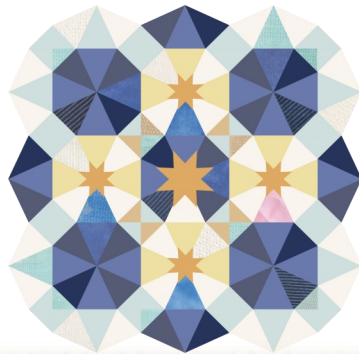


December 1, 2024
8:00 & 10:30 a.m.
First Sunday of Advent



Gloria Dei Lutheran Church
Neenah, Wisconsin
Service of Holy Communion

Ministers
Pastors

Everyone at Gloria Dei
Pastor Tabitha and Pastor Jon Gallatin

Welcome to Gloria Dei Lutheran Church!
So that we may come to know each other better...please fill out the maroon Friendship Pad located at the end of each pew and pass it along for others to do the same. Once completed, return it and note the names of the others seated next to you so you may greet one another after the service.

Congregational portions are in **Bold** print, *please stand as you are able



YOU ARE A BLESSING.

This quilt square is a simplified abstract image of the angel Gabriel who tells Mary she is "blessed among women".

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE WONDER OF CHRISTMAS

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH - The Wonder of the Season

Sung introduction

P: As we seek the light, as the darkness grows bright, as the wonder of Christmas draws near, come, O come, Emmanuel, and join us here.

Responsive Litany

P: Advent is a time to remember the wonders of our faith.

C: God has done wonderful things, things planned long ago.

P: Advent is a time to be amazed at God's wondrous love.

C: God has done wonderful things, things planned long ago.

P: Advent is a time to retrace our past, and to reclaim the hope of our future.

C: God has done wonderful things, things planned long ago.

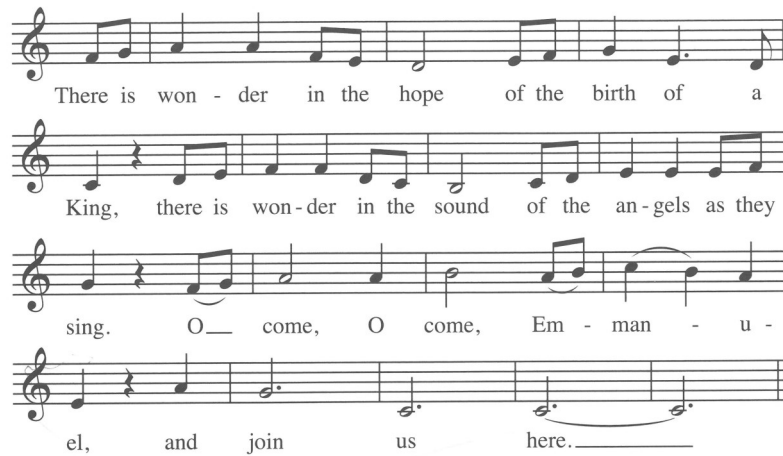
P: Advent is a time to be awed by God's unfolding plan for creation.

C: God has done wonderful things, things planned long ago.

Candle Lighting

P: Today we light the first candle. The first candle reminds us that the season of Advent is a time of unspeakable wonder. As we begin our Advent journey, let us stand amazed at the promise God has fulfilled, the love God has shown, and the joy God has given through the birth of Christ.

C:



There is won - der in the hope of the birth of a
King, there is won - der in the sound of the an - gels as they
sing. O — come, O come, Em - man - u -
el, and join us here.

P: Let us pray. God in Heaven, as we begin this season of Advent, reignite our sense of wonder. Help us move beyond what is familiar to your indescribable glory. Allow us to be still, in the midst of what our minds cannot fully grasp, and what our lips cannot fully explain. Fill our hearts this Advent with restored amazement for what you have done, the love you have shown, and the gift you have given, in Christ's name.

C: Amen.

