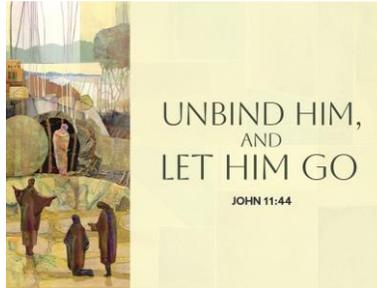


**Grace Lutheran Church**  
1300 Kishwaukee Valley Road  
Woodstock, IL 60098  
www.gracewoodstock.org



**March 22, 2026; 9:00 A.M.**  
**5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent**



### **GATHERING**

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

#### **OPENING MUSIC**

Variations on "Kingsfold"

Charles Callahan (One License)

*Please stand as you are able.*

#### **OPENING HYMN**

**"Tree of Life and Awesome Mystery"** ELW 334, 1-3 & Lent 5 (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

Almighty God, your Son came into the world to free us all from sin and death. Breathe upon us the power of your Spirit, that we may be raised to new life in Christ and serve you in righteousness all our days, through 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:

**Ezekiel 37:1-14**, *Pew Bible, Old Testament, pg. 806*

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

### PSALM:

**Psalm 130**

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

### SECOND READING:

**Romans 8:6-11**, *Pew Bible, New Testament, pg. 157*

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 11:1-45**, *Pew Bible, New Testament, pg. 104*

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

#### "Christ Is the Life"

OBS 52 (Public Domain)



1 Christ is the life of all that is, God's pure cre - a - tive Word,  
2 Christ is the death of all that is, a broad and beck - 'ning tomb,  
3 Christ is the death of all that is, a bright, con - sum - ing fire,  
4 Christ is the life of all that is, Be - gin - ning and the End;



whose pow'r be - yond and through all space the worlds to Be - ing stirred.  
who wel - comes us from well - worn ways to dark - ness of the womb.  
whose flames re - quire our pri - or self as kin - dling for the pyre.  
cre - a - tive force, most peace - ful death, trans - form - ing burn - ing brand.



Christ is the life be - yond all time, cre - a - tion's birth and breath,  
Christ is the death, the sink - ing down past all de - sire and fear,  
Christ is the death of dust - y days of un - cre - a - tive strife,  
Christ is the life, in whose wise love cre - a - tion lives and dies



whose la - bor brings all things to be and brings all things to death.  
whose prom - ise in the gen - tle dark bids new - ness to ap - pear.  
for out from fire we tread up - on the thresh - old of new life.  
and thus for - ev - er - more shall bless the Source, the liv - ing Christ.

## 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.*

We pray for the church. Grant life and peace to all who gather in your name. Breathe into us so that we may share your message of forgiveness, hope, and love. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We pray for creation. Renew landscapes that have dried up, prosper the work of those who restore homes and habitats after natural disasters, and sustain places where biodiversity thrives. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We pray for the nations. Unbind leaders trapped by fear to act boldly for justice, free all who live in places of war and violence, and guide refugees and asylum seekers to safety. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We pray for all people in need. Take away the stone of poverty that weighs down so many. Console any who weep and heal all who are sick, especially those we now name aloud or in the silence of our hearts \_\_\_\_\_. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We pray for this assembly. Ready the hearts and spirits of all preparing to be baptized. Deepen our wonder at the mystery of your resurrection and life. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We offer our thanksgiving for all people who have died in faith. Give us faith to trust in your power to redeem and save, and bring us up from our graves to life 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

"Psalm 130"

Walter Pelz (One License)

**Choir:** I wait for the Lord, my soul waits for him;  
in his word is my hope.

**Congregation:**



I wait for the Lord, my soul\_ waits for him;  
in his word is my hope.

**Choir:** Out of the depths have I called to you, O Lord.  
Lord, hear my voice!  
Let your ears consider well the voice of my supplication.  
If you, Lord, were to note what is done amiss,  
O Lord, who could stand?  
For there is forgiveness with you; therefore you shall be feared.

**Congregation:** I wait for the Lord, my soul waits for him;  
(sung) in his word is my hope.

**Choir:** I wait for the Lord, my soul waits for him;  
in his word is my hope.  
My soul waits for the Lord, more than watchmen for the morning,  
more than watchmen for the morning.

