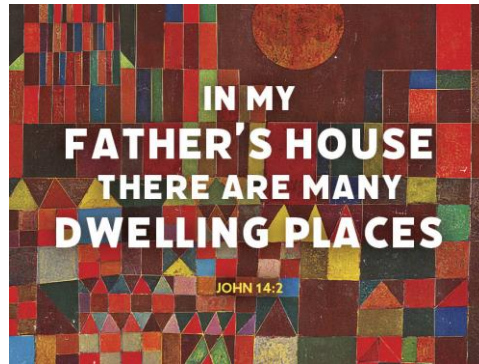


**Grace Lutheran Church**  
1300 Kishwaukee Valley Road  
Woodstock, IL 60098  
www.gracewoodstock.org



**May 3, 2026; 9:00 A.M.**  
**5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter**  
**Affirmation of Baptism**



### **GATHERING**

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

### **OPENING MUSIC**

"Making Their Way"

setting, David Cherwien (Augsburg Fortress)

*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

### "Making Their Way"

ACS 979 (One License)



1 Mak - ing their way down through the a - ges, sin - ners and saints have  
2 Mak - ing their way all the world o - ver, Chris - tians as - sem - ble  
3 Mak - ing our way sea - son by sea - son, pil - grims, we jour - ney



heard God's call: wealth - y and poor, pow - er - ful, low - ly,  
on this day, hear - ing the Word, shar - ing the Ban - quet,  
till life's end, trav - el - ing light, shar - ing the rich - es,



Je - sus' dis - ci - ples, one and all. Gath - ered for wor - ship, of - fer - ing thanks,  
learn - ing to walk in Je - sus' way. Mem - bers of Christ, u - nit - ed in love,  
car - ing for strang - er as for friend, till in the joy of long - ing ful - filled,



the great - est with the least have come to share this feast.  
they seek our God to know, and so to - geth - er grow.  
to - geth - er we will come to our e - ter - nal home.

*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 God, your Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life. Give us grace to love one another, to follow in the way of his commandments, and to share

his risen life with all the world, for he 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 7:55-60**, *Pew Bible, New Testament, pg. 126*  
Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM:** **Psalms 31:1-5, 15-16**  
*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 2:2-10**, *Pew Bible, New Testament, pg. 233*  
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*

Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

**GOSPEL**

The holy gospel according to John. **Glory to you, O Lord.**  
**John 14:1-14**, *Pew Bible, New Testament, pg. 108*  
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**

**"Come, My Way, My Truth, My Life"**

ELW 816 (Public Domain)

**PRESENTATION OF CONFIRMANDS**

Dear friends, we give thanks for the gift of baptism and for these people, one with us in the body of Christ, who are making public affirmation of their baptism.

I present Evan Michael Lanham, Faith Elizabeth Metze, and Timothy Eugene Nellessen who desire to make public affirmation of their baptism.

Let us pray. Merciful God, we thank you for these siblings, whom you have made your own by water and the Word in baptism. You have called them to yourself, enlightened them with the gifts of your Spirit, and nourished them in the community of faith. Uphold your servants in the gifts and promises of baptism, and unite the hearts of all whom you have brought to new birth. We ask this in the name of Christ. **Amen.**

### **PROFESSION OF FAITH**

I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church.

Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?

*Response:* I renounce them.

Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?

*Response:* I renounce them.

Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?

*Response:* I renounce them.

Do you believe in God the Father?

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen**

*Please be seated.*

## **AFFIRMATION**

You have made public profession of your faith. Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in holy baptism:

to live among God's faithful people,  
to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper,  
to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed,  
to serve all people, following the example of Jesus,  
and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?

*Each confirmand responds:* I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.

People of God, do you promise to support these siblings and pray for them in their life in Christ? **We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.**

Let us pray. We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give us new birth, cleanse us from sin, and raise us to eternal life.

*Families are invited to come forward and gather around their confirmand. Those making affirmation of baptism may kneel as their name is read. The presiding minister prays for God's blessing. Each confirmand will receive a biblical verse, confirmation certificate, and a cross; followed by the pastor's blessing. During the blessing, the family may participate with the laying on of hands.*

*The blessing may be repeated for each person. The minister may lay both hands on the head of the person and say:*

Stir up in Evan Michael, Faith Elizabeth, and Timothy Eugene the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever. **Amen.**

*Families return to their pews following the blessings. Confirmands turn to face the congregation.*

Let us rejoice with these siblings in Christ.

