

December 28, 2025
9:00 a.m.
Lessons & Carols



Gloria Dei Lutheran Church
Neenah, Wisconsin
Service of Holy Communion

Ministers
Pastors

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

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING SONG

"Once in Royal David's City"
(Verses 1 & 4)

ELW #269

1	Once in royal David's city stood a lowly cattle shed, where a mother laid her baby in a manger for his bed: Mary was that mother mild, Jesus Christ, her little child.	4	Not in that poor lowly stable, with the oxen standing by, we shall see him; but in heaven, set at God's right hand on high; there his children gather round, bright like stars, with glory crowned.
---	---	---	---

DIALOGUE

- L Jesus, the bright Morning Star, shines light in the world.
C By day and night he shines for all to see.
L Jesus was born in the midst of injustice and poverty
C that the world may see the justice and richness of God.
L God so loved the world that God sent Jesus,
C so that all who believe in him may not perish but have eternal life.
L Jesus is the light of the world.
C Jesus is the light of our lives.
L Sing to God a new song!
C A song of hope, joy, and peace around the world.

OPENING PRAYER

- L Let us pray.
C O Lord God, you know that we cannot place our trust in our own Powers. As you protected the infant Jesus, so defend us and all the needy from harm and adversity, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

(A time for silent reflection will follow each reading before the carol is sung)

FIRST READING: Isaiah 9:2-7

²The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness — on them light has shined. ³You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. ⁴For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. ⁵For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. ⁶For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

CAROL

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming" vs 1 & 4

ELW #272

1 Lo, how a rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung! Of Jesse's lineage coming as seers of old have sung, it came, a flow'r so bright, amid the cold of winter, when half-spent was the night.	4 O Savior, child of Mary, who felt our human woe; O Savior, king of glory, who dost our weakness know: bring us at length, we pray, to the bright courts of heaven and into endless day.
--	---

SECOND READING: Micah 5:2–5a

²But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. ³Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel. ⁴And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth; ⁵and he shall be the one of peace.

CAROL***"O Little Town of Bethlehem" vs 1 & 4*****ELW #279**

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1 O little town of Bethlehem, how
still we see thee lie! Above thy
deep and dreamless sleep the
silent stars go by; yet in thy dark
streets shineth the everlasting
light. The hopes and fears of all
the years are met in thee tonight. | 4 O holy child of Bethlehem,
descend to us, we pray; cast out
our sin, and enter in, be born in us
today. We hear the Christmas
Angels the great glad tidings tell;
oh, come to us, abide with us,
our Lord Immanuel! |
|--|---|

THIRD READING: Luke 1:26–35, 38

²⁶In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." ²⁹But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³²He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. ³³He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." ³⁴Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" ³⁵The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. ³⁸Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

CAROL***"What Child is This" vs 1 & 3*****ELW #296**

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 What child is this, who, laid to
rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems
sweet while shepherds watch are
keeping? This, this is Christ the
king, whom shepherds guard and
angels sing; haste, haste to bring
him laud, the babe, the son of
Mary! | 3 So bring him incense, gold, and
myrrh; come, peasant, king, to
own him. The King of kings
salvation brings; let loving hearts
enthron him. Raise, raise the
song on high, the virgin sings her
lullaby; joy, joy, for Christ is born,
the babe, the son of Mary! |
|---|---|

FOURTH READING: Luke 2:1-7

¹In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. ⁵He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

CAROL

"Away in a Manger" vs 1 & 3

ELW #277

¹Away in a manger, no crib for his bed, the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head; the stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay. the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

³Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask you to stay close by me forever and love me, I pray. Bless all the dear children in your tender care. and fit us for heaven, to live with you there

FIFTH READING: Luke 2:8–20

⁸In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see — I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, ¹⁴"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!" ¹⁵When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." ¹⁶So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

