

November 30, 2025  
8:00 & 10:30 a.m.  
First Sunday of Advent



Gloria Dei Lutheran Church  
Neenah, Wisconsin  
Service of Holy Communion

Ministers  
Pastor

Everyone at Gloria Dei  
Pastor Tabitha 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

*WHAT DO YOU FEAR?  
IN THE TIME OF HEROD, WE LONG FOR GOD TO BREAK IN*

## **WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH - Christ, Be Our Light!**

**P** Longing for light, we wait in darkness. Looking for truth, we turn to you.  
Make us your own, your holy people, light for the world to see.

**C**



**P** Advent is a time for the human heart to wait, while trusting God's eternal time.

**C** **How long, O Lord, how long?**

**P** For those waiting for answered prayer:

**C** **Grant your steadfast patience.**

**P** For those waiting in the face of uncertainty:

**C** **Grant unshakable confidence in your sovereign provision.**

**P** For those waiting for justice and mercy to reign:

**C** **Grant a glimpse of your glory in our wounded world.**

**P** For all of us waiting for God's kingdom to come:

**C** **Grant that we might have the peace of Christ as we wait, the love of Christ as we act, and the grace of Christ as we speak.**

### *Candle Lighting*

**P** This morning we light the first candle which reminds us that throughout history, God's people have spent time waiting, wandering, and wondering about the timing of God's eternal plan. Like the people of old, we long for God's presence to illuminate the areas of life where we are called to wait. This morning we echo the words of the Psalmist, "Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the Lord!" (Psalm 27:14)



**P** Let us pray. God of all creation, we declare that you are the Eternal One. We confess to you, O Lord, that we easily grow impatient, when your word to us is to wait. Ignite within us a new and everlasting hope. We pray this in the name of Christ, our Lord.

**C Amen.**

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

**P** On Sundays and Mondays,

**C on good days and bad days.**

**P** early in the morning and very late at night,

**C here in this room, and out in the world, God, we long for you to break in.**

**P** Meet us in this space.

**C Surprise us with your presence.**

**P** Fill this room with your good news.

**C With hope, we sing, we worship, we pray. Amen!**

**\*CALL TO CONFESSION**

**P** Friends, if you long to feel closer to God, then the Prayers of Confession is a step in the right direction. For in the Prayer of Confession, we lay our hearts before God. We pour out the truth of our lives. We do not hide anything from our Creator, and in that simple act, God somehow always feels closer. So join me in this prayer. Join me as we invite God to draw closer, to break in here.

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

**P** Let us pray.

**C** Ever-present God, we long to feel you close. We long to feel your presence in our lives. We long for you to break through the chaos and suffering of this world. However, if we're honest, we rarely stand still long enough to feel you in our midst. Forgive our rushing and distractions. Forgive our wandering hearts, and center us in this space. Remind us that even in the time of Herod, even on the longest nights, you are always there. Amen.

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

**P** Family of faith, even when we doubt God's presence, even when we fail to notice God's fingerprints in this world, God is always moving closer to us. Hear and believe the good news this Advent season:

**C** Nothing can keep God's love away. We are seen. We are forgiven. We are not alone. Amen.

### **\*GATHERING HYMN**

#### **"In the Time of Herod"**

(sung to the tune "In the Bleak Midwinter")



In the time of Her - od, fear had ta - ken hold  
Thick as fog the fear grew, slow - ly creep - ing in  
Pierc - ing through the stra - tus comes the an - gels' song  
In the time of Her - od, fear has ta - ken hold



Hope was bur - ied deep and hid - den, rare as gold  
Day by day the peo - ple bent and drew with - in  
"Do not fear!" rings hol - low when we've feared so long  
Still we share a long - ing for a glimpse of hope



Or - di - na - ry peo - ple dared not speak a - loud  
With the clouds so hea - vy, who could see the stars?  
Still in the re - cess - es of our wea - ry souls  
Or - di - na - ry peo - ple shout the truth we trust:



Dreams of the Mes - si - ah break-ing through the clouds  
 Hope - less-ness had trapped them, strong as pris - on bars  
 Some - thing is a - wak - ened— could it be our hope?  
 God will stop at no - thing to be here with us

### \*PRAYER OF THE DAY

**L** Let us pray.

**C** With-us God, in the time of Moses, you spoke through water in the desert and a pillar of smoke. In the time of the judges, you spoke through the prophets. In the time of Herod, you spoke through angel choruses and unlikely miracles. In every time you have been speaking. So today, in our time, we ask that you would speak again. Break through the chatter and the distractions of our weary minds and speak to us once more. With hope we pray. Amen.

