

**Hope Lutheran Church**  
2001 S 500 E, Columbia City, IN 46725  
**Grace Lutheran Church**  
**204 North Main Street Columbia City, Indiana 46725**  
**Phone: 260-244-7118 Fax: 260-248-2138**  
**E-Mail: office.gracelutheran@gmail.com**  
**Web Page: www.gracecolumbiacity.org**  
Reverend Matthew Converse, Pastor  
Kirsten Jines, Preschool Director  
Joyce Dubach, Organist  
**Second Sunday in Lent**  
**March 1, 2026**



**Introduction to the day**

During Lent we journey with all those around the world who will be baptized at the Easter Vigil. In today's gospel Jesus tells Nicodemus that he must be born of water and Spirit. At the font we are given a new birth as children of God. As God made a covenant with Abraham, in baptism God promises to raise us up with Christ to new life. From worship we are sent forth to proclaim God's love for all the world.

**Food pantry need: cereal and soup**  
**Attendance for February 22.2026 - 24**

**PRELUDE**

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

## **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

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

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✚ one God,  
who forgives all our sin,  
whose mercy endures forever.

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin before God, who removes our guilt  
and blots out all offenses.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Gracious God,

**have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For seeking worldly delights that deceive us and dishonor you:

Gracious God,

**have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For desiring self-reliance instead of hungering for your word:

Gracious God,

**have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For failing to recognize your coming reign,

and for hindering the work of the Spirit: Gracious God,

**have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For drawing from the well of self-serving ambition,

and for disdaining the living water Christ offers: Gracious God,

**have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For disregarding voices from the margin,

and for distrusting signs of your healing and hope in the world:

Gracious God,

**have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For dwelling in tombs of self-pity and discontent,

and for disregarding Christ's call to come forth to life:

Gracious God,

**have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

God's steadfast love, grace, and forgiveness abound.

Through faith, the free gift of God,

you have been clothed in the righteousness of Christ.  
In the name of ✝ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven.  
The Spirit of the One who raised Christ from the dead  
dwells in you,  
pours God's love into your hearts,  
and gives you life and peace.  
**Amen.**

## **GATHERING SONG**

**(ELW 714) .**

### **O God of Mercy, God of Light**

Text: Godfrey Thring, 1823-1903, alt.

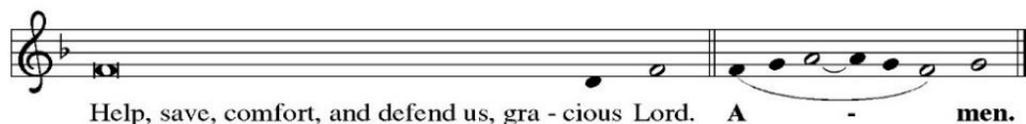
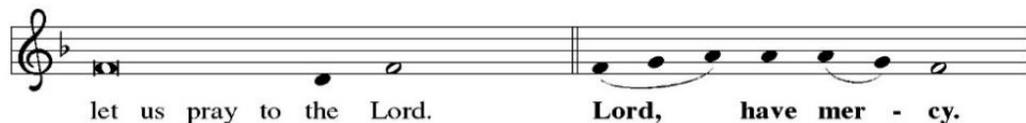
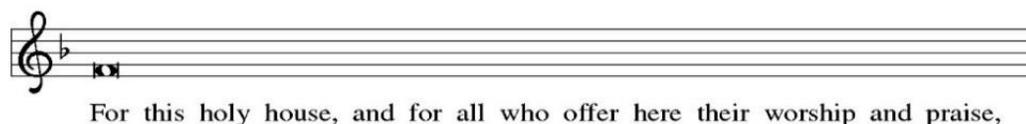
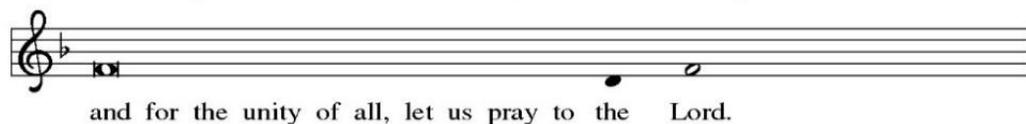
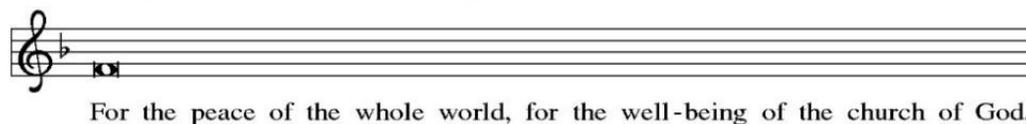
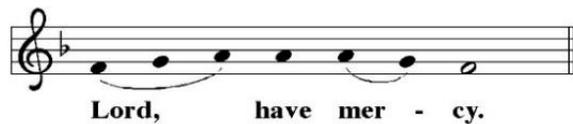
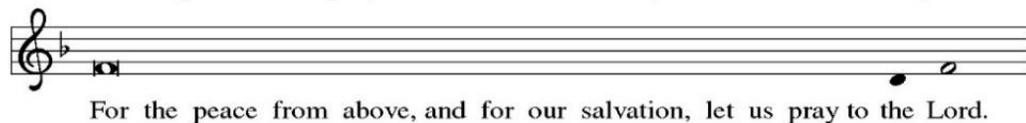
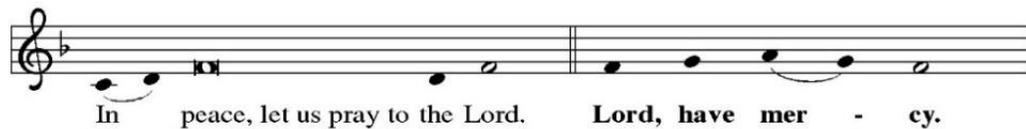
Music: Joseph Barnby, 1838-1896; arr. hymnal version