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

P: God says,

C: **"Do not be afraid."**

P: God says,

C: **"I have called you by name."**

P: God says,

C: **"I will be with you"**

P: God says,

C: **"You are precious and honored in my sight."**

P: At the beginning of this season

C: **at the start of this week,**

P: at the top of his hour,

C: **may we wrap ourselves in these words. May we begin again.**

P: Let us worship our Holy God!

***CALL TO CONFESSION**

P: In the Gospel of Luke, the angel Gabriel tells Mary two things: that she is highly favored, and that she is going to have a child. Mary's response to this news is simple. With awestruck authenticity, she asks, "How can this be?" Every time we approach the prayer of confession, I ask myself this same awestruck question, "How can this be?" How can God's mercy know no end? How can God be so gracious with someone as fickle as me? Regardless of the week we've had, this good news never changes. So join me in speaking the truth of our lives. Join me in the prayer of confession, and may God's mercy leave you awestruck.

***PRAYERS OF CONFESSION**

P: Let us pray.

C: Affirming God, Your first words to creation were words of love. You looked at this earth and said, "It is good." You spoke affirmations through the prophets. You spoke blessings over Mary. You spoke belonging through Christ. At every turn, you have reiterated that we are a blessing, made in your image, held in your love. Forgive us for forgetting this truth. Forgive us for measuring our worth by society's measuring stick instead of yours. We believe. Help our unbelief. In Christ's name we pray, Amen.

***WORDS OF FORGIVENESS**

P: Family of faith, I don't know the last time someone told you that you are good, just as you are. I don't know the last time you heard that you are loved and created in the image of God. I don't know the last time you trusted those words and truly believed that you are a blessing. However, in case it has been a while, hear these words from Isaiah:

P: God says,

C: "Do not fear, for I have redeemed you. I have called you by name. You are mine."

P: We are forgiven. We are loved. Let it leave you awestruck.

C: Thanks be to God! May we believe it. Amen.

***GATHERING HYMN**

“Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers”

ELW #430



1 Re - joyce, re - joyce, be - liev - ers, and let your lights ap - pear;
2 The watch - ers on the moun - tain pro - claim the bride - groom near;
3 The saints, who here in pa - tience their cross and suf - f'ings bore,
4 Our hope and ex - pec - ta - tion, O Je - sus, now ap - pear;



the eve - ning is ad - vanc - ing, and dark - er night is near.
go forth as he ap - proach - es with al - le - lu - ias clear.
shall live and reign for - ev - er when sor - row is no more.
a - rise, O Sun so longed for, o'er this be - night - ed sphere.



The bride - groom is a - ris - ing and soon is draw - ing nigh.
The mar - riage feast is wait - ing; the gates wide o - pen stand.
A - round the throne of glo - ry the Lamb they shall be - hold;
With hearts and hands up - lift - ed, we plead, O Lord, to see



Up, pray and watch and wres - tle; at mid - night comes the cry.
A - rise, O heirs of glo - ry; the bride - groom is at hand.
in tri - umph cast be - fore him their di - a - dems of gold.
the day of earth's re - demp - tion that sets your peo - ple free!

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

L Let us pray.

C **Affirming God, How often do you speak to us, and how often do we miss it? How often do you whisper blessings over us that we refuse to hear? Open our hearts. Create space in us to not only hear these words, but to believe the good news tucked between them. We are hungry for your wisdom, so speak to us now. With hope and curiosity, we listen. With hope and curiosity we dare to begin again. Amen.**

SCRIPTURE READING: Isaiah 43:1-7

¹But now thus says the LORD, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. ²When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you. ³For I am the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior. I give Egypt as your ransom, Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you. ⁴Because you are precious in my sight, and honored, and I love you, I give people in return for you, nations in exchange for your life. ⁵Do not fear, for I am with you; I will bring your offspring from the east, and from the west I will gather you; ⁶I will say to the north, "Give them up," and to the south, "Do not withhold; bring my sons from far away and my daughters from the end of the earth — ⁷everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made."

