

March 30, 2025
8:00 & 10:30 a.m.
Fourth Sunday in Lent



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

Herding sheep is a never-ending task. As soon as one is found, another may go missing. Our lives have a similar ebb and flow -- in one moment we might feel like we have it all together, and in the next, we're struggling to survive. The promise of this parable is that no matter how "lost" we feel, the Good shepherd is by our side.

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

P Our God is a shepherding God.

C Our God knows us by name.

P Our God will never stop searching for us. So if you feel lost,

C then know that God is seeking you.

P If you feel found,

C then know that God will never leave.

P This is the promise of scripture.

C This is the promise of God's love.

P Let us worship our with-us God.

***CALL TO CONFESSION**

P Friends, in the Christian tradition many have used "lost" and "found" labels to describe people "out there" versus people "in here." Many have used "lost" and "found" language to create a damaging message that Christians are found and non-Christians are lost.

But the truth is, each and every one of us is a little bit lost and a little bit found from time to time. Each and every one of us needs the love of the Good Shepherd.

So join me in the prayer of confession, as people who know both ends of that spectrum. Join me as we go to God in prayer:

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

P If God is a painter,

C let us be the brush.

P If God is a musician,

C let us be the song.

P If God is an architect,

C let us be the tools. Let us be the hands. Let us be the builders.

P But if God is a shepherd, who never stops seeking,
C let us be willing to be found, no matter how lost we feel.
 P Our God is never far away.
C Forgive us for forgetting this good news. Amen.

***WORDS OF FORGIVENESS**

P Family of faith, we are all a little bit lost and a little bit found. We grumble. We push back. We doubt God. We doubt ourselves. We leave the flock and lose our way. But fortunately for us, our God is a shepherding God who is always by our side. So hear and believe the good news of the gospel:
C No matter how far we wander, we can never wander from the bounds of God's grace. We are loved. We are forgiven. We are not alone. Thanks be to God! Amen.

***GATHERING HYMN "Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing" ELW #807**



1 Come, thou Fount of ev - 'ry bless-ing, tune my heart to sing thy grace;
 2 Here I raise my Eb - en - e - zer: "Hith-er by thy help I've come";
 3 Oh, to grace how great a debt - or dai - ly I'm con - strained to be;



streams of mer - cy, nev - er ceas - ing, call for songs of loud - est praise.
 and I hope, by thy good plea - sure, safe - ly to ar - rive at home.
 let that grace now like a fet - ter bind my wan - d'ring heart to thee.



While the hope of end - less glo - ry fills my heart with joy and love,
 Je - sus sought me when a strang - er, wan - d'ring from the fold of God;
 Prone to wan - der, Lord, I feel it; prone to leave the God I love.



teach me ev - er to a - dore thee; may I still thy good - ness prove.
 he, to res - cue me from dan - ger, in - ter - posed his pre - cious blood.
 Here's my heart, oh, take and seal it; seal it for thy courts a - bove.

*** GREETING**

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

C And also with you.

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

L Shepherding God,

C You look for us. You search for us. You turn every corner and climb every mountain. You call our name until your voice is hoarse. When we lose our way, you never stop seeking after us. So once again we pray, find us in this moment. Look for us. And then surround us with your presence, so that we might feel you near. With hope we pray, with hope we listen. Amen.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 55:6-10

⁶ Seek the LORD while he may be found; call upon him while he is near; ⁷ let the wicked forsake their way and the unrighteous their thoughts; let them return to the LORD, that he may have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. ⁸ For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD. ⁹ For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts. ¹⁰ For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there until they have watered the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, ¹¹ so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

L Word of God, Word of Life.

C Thanks be to God.

SPECIAL MUSIC: "Near the Cross" One Voice Choir - 10:30 service

SECOND READING: 2 Corinthians 5:16-21

¹⁶ So we have stopped evaluating others from a human point of view. At one time we thought of Christ merely from a human point of view. How differently we know him now! ¹⁷ This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!

¹⁸ And all of this is a gift from God, who brought us back to himself through Christ. And God has given us this task of reconciling people to him. ¹⁹ For God was in Christ, reconciling the world to himself, no longer counting people's sins against them. And he gave us this wonderful message of reconciliation. ²⁰ So we are Christ's ambassadors; God is making his appeal through us. We speak for Christ when we plead, "Come back to God!"

²¹ For God made Christ, who never sinned, to be the offering for our sin, so that we could be made right with God through Christ.

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

GOSPEL READING: Luke 15:1-7

P The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the 15th chapter.

C Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to Jesus.

² And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them." ³ So he told them this parable:

⁴ Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it? ⁵ When he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices.

⁶ And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.' ⁷ Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.