## **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



## PRAYER OF THE DAY

*The presiding minister leads the prayer of the day.*

Let us pray.

*A brief silence is kept before the prayer.*

O God, our leader and guide, in the waters of baptism you bring us to new birth to live as your children. Strengthen our faith in your promises, that by your Spirit we may lift up your life to all the world through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

*The assembly is seated.*

## WORD

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

## **FIRST READING: Genesis 12:1-4a**

A reading from Genesis.

<sup>1</sup> The LORD said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. <sup>2</sup> I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. <sup>3</sup> I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

<sup>4a</sup> So Abram went, as the LORD had told him, and Lot went with him.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **PSALM: Psalm 121**

<sup>1</sup> I lift up my eyes <sup>|</sup> to the hills;  
from where is my <sup>|</sup> help to come?

<sup>2</sup> **My help comes <sup>|</sup> from the LORD,  
the maker of heaven and earth.**

<sup>3</sup> The LORD will not let your <sup>|</sup> foot be moved  
nor will the one who watches over you <sup>|</sup> fall asleep.

<sup>4</sup> **Behold, the keeper of Israel  
will neither slumber nor sleep;**

<sup>5</sup> the LORD watches <sup>|</sup> over you;  
the LORD is your shade at <sup>|</sup> your right hand;

<sup>6</sup> **the sun will not strike <sup>|</sup> you by day,  
nor the <sup>|</sup> moon by night.**

<sup>7</sup> The LORD will preserve you <sup>|</sup> from all evil  
and will <sup>|</sup> keep your life.

<sup>8</sup> **The LORD will watch over your going out and your <sup>|</sup> coming in,  
from this time forth forevermore.**

## Second Reading: Romans 4:1-5, 13-17

A reading from Romans.

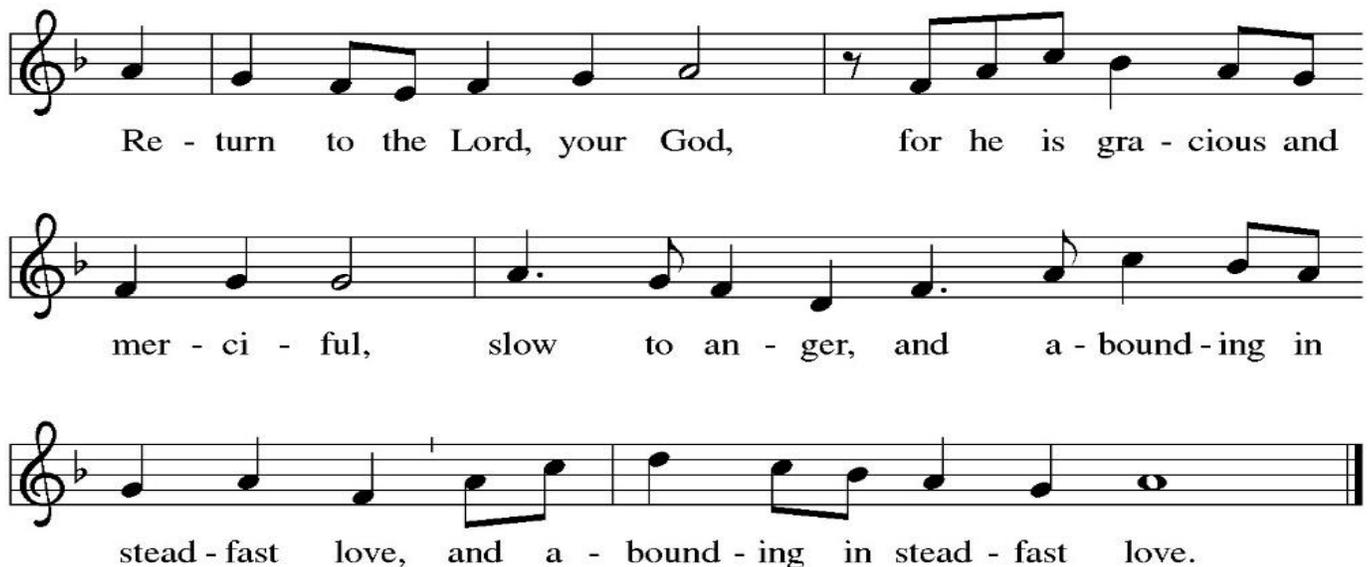
<sup>1</sup> What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? <sup>2</sup> For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. <sup>3</sup> For what does the scripture say? “Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness.” <sup>4</sup> Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. <sup>5</sup> But to one who does not work but trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness.

