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

**November 29, 2026; 9:00 A.M.**
**1st Sunday of Advent**




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

**OPENING MUSIC**
"Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers" setting, Michael D. Costello (One License)

*Please stand as you are able.*

**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 calls out to the weary, whose word endures forever.
**Amen.**

A voice cries out in the wilderness,
"Make straight the way of the Lord!"
We are called to confess our sin
and turn back toward God's love.
*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Comforting God,
**we are your people, but we have neglected to call on your name.**
**We are your people, but we have not remembered your ways.**
**We are your people, but we have forgotten your hold on us.**
**We are your people, but now we fade like a leaf, and our sins, like the wind,**
**take us away. Restore us as your people.**
**Cleanse us from our sin, and clothe us in your righteousness.**
**Amen.**

"Comfort, comfort my people!" says your God,
who has clothed you with the garments of salvation
and wrapped you in the robe of righteousness.
God has given you a mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.
In the name of ✢ Christ, your sins are forgiven:
Rejoice in the Lord!
Rejoice in the Lord!
**Amen**.

**OPENING HYMN**

**"Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers"** ELW 244 (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**

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection awaken us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and keep us blameless until the coming of your new day, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

**ADVENT WREATH CANDLE LIGHTING**

*The congregation will sing a portion of "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" ELW 257, vs1&2 (One License) before the lighting of the Advent candle and blessing.*

♪ **O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,**
**that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.**
**Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.**

♪ **O come, O Wisdom from on high, embracing all things far and nigh:**
**in strength and beauty come and stay; teach us your will and guide our way.**
**Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.**

Blessing "for hope" by Kate Bowler

**WORD**

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

**FIRST READING**: **Isaiah 64:1-9,** *Pew Bible, Old Testament, pg. 694*

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

**PSALM:** **Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19**

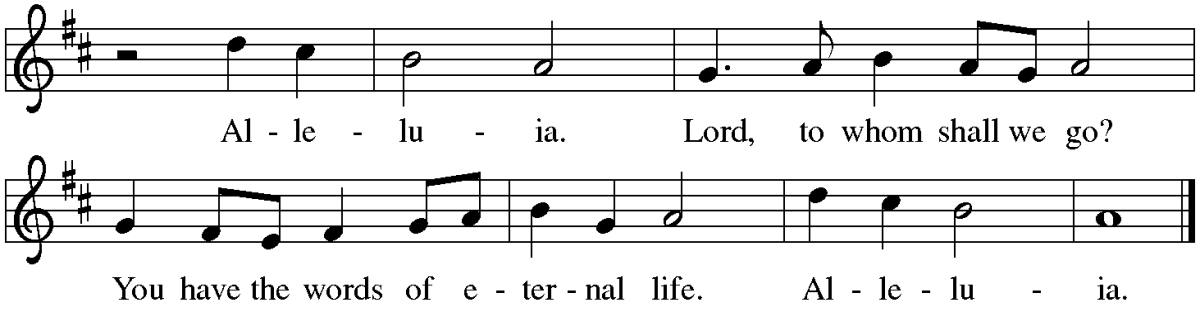
*The Psalms are found in the ELW, in the front section, beginning on page 339. We will read them responsively together.*

**SECOND READING:** **1 Corinthians 1:3-9,** *Pew Bible, New Testament, pg. 166*

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

*Please stand as you are able.*

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**




**GOSPEL**

The holy gospel according to Mark. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

