

March 23, 2025
8:00 & 10:30 a.m.
Third Sunday in Lent



Gloria Dei Lutheran Church
Neenah, Wisconsin
Service of Holy Communion

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

The gardener in the vineyard knows the fig tree needs rest, nutrients, and time -- and it also needs to produce fruit. Both things are true, which is also true for us. If we are always striving for more growth without taking time to rest, we will burn out. But if we are the only ever resting, we won't bear fruit or grow. The fig tree also teaches us that the in between time -- of nature before fruit -- can be where transformation begins.

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

- | | | | |
|---|-----------------------------------|---|---------------------------------------|
| P | Worship is a place to rest. | C | We breathe deeply here. |
| P | We still our aching bones. | C | We sit in the quiet. |
| P | We surround ourselves with music. | C | Worship is a place to rest. |
| P | Worship is a place to grow. | C | We listen for God's word. |
| P | We invite it to challenge us. | C | We lean in with curiosity. |
| P | We ask questions. | C | Worship is a place to grow. |
| P | So come into this space. | C | For where two or more are |
| | Come rest and grow here. | | gathered, God is always there. |
| P | Let us worship our gracious God. | | |

***PRAYER OF INVOCATION**

- P God meets us in the night—
C **before the sun rises, before the wound heals, before there are answers, before there is closure.**
- P God meets us in the light—
C **where joy is effervescent, where laughter is contagious, where flowers bloom from cracks in the sidewalk, where people gather around tables.**
- P God meets us in between—
C **at the edge of the water, at the beginning of the wilderness, at the start of something new, on the edge of faith.**
- P And if God meets us in all those places,
C **then surely God meets us everywhere— at the water's edge, at the start of something new, after the baptism, and before the call.**
- P We are not alone. God is all around.
C **Let us worship the God of everything.**

***CALL TO CONFESSION**

P Friends, we carve out time for confession in worship because it is not enough to hear about God's grace once. We need that reminder again, and again, and again. So join me in speaking the truth of our lives, and join me in receiving God's grace *again*.

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

P Holy God, There are days when we fail to rest.

C We stretch ourselves too thin. We say "yes" to every invitation. We run a million miles a minute. We ignore your command to rest.

P There are also days when we fail to act.

C We wait for someone else. We take the easy road. We find excuses and justify our inaction.

P God, forgive our imbalance.

C Remind us that birds rest, and they also fly. Show us how to do the same. Amen.

***WORDS OF FORGIVENESS**

P Family of faith, I have good news! Our God does not keep score. Our God does not hold grudges. Our God does not assume the worst about us. No, our God offers grace, and endless second chances, and boundless love. So join me in proclaiming the good news of the gospel:

C God's grace is deeper than the ocean. God's love is wider than the sky. We are seen. We are claimed. We are forgiven. May this realization change and inspire us. Thanks be to God! Amen.

***GATHERING HYMN**

"When We Are Tested"

ACS #922



1 When we are test - ed and wres - tle a - lone,
2 When in the des - ert we cry for re - lief,
3 When we are tempt - ed to bar - ter our souls,
4 When we have strug - gled and searched through the night,



fam - ished for bread when the world of - fers stone,
plead - ing for paths marked by cer - tain be - lief,
trad - ing the truth for the pow'r to con - trol,
sort - ing and sift - ing the wrong from the right,



nour - ish us, God, by your word and your way,
lift us to love you be - yond sign and test,
teach us to wor - ship and praise on - ly you,
Sav - ior, sur - round us with cir - cles of care,



food that sus - tains us by night and by day.
trust - ing your pres - ence, our on - ly true rest.
seek - ing your will in the work that we do.
an - gels of heal - ing, of hope, and of prayer.