<sup>13</sup> For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. <sup>14</sup> For if it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. <sup>15</sup> For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law, neither is there transgression.

<sup>16</sup> For this reason the promise depends on faith, in order that it may rest on grace, so that it may be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (who is the father of all of us, <sup>17</sup> as it is written, “I have made you the father of many nations”), in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

## Gospel Acclamation



Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and  
mer - ci - ful, slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in  
stead - fast love, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

## GOSPEL: John 3:1-17

The holy gospel according to John.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup> Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. <sup>2</sup> He came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with that person.” <sup>3</sup> Jesus answered him, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.” <sup>4</sup> Nicodemus said to him, “How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother’s womb and be born?” <sup>5</sup> Jesus answered, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. <sup>6</sup> What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. <sup>7</sup> Do not be astonished that I said to you, ‘You must be born from above.’ <sup>8</sup> The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.” <sup>9</sup> Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” <sup>10</sup> Jesus answered him, “Are you the teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

<sup>11</sup> “Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen, yet you do not receive our testimony. <sup>12</sup> If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? <sup>13</sup> No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. <sup>14</sup> And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, <sup>15</sup> that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

<sup>16</sup> “For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

<sup>17</sup> “Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him.”

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

## **SERMON**

*The assembly is seated.*

*Silence for reflection follows the sermon.*

## **HYMN OF THE DAY**

**(ELW 735)**

### **Mothering God, You Gave Me Birth**

Text: Jean Janzen, b. 1933; based on Julian of Norwich, c. 1342-c. 1413  
Music: Carolyn Jennings, b. 1936

## CREED

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

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.

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.

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Reconciled by God's mercy and sustained by God's presence, let us pray for the world and its needs.

*A brief silence.*

Faithful One, you renew us by grace. As you have inspired faith through the work of church artists and hymnwriters throughout the ages, give your church the means to praise your beauty today. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Living One, you delight in this world. The sun and moon, the wind and the water declare your goodness. Preserve this earth, and protect conservationists, scientists, and all who labor in service to creation. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Ruling One, you bless us to be a blessing. Open the hearts of all leaders to seek the flourishing of every person and lend your help to all who wait for justice, deliverance, and peace. Hear us, O God.  
**Your mercy is great.**

Compassionate One, you send your Son to save. Declare your word of acceptance to any who feel condemned and lift up any brought low by hatred and exclusion. Tend to all who are struggling with illness or loss. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Guiding One, you watch over our going out and coming in. Bless newcomers and new members in this assembly and accompany those who have recently left this community to journey elsewhere. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

Eternal One, you neither slumber nor sleep. Be our keeper in life and in death. Thank you for our beloved who have died, and for your promise which saves this whole world by your love. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Receive our prayers, O God, through Jesus Christ, our strength and salvation. **Amen.**

## **PEACE**

*The presiding minister and the assembly greet each other in the peace of the risen Christ.*

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

*The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace, and may say, "Peace be with you," or similar words.*

