

December 7, 2025
8:00 & 10:30 a.m.
Second 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?
WHEN WE'RE RUNNING OUT OF HOPE, GOD IS AT WORK*

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING AND DEDICATION OF MEMORIAL BENCH IN MEMORY OF FRITZ SCHOESSOW (8am Worship Service)

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

P Longing for peace, our world is troubled. Longing for hope, many despair.
Your word alone has pow'r to save us. Make us your living voice.

C

Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the
dark - ness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your
church gath - ered to - day.

P The Light shines in the darkness.

C but the darkness has not overcome it.

P During Advent our weary souls seek God's daily strength.

C The Lord gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak.

P We grow weary when fear overshadows faith.

C The Lord gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak.

P We grow weary when destructive actions erupt in the world around us.

C The Lord gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak.

P For all of us feeling weary this Advent season:

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 Today we light two candles. The first candle illuminates patience in the areas of our lives where God has called us to wait. The second candle extends the promise of strength to all who feel weary and weak in the shadows of this world. As we continue our Advent journey, may our hope be kindled as the light grows brighter.



Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the
 dark - ness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your
 church gath - ered to - day.

P Let us pray. God of mercy and compassion, scripture says that if we draw near to you, you will draw near to us. In a shadowy world where human weakness and weariness reside, we ask for you to draw near and dispel the darkness around us. May the light of this season illuminate our hope, strength, and steadfast endurance as we await the coming Savior. We pray this in the name of Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

P Family of faith, God is at work!

C God is healing and creating,

P redeeming and dreaming,

C calling and sending,

P listening and loving.

C Yes, indeed, God is at work!

P So may we worship our God who never gives up.

C May we worship our God who holds onto hope. Amen.

***CONFESSION**

P Let us pray.

C On-the-move God, we have every reason to hold onto hope. We have every reason to believe that spring will come, that flowers will bloom, that the sun will rise. And yet, too often hope slips through our fingers. With anxious hearts we cry out to you, "Will change ever come? Will things ever get better? Will I ever make a difference?" Soothe our wandering hearts and show us the places where the sun is shining. Show us the places where you are on the move. With open hearts we pray, Amen.

***WORDS OF FORGIVENESS**

P Family of faith, in our honesty,	C we are heard.
P In our worries,	C we are held.
P In our failings,	C we are forgiven.
P In our fear,	C we are not alone.
P Friends, this is the good news of the gospel!	C When we're running out of hope, God is still at work.
P Thanks be to God!	C Amen.

***GATHERING HYMN "Looking Out a Prison Window"**
(sung to the tune "Once in Royal David's City")



Look - ing out a pri - son win - dow, who can
All the things that keep us cap - tive shrink our
To our sib - lings still im - pris - oned be - hind
We are called to li - ber - a - tion, to be



see the flow - ers bloom? Hope dis - solves like dreams at
op - ti - mis - tic faith We must prac - tice hope on
bars of steel or fear Bring the mes - sage from our
freed and to set free Break - ing chains of world - ly



day - break leav - ing us an emp - ty room Still be - yond what
pur - pose e - ven when our spi - rits break 'Til at last our
Sav - ior: hope is real and dawn - ing near Tell the gos - pel
pow - ers who would claim our li - ber - ty Bo - dy, spi - rit,



we can see God is al - ways plant - ing seeds
free - dom comes And we fin - ally see the sun
all a - round New life springs up from the ground
mind and heart Li - ber - ate each cap - tive part

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

L Let us pray.

C Merciful God, we need bread and we need laughter. We need music and we need a hand to hold. We need a chair to sit in and we need work to do. But maybe more than anything, we need your Word and a reason to hope. So move through this space today and speak to us as only you can. Speak a word of hope deep into our weary bones. For we need bread and we need laughter, but most of all, we need you. Amen.

SPECIAL MUSIC

One Voice Choir - 8am

SCRIPTURE READING: Isaiah 43:19-21

¹⁹ I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth; do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert. ²⁰ The wild animals will honor me, the jackals and the ostriches, for I give water in the wilderness, rivers in the desert, to give drink to my chosen people, ²¹ the people whom I formed for myself so that they might declare my praise.

L Word of God, Word of Life.

C Thanks be to God

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

***GOSPEL READING: Matthew 11:1-11**

P The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 11th chapter.

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

¹ Now when Jesus had finished instructing his twelve disciples, he went on from there to teach and proclaim his message in their cities. ² When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples ³ and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" ⁴ Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: ⁵ the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, those with a skin disease are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. ⁶ And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at

me.”⁷ As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind?”⁸ What, then, did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces.⁹ What, then, did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet.¹⁰ This is the one about whom it is written, ‘See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.’¹¹ “Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist, yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

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

CHILDREN’S SERMON

SERMON Pastor Tabitha Gallatin

*SONG OF RESPONSE “On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry” ELW #249



1 On Jor - dan’s bank the Bap - tist’s cry an - nounc - es
 2 Then cleansed be ev - ’ry life from sin; make straight the
 3 We hail you as our Sav - ior, Lord, our ref - uge
 4 Stretch forth your hand, our health re - store, and make us
 5 All praise to you, e - ter - nal Son, whose ad - vent



that the Lord is nigh; a - wake and heark - en,
 way for God with - in, and let us all our
 and our great re - ward; with - out your grace we
 rise to fall no more; oh, let your face up -
 has our free - dom won, whom with the Fa - ther



for he brings glad tid - ings of the King of kings!
 hearts pre - pare for Christ to come and en - ter there.
 waste a - way like flow’rs that with - er and de - cay.
 on us shine and fill the world with love di - vine.
 we a - dore, and Ho - ly Spir - it, ev - er - more.