*** 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 Creator God,

C Your Word is like soil, something we can root ourselves in. Your Word is like the sun, big enough to touch everything with its warmth. And your Word is like a gardener, a love that prunes and encourages,

waters and delights, seeds and tends. So as we turn to your text today, warm our bones, tend to our broken pieces, and show us how to grow. With hope we pray, Amen.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 55:1-5, 12-13

Hear, everyone who thirsts; come to the waters; and you who have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. ² Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread and your earnings for that which does not satisfy? Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. ³ Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live. I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David. ⁴ See, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples. ⁵ Now you shall call nations that you do not know, and nations that do not know you shall run to you, because of the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has glorified you. ¹² For you shall go out in joy and be led back in peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall burst into song, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands. ¹³ Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress; instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle, and it shall be to the LORD for a memorial, for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.

L Word of God, Word of Life.

C Thanks be to God.

SPECIAL MUSIC One Voice Choir - 8:00 am service

SECOND READING: Colossians 1:3-6

³ In our prayers for you we always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, ⁴ for we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love that you have for all the saints, ⁵ because of the hope laid up for you in heaven. You have heard of this hope before in the word of the truth, the gospel ⁶ that has come to you. Just as it is bearing fruit and growing in the whole world, so it has been bearing fruit among yourselves from the day you heard it and truly comprehended the grace of God.

L Word of God, Word of Life.

C Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL READING: Luke 13:6-9

P The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the 13th chapter.

C Glory to you, O Lord.

⁶ Then he told this parable: "A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. ⁷ So he said to the gardener, 'See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?' ⁸ He replied, 'Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. ⁹ If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.'"

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

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SERMON Pastor Jon Gallatin

SONG OF RESPONSE

"Beneath the Soil"

Original Hymn



Be - neath the so - il in the dark there's
 Re - mem - ber when the world de - mands more
 The rest and nur - ture we re - ceive will
 In ev - ery sea - son of our lives the



growth too slow to see A trans - for - ma - tion
 than you can pro - duce We each grow at a
 turn to fruit in time For God made us to
 Spi - rit is at work To nur - ture us to



not dis - played in bran - ches, fruit, and leaves
 diff - erent pace and growth starts at the roots
 grow and change as toward the sky we climb
 bear good fruit while root - ed in the earth

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

C We believe in a God who loves and tends to us like a gardener.
We believe that like the trees, some seasons are for growth, and some seasons are for rest. Some days require pruning, and some require planting. Fortunately, we believe that our green-thumbed God sees us and cultivates the sweetest fruit.

So may we plant roots, reach for the sky, grow where we can, and rest when we need, for we believe there is holiness in the pruning and in the planting. And we do not grow alone. Thanks be to God,
Amen.

***PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

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 3

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

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 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**

"Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer"

ELW #618



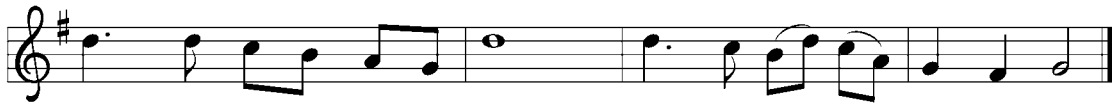
1 Guide me ev - er, great Re - deem - er, pil - grim through this
2 O - pen now the crys - tal foun - tain where the heal - ing
3 When I tread the verge of Jor - dan, bid my anx - ious



bar - ren land. I am weak, but you are might - y; hold me
wa - ters flow; let the fire and cloud - y pil - lar lead me
fears sub - side; death of death and hell's de - struc - tion, land me



with your pow'r - ful hand. Bread of heav - en, bread of heav - en,
all my jour - ney through. Strong de - liv - 'rer, strong de - liv - 'rer,
safe on Ca - naan's side. Songs and prais - es, songs and prais - es



feed me now and ev - er - more, feed me now and ev - er - more.
shield me with your might-y arm, shield me with your might-y arm.
I will raise for - ev - er - more, I will raise for - ev - er - more.

***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	Steve Graf	Steve Graf
LECTOR	Steve Graf	Steve Graf
COMMUNION ASSISTANTS	Jeaneen Schoessow	
USHERS		
GREETERS		
ACOLYTE		Ava Corbin
NURSERY ATTENDANT		
ALTAR GUILD	Marlene Marks	Marlene Marks
COFFEE HOST		

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