**Mark 13:24-37,** Pew Bible, New Testament, pg. 50

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Please be seated.*

**CHILDREN'S SERMON**

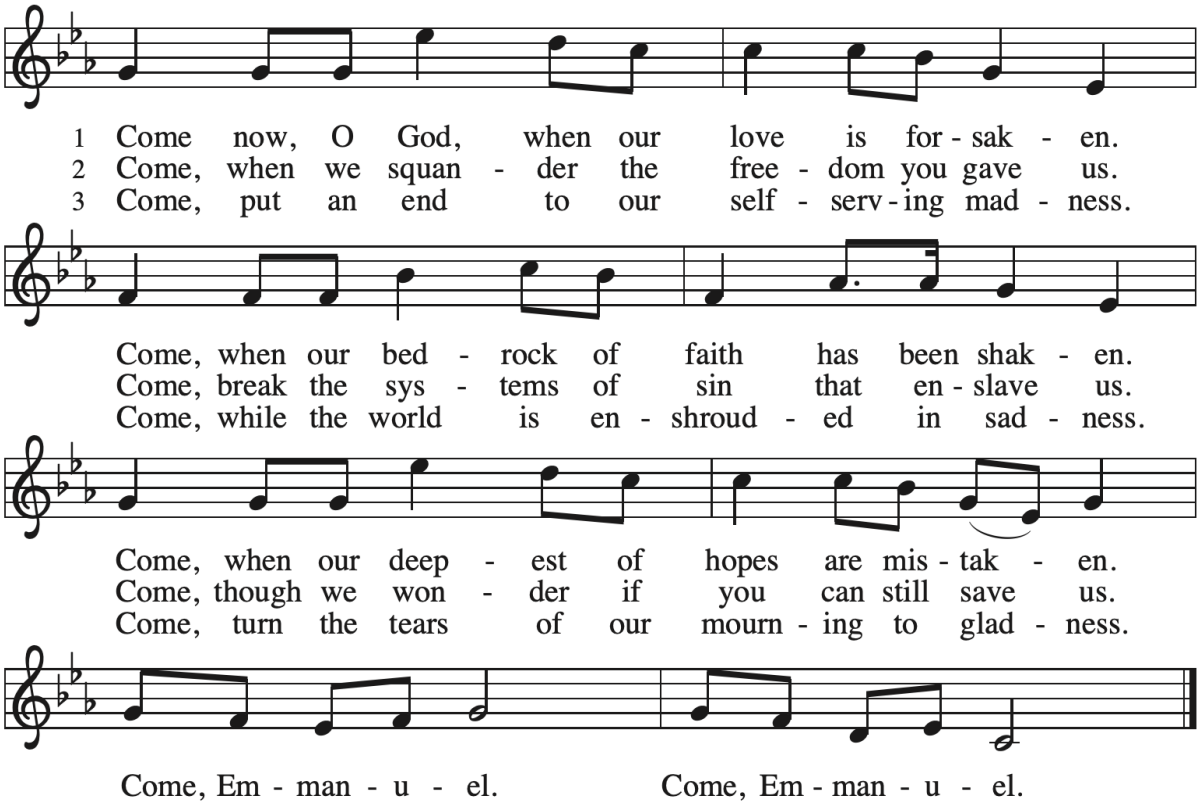
*Children are invited to come forward during the message.*

**SERMON**

*Please stand as you are able.*

**HYMN OF THE DAY**

**"Come Now, O God"** ACS 902 (One License)




**THE APOSTLES' CREED** ELW pg. 105

**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

In hope and expectation, we bring to God our prayers for the church, the world, and all in need. *A brief silence.*

Strengthen your church in this season of anticipation. Nourish all people who gather around word and water, bread and cup. Reassure any whose faith feels dry that you are always near. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Come and restore the earth. Give rest to weary lands and renewed life to species at risk. Make us wise stewards of the places we call home. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Bring peace among all nations and communities. Embolden leaders to seek creative and sustainable resolutions to war and conflict. Show us new possibilities in places where peace has been elusive. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Sustain all who are heavy with weariness, grief, illness, or worry , especially those we now name aloud or in the silence of our hearts _____. Comfort families who are estranged from one another and any who are separated from loved ones. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Inspire liturgists, preachers, musicians, and all who lead our worship and prayer. May we be prepared as we await Christ's coming this Advent season. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

