

**EASTER SUNDAY**  
**April 20, 2025**  
**8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.**



**Gloria Dei Lutheran Church**  
**Neenah, Wisconsin**

***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.*

**EASTER SUNDAY:** *Grief is a healthy response to Jesus' death and a valid way to enter worship on Easter morning. And yet, the women at the empty tomb are given hope amidst their morning. The other disciples don't believe the women's message, but Peter, living in the in-between of grief and hope, runs to the tomb to see for himself. Grieving doesn't have to make us hopeless. Hope can compel us to take action when we are deep in grief.*



**Congregational responses are in BOLD.**  
**\*indicates when to stand**

### CALL TO WORSHIP

- P My dear friends, we have known grief. We have known loss. We have known the long road, tired and winding. We have whispered prayers on bended knees. We have stared at the sky, empty of stars. But today—
- C today we know hope.**
- P Today we know life.
- C Today we know the sound of Alleluias.**
- P Today we know that death does not have the last word.
- C Today we know that nothing can separate us from the love of God.**
- P It is Easter. May hope find you. And may you know, deep in your bones, that today is a new day. Alleluia! Christ is Risen!
- C Christ is Risen indeed. Alleluia!**

### 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.**

**\*PROCESSION OF THE CROSS** (Please turn to face the cross as it is brought forward)

**\*PROCESSIONAL HYMN "Jesus Christ is Ris'n Today" ELW #365**



1 Je - sus Christ is ris'n to - day, Al - le - lu - ia!  
2 Hymns of praise then let us sing, Al - le - lu - ia!  
3 But the pains which he en - dured, Al - le - lu - ia!  
4 Sing we to our God a - bove, Al - le - lu - ia!

our tri - um - phant ho - ly day, Al - le - lu - ia!  
un - to Christ, our heav'n - ly king, Al - le - lu - ia!  
our sal - va - tion have pro - cured; Al - le - lu - ia!  
praise e - ter - nal as his love; Al - le - lu - ia!

who did once up - on the cross, Al - le - lu - ia!  
who en - dured the cross and grave, Al - le - lu - ia!  
now a - bove the sky he's king, Al - le - lu - ia!  
praise him, all you heav'n - ly host, Al - le - lu - ia!

suf - fer to re - deem our loss. Al - le - lu - ia!  
sin - ners to re - deem and save. Al - le - lu - ia!  
where the an - gels ev - er sing. Al - le - lu - ia!  
Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. Al - le - lu - ia!

### **\*CALL TO CONFESSION**

P On this joyful day, join me in our prayer of confession. On this joyful day we remember Christ defeated death so we may live. Let us pray:

### **\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

P The Gospel of Luke says: "It was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary The mother of James, and the other women with them who told the apostles [of the resurrection]. But these words seemed to the disciples an idle tale, and they did not believe them. But Peter got up and ran to the tomb."

**C Forgive us, God, when good news lands in our lap and we refuse to believe it. Forgive us, God, when grief and fear crowd out any room in our hearts for hope. Forgive us, God, when we dismiss the stories of others and minimize the voices of our neighbors.**

P In a world that teeters between grief and hope, show us how to be like Peter.

**C Show us how to hold onto hope. Show us how to run toward you. Amen.**

### **\*WORDS OF FORGIVENESS**

P Family of Faith, at first, the disciples didn't believe that Jesus had risen. They stayed locked in an upper room, shaking and afraid. Peter was the only exception. Fortunately, Jesus loves us on our best days and our worst days.

**C God's grace exists for us when we are hopeful and when we're grieving, when we're shouting and when we're silent, when we're full of faith and when we're full of fear. God's grace exists for us on the best days, the worst days, and every day in between. Thanks be to God for this good news! Alleluia! Amen.**

### **SPECIAL MUSIC**

**"Jesus Is Alive! Alleluia!"**

**One Voice Choir**

### **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

L God of Alleluias and empty tombs,

**C God of garden plots and good news, it is Easter. It is finally Easter. In a world full of grief and heartache, in a world full of violence and oppression, in a world full of loss and separation, we long for this day because Easter sings a different song. Easter sings a song of**

hope. Easter sings a song of new life. Easter sings a song of love that makes you want to jump out of your chair and run barefoot to the tomb. Easter smells of fresh flowers and baked bread. It sounds like trumpets and laughter. It feels like a crowded table and a warm hug. Yes, Easter sings a different song. So in a world full of grief, help us to cling to Easter's hope. In a world full of grief, help us hear this story of good news. In a world full of grief, we're ready to jump out of our chairs and run to the tomb. With hope we pray, with hope we listen, Amen.