CAROL***"Infant Holy, Infant Lowly" vs 1 & 2*****ELW #276**

1 Infant holy, infant lowly, for his bed a cattle stall; oxen lowing, little knowing Christ the child is Lord of all. Swiftly winging, angels singing, bells are ringing, tidings bringing: Christ the child is Lord of all! Christ the child is Lord of all!	2 Flocks were sleeping, shepherds keeping vigil till the morning new saw the glory, heard the story, tidings of a gospel true. Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow, praises voicing, greet the morrow: Christ the child was born for you! Christ the child was born for you!
--	--

SIXTH READING: Luke 2:21-35

²¹After eight days had passed, it was time to circumcise the child; and he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb. ²²When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord ²³(as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord"), ²⁴and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons." ²⁵Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. ²⁶It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. ²⁷Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, ²⁸Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying, ²⁹"Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; ³⁰for my eyes have seen your salvation, ³¹which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, ³²a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel." ³³And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. ³⁴Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, "This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed ³⁵so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed — and a sword will pierce your own soul too."

CAROL***"Angels We Have Heard on High" vs 1 & 3*****ELW #289**

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 Angels we have heard on high,
sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply,
echoing their joyous strains.
Gloria in excelsis Deo;
gloria in excelsis Deo. | 3 Come to Bethlehem and see
him whose birth the angels sing;
come, adore on bended knee
Christ the Lord, the newborn
king. Gloria in excelsis Deo;
gloria in excelsis Deo. |
|---|---|

SEVENTH READING: Matthew 2:1–11

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, ²asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." ³When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: ⁶And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel." ⁷Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." ⁹When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

CAROL***"The First Noel" vs 1 & 5*****ELW #300**

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 The first Noel the angel did say
was to certain poor shepherds in
fields as they lay; in fields where
they lay, keeping their sheep, on
a cold winter's night that was so
deep. Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel!
Born is the King of Israel. | 5 Then entered in those wise men
three, full rev'rently upon their
knee, and offered there in his
presence their gold, and myrrh,
and frankincense. Noel, Noel,
Noel, Noel! Born is the King of
Israel. |
|---|---|

EIGHTH READING: Matthew 2:13-15a

¹³Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." ¹⁴Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, ¹⁵and remained there until the death of Herod.

CAROL**"O Come, All Ye Faithful" vs 1 & 4****ELW #283**

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| 1 | O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant! O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem; come and behold him, born the king of angels: <i>Refrain</i> | <i>Refrain:</i> O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord! |
| 4 | Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning; Jesus, to thee be glory giv'n! Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing: <i>Refrain</i> | |

NINTH READING: John 1:1–5, 14

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. ¹⁴And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

CAROL**"Joy to the World" vs 1 & 2****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. | 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. |
|---|--|---|---|

RESPONSIVE PRAYER

- L It is you, loving God, who lights our path with truth.
C **Your Word, Jesus, is truth.**
L In his light, draw all to the manger
C **to gather in wonder with the shepherds.**
L In his light, draw all to the manger
C **to kneel in reverence with the wise ones.**
L In his light, draw all to the manger
C **to sing for joy with the angels.**
L In the brightness of his life
C **cast away the darkness of injustice, poverty, and hunger in the world.**
L It is you, loving God, who meets us on our way.
C **In the light of Jesus, show the world the way of life. Amen.**

SHARING OF THE PEACE

- P The peace of the Lord be with you always. C **And also with you.**

SHARING OUR TITHES AND 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!



*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. |

*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: A child has been born for us, a Son given to us. Come, receive the gift of Jesus.

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.

BLESSING

L Praise God, from whom all blessings flow!

C Praise God, all creatures here below!

L You are the shepherds telling the story.

C We tell it in the streets and across the land.

L You are the wise ones worshiping with thanksgiving.

C We worship with gifts of song and service, talents and treasures.

L You are the angels announcing peace.

C We live with joy and go now in peace.

L Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

C Amen.

