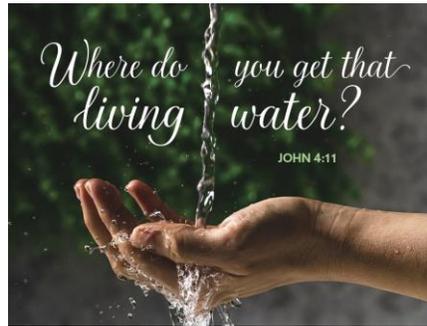


Grace Lutheran Church
1300 Kishwaukee Valley Road
Woodstock, IL 60098
www.gracewoodstock.org



March 8, 2026; 9:00 A.M.
3rd Sunday in Lent



GATHERING

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

OPENING MUSIC

Chorale Prelude on "Kingsfold"

Robert J. Powell (Augsburg Fortress)

Please stand as you are able.

OPENING HYMN

"I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say"

ELW 611 (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

Merciful God, the fountain of living water, you quench our thirst and wash away our sin. Give us this water always. Bring us to drink from the well that flows with the beauty of your truth through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

WELCOME OF NEW MEMBERS

As names are read, the new members come forward and face the altar.

These people have committed themselves to the ministry of Grace Lutheran Church and our community of faith. We welcome: Andrea Johnson, Steve Johnson, Erica Poremba, Mike Poremba, Riley Poremba.

Almighty God, by the love of Jesus Christ you draw people to yourself and welcome them into the household of faith. May we show your joy by embracing these new siblings as we bear your creative and redeeming word to all the world. Keep us close together in your Spirit, in the breaking of bread and the prayers and in service to others, following the example of Jesus Christ, our servant and Lord. **Amen.**

WORD

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

FIRST READING:

Exodus 17:1-7, *Pew Bible, Old Testament, pg. 64*

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

PSALM:

Psalm 95

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

SECOND READING:

Romans 5:1-11, *Pew Bible, New Testament, pg. 155*

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 4:5-42, Pew Bible, New Testament, pg. 94

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

"As Your Spirit in the Desert"

ACS 923 (One License)



1 As your Spir - it in the des - ert led the Christ to
2 As your fire and cloud - y pil - lar Is - rael's tribes to
3 Though wild beasts may lurk in shad - ow, and dire thirst may
4 Through the nar - row gate now draw us, past all em - pire's
5 God of des - ert, God of prom - ise, you have bid us



dust and stone, so in - still our hearts with cour - age now to
Ca - naan led, may your pres - ence be our com - fort, may your
sear and sting, you have prom - ised liv - ing wa - ters wait - ing
pull and strife, where be - yond our fear and cling - ing stands the
jour - ney on through the days of dust and dark - ness to the



cross where Christ has gone. Let us cross in - to the
man - na be our bread. Let us cross in - to the
for us at the spring. Let us cross out of the
thresh - old of new life. Let us cross out of the
ris - ing of the dawn. Let us cross out of the



wil - der - ness so to walk where Christ has gone.
wil - der - ness with God's man - na as our bread.
wil - der - ness to the wa - ters of the spring.
wil - der - ness to the thresh - old of new life.
wil - der - ness to the ris - ing of the dawn.

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.*

O God, when suffering arises, preserve your church. Give to pastors, deacons, bishops, and all servants of your gospel the endurance that produces character and the hope that will never disappoint. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

When the waters run dry, sustain this earth. Send water to places languishing with drought, and bring relief to places damaged by floods. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

When quarrels ensue, soften our hearts. Quell hostilities between nations and peoples, and reconcile all humans across the lines of race, class, nationality, moral conviction, religion, and all else that divides or oppresses. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

When your people thirst, satisfy their needs. Send water and food to all who need nourishment. Grant welcome to all who are excluded. Show your mercy to any in need, especially those we now name aloud or in the silence of our hearts _____ . Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

When we gather to worship, send us your Spirit. Renew our hearts through the joyful noise we make and bless the work of our church musicians and musical ensembles. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

O God, when death draws near, we rejoice in the promise of life with you. We remember all who have entered eternal rest, and we pray that you bring us the hope of sharing in your glory. 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.