*The assembly is seated.*

**MEAL** *God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

## **OFFERING**

**VS 4 ONLY**

**(ELW 803)**

**When I Survey the Wondrous Cross**

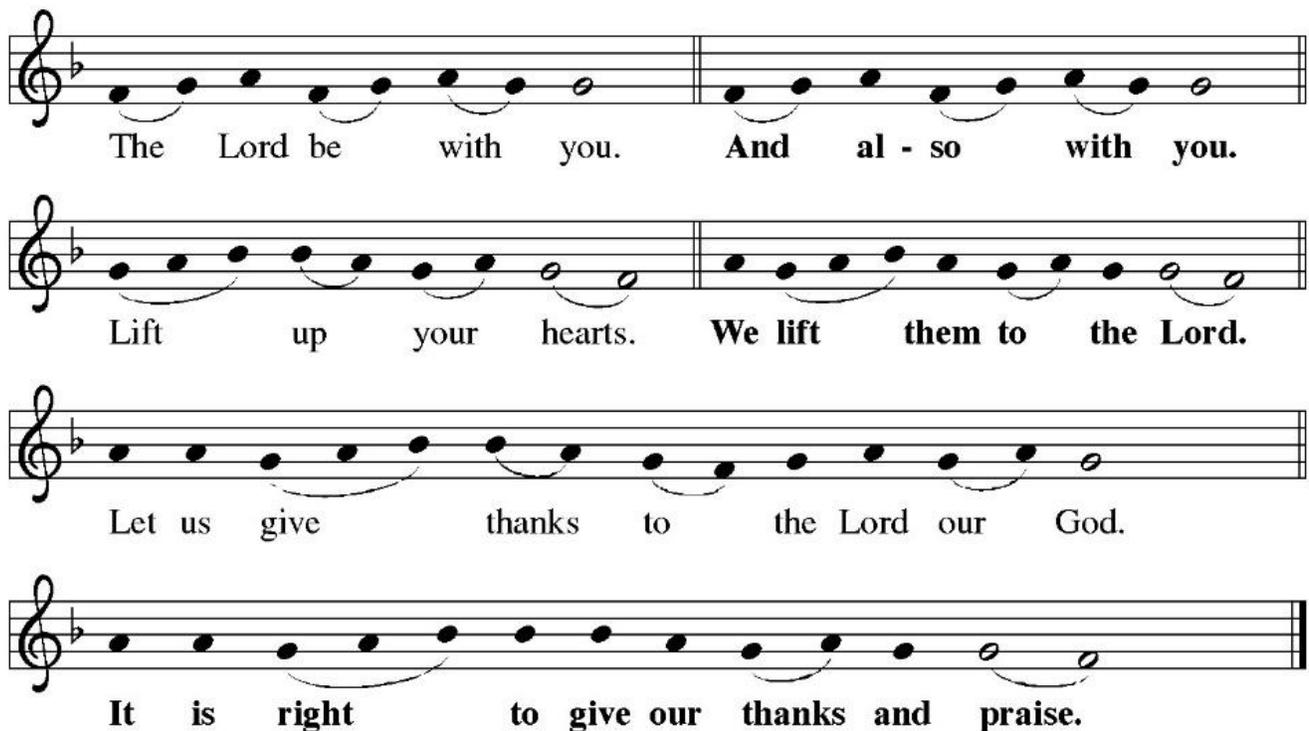
Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748

Music: Lowell Mason, 1792-1872

## 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.

## Great Thanksgiving Dialogue



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

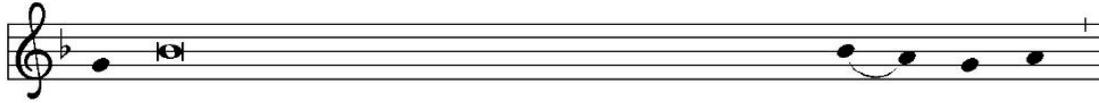
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

# PREFACE



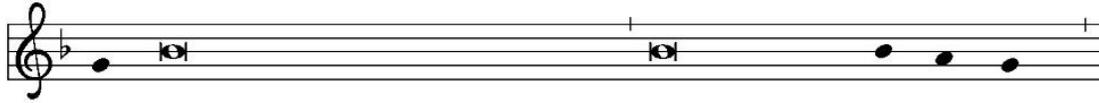
It is indeed right, our du - ty and our joy,



that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you,



al - mighty and merciful God, through our Sav - ior Je - sus Christ.



You call your people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the



pas - chal feast, that re - newed in the gift of bap - tism,



we may come to the full - ness of your grace.



And so, with all the choirs of an - gels,



with the church on earth and the hosts of heav - en,



we praise your name and join their un - end - ing hymn:

## HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,  
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -  
san-na. 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.

## THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy God,

our living Water and our merciful Guide,  
together with rivers and seas, wells and springs  
we bless and magnify you.

You led your people Israel through the desert,  
and provided them water from the rock.

We praise you for Christ, our Rock and our Water,  
who joined us in our desert,  
pouring out his life for 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.

