



Welcome to

Grace Lutheran Church and School

Called by Christ, we grow in grace,
live with love, and go to serve.



Visitors

Welcome! We are glad you are here.

Read more about worship on the inside cover of this worship folder.

Fill out the form on the back cover to tell us more about you.

Worship at Grace

The service is printed in this worship folder.

Hymns are ordinarily in the green LBW and blue WOV hymnals.

Information is printed on the next page about additional resources for worship.

Learn More

Today's insert contains announcements about ministries of Grace Church and School.

Learn more about Grace by visiting us online at graceriverforest.org.

The Holy Communion

Fifth Sunday in Lent
March 22, 2026

10:00 a.m.

Welcome to Grace

Welcome in the name of Jesus Christ as we gather to hear God's holy Word and celebrate the meal of Holy Communion. We are blessed by your presence, just as you are. As God welcomes all people through the saving grace of Jesus, so do we seek to welcome God's people of all races, social statuses, physical and mental abilities, sexual orientations, and gender identities to be together in Christ—to love, to grow, and to serve. Should you have no church home, you are invited to consider Grace. We encourage you to fill out the page on the back of the bulletin and place it in the offering plate.

Children's Resources

Activity bags, worship bulletins, and booster seats are available in the narthex and from the ushers.

Nursery Care

The nursery is open and staffed at most worship services for children ages 4 and under. The nursery is located across from Fellowship Hall. From the atrium, go through the Lamb Door by the elevator, up half a flight of stairs and turn right. From the sanctuary, go through the door by the stone baptismal font, up the stairs and turn left. A silent paging system allows the nursery staff to contact parents when needed.

Holy Communion

The crucified and risen Christ is present in the bread and wine of Communion, giving his true body and blood as food and drink. All baptized Christians are invited to the table where Christ himself is host. If you desire to be baptized, or to learn more about Holy Baptism, please speak to one of the pastors.

Assistance in Worship

For those who find it difficult to stand during any part of the service, please feel free to remain seated. Contact an usher if you would like Holy Communion to be brought to you. Sound enhancement units are available in the back of the church. Large print bulletins are available from the ushers in the back of the church and at the Division Street door.

Electronic Devices

Please silence all cell phones and other electronic devices during worship. Thank you.

Grace Council Statement on Racism

Racism, manifested in individual acts and present throughout systems, continues to prevent us from being the beloved community that God intends. Our faith in the crucified and risen Christ compels us to speak. We speak against the sin of racism. We speak in solidarity with Black people and all people of color, each of whom is precious to God. We stand with and for Black people within our church and school and in the larger community.

We commit ourselves to following Jesus Christ into the world in the hope that, by the Spirit's power, God's Kingdom would come on earth as it is in heaven. We look with hope and anticipation to a season of growth and change as Grace becomes a more faithful witness to God's wide welcome in Christ. We see this as the beginning, not the end, of the conversation. We pray for the Holy Spirit to guide us, and for the courage to follow.

As We Gather

On the heels of the spring equinox and looking towards Holy Week, we make a turn today. Our predictable Lenten programming has been interrupted by resurrection. Dry bones are coming to life with the very breath of God, and Lazarus is back from the grave. We long for an inbreaking of life in the midst of so much death. In the face of too many things to name, we ask "mortal, can these bones live" a thousand times. On our own, the answer is "no." Same as it ever was. We are not left alone. Tomorrow can be different from today. We have already been raised with Christ. You are filled with the very breath of God. Still, like Lazarus, the vestiges of death try to pull us back into our tombs. So as Christ's body on earth, we unbind one another and love our neighbors into abundant life. We interrupt the same old storylines with breaking news.



✠ GATHERING ✠

PRELUDE: Andante in A Major

Gabriel Fauré

We stand to face the cross at the tolling of the bell.

PROCESSION

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P In the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open,
all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid:
Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen.

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just
will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Silence for reflection and self-examination

P Most merciful God,

C we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves.

**We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done and by what we have left undone.**

**We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.**

For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us.

**Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will
and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

P In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us
and, for his sake, God forgives us all our sins.

As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority,
I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins,
in the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

APOSTOLIC 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

(green) **LBW #168**



☐ Ky-ri - e e - le - i - son. Chris-te e - le - i - son. Ky-ri - e e - le - i - son.



☑ Ky - ri - e! God, Fa - ther in heav'n a - bove,



You a - bound in gra - cious love, Of all things the mak - er



and pre - serv - er. E - le - i - son! E - le - i - son!



Ky - ri - e! O Christ, our king, Sal - va - tion for



all you came to bring. O Lord Je - sus, God's own Son, Our me -



di - a - tor at the heav'n - ly throne: Hear our cry and grant our sup -



pli - ca - tion. E - le - i - son! E - le - i - son!

Ky - ri - e! O God the Ho - ly Ghost, Guard our
 faith, the gift we need the most, And bless our life's last hour,
 That we leave this sin - ful world with glad - ness. E - le -
 i - son! E - le - i - son! A - men.

Text: Latin hymn, c. 1100; tr. W. Gustave Polack, 1890–1950, alt.
 Music: "Kyrie fons bonitatis," c. 800, adapt.

KYRIE, GOTT VATER
 PM

Text © 1941 Concordia Publishing House. Reprinted by permission.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray.

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.

C **Amen.**

We sit.

✝ WORD ✝

FIRST READING: Ezekiel 37:1–14

The hand of the LORD came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. ²He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. ³He said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered, "O Lord GOD, you know." ⁴Then he said to me, "Prophesy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. ⁵Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. ⁶I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the LORD."

⁷So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. ⁸I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them. ⁹Then he said to me, "Prophesy to the breath, prophesy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord GOD: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live." ¹⁰I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

¹¹Then he said to me, "Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.' ¹²Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord GOD: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. ¹³And you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. ¹⁴I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the LORD, have spoken and will act, says the LORD."

L The Word of the Lord

C Thanks be to God.



ANTIPHON: Within the Lord is mercy and plenteous redemption.

- ℣ 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 forgive- | ness with you;*
therefore you | shall be feared.
- ☩ **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.
- ☩ **O Israel, wait | for the Lord,***
for with the Lord | there is mercy;
- ℣ with him there is plen- | teous redemption,*
and he shall redeem Israel from | all their sins.

SECOND READING: Romans 8:6–11

To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. ⁷For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law — indeed it cannot, ⁸and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

⁹But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. ¹⁰But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. ¹¹If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

- ℣ The Word of the Lord
- ☩ **Thanks be to God.**

We stand.

GOSPEL VERSE: John 11:25, 26

Michael D. Costello

I am the resurrection and the life;
whoever believes in me will never die.

HOLY GOSPEL: John 11:1–45

📖 The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the eleventh chapter.

🔊 **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. ²Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. ³So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, "Lord, he whom you love is ill." ⁴But when Jesus heard it, he said, "This illness does not lead to death; rather it is for God's glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it." ⁵Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, ⁶after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was.

⁷Then after this he said to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea again." ⁸The disciples said to him, "Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?" ⁹Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day do not stumble, because they see the light of this world. ¹⁰But those who walk at night stumble, because the light is not in them."

¹¹After saying this, he told them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him." ¹²The disciples said to him, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right." ¹³Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. ¹⁴Then Jesus told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead. ¹⁵For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him." ¹⁶Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him."

¹⁷When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. ¹⁸Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, ¹⁹and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. ²⁰When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. ²¹Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. ²²But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him." ²³Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." ²⁴Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." ²⁵Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, ²⁶and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" ²⁷She said to him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world."

²⁸When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary, and told her privately, "The Teacher is here and is calling for you." ²⁹And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. ³⁰Now Jesus had not yet come to the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. ³¹The Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there. ³²When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." ³³When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. ³⁴He said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see." ³⁵Jesus began to weep. ³⁶So the Jews said, "See how he loved him!" ³⁷But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?"

³⁸Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. ³⁹Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days." ⁴⁰Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?" ⁴¹So they took away the stone.

