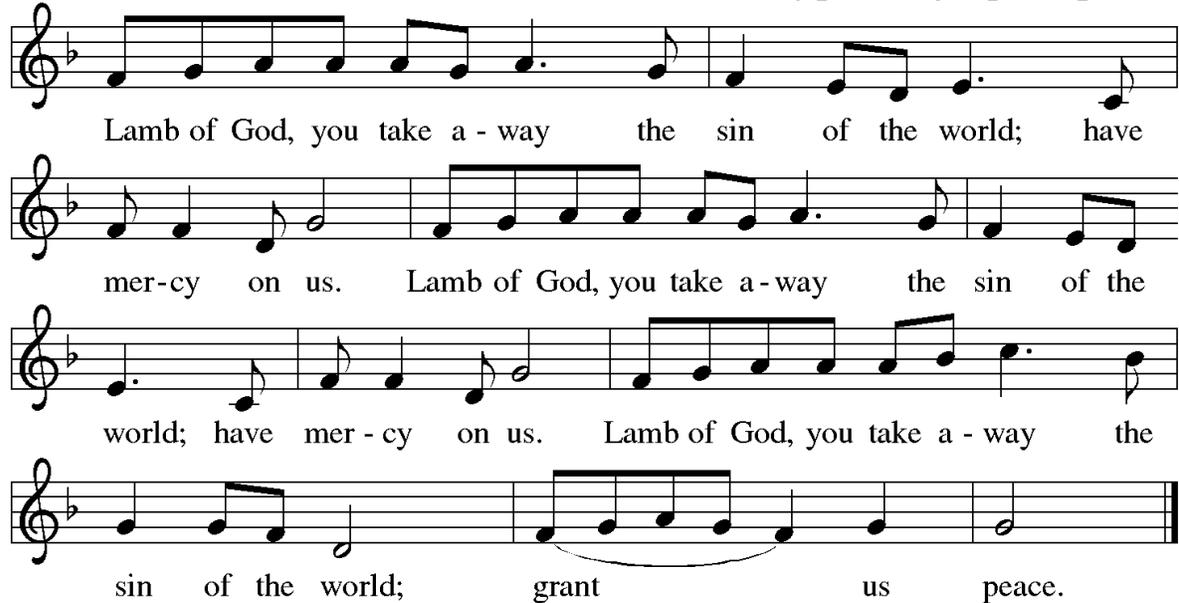
All are welcome at the Lord’s table.
Come to the table. Feast on God’s goodness and mercy.

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
sin of the world; grant us peace.

“Mothering God, You Gave Me Birth”

ELW 735 (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 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.**

SENDING

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

FAREWELL AND GODSPEED

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

"Eternal Lord of Love, Behold Your Church" ELW 321 (Public Domain)

DISMISSAL

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

CLOSING MUSIC



Worship Team

A/V Team: Bill Nattress

Communion Assistants: Michelle Anderson, Al Beckman, Beth Miller,
Mark Miller, Mike Phillips

Greeters: Mike Phillips

Reader: Sheri Conover

Ushers: Bill Kreznor, Nancy Kreznor, Faith Metze

Children's Sermon: Cindy Meyer

Altar Guild: Sheri Conover, Nanette Behrns, Cindy Meyer, Janette Hess

Musicians: Carrie Filetti, Cherubs, Cindy Meyer

Lead Pastor: Pastor Amanda Bergstrom

Presence Light Sponsor:

To the Glory of God.

Bulletin Sponsors:

In memory of those who have passed; given by Robin Gibbs.

In honor of our daughter Laura’s Birthday; given by Mark & Beth Miller.

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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Intergenerational Women’s Day Celebration
March 8th 10am
Join us for worship, laughter, and games

Rooted & Renewed
Letting Go Of Guilt & Perfectionism
March 18th 6:30pm-7:30pm

FAITH FACTORY FRIDAY
Play Bold. Love Big. Grow in Faith.
March 27th 5:30pm–7:30pm
All Ages Welcome!
Register with Ms. Nyji: nsirreayah@gracewoodstock.org



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!