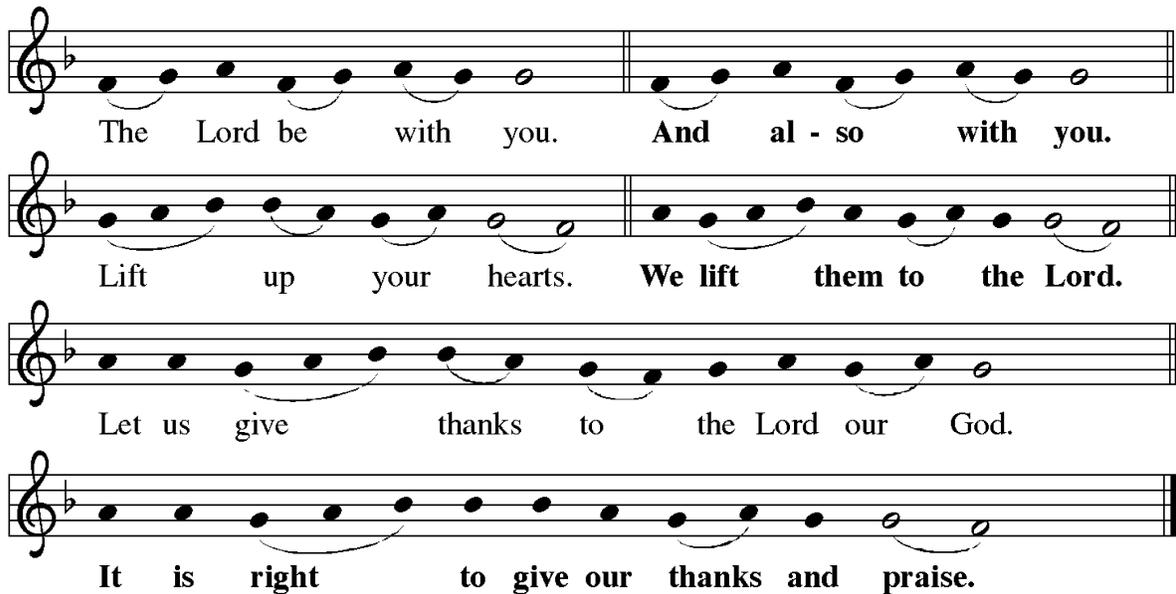
**Congregation:** I wait for the Lord, my soul waits for him;  
(sung) in his word is my hope.

**Choir:** O Israel, wait for the Lord, for with the Lord there is mercy.  
With him there is plenteous redemption,  
and he shall redeem Israel from all their sins.