And Jesus looked upward and said, "Father, I thank you for having heard me. ⁴²I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me." ⁴³When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" ⁴⁴The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go."

⁴⁵Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him. "Surely we are not blind, are we?" ⁴¹Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, 'We see,' your sin remains."

📖 The Gospel of the Lord.

📖 **Praise to you, O Christ.**

We sit.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SERMON: A Resurrection Dress Rehearsal

Pastor Troy E. Medlin
Ezekiel 37:1–14; John 11:1–45



We stand.

HYMN OF THE DAY: Lord, Thee I Love with All My Heart

(green) **LBW #325**



1 Lord, thee I love with all my heart; I pray thee, ne'er from me de-part;
2 Yea, Lord, 'twas thy rich boun-ty gave my bod - y, soul, and all I have
3 Lord, let at last thine an-gels come, to A-br'ham's bo - som bear me home,



with ten - der mer - cy cheer me. Earth has no plea - sure I would share,
in this poor life of la - bor. Lord, grant that I in ev - 'ry place
that I may die un - fear - ing; and in its nar - row cham-ber keep



yea, heav'n it - self were void and bare if thou, Lord, wert not near me.
may glo - ri - fy thy lav - ish grace and serve and help my neigh-bor.
my bod - y safe in peace-ful sleep un - til thy re - ap - pear - ing.



And should my heart for sor-row break, my trust in thee can noth-ing shake.
Let no false doc-trine me be-guile, let Sa - tan not my soul de - file.
And then from death a - wak-en me, that these mine eyes with joy may see,



Thou art the por - tion I have sought; thy pre - cious
Give strength and pa - tience un - to me to bear my
O Son of God, thy glo - rious face, my Sav - ior



blood my soul has bought. Lord Je - sus Christ, my God and
cross and fol - low thee. Lord Je - sus Christ, my God and
and my fount of grace. Lord Je - sus Christ, my prayer at -



Lord, my God and Lord, for - sake me not! I trust thy word.
Lord, my God and Lord, in death thy com - fort still af - ford.
tend, my prayer at - tend, and I will praise thee with - out end!

Text: Martin Schalling, 1532–1608; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1829–1878, alt.
Music: HERZLICH LIEB. B. Schmid, *Orgeltabulatur-Buch*, 1577

NICENE CREED

- P** Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith:
C **We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Each petition concludes:

- A** Lord, in your mercy,
C **hear our prayer.**

The prayers conclude:

- P** Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray,
Trusting in your mercy; through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.
C **Amen.**

✠ MEAL ✠

PEACE OF CHRIST

☐ The peace of the Lord be with you always.

☑ **And also with you.**

We greet one another in the name of the Lord.

We sit.

OFFERING/VOLUNTARY: Prière

Fernand Halphen

We stand as the gifts are presented.

OFFERTORY HYMN: Create in Me a Clean Heart, O God

Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right
spir-it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your pres-ence, and
take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of
your sal - va - tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir-it. A - men

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It consists of five systems of music. Each system has a vocal line in the treble clef and a piano accompaniment in the bass clef. The key signature is B-flat major (two flats). The time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are printed below the vocal line.

Text: Psalm 51:10-12
Music: FRANCKE, J. A. Freylinghausen, 1670-1739

OFFERTORY PRAYER

- A** Let us pray. Merciful Father,
C **we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us—
our selves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love.
Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us,
Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING

P The Lord be with you. **C** And al - so with you.

P Lift up your hearts. **C** We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give our thanks and praise.

- P** It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord. You bid your people cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast. Renew our zeal in faith and life, and bring us to the fullness of grace that belongs to the children of God. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might:
Heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.

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.

P Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth,
 for you have had mercy on us and given your only-begotten Son
 that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

We give you thanks for the priceless grace you have bestowed upon us
 through Jesus Christ, who died upon the tree of Calvary
 and rose again to make us living branches,
 drawing our life from him and bearing fruit in all the world.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
 our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
 broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
 Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
 Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup,
 gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:
 This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
 shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
 Do this for the remembrance of me.