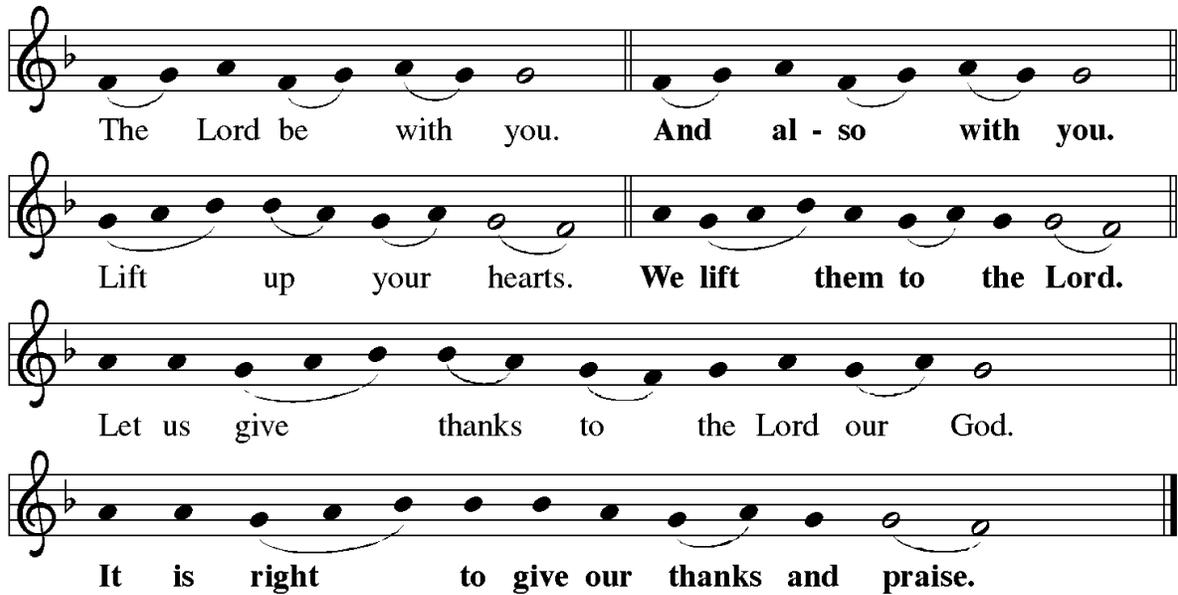
OFFERING ANTHEM

"Lord, I Want to Be a Christian"

arr., Bill Ingram (One License)

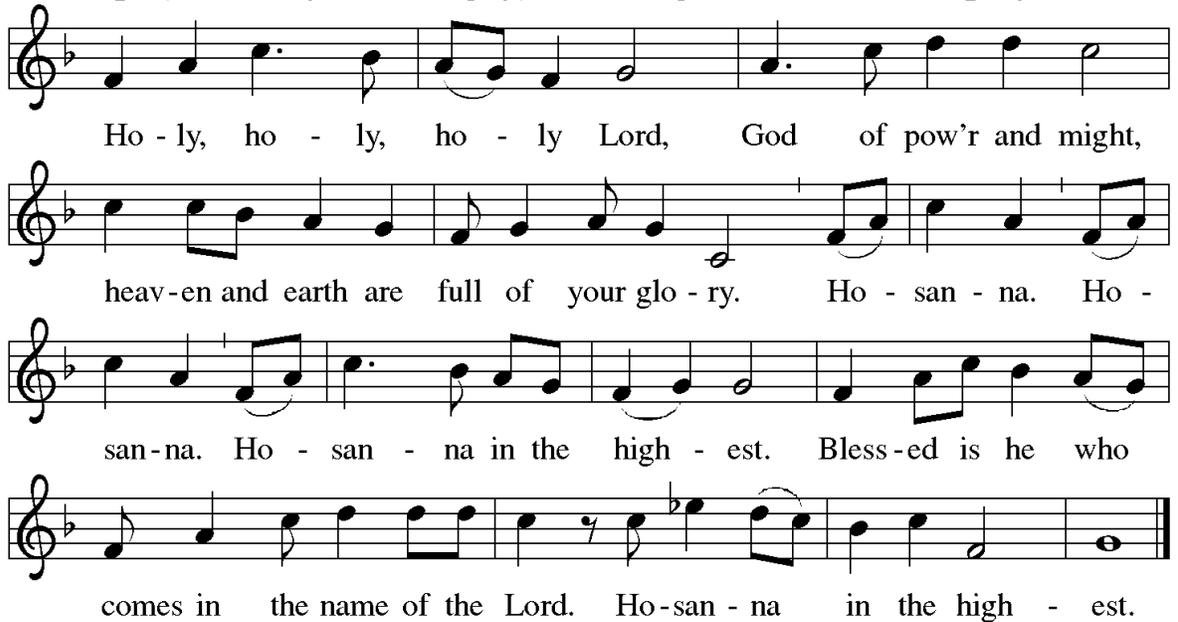
Please stand as you are able.