**Congregation:** I wait for the Lord, my soul waits for him;  
(sung) in his word is my hope.

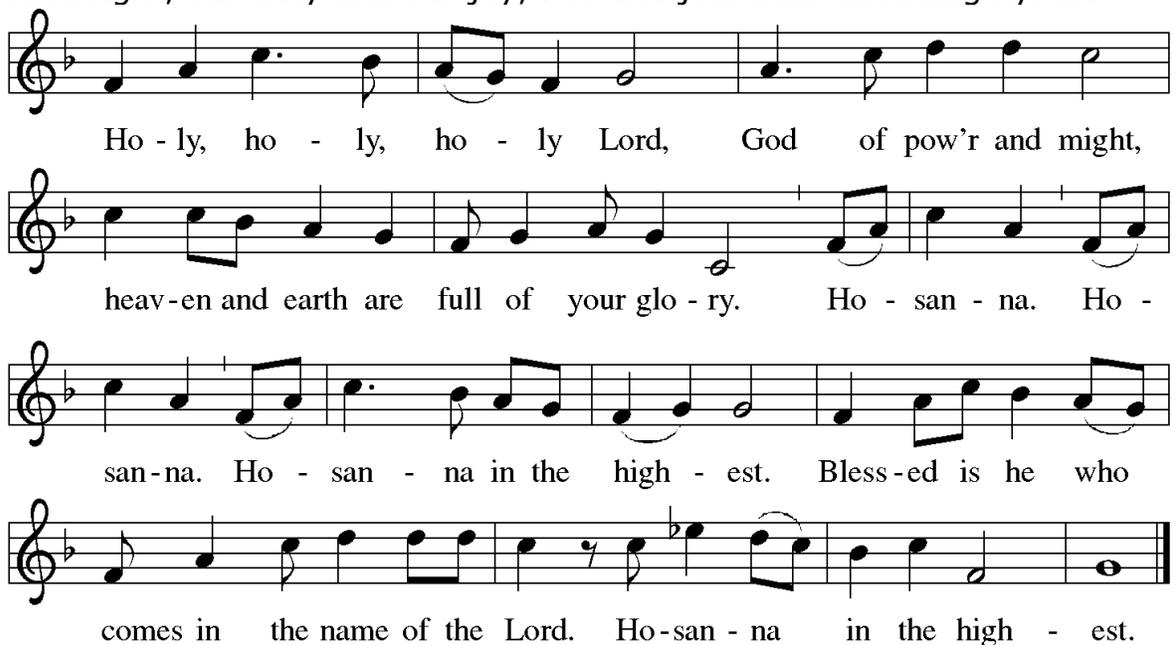
*Please stand as you are able.*

## 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.*

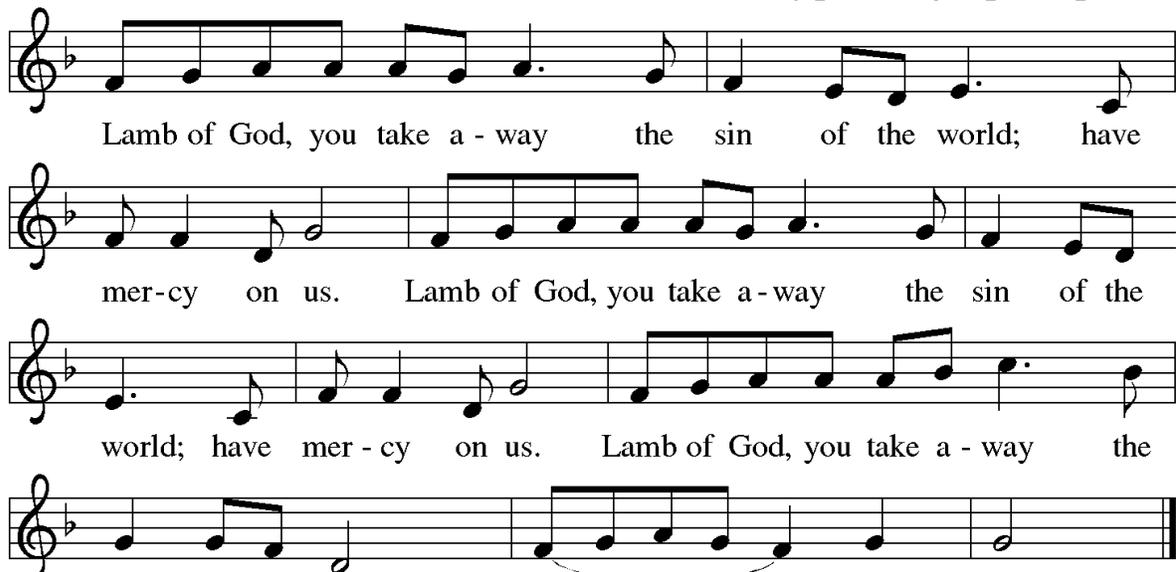
Come to the table. Feast on God's goodness and mercy.

*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.

#### "I Am the Bread of Life"

ELW 485 (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

**"What Wondrous Love Is This"**

ELW 666 (One License)

## DISMISSAL

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

## CLOSING MUSIC

"I Am the Bread of Life"

setting, Edwin Childs (Augsburg Fortress)



## Worship Team

A/V Team: Mark Miller

Communion Assistants: Michelle Anderson, Alan Beckman, Robin Gibbs,  
Sally Sheahan, Marylee Steinwehe

Greeters: Bill Kreznor, Nancy Kreznor

Reader: Paul Lockwood

Ushers: Laura Boal, Terry Figard, Faith Metz

Children's Sermon: Kim Ethridge

Altar Guild: Brian Gerloff, Carole Gerloff, Tammy Baier, Michelle Anderson

Musicians: Jan Burns, Joyful Messengers, Cindy Meyer

Guest Preacher: Pastor Janet Hunt

Lead Pastor: Pastor Amanda Bergstrom

## Presence Light Sponsor:

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

## Bulletin Sponsors:

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

In honor of Paul's Birthday; given by Cindy Meyer.

In memory of Diane Baker-Lockwood on what would have been our 40th anniversary; given by Paul Lockwood.



## FAITH FACTORY FRIDAY

**Play Bold. Love Big. Grow in Faith.**

**March 27th 5:30pm-7:30pm**



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!