Send your Holy Spirit, the Spirit of truth and power,
 to renew our faith as we receive our crucified and risen Lord
 who comes to us in his body and blood.

All honor and glory are yours, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
 in your holy Church, now and forever.

☞ Amen.

P Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

C **Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.**

P The gifts of God for the people of God.

C **Thanks be to God.**

P Come, for all is now ready.

We sit.

AGNUS DEI

O Christ, thou Lamb of God that tak - est a-way the sin of the world,
have mer - cy up-on us! O Christ, thou Lamb of God that tak -
est a-way the sin of the world, have mer - cy up-on us!
O Christ, thou Lamb of God that tak - est a-way the sin of the world,
grant us thy peace! A - men

COMMUNION

*Our Lord Jesus Christ welcomes you to this meal of the baptized.
The crucified and risen Christ is present in the Lord's Supper,
giving us his true body and blood as food and drink.*

*We receive communion at the head of the center aisle, receiving the consecrated bread
and then drinking directly from the chalice or dipping the bread into the wine (intinction).*

*Those choosing individual cups will find non-alcoholic wine in the center of the tray.
Those with a gluten allergy may ask the pastor for a gluten-free host.*

MUSIC FOR THE COMMUNION

ANTHEM: Wondrous Love

C. Thomas Schwalm

What wondrous love is this, Oh my soul, O my soul!
What wondrous love is this that caused the Lord of bliss
To bear the dreadful curse for my soul.

When I was sinking down, sinking down, sinking down,
When I was sinking down beneath God's righteous frown,
Christ laid aside his crown for my soul.

To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing;
To God and to the Lamb, who is the great I Am,
While millions join the theme, I will sing.

And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on;
And when from death I'm free, I'll sing his love for me,
And through eternity, I'll sing on.

American Folk Hymn



HYMN: Precious Lord, Take My Hand

(blue) **WOV #731**



Pre - cious Lord, take my hand, lead me on, let me stand,
When my way grows drear, pre - cious Lord, lin - ger near,
When the dark - ness ap - pears and the night draws near,



I am tired, I am weak, I am worn.
when my life is al - most gone,
and the day is past and gone,



Through the storm, through the night, lead me on to the light.
hear my cry, hear my call, hold my hand lest I fall.
at the riv - er I stand, guide my feet, hold my hand.



Take my hand, pre - cious Lord, lead me home.
Take my hand, pre - cious Lord, lead me home.
Take my hand, pre - cious Lord, lead me home.

Text: Thomas A. Dorsey, 1899-1993

Music: George N. Allen, 1812-1877, adapt. Thomas A. Dorsey

Text and music © 1938, 1966 Unichappell Music Inc., admin. Alfred Publishing

HYMN: The Word of God is Source and Seed

(blue) **WOV #658**



1 The Word of God is source and seed; it comes to
2 The Word of God is breath and life; it comes to
3 The Word of God is flesh and grace, who comes to



die and sprout and grow. So make your dark earth
heal and wake and save. So let the Spir - it
sing, to laugh and cry. So dare to be as



wel - come warm; root deep the grain God bent to sow.
touch and mend and rouse your dry bones from their grave.
Je - sus was, who came to live and love and die.

Refrain



Gau-de - a - mus Do - mi - no, gau - de - a - mus Do - mi - no,
In the Lord let us re - joice, in the Lord let us re - joice,



gau - de - a - mus Do - *mi - no!*
in the Lord let us re - joice!

Text: Delores Dufner, OSB, b. 1939
Music: GAUDEAMUS DOMINO, David Hurd, b. 1950
Text © 1983, 1993 Sisters of St. Benedict, St. Joseph, MN, admin. Augsburg Fortress.
Music © 1995 Augsburg Fortress.

We stand.

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING & PRAYER

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ
strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

G Amen.

A Let us pray.

We give you thanks, almighty God,
that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life;
and we pray that in your mercy you would strengthen us through this gift,
in faith toward you and fervent love toward one another;

G Amen.

✠ SENDING ✠

BENEDICTION

P Almighty God: Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

G Amen.