### SCRIPTURE READING: Lamentations 3:55-57

<sup>55</sup> I called on your name, O LORD, from the depths of the pit; <sup>56</sup> you heard my plea, "Do not close your ear to my cry for help, but give me relief!"  
<sup>57</sup> You came near when I called on you; you said, "Do not fear!" for your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you will name him John.

**L** Word of God, Word of Life.

**C** Thanks be to God

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



### GOSPEL READING: Luke 1:5-13

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

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

<sup>5</sup>In the days of King Herod of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah, who belonged to the priestly order of Abijah. His wife was descended from the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. <sup>6</sup>Both of them were righteous before God, living blamelessly according to all the commandments and regulations of the Lord. <sup>7</sup>But they had no children because Elizabeth was barren, and both were getting on in years. <sup>8</sup>Once when he was serving as priest before God during his section's turn of duty, <sup>9</sup>he was chosen by lot, according to the custom of the priesthood, to enter the sanctuary of the Lord to offer incense. <sup>10</sup>Now at the time of the incense offering, the whole assembly of the people was praying outside. <sup>11</sup>Then there appeared to him an angel of the Lord, standing at the right side of the altar of incense. <sup>12</sup>When Zechariah saw him, he was terrified, and fear overwhelmed him. <sup>13</sup>But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you will name him John.

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

## CHILDREN'S SERMON

SERMON Pastor Tabitha Gallatin

**\*SONG OF RESPONSE "Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and Burning" ACS #949**



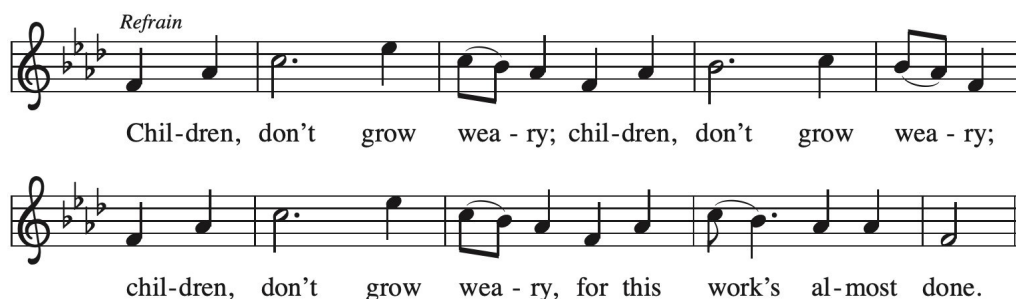
1 Keep your lamps trimmed and burn - ing, keep your  
 2 Dark-er mid - night lies be - fore us, dark - er  
 3 Lo, the morn - ing soon is break - ing, lo, the  
 4 Keep your lamps trimmed and burn - ing, keep your



lamps trimmed and burn - ing, keep your lamps  
 mid - night lies be - fore us, dark - er mid - night  
 morn - ing soon is break - ing, lo, the morn - ing  
 lamps trimmed and burn - ing, keep your lamps



trimmed and burn - ing, for this work's al - most done.  
 lies be - fore us, for this work's al - most done.  
 soon is break - ing, for this work's al - most done.  
 trimmed and burn - ing, for this work's al - most done.



### **\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

**C** We have seen the valley. We have seen a sky without stars. We have seen the longest night, and still we believe. We believe in a with-us God. We believe in the hope of tomorrow. We believe that good news is louder than fear. We believe this good news is for all people. So even when our knees shake, even when our voice trembles, even when fear is all around us, we will hold onto that good news. We will reach for each other. We will look for God in our midst. We will sing songs of joy. We will proclaim: Unto us, love is born. We have seen the longest night, and we have seen unimaginable love. So still, we believe. Amen.

### **\*PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

**L** God of Hope, **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!*



### **\*OFFERTORY**

**"Joy to the World" vs 1**

**ELW #267**

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her king;  
let ev'ry heart prepare him room and heav'n and nature sing,  
and heav'n and nature sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.