Remembering, therefore,  
his life, death, and resurrection,  
we await your salvation for all this thirsty world.  
Pour out your Spirit on this holy food  
and on all the baptized gathered for this feast:  
wash away our sin,  
that we may be revived for our journey by the love of Christ.  
Through him all glory and honor is yours,  
Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit,  
in your holy Church,  
both now and forever. **Amen**

### **LORD'S PRAYER**

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

**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.**

### **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

Come to the table.  
Feast on God's goodness and mercy.

### **COMMUNION**

*When giving the bread and cup, the communion ministers say*

The body of Christ, given for you.  
The blood of Christ, shed for you.  
*and each person may respond* **Amen.**

## COMMUNION SONG



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.

## SONG DURING COMMUNION

(ELW 451)

### WE ARE BAPTIZED IN CHRIST JESUS

Text: John C. Ylvisaker, b. 1937 Music: John C. Ylvisaker

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

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.  
**Amen.**

**SENDING** *God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.*

## **BLESSING**

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. **Amen.**

## **SENDING SONG          Blessed Assurance          (ELW 638)**

Text: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820-1915 Music: Phoebe P. Knapp, 1830-1908

## **DISMISSAL**

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

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## **ANNOUNCEMENT**

### **BREAD LOAF OFFERING - MARCH- Gafkjen Endowment Fund**

- Food Pantry needs, with the colder weather the need for Soup increases. While we still need Cereal and Peanut Butter, we could also use Soup as well.
- Lenten Service- On March 10th @ 7:00 pm we will have a Lenten Service in the Parrish Hall @ Grace for both Hope and Grace. We will use the same format that we did for Advent service. This will be a carry in with an Irish theme and the church will be providing drinks. St. Patricks day is a week away. Come and join in for service, fellowship and some tasty food. If you have any questions, ask Pastor Matt or Joe Freiburger
- Game Night at Grace Lutheran Church, April 21<sup>st</sup>.
- Preschool Dairy Queen Fundraiser April 21<sup>st</sup>. 4-8 pm.
- Gloria Pelfrey has moved to 4725 N State Rd 9 Columbia City IN, 46725
- Hope ladies will host Adelphi Tuesday, March 17 at 11:30. This will be planning meeting so come with new ideas. Ladies from The Closet will

- Church of the Brethren is having a Feed the Need breakfast on Saturday, March 14, from 8:00 am to 10:00 am. It will be a freewill offering, and proceeds are going to Grace Lutheran's food pantry. To support this event, all you need to do is show up!

 **Grace Lutheran Church  
Preschool**

**Preschool  
Open House  
March 11, 2026  
2026-2027**

**REGISTRATION  
OPENS MARCH  
11, 2026**

**CLASSES OFFERED:**

4-5 YEAR OLDS	3-4 YEAR OLDS
• MWF 8:30-11:30	• T/TH 8:30-11:30
• MWF 12:30- 3:30	• T/TH 12:30- 3:30
• MWF 8:30-3:3	

 **260-244-7118 EXT. 3  
PREGRACELUTHERAN@GMAIL.COM  
WWW.GRACECOLUMBIACITY.ORG**



**Weekly Agenda at Grace Lutheran Church**

**Monday March 2, 2025**

Helping hands 12:30 pm

Scouting America Troop 84 6:30 pm

AA 7:30 pm

**Tuesday March 3, 2025**

T.O.P.S 9:30 am

Staff Meeting 3:40 pm

3082 pinewood Derby 6 pm

**Wednesday March 4, 2025**

Men's Breakfast 8 am

Food Pantry 12 pm

Voucher 4 pm

**Thursday March 5, 2026**

AA 7:30 pm

Al-non 7:30 pm

**Friday March 6, 2026**

**Pastor's Day Off**

**Saturday February 7, 2026**

**Sunday March 8, 2026**

Worship @ Hope 8:15 am

Worship @ Grace 10:00 am

Fellowship 11:15 am

Worship @ oaks 1 pm

Girl Scouts 2 pm

**We have new sign-up sheets in the parish hall, for coffee hour. Coffee hour will be after church service, for anyone that would like to stay.**

# 2<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH PRESCHOOL FISH FRY AND SILENT AUCTION

Proceeds benefit the Preschool.

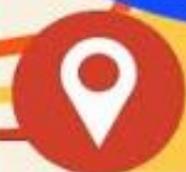
March 18th  
4 pm- 7 pm

ALL YOU  
CAN EAT  
FISH FRY

\$15.00- Adult  
\$6.00- Children 6-12  
FREE- Children 5 and Under



Dine In OR  
Carry-Out



204 N. Main St.  
Columbia City, IN 46725

All Payment types welcome!