1 O God, who gives us life and breath, who shapes us in the womb,
 2 O God, who calls your peo-ple out to ven- ture and to dare,
 3 O God of cov - e - nant and law, re - vealed in cloud and flame,



who guards our lives from birth to death, then leads us from the tomb:
 to plumb the bleak a - byss of doubt and find you e - ven there:
 your might - y deeds e - voke our awe; we dare not speak your name.



de - liv - er us from fears that kill the life we have from you.
 when we de - spair in wan - der - ing through wastes of emp - ty lies,
 Yet we by faith are drawn to you and will your peo - ple prove,



Help us to know your Spir - it still is mak - ing all things new.
 re - fresh us with the liv - ing spring of hope that nev - er dies.
 as on our hearts you write a - new the cov - e - nant of love.

Text: Carl P. Daw Jr., b. 1944

Music: NOEL, English melody; arr. Arthur S. Sullivan, 1842–1900

Text © 1990 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved.

DISMISSAL

- A Go in peace. Serve the Lord.
- B Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE: Jesus Christ, My Sure Defense

Michael D. Costello

LEADING WORSHIP TODAY

The Rev. David R. Lyle, presiding minister
The Rev. Troy E. Medlin, preaching minister
Liz Hanson, assisting minister
Paulette Reddel, deacon

The Rev. Michael D. Costello, cantor
Grace Parish Choir, choir
Jean Hatmaker, cello

Kathryn Jandeska, Al Swanson, lectors
Norah Lewis, Quinn Terry, crucifer/Book bearer
James Claud, Julie Lehmann, gift bearers
Richard Calhoun, Mike Gillespie,
Mary Rasmusson, Susan Scherer, ushers
Kristen Frisz, Roberta Gillespie, altar guild
Susan Bogner, Susie Calhoun, Ann Mason, greeters
Tom Swanson, Eunice Eifert, livestream audio/video

Copyright Acknowledgments

Portions of this liturgy reprinted from *Lutheran Book of Worship*, copyright © 1978 by Augsburg Fortress, *With One Voice*, copyright © 1995 by Augsburg Fortress, and *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, copyright © 2006 by Augsburg Fortress. Graphics reprinted from *Sundaysandseasons.com*. All rights reserved. All of the above used by permission of Augsburg Fortress liturgies license #38423.

Readings come from the New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright © 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Anthem, prelude, voluntary, and hymns under copyright reprinted and/or livestreamed by permission of OneLicense.net license #A-704569.

LET US PRAY...

Ann Bresnen
Miriam Bretscher
MaryBeth Buschmann
Larry Caponigri
Dan Cattau
Karin Danganan
Yvonne Daniels

Louis Elia
Susan Franzone
Susan Hammon
Bob Hale
Olivia Hartung
Phyllis Kersten
Karen Kress

Mary Beth Logas
Mark Lucht
Joe Modrich
Katarina Modrich
Dave Moeller
Ron Rott
Linda Schwab

Rhea Sprecher
John Stanger
Virginia Walker
Lance Wilkening

Coletta and Ty Ali (*friends of Pat Anderson*)
Anne Bartoc (*relative of John and Harriet Roberts*)
Fran Benson (*sister-in-law of Eunice Spurgat*)
Jack Berg (*friend of Art Gustafson*)
Stan Birnbaum (*friend of Sandy and David Lentz*)
Russ Bradley (*son-in-law of Robert and Bonnie Shaner*)
Lois Cornils (*friend of many at Grace*)
David De Jong (*brother-in-law of Mary Beth Logas*)
Patti Enslin (*friend of Marilyn Heppner*)
Randy Ernst (*friend of Valerie Spiller*)
Julia Friend (*friend of Susan Franzone*)
Barbara Gehring (*mother of Stephanie Wilkening*)
Linda Allen Gotsch (*friend of Roberta Gillespie*)
Peter H. (*friend of Barbara Hofmaier and David Heim*)
Erma Jean Haas (*grandmother of Hannah Langhoff*)
Elizabeth Hammon (*daughter-in-law of Susan Hammon*)
Joe Hammon (*husband of Susan Hammon*)
Jory Hennelly (*granddaughter of Bruce Cordes*)
Harry Heppner (*brother-in-law of Marilyn Heppner*)
Ruth M. Hughes (*mother of Ruth Hughes-McElravey*)
Maureen Jordan (*friend of Al Swanson*)
Jim Kirschenmann (*uncle of Renee Theiss*)
Garrett Klein (*friend of Janet Sylvester*)
Elizabeth Kottle (*friend of Bonnie and Bob Shaner*)
Arnold Krubsack (*brother of Irmgard Swanson*)
Kathryn Krubsack (*niece of Irmgard Swanson*)
Diane Larsen (*friend of Al Swanson*)
Christine Larson (*mother-in-law of Jennifer Staples*)
Bill Lowry (*friend of Bonnie and Bob Shaner*)
Sarah Marohl (*friend of Bob and Bonnie Shaner and Art Gustafson*)

