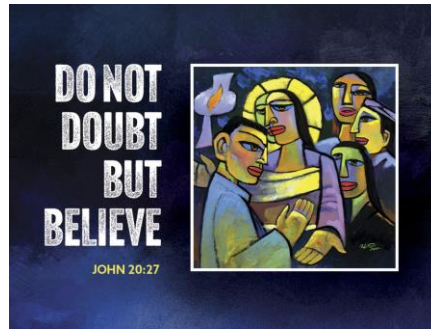


**Grace Lutheran Church**  
1300 Kishwaukee Valley Road  
Woodstock, IL 60098  
www.gracewoodstock.org



**April 12, 2026; 9:00 A.M.**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter**



### **GATHERING**

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

### **OPENING MUSIC**

"Because He Lives (Amen)"

by Cash, Gaither, Ingram, Maher, Carson, and Tomlin (CCLI)

*Please stand as you are able.*

### **THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM**

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

Alleluia! Christ is risen. **Christ is risen, indeed. Alleluia!**  
Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne  
and to the Lamb! **Amen.**

Let us give thanks for the gifts of baptism.

*Water may be poured into the font as the presiding minister continues.*

Merciful God,  
you are the one who was, who is, and who is to come.  
You lead us beside still waters.  
We thank you for the waters of creation:  
morning dew, gentle rain, roaring waves.  
We thank you for the waters that nourish us, the Kishwaukee Headwaters,  
the Rock River, and Lake Michigan.  
Blessed are you. **You guide us to springs of the water of life.**

Jesus Christ, you are the faithful witness  
who accompanies us on our journeys.  
We give you thanks for your life-giving death and resurrection.  
We praise you for joining us in joy and sorrow.  
Blessed are you. **You guide us to springs of the water of life.**

Holy Spirit, you anoint our head with oil and our cup overflows.  
Break down barriers that divide us.  
Fill us with the breath of peace.  
Blessed are you. **You guide us to springs of the water of life.**

Holy One, we thank you for the gifts and grace of baptism,  
and for making us a new creation.  
We join with saints and angels, giving you honor and praise,  
now and forever. **Amen.**

**OPENING HYMN**

**"Christ is Alive! Let Christians Sing"**

ELW 389 (Public Domain)

*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.**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Almighty and eternal God, the strength of those who believe and the hope of those who doubt, may we, who have not seen, have faith in you and receive the fullness of Christ's blessing, 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:** **Acts 2:14a, 22-32**, *Pew Bible, New Testament, pg. 119*  
Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM:** **Psalm 16**  
*The Psalms are found in the ELW, in the front section, beginning on page 339. We will read them responsively together.*

**SECOND READING:** **1 Peter 1:3-9**, *Pew Bible, New Testament, pg. 232*  
Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand as you are able.*

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,  
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.  
*Repeat alleluia*

**GOSPEL**

The holy gospel according to John. **Glory to you, O Lord.**  
**John 20:19-31**, *Pew Bible, New Testament, pg. 115*  
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

Bishop Stacie Fidler, Northern Illinois Synod (video message)

Please stand as you are able.

### HYMN OF THE DAY

#### "Forever (We Sing Hallelujah)"

by Johnson, Jobe, Wilson, Taylor, and Gifford (CCLI)

**VERSE**

1. The moon and stars, they wept, the morn - ing sun was  
2. One fin - al breath He gave as heav - en looked a -

dead; The Sav - ior of the world was fall - en. His bod - y on the  
- way; The Son of God was laid in dark - ness. A bat - tle in the

1

cross, His blood poured out for us; The weight of ev - 'ry curse up-on Him.  
grave, the war on death was waged; The pow'r of hell for

2

**INSTRUMENTAL**

-ev - er brok - en.

**PRE-CHORUS**

The ground be-gan to shake, the stone was rolled a-way; His per - fect love could  
(reck-less)

not be o - ver-come. Now, death, where is your sting? Our res - ur - rect - ed

**CHORUS**

King has ren - dered You de - feat - ed. Now, for - ev - er He is glo - ri - fied; For - ev - er He is

(Last time Instrumental)

1,3

lift-ed high. And for - ev - er He is ris - en; He is a - live, and He is a - live. Now, for

30 2 4 D.S. BRIDGE

We sing hal-le-lu - jah, we sing hal-le-lu-

54 1,2 3

- jah, we sing hal-le-lu - jah; The Lamb has o-ver-come. jah; The Lamb has o-ver-come.

57 1,2 3

We sing hal-le-lu - jah, we sing hal-le-lu - jah, we sing hal-le-lu - jah.

## NICENE CREED

ELW pg. 104

### PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Trusting in the power of Christ's resurrection to heal and redeem our broken world, let us pray for the needs of all creation. *A brief silence.*

Almighty God, you give life to the dead and call into existence things that do not exist. Breathe your Spirit upon us, that our faith may be renewed day by day. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Maker of heaven and earth, your mercies are new every morning. Open us to the wonders of creation, from the beauty of flowers to the complexity of subatomic particles. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God of peace, in every place where conflict rages, sow seeds of calm and openness to reconciliation. Strengthen the resolve of leaders and citizens to work for peace in their nations. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Healing God, come alongside all who are doubting, fearful, or suffering in any way, especially those we now name aloud or in the silence of our hearts \_\_\_\_\_. Reveal to them your presence and assure them of the inheritance you have prepared for them. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Giver of joy, let this assembly be a place of genuine love and mutual affection. Deepen our care for one another and help us to embody your forgiving and sacrificial love. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Eternal One, we give thanks for saints who were faithful unto death and have joined the church triumphant. Inspire us by their witness and bring us with them into your glorious presence. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God of resurrection power, use us and these prayers to proclaim the good news of new life to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Savior. **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