L Word of God, Word of Life. C Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**GOSPEL READING: Luke 1: 26-38**

P The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the 1st chapter.

C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

²⁶In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." ²⁹But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³²He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. ³³He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." ³⁴Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" ³⁵The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. ³⁶And now, 6

your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. ³⁷For nothing will be impossible with God." ³⁸Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

P The Gospel of the Lord. **C Praise to you, O Christ**

SPECIAL MUSIC **"My Lord, He is a Comin' Soon"** **One Voice Choir**
8am service

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SERMON Pastor Jon Gallatin

*SONG OF RESPONSE "In Case No One Ever Told You"

In case no one e - ver told you or
You are the mas - ter-piece born of God's
You are u - nique - ly cre - a - ted for
you have for - got - ten You are a bless - ing and
i - ma - gin - a - tion E - ven the parts that are
love and be - long - ing For - cing your - self to be
have been since you were be - got - ten
cry - ing out for res - tor - a - tion
some - one you're not is ex - haus - ting
Fash-ioned from love Sent to the earth from a - bove
All that you are Born out of star - dust and scars
You are a gift There is no box you must fit
You're no - thing short of a god - send
Re - flects God's per - fect cre - a - tion
Let your be - lov - ed - ness blos - som

BAPTISM OF KAYSEN JAMES KRUTZ (10:30 a.m. service)

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (8:00 a.m. service)**

C We believe in a blessing God who calls us Beloved. We believe that this blessing showed up in the life of Mary, and was also bestowed upon the hemorrhaging woman, the poor in spirit, the children, the crowds, the Jews, the Gentiles, the faithful and the doubting. So in faith, we trust that God’s blessing, like ripples on the water, forever reaches toward us. And with wild hope, we believe that because of this blessing, we are covered in love. We are more than enough. Thanks be to God! Amen.

***PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION (8:00 a.m. service)**

L Gracious God...

L God of blessings,

C hear our prayer.

*** SHARING OF THE PEACE**

L The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C And also with you.

SHARING OUR TITHES & OFFERINGS

We joyfully offer financial gifts to God’s ministry through Gloria Dei in a variety of ways. Either place gifts in offering baskets as they are distributed or go to www.gloriadeilc.org/give (or scan QR code) or text your gift to 1-877-952-9422 this morning. If you are giving electronically or at a frequency other than weekly, please place a blue card (located in the pew rack) in the offering basket to signify your gifts. Thank you for your generous response to God’s blessings!



***OFFERTORY**

“People, Look East” vs 1

ELW #248

1 Peo - ple, look east. The time is near of the crown - ing
of the year. Make your house fair as you are a - ble,
trim the hearth and set the ta - ble. Peo - ple, look
east, and sing to - day— Love, the Guest, is on the way.

***OFFERING PRAYER**

L Let us pray together,

C Creator God, you made the whole world, even the farthest stars, and you draw near to feed us. We praise you for these gifts of bread and wine. Strengthen us with this food that we may live in expectation for the advent of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

***WORDS OF INSTITUTION** - Eucharistic Liturgy set to "O Come, O Come Emmanuel"

vs 1

The God of Grace be Here with you.

The God of Grace be Here with you.

Lift up your hearts in thanks and praise.

Our hearts and hopes to God we raise.

Rejoice! Rejoice! For holy is the Lord,

On earth and in the heav'nly heights adored.

vs 3

When supper ended, Jesus took the cup.

He blessed it and he raised it up.

"This cup is life poured out for you.

My promise to make all things new."

Rejoice! Rejoice! We share the cup of peace

With those who thirst for justice and release.

vs 2

When Jesus sat at table with his friends,

He took the bread, & blessing it, he said:

This is my body, offered for you;

Take, eat, this meal of grace and truth."

Rejoice! Rejoice! We share this living

bread, And seek a day when all shall be fed.

vs 4

O Spirit, fire of hope sent from above

Unite us in salvation and love.

Bless these, your gifts of bread and wine

And fill us with your joy divine.

