

Welcome to Worship

Our Mission: To boldly live out our faith in Jesus through worship, fellowship, and service to God and our neighbor, here and around the world.

Sunday, March 22, 2026 - 10:45 AM

Baccalaureate Sunday



Grace Lutheran Pastors, Staff, and Musicians

Rev. Dr. Allison Cobb: Senior Pastor
Nicole Kolbe: Office Administrator
Brad Anderson: Maintenance
Jaime Core: Youth Coordinator
Organist: Sandy Ettesvold, Carol Madsen
Chancel Choir Director: Joyce Jorgenson

Rev. Cole McCormick: Associate Pastor
Jane Reiman: Finance Director
Travis Anderson: Maintenance
Amber Hansen: Open Door Meal Coordinator
Pianist: Molly Bless
Praise Band: Jen Kahler and Musicians

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Please Note: Worship services are broadcast on local TV and online. Being in the Sanctuary implies consent to be on camera. If you do not wish to be on camera, please sit in the back rows or balcony. Communion may be brought to you in your pew.

At Grace Lutheran, we believe in the real presence of Christ in Holy Communion, and we practice eucharistic hospitality with an open table. **All persons**, whether visiting or a member, are welcome to meet Jesus at the table. Please ask your communion server if you prefer grape juice or a gluten free communion kit. The ushers will direct you to the front for communion or you may receive communion in your pew. Jesus invites all to come and be fed, forgiven, and free!

Prelude and Bell Ringing

Welcome and Offering of Peace

P: The Peace of Christ be with you always.

All: And also with you.

P: Welcome to Worship!

Announcements

Call to Worship

† Confession & Forgiveness

P: Blessed be the Holy Trinity, one God, who forgives all our sin,
whose mercy endures forever.

All: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.
Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Gracious God,

All: have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

P: God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

All: Amen.

† *The congregation is invited to stand as you are able.*

‡ **Gathering Song**

Way Maker

Verse 1 You are here moving in our midst
I worship You I worship You
You are here working in this place
I worship You I worship You

Chorus (You are) Way Maker Miracle Worker Promise Keeper
Light in the darkness my God that is who You are

Verse 2 You are here touching ev'ry heart
I worship You I worship You
You are here healing ev'ry heart
I worship You I worship You (Chorus)

Verse 3 You are here turning lives around
I worship You I worship You
You are here mending ev'ry heart
I worship You yeah I worship You Lord

Bridge Even when I don't see it You're working
Even when I don't feel it You're working
You never stop You never stop working
You never stop You never stop working (Chorus)

‡ **Greeting**

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

All: **And also with you.**

‡ **Kyrie**

Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy.

Lord, have mer - cy; have mer - cy, O Lord.

† Song of Praise

Bless-ed be God, the source of all life, the word of sal -

va - tion, the spir - it of mer - cy.

† Prayer of the Day

Bend your ear to our prayers, Lord Christ, **and come among us. By your gracious life and death for us, bring light into the darkness of our hearts, and anoint us with your Spirit, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

First Reading: 1 Samuel 16:1-13

¹The Lord said to Samuel, “How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons.” ²Samuel said, “How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me.” And the Lord said, “Take a heifer with you and say, ‘I have come to sacrifice to the Lord.’” ³Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do, and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you.” ⁴Samuel did what the Lord commanded and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling and said, “Do you come peaceably?”

⁵He said, “Peaceably. I have come to sacrifice to the Lord; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice.” And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

⁶When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, “Surely his anointed is now before the Lord.” ⁷But the Lord said to Samuel, “Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him, for the Lord does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart.” ⁸Then Jesse called Abinadab and made him pass before Samuel. He said, “Neither has the Lord chosen this one.” ⁹Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, “Neither has the Lord chosen this one.” ¹⁰Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, “The Lord has not chosen any of these.” ¹¹Samuel said to Jesse, “Are all your sons here?” And he said, “There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep.” And Samuel said to Jesse, “Send and bring

him, for we will not sit down until he comes here.”¹² He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy and had beautiful eyes and was handsome. The Lord said, “Rise and anoint him, for this is the one.”¹³ Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers, and the spirit of the Lord came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

Lector: The Word of the Lord. **All: Thanks be to God.**

Second Reading: Ephesians 5:8-14

⁸Once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Walk as children of light, ⁹for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. ¹⁰Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. ¹¹Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness; rather, expose them. ¹²For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly, ¹³but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, ¹⁴for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, “Sleeper, awake!

Rise from the dead,
and Christ will shine on you.”