**We rejoice with you in the life of baptism.**

**Together we will give thanks and praise to God  
and proclaim the good news to all the world.**

## **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.*

God of glory, you have built your church on Christ the cornerstone. Inspire lay leaders, deacons, pastors, and bishops to proclaim forgiveness and your steadfast love to all whom they encounter. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God of majesty, you bring forth plants and animals, skies and seas, mountains and valleys. Protect all you have made from the ravages of pollution and climate disaster. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God of mercy, you intend governments and social service agencies to be instruments of peace and justice. Guide political leaders and organizations to be agents of compassion, and raise up advocates for those who seek refuge and assistance. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God of well-being, you soothe those in distress, console all who grieve, provide for any in need, and comfort those who are sick, especially those we now name aloud or in the silence of our hearts \_\_\_\_\_. Instill caregivers with a sense of purpose to be your healing hands in this world. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God of community, you call us together as your people for mutual support and to witness to your love in the world. Bless Evan, Faith, and Tim as they affirm their baptism, and equip us all to share your good news to all the world. Make your presence known among those unable to attend worship today. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God of eternal life, you have prepared dwelling places for your people, so that we are never separated from you. We give you thanks for the faithful departed who witnessed to your mighty acts in word and deed. 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.*



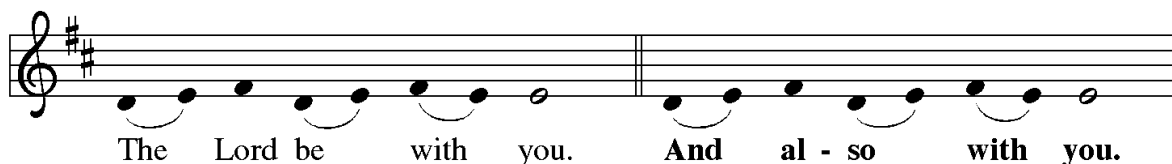
## **OFFERING ANTHEM**

"Jesus, My Lord and God"

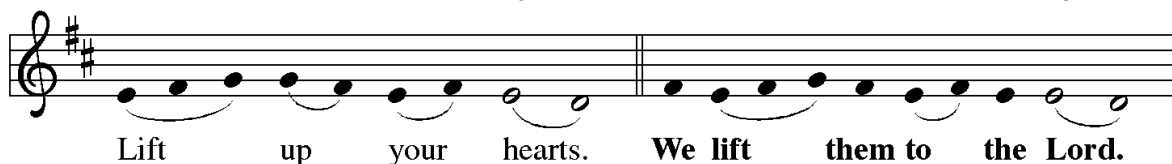
John Ferguson (Augsburg Fortress)

Please stand as you are able.

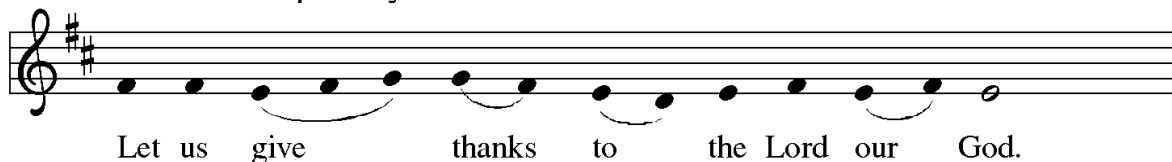
## GREAT THANKSGIVING



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:



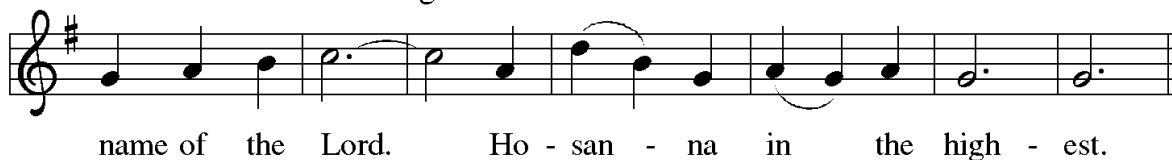
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of



pow-er and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -



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.*

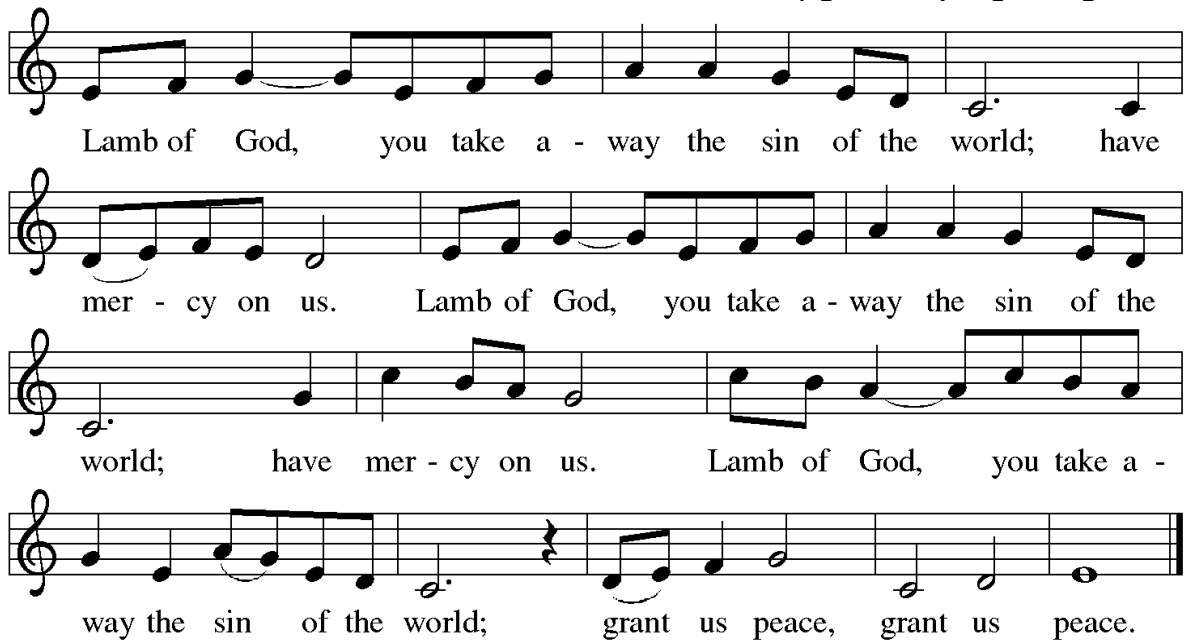
Come to the table of new life. Receive the risen Lord.