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

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SERMON Pastor Tabitha Gallatin

SONG OF RESPONSE

“Lost and Found”

Original Hymn

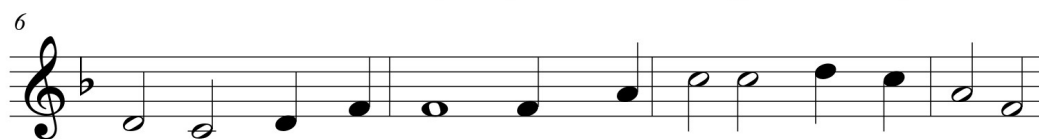
To the tune of: “Lord, Whose Love Through Humble Service” - ELW #712



In the flock I am sur-roun - ded by my sib - lings
The ho - ri - zon starts to brigh - ten as I quiet - ly
As I wan - der down the quar - ry a fa - mi - liar



and my friends Safe at home and feel - ing groun - ded with my
slip a - way I can feel my spi - rit ligh - ten with each
voice cries out It's my shep - herd search - ing for me; reck - less



shep - herd to de - fend But an ach - ing, long - ing feel - ing
cau - tious step I take Un - fa - mil - iar paths un - fold - ing
love has tracked me down Though I left my place of re - fuge,



as the stars shine late at night Draws me in, my dreams
as ex - cite - ment blends with fear All cre - a - tion now
he has fol - lowed all a - long But I had to lose



re - veal - ing and I know I'm not quite right
en - folds me like the flock I hold so dear
my - self to find my - self where I be - long

BAPTISM OF ERZA JOEL SHANNON (10:30 service)

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (8:00 service)**

C We believe in a seeking God, a with-us and before-us God, a chasing-after-us God. We believe that no matter where we wander or what mountains we climb, *this* God— the God who walked the streets of Jerusalem, shook hands with lepers, patted children on the head, and told stories of love—is always close at hand. So on the good days and the hard days, on the mountains and in the valleys, we believe that we are always being found. Thanks be to God for a love like that. Amen.

***PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION (8:00 service)**

L God, in your mercy, **C** receive 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**

"God Loved the World" vs 4

ELW #323



1 God loved the world so that he gave his on - ly
2 Christ Je - sus is the ground of faith, who was made
3 If you are ill, if death draws near, this truth your
4 Be of good cheer, for God's own Son for - gives all
5 All glo - ry to the Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly



Son the lost to save, that all who would in
flesh and suf - fered death; all who con - fide in
trou - bled heart can cheer: Christ Je - sus res - cues
sins that you have done, and jus - ti - fied by
Spir - it, Three in One! To you, O bless - ed



him be - lieve should ev - er - last - ing life re - ceive.
Christ a - lone are built on this chief cor - ner - stone.
us from death; that is the firm - est ground of faith.
Je - sus' blood, your bap - tism grants the high - est good.
Trin - i - ty, be praise now and e - ter - nal - ly!

***OFFERING PRAYER**

L Let us pray together,

C **Gracious Provider, you set your immense treasures among us, opening your heart to the world. As we prepare to feast on your bountiful love, deepen our commitment to sharing those treasures with others, through our Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

***GREAT THANKSGIVING**

P The Lord be with you.

C And also 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.

***WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

***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 All who are hungry, come! The feast of grace is spread.

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



The image shows four staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like. The lyrics are: "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." The lyrics are placed below the corresponding notes on each staff.

*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P Generous Host, you have shared your feast with us and made us new. Send us now to set tables of love and grace in our communities, that your liberating love might nourish the world into freedom, in the name of the crucified one, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen.

*BLESSING

P As you leave this place, may you find God in every messy middle. May you know that the world is bigger than two sides. May you trust that you are made in the image of God, and therefore, you contain multitudes. So may you move through this world with an open heart, with a curious mind, and with the confidence that you do not go alone. God is with you in the mountains, in the valleys, and everywhere in between. Believe that good news, and go in peace.

C Amen.

***SENDING HYMN**

“My Life Flows On in Endless Song”

ELW #763



- 1 My life flows on in end - less song; a - bove earth's lam-en - ta - tion,
- 2 Through all the tu - mult and the strife, I hear that mu - sic ring - ing.
- 3 What though my joys and com-forts die? The Lord my Sav-ior liv - eth.
- 4 The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart, a foun - tain ev - er spring-ing!



I catch the sweet, though far-off hymn that hails a new cre - a - tion.
It finds an ech - o in my soul. How can I keep from sing-ing?
What though the dark - ness gath-er round? Songs in the night he giv - eth.
All things are mine since I am his! How can I keep from sing-ing?

Refrain



No storm can shake my in-most calm while to that Rock I'm cling-ing.



Since Christ is Lord of heav-en and earth, how can I keep from sing-ing?

***SENDING**

L Go in peace. Care for others as God cares for you.

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		
USHERS		
GREETERS		
ACOLYTE		
NURSERY ATTENDANT		
ALTAR GUILD	Carol Anderson	Carol Anderson
COFFEE HOST		

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- My Life Flows On in Endless Song . Text & Music: Public Domain.

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