### **\*OFFERING PRAYER**

L Let us pray together,

**C Loving God, In a world racked with fear, you gather us together. You set the table. You meet us here. You nourish our bodies as you nourish our spirits. You remind us that this is a joyful feast, and that fear cannot win every time. So with renewed courage, with renewed hope, with renewed conviction, send us out into the world. Help us to feed others as you have fed us. With gratitude we pray, 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 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 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 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.**

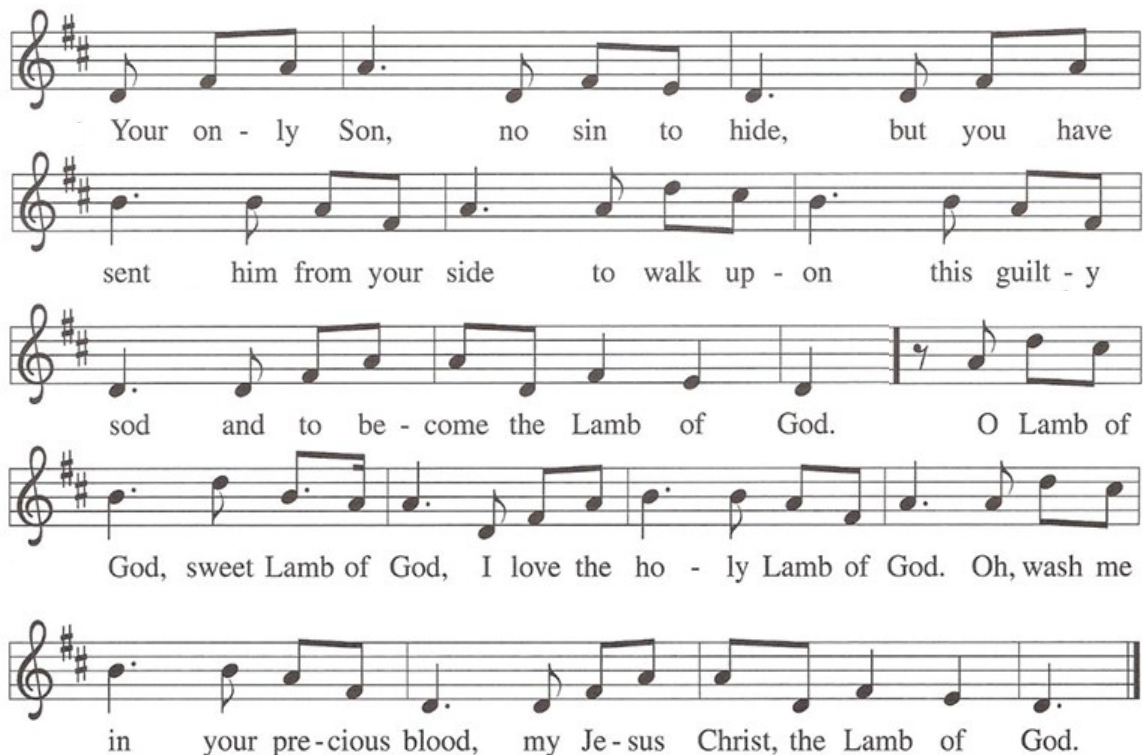
### **\*INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

P Here is life. God is with us. Come, receive what God has promised.

### **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**



Your on - ly Son, no sin to hide, but you have  
sent him from your side to walk up - on this guilt - y  
sod and to be - come the Lamb of God. O Lamb of  
God, sweet Lamb of God, I love the ho - ly Lamb of God. Oh, wash me  
in your pre - cious blood, my Je - sus Christ, the Lamb of God.

### **\*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

P Loving God, In a world racked with fear, you gather us together. You set the table. You meet us here. You nourish our bodies as you nourish our spirits. You remind us that this is a joyful feast, and that fear cannot win every time. So with renewed courage, with renewed hope, with renewed conviction, send us out into the world. Help us to feed others as you have fed us. With gratitude we pray,

C Amen.

**\*BLESSING**

**P** In a fearful world, may you look for God's spirit. May you reach for each other's hands. May you choose courage whenever you can. And in all things, may you remember that good news is louder than fear. In the name of the one who calls, the one who sends, and the one who journeys with -- go in peace and be not afraid.

**C** Amen.

**\*SENDING HYMN**

**"Fling Wide the Door"**  
**(see page 11)**

**ELW #259**

**SENDING**

**L** Go in peace. Keep awake.

**C** Thanks be to God.



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)**  
**1140 Tullar Road, Neenah, WI 54956**  
**920-725-6822**  
**www.gloriadeilc.org**

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         | Christine Olsen                | Christine Olsen                |
| LECTOR                    | Ryan Michaud                   | Christine Olsen                |
| COMMUNION ASSISTANTS      |                                |                                |
| USHERS                    |                                |                                |
| GREETERS                  |                                |                                |
| ACOLYTE                   | Landen Schaller                | Cayla Radtke                   |
| NURSERY ATTENDANT         |                                |                                |
| ALTAR GUILD               | Christine Olsen                | Christine Olsen                |
| COFFEE HOST               |                                |                                |

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