#### **SCRIPTURE READING Acts 10:34-43**

*Peter's sermon, delivered at the home of Cornelius, a Roman army officer, is a summary of the essential message of Christianity: Everyone who believes in Jesus, whose life, death, and resurrection fulfilled the words of the prophets, receives forgiveness of sins through his name.*

<sup>34</sup>Then Peter began to speak to them: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, <sup>35</sup>but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him.

<sup>36</sup>You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ — he is Lord of all. <sup>37</sup>That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: <sup>38</sup>how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him.

<sup>39</sup>We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; <sup>40</sup>but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, <sup>41</sup>not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead.

<sup>42</sup>He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. <sup>43</sup>All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

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

# PSALM

## "You'll Be Surprised"

(sing verse 1 and 2 with refrain. There is no final refrain after verse 3)

*Flowing:*

Buy all the spices that you can afford.  
Who has been here? There's no stone on the tomb.  
"Mar - y," he said, "I am here! I'm a - live!"

Show me the place where they laid my Lord.  
See where he lay, there's an empty room.  
O, what a sight for my grieving eyes.

I'll be o - kay, I'll be with him to - day,  
"Sir, could you say why they took him a - way,  
"Go, tell the rest to pre - pare for a guest."

Je - sus, the one we a - dored.  
Je - sus, the one we a - dored?"  
Je - sus, the one we a - dored.

You'll be sur - prised when you o - pen your eyes. See how the

stone has been rolled a - way. Just as he said, Je - sus rose from the

dead. See, he is with us to - day.

### **\*GOSPEL READING: Luke 24:1-12**

*Evidently expecting to find Jesus' corpse, some of the women among his followers go to the tomb with embalming spices. After a perplexing encounter with the empty tomb and angelic visitors, the women become the first to proclaim the amazing news of resurrection.*

<sup>1</sup>But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they came to the tomb, taking the spices that they had prepared. <sup>2</sup>They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, <sup>3</sup>but when they went in, they did not find the body. <sup>4</sup>While they were perplexed about this, suddenly two men in dazzling clothes stood beside them. <sup>5</sup>The women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen. <sup>6</sup>Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, <sup>7</sup>that the Son of Man must be handed over to sinners, and be crucified, and on the third day rise again." <sup>8</sup>Then they remembered his words, <sup>9</sup>and returning from the tomb, they told all this to the eleven and to all the rest.

<sup>10</sup>Now it was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them who told this to the apostles. <sup>11</sup>But these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them. <sup>12</sup>But Peter got up and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; then he went home, amazed at what had happened.

P Gospel of our Lord

C Praise to you, oh Christ

### **CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

**SERMON     Pastor Tabitha Gallatin**

*This is the day the Lord has made! Christ is risen, and through him all creation is made new! With the women at the tomb, we are astonished, elated, and grateful. We depart with joy to proclaim the good news of God's endless love.*

**\*SONG OF RESPONSE "Christ the Lord is Ris'n Today; Alleluia!" ELW #369**



- 1 Christ the Lord is ris'n to - day; Al - le - lu - ia!
- 2 For the sheep the Lamb has bled, Al - le - lu - ia!
- 3 Christ, the vic - tim un - de - filed, Al - le - lu - ia!
- 4 Chris-tians, on this ho - ly day, Al - le - lu - ia!



Chris-tians, has - ten on your way; Al - le - lu - ia!  
 sin - less in the sin - ner's stead. Al - le - lu - ia!  
 God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 all your grate - ful hom - age pay; Al - le - lu - ia!



of - fer praise with love re - plete, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Christ the Lord is ris'n on high; Al - le - lu - ia!  
 when con - tend - ing death and life, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Christ the Lord is ris'n on high; Al - le - lu - ia!



at the pas - chal vic - tim's feet. Al - le - lu - ia!  
 now he lives, no more to die. Al - le - lu - ia!  
 met in strange and awe - some strife. Al - le - lu - ia!  
 now he lives, no more to die. Al - le - lu - ia!