*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

### "Lamb of God"

ELW pg. 112 (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, grant us peace.

### "I Received the Living God"

ELW 477 (One License)

*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 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.

#### **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**

### "Christ Is Alive! Let Christians Sing"

ELW 389 (Public Domain)

## **DISMISSAL**

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

## **CLOSING MUSIC**

“Christ Is Alive! Let Christians Sing” setting, Kenneth T. Kosche (One License)



## **Worship Team**

A/V Team: Andrew Thomas

Communion Assistants: Michelle Anderson, Kim Lanham, Faith Metzke, Mike Phillips

Greeters: Mike Phillips

Acolyte: Cai Given

Reader: Paul Lockwood

Ushers: Michael Liedtke, Robert Teuber

Children’s Sermon: Jen Freeman

Altar Guild: Cindy Meyer, Janette Hess, Mike Freeman, Jen Freeman

Musicians: Jan Burns, Joyful Messengers, Cindy Meyer

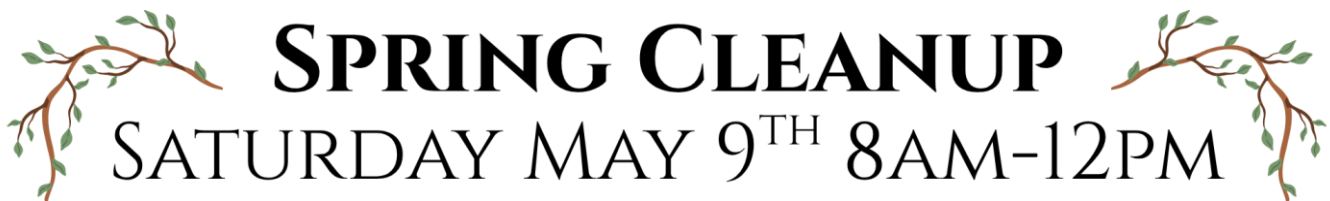
Lead Pastor: Pastor Amanda Bergstrom

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

May 11<sup>th</sup> 4pm

Across from Woodstock High School



## Faith & Flavors Kids Kitchen



May 17<sup>th</sup> 10am - 11:30am  
*Limited spots available*



## Vacation Bible School

### Road Trip: On the Go With God

📍 June 1<sup>st</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> 8:30- 11:30 A.M. 📍

## MAHJONG GAME NIGHT

2<sup>ND</sup> & 4<sup>TH</sup> TUESDAY STARTING JUNE 9TH

6:30PM-8:00PM



*A Sincere Thanks to our Worship Volunteers!*



## Affirmation of Baptism Grace Lutheran Church's Confirmands May 3, 2026

Evan Michael Lanham	Faith Elizabeth Metze	Timothy Eugene Nellesen
---------------------	-----------------------	-------------------------

Evan was baptized September 16, 2012 at Grace Lutheran Church. Evan's family includes parents Kim & Nathan Lanham, and sibling Kaylee. Evan is completing 8th grade at Northwood Middle School and will go to Woodstock North High School next fall.

About Evan: I enjoy soccer, cross country, guitar, and video games. I am grateful for the gifts that God gave me, and the opportunities God gave me.

Faith was baptized February 19, 2023 at Grace Lutheran Church. Faith's family includes parents Ann and John Metze, and sibling Robert. Faith is completing 11th grade at Woodstock High School and plans to study psychology after graduation.

About Faith: I enjoy volunteering and cooking. I am grateful for my family and my home.

Tim was baptized August 19, 2012 at Grace Lutheran Church. Tim's family includes parents Kristy & Andrew Nellesen, and sibling Grace. Tim is completing 8th grade at Harvard Jr. High School and will go to Harvard High School next fall.

About Tim: I enjoy playing baseball, watching many sports, being active in scouts and spending time with family and friends. I am grateful for my family, friends, and church community.