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.

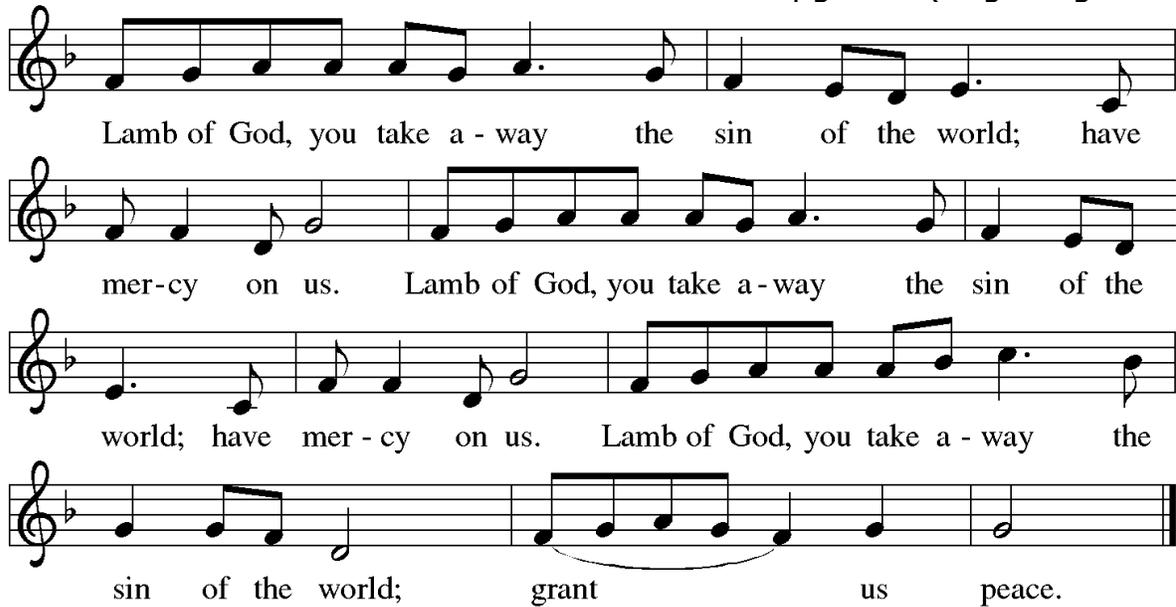
Come to the table. Feast on God's goodness and mercy.

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.

"In the Cross of Christ I Glory"

ELW 324 (Public Domain)

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

"For All the Faithful Women"

ELW 419, 1, 8, 2, last (One License)

DISMISSAL

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

CLOSING MUSIC

"In the Cross of Christ I Glory"

setting, Wilbur Held (One License)



Worship Team

A/V Team: Mark Miller

Communion Assistants: Robin Gibbs, Addie Jo Wedoff, Audrey Wedoff, Elle Wedoff, Jamielynn Wedoff

Greeters: Michelle Anderson, Mary Noe

Ushers: Faith Metze, Beth Miller

Children’s Sermon: Jon Bergstrom

Altar Guild: Sheri Conover, Nanette Behrns, Joy Aavang, Barb Aavang

Musicians: Jan Burns, Revelation Ringers, Terry Aavang, Paul Lockwood

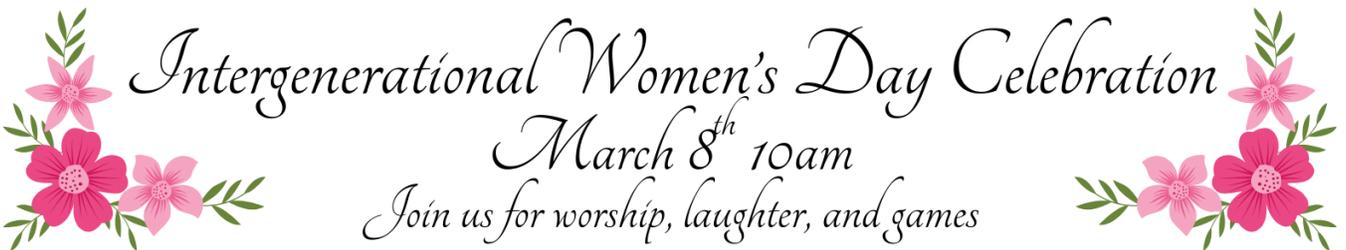
Lead Pastor: Pastor Amanda Bergstrom

Presence Light Sponsor:

To the Glory of God.

Bulletin Sponsors:

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.
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)

Holy Week

 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)
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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: _____