**\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

L In the dark before dawn,

**C we believe that God is alive.**

L In the midst of our grief,

**C we believe the Spirit is at work.**

L In the chaos of our broken world,

**C we believe that love is on the loose.**

L For no stone could keep God at bay,

**C and no violence could keep God's love from us.**

L So today we sing,

**C Alleluia!**

L For somewhere in between our belief and doubt,

**C hope lives.**

L Christ has died,

**C and Christ has also risen. Thanks be to God! Amen.**

**\*PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

L God of grace,

**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](http://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!*



OFFERING HYMN/  
OFFERTORY

"Christ is Risen! Alleluia!"

ELW #382



- 1 Christ is ris-en! Al - le - lu - ia! Ris - en our vic - to - rious head!
- 2 Christ is ris-en! All the sad-ness of our Lent-en fast is o'er;
- 3 Christ is ris-en! All the sor-row that last eve-ning round him lay
- 4 Christ is ris-en! Hence-forth nev - er death or hell shall us en - thrall.



Sing his prais - es! Al - le - lu - ia! Christ is ris - en from the dead!  
through the o - pen gates of glad-ness he re-turns to life once more;  
now has found a glo-rious mor-row in the ris - ing of to - day.  
We are Christ's, in him for - ev - er we have tri-umphed o - ver all.



Grate-ful - ly our hearts a - dore him as his light once more ap - pears;  
death and hell be - fore him bend-ing see him rise, the vic - tor now,  
See the grave its first-fruits giv - ing, spring-ing up from ho - ly ground;  
All the doubt-ing and de - jec - tion of our trem-bling hearts have ceased;



bow - ing down in joy be-fore him, ris - ing up from griefs and tears.  
an - gels on his steps at-tend-ing, glo - ry round his wound-ed brow.  
Christ was dead, but now is liv - ing; he was lost, but he is found.  
hail the day of res - ur - rec - tion! Let us rise and keep the feast.

*Refrain*



Christ is ris - en! Al - le - lu - ia! Ris - en our vic - to - rious head!



Sing his prais-es! Al - le - lu - ia! Christ is ris - en from the dead!

**\*OFFERING PRAYER** - *We give thanks to God for the opportunity to give our financial gifts.*

L Risen One,

C you have gathered us around your table of grace along with these gifts we bring. Come among us again, breathe your life into us, and enliven us with this meal, that we may live as your risen body in the world. Amen.

### **SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION**

**\*WORDS OF INSTITUTION** *“Gather ‘round the Table of the Lord” \**

*Chorus sung by congregation*

**Chorus:** Gather ‘round, gather ‘round  
Gather ‘round, the table  
Gather ‘round, gather ‘round  
‘round the table of the Lord.

**\*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 The God you seek has a seat saved at this Table, specifically for you. So, come, whether you are dancing for joy, or like Mary, still feeling a little lost. Come with your questions. Come with your hunger. Come, whether this is your first time or your hundredth. Come, because this feast is a reminder that God’s Table is big enough for all of us. Jesus Christ is risen today and he rose for you. So, come. All are welcome.

## 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** Gracious God, in you we live and move and have our being. With your word and this meal of grace, you have nourished our life together. Strengthen us to show your love and serve the world in Jesus' name.

**C** Amen.

## \*BLESSING

**P** The God of all, who raised + Jesus from the dead, bless you by the power of the Holy Spirit to live in the new creation.