Lauren Marshall (*friend of Carol Ewald*)
Drake Martinez (*student of Deb Maxwell*)
Connie Melvin (*cousin of Stephanie Wilkening*)
Lavonne Millard (*sister of Irmgard Swanson*)
Linda Muraski (*relative of John and Carol Stanger*)
Monika Nash (*daughter of Verna Offermann*)
Dwight and Betty Nelson (*parents of Annalise Nelson Balock*)
Karen Nelson (*niece of Eunice Spurgat*)
Gloria Nuechterlein (*sister-in-law of Eunice Spurgat*)
James Powers (*friend of Al Swanson*)
Susan Prather (*cousin of Adrienne and Ronald Rott*)
Diane Raschal (*cousin of Jennifer Staples*)
Leona Riley (*friend of Paul Eichwedel*)
Debra Samuelson (*friend of John and Harriet Roberts*)
Stacy and Mark (*friends of Case and Pat Hoogendoorn*)
Nancy Stelling (*friend of Pastor Phyllis Kersten*)
Randy Stueve (*friend of Lance Wilkening*)
Jennifer Sylvester (*daughter of Janet Sylvester*)
Eleanor Teglia (*granddaughter of Art Gustafson*)
Chris Thannum (*cousin of Chrissy Nelson*)
Gaylord Thomas (*friend of Ruth and Karl Reko*)
Al Toepfer (*friend of Larry and Carolyn Garber*)
Mary Lou Wagoner (*sister-in-law of Stan Reddel*)
Bob Weaver (*husband of Gretchen Weaver*)
Linda West (*relative of John and Carol Stanger*)
Dave Wick (*friend of Jennifer Staples*)
Michael Wilson (*friend of Larry and Carolyn Garber*)
Tara Zinger (*friend of Jennifer Staples*)

Benevolence ministries

Housing Forward

For those who mourn

Rhea Sprecher

Those serving in the armed services

Kevin Buss (*nephew of Christa Krout*)

Josh Espinosa (*cousin of Jenny Luebbe*)

Matthew Garmatz (*grandson of Margaret Garmatz*)

Zachery Grosz (*great-nephew of Bob and Bonnie Shaner*)

Zachary Larsen (*grandson of Karen and Richard McMahon*)

Joshua Nelson (*son-in-law of Ted and Maja Anton*)

Miles Powell (*grandson of Bob and Bonnie Shaner*)

Sonny Putman (*nephew of Susan Franzone*)

Rusty Robb (*grandnephew of Margaret Kruse/Roberta Gillespie*)

Christopher W. Sylvester (*grandson of Janet Sylvester*)

Those studying abroad

Isabella Staples (*The Netherlands*)

Those who are homebound

Jayne Chilton

Patricia Herendeen

Susan Messerli

Tim Sandvoss

Bruce Cordes

Joan Koerber

Dave Moeller

Gick Schmidt

Christopher Davis

Karen McMahon

Carol Prinz

Kathleen Wrobel

David Franzone

Those who need encouragement

Cheryl Luchetta (*friend of Joan Koerber*) in Logan Correctional Center

Prayer requests can be made through the church office. Contact Esther Armstrong (earmstrong@gracriverforest.org) to be included in the weekly prayers. For more private prayer concerns, please contact Kathy Lucht (kathy.lucht@gmail.com) to be added to the confidential prayer chain.