You embrace all the saints from the far reaches of the earth. We remember with care all who have died and now abide in their eternal home. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

We entrust these and the prayers of our hearts to you, most holy God, in the name of Christ Jesus our 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**

Holy Creator,
we are the clay and you are the potter;
we are all the work of your hand.
Receive these gifts shape them and our lives for your purpose,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
**Amen.**

**OFFERING**

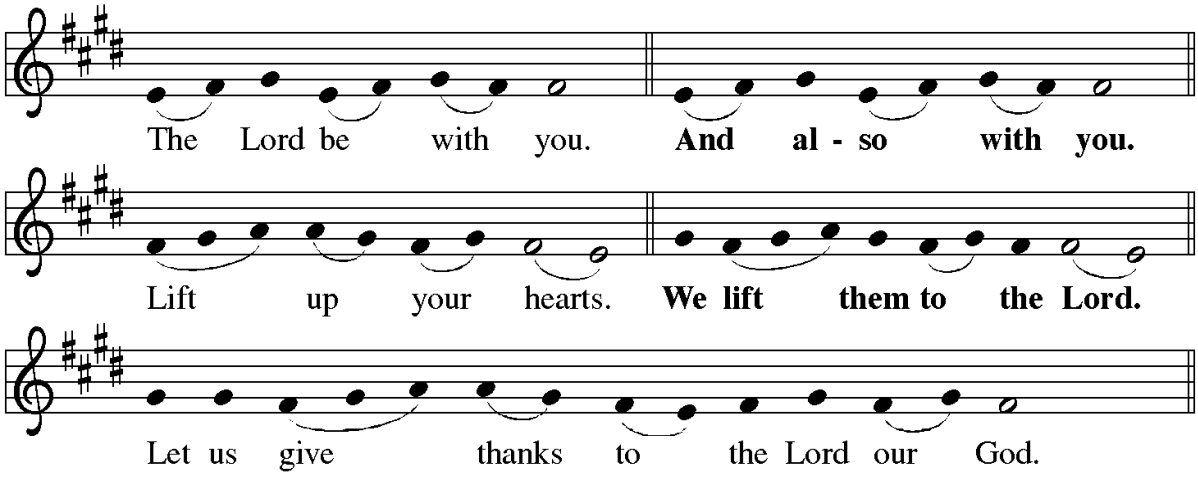
*Thank you for your generous offerings and commitment to Grace's mission and ministry. You are invited to place your financial offerings in the offering plate. Additional ways to give include mailing your offering to the church office, or by giving online: by texting the amount you would like to give 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.*

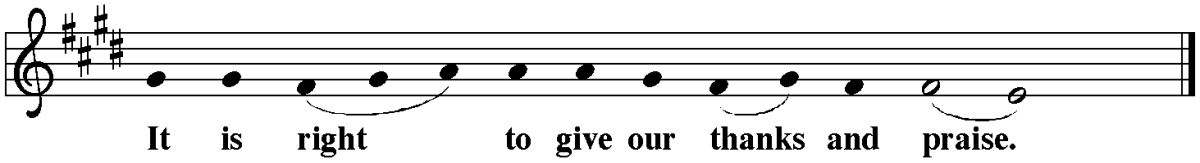
**OFFERING ANTHEM**

"A Waiting Carol" by Helen Kemp (Augsburg Fortress)