Lector: The Word of the Lord. **All: Thanks be to God.**

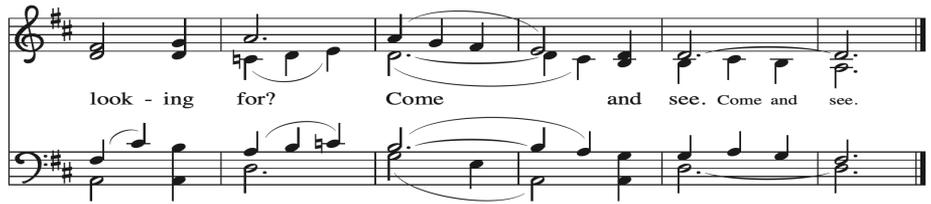
Children’s Message (Sing)

Deep and Wide

Deep and wide, deep and wide
There's a fountain flowing deep and wide
Deep and wide, deep and wide
There's a fountain flowing deep and wide

† **Gospel Acclamation**

What are you look - ing for? Come,
see, come and see. What are you



P: A reading from the Gospel of John.

All: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

† **Gospel: John 9:1-41**

P: ¹ As [Jesus] walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. ² His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” ³ Jesus answered, “Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God’s works might be revealed in him. ⁴ We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. ⁵ As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” ⁶ When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man’s eyes, ⁷ saying to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. ⁸ The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, “Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?” ⁹ Some were saying, “It is he.” Others were saying, “No, but it is someone like him.” He kept saying, “I am he.” ¹⁰ But they kept asking him, “Then how were your eyes opened?” ¹¹ He answered, “The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, ‘Go to Siloam and wash.’ Then I went and washed and received my sight.” ¹² They said to him, “Where is he?” He said, “I do not know.”

L: ¹³ They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. ¹⁴ Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. ¹⁵ Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, “He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see.” ¹⁶ Some of the Pharisees said, “This man is not from God, for he does not observe the Sabbath.” Others said, “How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?” And they were divided. ¹⁷ So they said again to the blind man, “What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened.” He said, “He is a prophet.”

P: ¹⁸ The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had

received his sight ¹⁹ and asked them, “Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?” ²⁰ His parents answered, “We know that this is our son and that he was born blind, ²¹ but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself.” ²² His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. ²³ Therefore his parents said, “He is of age; ask him.”

L: ²⁴ So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, “Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner.” ²⁵ He answered, “I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.” ²⁶ They said to him, “What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?” ²⁷ He answered them, “I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?” ²⁸ Then they reviled him, saying, “You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. ²⁹ We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from.” ³⁰ The man answered, “Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, yet he opened my eyes. ³¹ We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. ³² Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. ³³ If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.” ³⁴ They answered him, “You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?” And they drove him out.

P: ³⁵ Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him he said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?” ³⁶ He answered, “And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him.” ³⁷ Jesus said to him, “You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he.” ³⁸ He said, “Lord, I believe.” And he worshiped him. ³⁹ Jesus said, “I came into this world for judgment, so that those who do not see may see and those who do see may become blind.” ⁴⁰ Some of the Pharisees who were with him heard this and said to him, “Surely we are not blind, are we?” ⁴¹ Jesus said to them, “If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, ‘We see,’ your sin remains.”

Pastor: The Gospel of the Lord. **All: Praise to you, O Christ.**

Baptism Dawson Donovan Ekstrom

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Profession of Faith

P: Do you believe in God the Father?

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

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

All: 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.

P: Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

All: 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.

Thanksgiving At The Font

P: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Welcome

P: Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven. Let us welcome the newly baptized.

All: We welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission we share: join us in giving thanks and praise to God and bearing God's creative and redeeming word to all the world.

Baccalaureate Blessing

Pastor Cole: Today we celebrate the accomplishment of our graduates who have lived under the care and support of this congregation for many years. We are excited about all of the potential and opportunity that awaits in the next chapter of their lives. We also want to recognize that this is an important and significant step in the lives of the parents and families of these graduates.

Pastor Allison: In Christian love you presented your children for Holy Baptism. In their Baptisms, sacred promises were made. As parents of these young women and men, it was a part of your calling to see that those sacred promises were kept:

- To faithfully bring them to the services of God’s house
- To teach them the Lord’s Prayer, the Creed and the Ten Commandments
- To place in their hands the Holy Scriptures
- To provide for their instruction in the Christian Faith.

CYF Representative: The responsibility for fulfilling these promises is an important task. We ask you to continue your commitment throughout life by lifting up, talking about, equipping, and praying for a nurturing faith journey with our loving and graceful God. Parents, will you continue in your baptismal promise of nurturing faith, trusting in the Holy Spirit to work in your child’s life? Will you continue to hold them in prayer, and work to equip them for their continued faith journey?