Electronic giving

Your financial gifts support the ministry of Grace Lutheran Church and School.

On Venmo Search for Grace Lutheran Church/School or @gracriverforest.

By text Text a dollar amount to 833-471-1346. If you're a first-time giver, you'll receive a link with instructions about how to complete your donation.

Online donation Go to GraceRiverForest.org and look for Donate on the home page menu. Or use the QR code.



Welcome to Grace Lutheran Church

We are glad that you are worshipping with us!

If you are visiting us for the first time or would like to learn more about Grace, please complete this form, detach, and place it in the offering plate. If you prefer a digital form, you can scan the QR code instead.



Name(s) _____

E-mail Address _____

Mailing Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone Number _____

Check all that apply:

- I am visiting Grace for the first time.
- I would like to know more about Grace Church.
- I am interested in a path toward membership.
- I would like to know more about Grace School.
- I would like to receive Grace's weekly e-mail.
- I would like one of the pastors to contact me

via (check one) Phone or E-mail

**GRACE
LUTHERAN
CHURCH
& SCHOOL**

7300 Division Street
River Forest, Illinois 60305
Phone: (708) 366-6900
Fax: (708) 366-0966

www.graceriverforest.org
gracechurch@graceriverforest.org

Bring in, build up, and send out disciples for Jesus Christ.

THIS WEEK AT GRACE

TODAY, MARCH 22

- Library Open (self-service) **9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.**
- Lent Book Study (Fellowship Hall) **9:00 a.m.**
- Sunday School, SK–6th Grade (3rd Floor Commons) **9:00 a.m.**
- Confirmation, Grades 7-8 (Youth Center) **9:00 a.m.**
- Worship – Holy Communion** **10:00 a.m.**
- Consonance Concert (Sanctuary) **3:00 p.m.**
- Consonance Concert Presentation (Fellowship Hall) **5:00 p.m.**

MONDAY, MARCH 23

- Spring Break (building open 8:30–3:30)
- Stephen Ministry Meeting (Church Library) **7:00 p.m.**
- Dads of Grace (Offsite) **7:30 p.m.**

TUESDAY, MARCH 24

- Spring Break (building open 8:30–3:30)
- Board of Spiritual Life (Conference Room) **7:00 p.m.**

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25

- Spring Break (building open 8:30–3:30)
- Cornerstones (Church Library) **10:00 a.m.**
- Worship – Morning Prayer** (Church Library) **11:30 a.m.**
- Cornerstones Lunch (Fellowship Hall) **12:00 p.m.**
- Handbell Choir Rehearsal (Bell Room) **5:30 p.m.**
- Lenten Supper (Fellowship Hall) **6:00 p.m.**
- Worship – Evening Prayer** **7:00 p.m.**
- Parish Choir Rehearsal (Music Room) **7:45 p.m.**

THURSDAY, MARCH 26

- Spring Break (building open 8:30–3:30)
- Grief Share (Church Library) **10:00 a.m.**
- Scout Meeting (3rd Floor Commons) **6:30 p.m.**
- Yoga (Fellowship Hall) **6:30 p.m.**
- Compline Prayer (Online) **9:00 p.m.**

FRIDAY, MARCH 27

- Spring Break (building open 8:30–12:30)

SATURDAY, MARCH 28

- Men of Grace (Youth center) **9:00 a.m.**

David R. Lyle, Senior Pastor
Troy E. Medlin, Associate Pastor
F. Dean Lueking, Pastor Emeritus
Michael D. Costello, Cantor
Taylor-Imani Gates, Principal
Julie Modrich, Ministry Engagement Manager
Amanda Smith, Communications Manager
Jim McClanahan, Director of Administration & Finance
David Pfeiffer, Facilities Manager
José Meza, Technology Manager