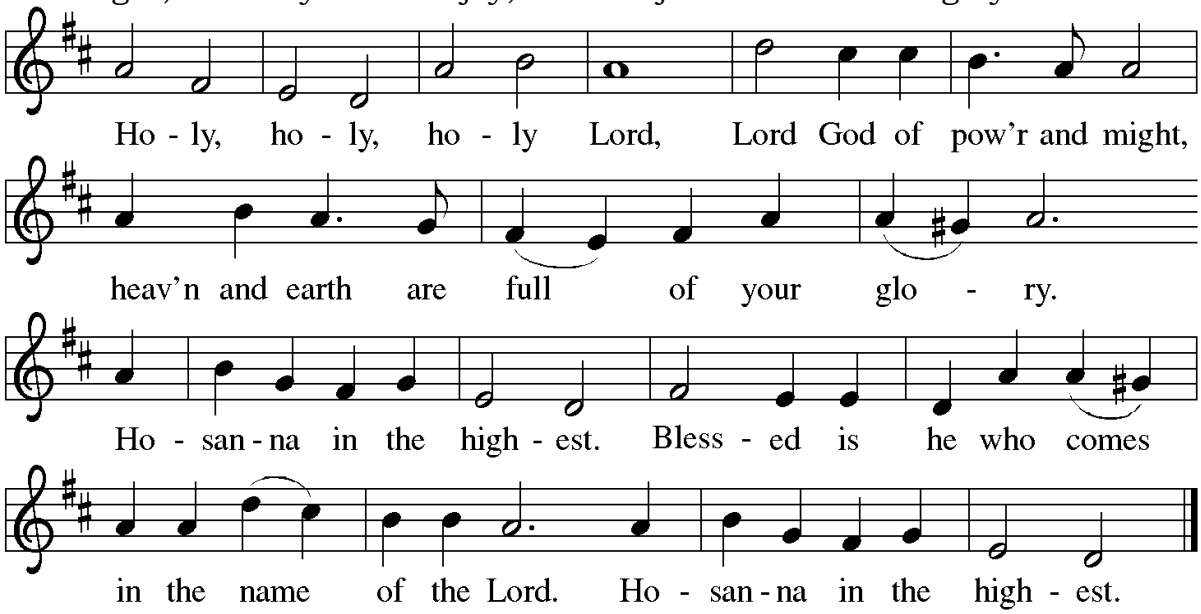
*Please stand as you are able.*

**GREAT THANKSGIVING**






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




**THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

**LORD'S PRAYER** ELW pg.154, left column

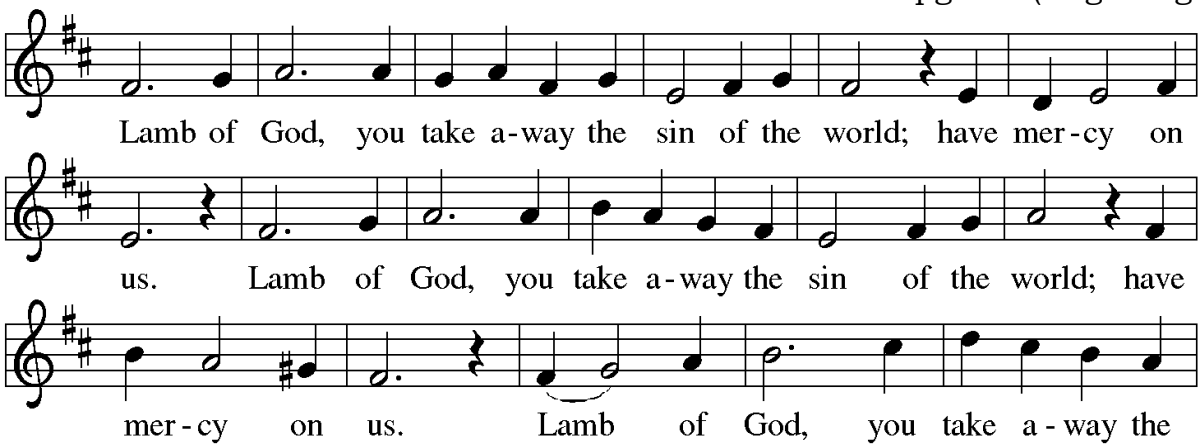
**INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