**C** Amen.

**\*RECESSIONAL HYMN “Christ is Alive Let Christians Sing” ELW #389**



1 Christ is a - live! Let Chris - tians sing. The cross stands  
 2 Christ is a - live! No long - er bound to dis - tant  
 3 In ev - 'ry in - sult, rift, and war, where col - or,  
 4 Wom - en and men, in age and youth, can feel the  
 5 Christ is a - live, and comes to bring good news to



emp - ty to the sky. Let streets and homes with  
 years in Pal - es - tine, but sav - ing, heal - ing,  
 scorn, or wealth di - vide, Christ suf - fers still, yet  
 Spir - it, hear the call, and find the way, the  
 this and ev - 'ry age, till earth and sky and



prais - es ring. Love, drowned in death, shall nev - er die.  
 here and now, and touch - ing ev - 'ry place and time.  
 loves the more, and lives, where e - ven hope has died.  
 life, the truth, re - vealed in Je - sus, freed for all.  
 o - cean ring with joy, with jus - tice, love, and praise.

**\*SENDING**

**L** Go in peace. Serve the Risen One.

**C** Thanks be to God.

**Easter Flowers on the altar have been given by:**



Scott & Deb Barkholtz

Jenny & Paul Bonikowski in memory of our parents

Judy Brown

Mark & Marilyn Catlin in memory of our parents

Al & Jean Follendorf

Sharon Grapengieser in memory of Tim Grapengieser

Terry & Valerie Gulke. God is Good

Judy Jung in memory of Clyde Jung

Mel & Veryl Kiekhaefer in honor of Vivian and in memory of our friends  
and relatives who have passed

Steve & Mary Kuehn

Roger & Marlene Marks in memory of our parents

Dave & Kris Pohlman in memory of Virginia, John, and Peggy.

Carrie Raeth in memory of Dave Enz

Doug Rohloff

Susan Schlachtenhaufen in memory of Joel Schlachtenhaufen

Jeaneen Schoessow in memory of Fritz Schoessow.

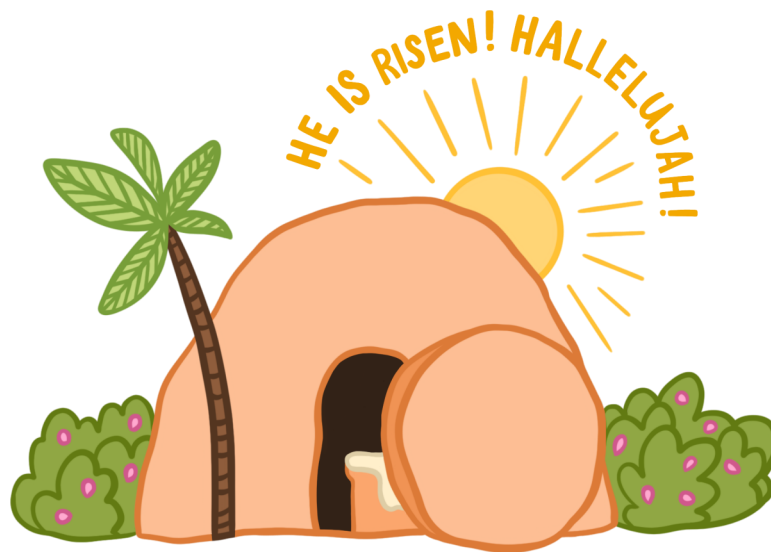
Swanson Family in memory of George & Irmgard Swanson,  
Alfred Buehring, Jon Swanson, and Tom Swanson

Don't forget to take flowers home after the 10:30 service. If you are unable to take them home on Sunday, please let the church office know when you plan to pick them up. Thanks.

THANK YOU TO THOSE SERVING IN WORSHIP TODAY

	<b>8:00 a.m.</b>	<b>10:30 a.m.</b>
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
LITURGY ASSISTANT	Robyn Krueger	Christine Olsen
LECTOR	Robyn Krueger	Staci Miserlian
COMMUNION ASSISTANTS	Terry & Valerie Gulke	Staci Miserlian
USHERS	Jim Wippich & Doug Rohloff	Steve Jung & Matt Jung
GREETERS	Carol Anderson/ Roger & Jean Herman	Ortiz Family & Helms Family
ACOLYTE	Ally Keck	Jackson West
NURSERY ATTENDANT		
ALTAR GUILD	Christine Olsen	Christine Olsen
COFFEE HOST	Nancy Swanson	Nancy Swanson

**Gloria Dei Lutheran Church (ELCA)**  
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**920-725-6822**  
**[www.gloriadeilc.org](http://www.gloriadeilc.org)**



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