SENDING SONG

"Good Christian Friends Rejoice"

ELW #288

- 1 Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice; give ye heed to what we say: Jesus Christ is born today; ox and ass before him bow, and he is in the manger now. Christ is born today! Christ is born today!
- 2 Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice; now ye hear of endless bliss: Jesus Christ was born for this! He has opened heaven's door, and we are blest forevermore. Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!
- 3 Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice; now ye need not fear the grave; Jesus Christ was born to save! Calls you one and calls you all to gain the everlasting hall. Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

***SENDING**

L: Christ the Savior is born! God in peace. Proclaim this good news.

C: Thanks be to God.

Regular Worship and Education schedule resumes next Sunday, January 4: worship services at 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. and Bible Study and Sunday School classes at 9:10 a.m.

THANK YOU!! As you sit in the pews during this Advent and Christmas season and reflect on the true meaning of this season also take a look around our facilities inside and out and enjoy some of the beauty of the season. Thank you to Tom and Sue Schroeder for their donations of the beautiful Christmas tree and all of the other live greenery that adorns our facilities, we are truly grateful for their generosity. **Thank you Galen & Chris Drews, Terry & Valerie Gulke, Robyn Krueger, Roger & Marlene Marks, Keith Mustain, and Christine Olsen and all those who helped with decorating our worship space inside and out!**

Poinsettias - The Poinsettias that adorn our worship space are given to the Glory of God by the following families:



- * Scott and Deb Barkholtz
- * Paul and Jenny Bonikowske in memory of our parents and honor of our family
- * Mike & Mary Farrell
- * Sharon Grapengieser in honor of my sons and in memory of my parents, brother, and husband.
- * Hager Family - Glory to God
- * Dale and Diane Haug
- * Gary and Jill Krueger in memory of our parents Pat & Neil Kruger and Jane & John Reszka
- * Mel & Veryl Kiekhaefer in honor of our children & our granddaughter, Vivan
- * Kuehn Family
- * Jim & Jane Lantz - in memory of our parents
- * Bob and Julee Mansfield in memory of T.P. & Agnes Mansfield, Pat Mansfield, and Maxine & Ervin Bathke
- * Michaud Family - in memory of Lois Maki
- * Keith and Colleen Mustain - in memory of our parents
- * Don and Maxine Pohlman
- * Brian and Mary Radichel
- * Kate Rogge - in memory of Wally & Betty Nitkowski
- * Doug Rohloff
- * Marie Swanson in memory of Tom Swanson

THANK YOU TO THOSE SERVING IN WORSHIP TODAY

	9:00 a.m.
MINISTERS	All God's people at Gloria Dei
PRESIDING MINISTER	Pastor Tabitha Gallatin
MINISTER OF MUSIC	Dr. Myron Jones
CHILDREN'S CHOIR DIRECTOR	Jill Kruger
CHOIR ACCOMPANIST	Sherry Klitz
LITURGY ASSISTANT	Robyn Krueger
LECTOR	Robyn Krueger
COMMUNION ASSISTANTS	Jeaneen Schoessow
USHERS	Don Krueger/Christine Olsen
GREETERS	Marilyn Catlin
ACOLYTE	Ally Keck
ALTAR GUILD	Christine Olsen

Gloria Dei Lutheran Church (ELCA)
1140 Tullar Road, Neenah, WI 54956
920-725-6822
www.gloriadeilc.org

- Once in Royal David's City. Text & Music: Public Domain.
- Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming. Text & Music: Public Domain.
- O Little Town of Bethlehem. Text & Music: Public Domain.
- What Child is This. Text & Music: Public Domain.
- Away in a Manager. Text & Music: Public Domain.
- Infant Holy, Infant Lowly. Text & Tune: Public Domain. Arrangement:: Augsburg Fortress (OneLicense).
- Angels We Have Heard on High. Text & Music: Public Domain.
- The First Noel. Text & Music: Public Domain.
- O Come, All Ye Faithful. Text & Music: Public Domain.
- Joy to the World. Text & Music: Public Domain.
- Good Christian Friends Rejoice: Text & Music: Public Domain.

Liturgy from ©Church Anew. Used with Permission.

Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #23779.

New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Permission to reprint/podcast/stream the music in this service obtained from CCLI License #30595699 and License #2534420 and from OneLicense.net with license #A-703850.