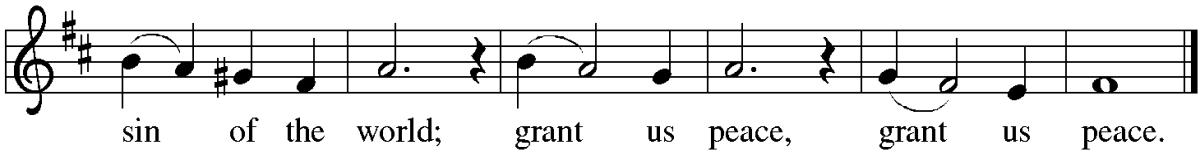
*All are welcome at the Lord's table.*
The glory of the Lord is revealed!
Come and taste God's presence.

*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.154 (Augsburg Fortress)






**"Each Winter As the Year Grows Older"** ELW 252 (One License)

*Please stand as you are able.*

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Providing God,
**you feed your flock like a shepherd**
**and gather your people in your arms.**
**We praise you for the care and sustenance**
**you give at this meal and always.**
**As we leave your table, carry us near your heart,**
**and send us with confidence in the way**
**of Jesus Christ, our Savior.**
**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 our provider,
God our feast,
God our companion,
☩ bless you now and forever.
**Amen.**

**SENDING HYMN**

**"Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding!"** ELW 246 (Public Domain)

**DISMISSAL**

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

**CLOSING MUSIC**

"Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding!" setting, Michael Burkhardt (One License)

**Worship Team**
A/V Team: Bill Nattress
Greeters: Doug Noe, Mary Noe
Ushers: Bill Kreznor, Nancy Kreznor, John Widmayer
Acolyte: Olivia Patterson, Norah Thomas, Adalynn Wedoff
Advent Candle Lighting: Doug & Mary Noe
Reader: Annie Gibbs & Maddy Emery
Children's Sermon: Andy Bellavia
Communion Assistants: Michelle Anderson, Robin Gibbs, Doug Noe, Mary Noe, Sally Sheahan
Altar Guild: Janette Hess, Cindy Meyer, Andy Bellavia, Mary Beth Bellavia
Musicians: Joyful Messengers, Cindy Meyer, Jan Burns
Lead Pastor: Pastor Amanda Bergstrom

**Presence Light Sponsor:**

In memory of Dorothy Bartram (Mrs. B); given by her family.

**Bulletin Sponsors:**

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

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.

From sundaysandseasons.com. Copyright © 2026 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SAS002675. New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition. Copyright © 2021 National Council of Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide. Revised Common Lectionary, Copyright © 1992 Consultation on Common Texts, admin Augsburg Fortress. Used by permission. Other liturgy and song used by permission OneLicense.net. Used with Permission #A-704477and CCLI License #546408.
Bowler, Kate. *Have a Beautiful, Terrible Day!*. Convergent Books, 2024, 1st Printing, First Edition.

*Sewing Circle*
*Every 1st & 3rd Tuesday*
*8:30am-12:00pm*

MAHJONG GAME NIGHT
EVERY 2ND & 4TH TUESDAY
6:30PM-8:00PM
SIGN UP ONLINE OR WITH THE OFFICE

**Daytime Pinochle**
**Every 1st & 3rd Wednesday**
**1:00pm-4:00pm**



Join us for

# Christmas Eve Service

Thursday, December 24, 2026  4 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.

## CHRISTMAS FLOWERS AT GRACE

Help provide decorations for our sanctuary this Christmas. Give a gift in "honor of someone" or "in memory of a loved one" or "to the glory of God."

Mail in or drop off your coupon below, along with your $18.00 gift to Grace Lutheran Church, 1300 Kishwaukee Valley Rd. Woodstock, IL  60098.

Please **print clearly**, as you want it to appear in the bulletin. Payments due in the office by **December 11, 2026**.



**Amount:**_____

**CHOOSE ONE PER COUPON: (Please print)**

**In Memory Of:** _____

**In Honor Of:** _____

**To the Glory of God:** _____

**GIVEN BY :** _____