C: We will, and we ask God to help and guide us.

Graduate Blessing from Family

Pastor Cole: On this important day, the day when we recognize and mark your graduation and stepping into new ventures, we again ask for God’s blessings to be upon you.

Let us pray: God of creation, pour out your Spirit on these students as they enter a new period of life and faith. Bless them as they begin new ventures as faithful people, hearing your word, responding in thankfulness by proclaiming your love and grace

through words and deeds, and serving people while doing justice, loving kindness and walking humbly with you, O God. We pray all this in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Congressional Blessing

Pastor Allison: People of God, will you also continue in your commitment to lift up, equip, and pray for a nurturing faith journey with our loving and graceful God for these graduates and their families?

C: We will, and we ask God to help and guide us.

Gift to the Graduates: Prayer Squares and Grace Blankets

CYF Representative: We wrap you in this blanket, as you hold in your hands Prayer Squares that have been knitted for you. Know that you can hold these anytime, knowing that we have prayed for you and will continue to, as the Holy Spirit directs and guides you. We bless you as you step out in faith! Amen.

Pastor Cole: Let's give our graduates a round of applause!

Prayers of the Church



Lord, lis-ten to your chil-dren pray-ing, Lord, send your Spir-it in this place;



Lord, lis-ten to your chil-dren pray-ing, send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace.

Loaves and Fishes Offering

Youth are invited to walk forward and place their offering into the basket. Just like the little boy who gave his 2 fish and 5 loaves to Jesus, who multiplied them to feed thousands, the youth offering will go to The Grace Food Pantry. Adults are welcome to give a child an offering to bring up too.

Offering Song*It is Well*

Verse 1 Grander earth has quaked before
 Moved by the sound of His voice
 Seas that are shaken and stirred
 Can be calmed and broken for my regard

Chorus Through it all through it all
 My eyes are on You
 Through it all through it all
 It is well
 Through it all through it all
 My eyes are on You
 And it is well with me

Verse 2 Far be it from me to not believe
 Even when my eyes can't see
 And this mountain that's in front of me
 Will be thrown into the midst of the sea

Chorus Through it all through it all
 My eyes are on You
 Through it all through it all
 It is well
 Through it all through it all
 My eyes are on You
 And it is well with me
 And it is well it is well

Bridge So let go my soul and trust in Him
 The waves and wind still know His name
 So let go my soul and trust in Him
 The waves and wind still know His name
 The waves and wind still know His name

Ending It is well with my soul
 It is well with my soul
 It is well with my soul
 It is well it is well with my soul
 It is well it is well with my soul
 It is well it is well with my soul

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.

† **Holy Communion**

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.

† **Lords Prayer**

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.

Communion Song

Your Great Name

Verse 1 Lost are saved find their way
 At the sound of Your great Name
 All condemned feel no shame
 At the sound of Your great Name
 Ev'ry fear has no place
 At the sound of Your great Name
 The enemy he has to leave
 At the sound of Your great Name

Chorus Jesus worthy is the Lamb that was slain for us
 The Son of God and man
 You are high and lifted up
 And all the world will praise
 Your great Name

Verse 2 All the weak find their strength
 At the sound of Your great Name
 Hungry souls receive grace
 At the sound of Your great Name
 The fatherless find their rest
 At the sound of Your great Name
 The sick are healed the dead are raised
 At the sound of Your great Name

Chorus Jesus worthy is the Lamb that was slain for us
 The Son of God and man
 You are high and lifted up
 And all the world will praise
 Your great Name

Chorus Jesus worthy is the Lamb that was slain for us
 The Son of God and man
 You are high and lifted up
 And all the world will praise
 Your great Name

Prayer after Communion

P: 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.

All: Amen.

† Blessing

P: 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.

All: Amen.

‡ **Sending Song**

Yes and Amen

Verse 1 Father of kindness You have poured out grace
 You brought me out of darkness
 You have filled me with peace
 Giver of mercy You're my help in time of need
 Lord I can't help but sing

Chorus Faithful You are
 Faithful forever You will be
 Faithful You are
 All Your promises are Yes and Amen
 All Your promises are Yes and Amen

Chorus Faithful You are
 Faithful forever You will be
 Faithful You are
 All Your promises are Yes and Amen
 All Your promises are Yes and Amen

Bridge I will rest in Your promises
 My confidence is Your faithfulness
 I will rest in Your promises
 My confidence is Your faithfulness

Chorus Faithful You are
 Faithful forever You will be
 Faithful You are
 All Your promises are Yes and Amen
 All Your promises are Yes and Amen

‡ **Sending**

P: Go in peace. Believe the good news.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