Rejoice! Rejoice! We share this meal

And bless our God, who feeds and heals.

***LORD'S 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.

***INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

P God feeds us with tender mercy. Come to the table.

DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

All are welcome to the Lord's Supper today! Communion is served by intinction at stations. As you come forward, you will receive the bread and then dip it into the divided chalice for wine (red) or grape juice (white). Children who receive communion, please hold out hands to receive the bread. Those not communing, please fold hands to receive a blessing. Please notify an usher if you would like to receive communion at your seat.

LAMB OF GOD



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on
us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P Nourishing God, Sometimes we tell ourselves that too much has taken place to begin again. We think the world is too far gone. We think we have made too many mistakes. We tell ourselves that we couldn't possibly begin again. But then we come to this Table and we get a glimpse of your kingdom. We come to this Table and all are welcomed, all are seen, all are fed. And just like that, we have hope. Just like that, we begin again. Thank you for the gift of this fresh start. Thank you for planting hope deep in our bones. Thank you for meeting us in ordinary bread and juice to remind us that it's never too late to build your kingdom here. We are grateful. We are so grateful.

C Amen.

***BLESSING**

P As we leave this place, may you have the wisdom to lean on one other. May you have the courage to hold onto hope, the compassion to do the good that is yours to do, and the confidence to trust that God sees you as a blessing. For in a world full of dead ends, Advent invites us + to start with love and begin again.

C Amen.

***SENDING HYMN**

**“Fling Wide the Door”
(see back page)**

ELW #893

SENDING

L In the name of Christ, our new beginning, go in peace.

C Thanks be to God.

THANK YOU TO THOSE SERVING IN WORSHIP TODAY

| | 8:00 a.m. | 10:30 a.m. |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| MINISTERS | All God’s people at Gloria Dei | All God’s people at Gloria Dei |
| PRESIDING MINISTERS | Pastors Jon & Tabitha Gallatin | Pastors Jon & Tabitha Gallatin |
| MINISTER OF MUSIC | Dr. Myron Jones | Dr. Myron Jones |
| CHILDREN’S CHOIR DIRECTOR | Jill Kruger | Jill Kruger |
| CHOIR ACCOMPANIST | Sherry Klitz | Sherry Klitz |
| LITURGY ASSISTANT | Robyn Krueger | Robyn Krueger |
| LECTOR | Robyn Krueger | Robyn Krueger |
| COMMUNION ASSISTANTS | Christine Melbye | |
| USHERS | | |
| GREETERS | | |
| ACOLYTE | Eric Melbye | |
| NURSERY ATTENDANT | | |
| ALTAR GUILD | Marlene Marks | Marlene Marks |
| COFFEE HOST | | |

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1 Fling wide the door, un - bar the gate; the King of glo - ry
2 He is the rock of our be - lief, the heart of mer - cy's
3 Oh, hap - py towns and bless - ed lands that live by their true
4 Come, Lord, our Sav - ior, Je - sus Christ; our hearts are o - pen



comes in state; the Lord of lords and King of kings, the
gen - tle self. His king - ly crown is ho - li - ness; his
king's com - mands. And bless - ed be the hearts he rules, the
wide in trust. Oh, show us now your love - ly grace, up -



Sav - ior of the world who brings his great sal - va - tion
scep - ter is his love - li - ness; he brings our sor - rows
hum - ble plac - es where he dwells. He is the right - ful
on our sor - rows shine your face, and let your Ho - ly



to the earth. So raise a shout of ho - ly mirth and
to an end. Now glad - ly praise our king and friend, and
Son of bliss who fills our lives and makes us his, cre -
Spir - it guide our jour - ney in your grace so wide. We



praise our God and Lord, Cre - a - tor, Spir - it, Word.
wor - ship him with song for sav - ing us from wrong.
a - tor of the world, our on - ly strength for good.
praise your ho - ly name, from age to age the same!

Gloria Dei Lutheran Church (ELCA)
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