Merciful God, accept the fruits of our labor, gathered to give you glory. You have set a table before us, a glimpse of that great day when we will hunger and thirst no more. Nourish us with the body and blood of Jesus, that goodness and mercy may follow us and bless the world you love. In the name of Jesus, **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.*



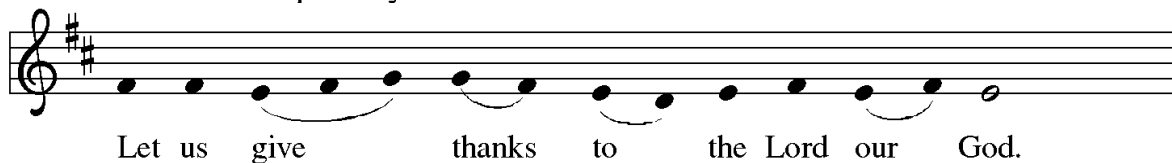
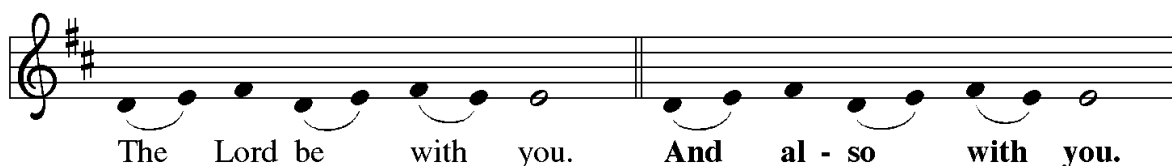
### OFFERING ANTHEM

"Let Everything (Praise the Lord)"

by Barrett, Smith, Bashta, Feucht, and Ingram (CCLI)

*Please stand as you are able.*

### GREAT THANKSGIVING



It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, . . . and join their unending hymn:



san - na in the high-est. Blessed 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.112, left column

### INVITATION TO COMMUNION

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

Come to the table of new life. Receive the risen Lord.

*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

**"Graves into Gardens"** by Lake, Brown, Furtick, and Hammer (CCLI)

#### Verse 1

I searched the world but it couldn't fill  
me  
Man's empty praise and treasures that  
fade  
Are never enough  
Then You came along and put me back  
together  
And every desire is now satisfied here  
in Your love

#### Chorus

Oh there's nothing better than You  
There's nothing better than You  
Lord there's nothing  
Nothing is better than You

#### Verse 2

I'm not afraid to show You my  
weakness  
My failures and flaws  
Lord You've seen them all  
And You still call me friend  
'Cause the God of the mountain  
Is the God of the valley  
There's not a place  
Your mercy and grace won't find me  
again

#### Bridge 1

You turn mourning to dancing  
You give beauty for ashes  
You turn shame into glory  
You're the only one who can

#### Bridge 2

You turn graves into gardens  
You turn bones into armies  
You turn seas into highways  
You're the only one who can

*Please stand as you are able.*

### **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Holy One, **through this meal you have made your home among us and are making all things new. Send us now to speak peace to anxious hearts, to love our enemies, and to bring your healing to the nations. In the name of Jesus, 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**

God Almighty, who is the beginning and the end, Jesus Christ, the firstborn of the dead, and the Spirit, our advocate and peace, ✠ bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

### **SENDING HYMN**

**"Hallelujah, We Sing Your Praises"**

ELW 535 (Walton Music/Public Domain)

### **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Praise the Lord. Alleluia! **Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

### **CLOSING MUSIC**

**"Haleluya! Pelo Tsa Rona"**



### **Worship Team**

A/V Team: Mark Miller

Communion Assistants: Michelle Anderson, Sonia Brzezinski, Anne Johnson, Mike Phillips, Sally Sheahan

Greeters: Nancy Kreznor, Robert Metze

Acolyte: Braxton O'Leary

Reader: Cindy Meyer

Ushers: Elena Ayala, Faith Metze, Al Wilson

Children's Sermon: Jamielynn Wedoff

Altar Guild: Mike Freeman, Jen Freeman, Tammy Baier, Michelle Anderson

Musicians: Grace Tones, Jon Bergstrom

Guest Preacher: (Video Message) Bishop Stacie Fidler, Northern Illinois Synod

Lead Pastor: Pastor Amanda Bergstrom

### **Presence Light Sponsor:**

In Memory of Jerry Johnson; given by Mary Johnson.

### **Bulletin Sponsors:**

In memory of loved ones; given by Mary Johnson.

In honor of Thaddeus & Otto Meyer, our grandsons; given by Paul & Cindy Meyer.



# Coffee, Snacks, & Fellowship



## Family Game Night



Sunday, April 12th 4:30-6:30 pm

## St. Ann's Episcopal & Grace Lutheran Mobile Food Pantry

April 13<sup>th</sup> 4pm



Across from Woodstock High School



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 & Flavors Kids Kitchen



April 19<sup>th</sup> 10am - 11:30am  
*Limited spots available*



## FAITH FACTORY FRIDAY

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

**April 24th 5:30pm-7:30pm**



## Hymn Sing Potluck

Saturday April 25th

Dinner at 6pm followed by Hymns in the Sanctuary



## Rooted & Renewed

*Who Are You When No-One Needs You?*

April 29th 6:30pm-7:30pm



# A Sincere Thanks to our Worship Volunteers!