***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 (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 2

ELW #267

2 Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy

***OFFERING PRAYER**

L Let us pray together,

C God our provider, by your merciful hand abundance springs up from the earth. Receive and bless these gifts of your own bounty. Let them be a sign of your steadfast love and faithfulness for all people, through Jesus Christ our Savior. 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.

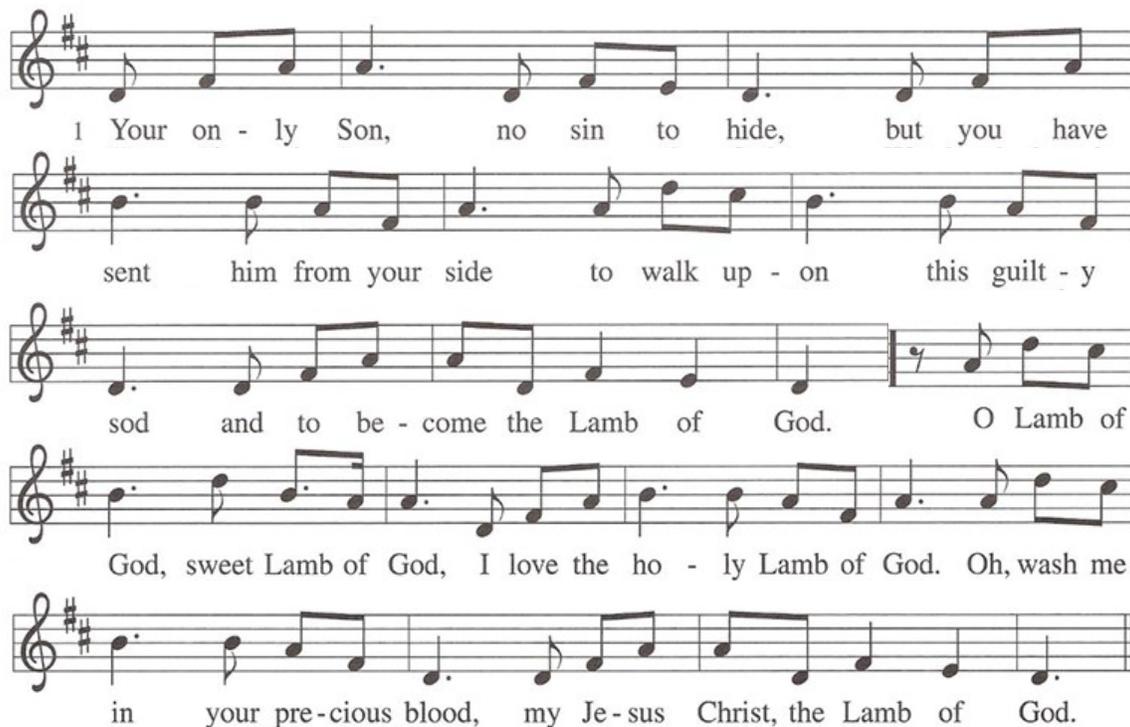
***INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

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



I 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**

"Prepare the Royal Highway"

ELW #264



1 Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; the King of kings is near!
2 God's peo - ple, see him com - ing: your own e - ter - nal king!
3 Then fling the gates wide o - pen to greet your prom - ised king!
4 His is no earth - ly king - dom; it comes from heav'n a - bove.



Let ev - 'ry hill and val - ley a lev - el road ap - pear!
Palm branch - es strew be - fore him! Spread gar - ments! Shout and sing!
Your king, yet ev - 'ry na - tion its trib - ute too may bring.
His rule is peace and free - dom and jus - tice, truth, and love.



Then greet the King of glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry:
God's prom - ise will not fail you! No more shall doubt as - sail you!
All lands will bow be - fore him; their voic - es join your sing - ing:
So let your praise be sound - ing for kind - ness so a - bound - ing:



Ho - san - na to the Lord, for he ful - fills God's word!

***SENDING**

L Go in peace. Keep awake.

C **Thanks be to God.**

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	Pastor Tabitha Gallatin	Pastor 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	Chris Drews	Jay Olson
LECTOR	Chris Drews	Jay Olson
COMMUNION ASSISTANTS	Jeaneen Schoessow	
USHERS	Noah Johnson/Nancy Swanson	Don Reid/Mike Farrell
GREETERS	Johnson Family	
ACOLYTE	Audrey Johnson	Landon Schaller
NURSERY ATTENDANT	Lori Johnson	
ALTAR GUILD	Judy Brown	Judy Brown
COFFEE HOST		

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- Joy to the World. Text & Music: Public Domain.
- Lamb of God. Text & Music: Capitol CMG Publishing (CCLI).
- Prepare the Royal Highway. Text : Augsburg Fortress (OneLicense). Tune: Public Domain.

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