

Midweek Lent Worship
February 25, 2026
Making Change



Gloria Dei Lutheran Church
Neenah, Wisconsin
www.gloriadeilc.org
A congregation of the ELCA

Ministers
Pastor

Everyone at Gloria Dei
Pastor Karen Jewell-vanBuskirk

Making Change

Change is a constant in our lives. Some changes mark gradual transitions, as when daytime shifts toward twilight or winter turns to spring. Others happen in the blink of an eye, separating time into “before” and “after”. We choose to undergo some changes after carefully considering our options, while others are forced upon us.

In the weeks, days, and hours before Jesus’ crucifixion, the disciples also experienced change: a change of venue as the gates of Jerusalem approached; a change of plans as their long-awaited Messiah was arrested and tried; a change of circumstance as the crowds shouted “Crucify!”

Change is hard. We long for the expected and familiar, but all too often find ourselves in the midst of uncertainty and the unknown. We cannot predict how things will turn out. The hymnwriter Joachim Neander proclaimed God’s steadfast love in the midst of life’s inevitable changes: “All my hope on God is founded who will all my trust renew, who through change and chance will guide me, only good and only true. God unknown, God alone, call my heart to be thine own” (ELW 757).

Link to Sunday worship: The gospel readings for the Sundays in Lent this year are filled with stories where Jesus creates the possibility of change and new life. He challenges Nicodemus to be born from above (Lent 2, John 3:1-17). He offers the Samaritan woman the living water that quenches all thirst (Lent 3, John 4:5-42). Jesus gives sight to the blind man (Lent 4, John 9:1-41), and raises Lazarus from the grave (Lent 5, John 11:1-45).

Week 1 of Lent: Change of Season

"For everything there is a season." We hear those familiar words telling us that life is full of changes. Jesus' parables are also filled with images of life transformed. Just as the mustard seed grows into a tree or yeast turns flour into bread, we too are called to be agents of change in the kingdom of God. Christ did not come to earth to maintain the status quo, but rather to usher in a change of season.

Opening Litany

L O God, you are the source of our hope.

C Guide us through change and chance.

L When we grow weary and faint,

C call our hearts to be your own.

L When our plans fall to dust,

C be our temple and our tower.

L When the world lacks joy and beauty,

C reveal your splendor, light, and life.

L O God, we praise you for the gift of your Son.

C Strengthen us to follow the way of the cross.

Holden Evening Prayer - Evening Hymn



1. Joy-ous light of heav-'nly glo - ry, lov - ing
 2. In the stars that grace the dark - ness, in the
 3. You who made the heav-en's splen - dor, ev - 'ry



glow of God's own face, you who sing cre - a - tion's
 blaz - ing sun of dawn, of the light of peace and
 danc - ing star of night, make us shine with gen - tle



sto - ry, shine on ev 'ry land and race. Now as
 wis - dom, we can hear your qui - et song. Love that
 jus - tice, let us each re - flect your light. Might - y



eve - ning falls a - round us, we shall raise our songs to
 fills the night with won - der, love that warms the wea - ry
 God of all cre - a - tion, gen - tle Christ who lights our



you, God of day - break, God of shad - ows, come and
 soul, Love that bursts all chains a - sun - der, set us
 way, Lov - ing Spir - it of sal - va - tion, lead us



light our hearts a - new. _____
 free and make us whole. _____
 on to end - less day. _____

Greeting

L 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

L O God of the ages, your creation revolves through seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night. When the seasons come and go and uncertainty looms ahead, we long for the constancy of your love. Give us courage, wisdom, and patience to be your agents of change in the world. In Jesus' name we pray.

C Amen.

Reading: Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

¹ For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:

² a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted;

³ a time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up;

⁴ a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance;

⁵ a time to throw away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;

⁶ a time to seek, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to throw away;

⁷ a time to tear, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;

⁸ a time to love, and a time to hate; a time for war, and a time for peace.

L The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

***The Gospel: Luke 13:18-21**

The Parable of the Mustard Seed

¹⁸ He said therefore, 'What is the kingdom of God like? And to what should I compare it? ¹⁹It is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in the garden; it grew and became a tree, and the birds of the air made nests in its branches.'

The Parable of the Yeast

²⁰ And again he said, 'To what should I compare the kingdom of God? ²¹It is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with* three measures of flour until all of it was leavened.'

Children's Message

Reflection

The Prayers of the People

L O God our help, you walk with us through all of life's changes.

C **Grant us strength, patience, wisdom and understanding.**

L O God our hope, you come to us in the life, death and resurrection of Christ.

C **Show us your salvation, and lead us in the way of the cross.**

L O God our shelter, you enfold us like a mother hen gathering her chicks.

C **Watch over all who are sick, grieving, lonely and in need this day.**

L O God our home, you claim us as your beloved children.

C **Lord, remember us when you come into your kingdom.**

L All this we ask through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer (*adaptation from hymn "Salvation Onto Us Has Come"*).

L Let us pray together

C **O Triune God in heaven above, your blessed name we hallow. Your kingdom come, your will be done in this world as in heaven; give bread for each new day begun; our sins be all forgiven, as we forgive what others do; in every trial see us through; from evil save us. Amen.**

Blessing

L The Lord of peace give you peace at all times and in all ways. In the name of the Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

Sending Song

Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus

ELW #802



1 Let us ev - er walk with Je - sus, fol - low his ex - am - ple pure,
2 Let us suf - fer here with Je - sus, and with pa - tience bear our cross.
3 Let us glad - ly die with Je - sus. Since by death he con - quered death,
4 Let us al - so live with Je - sus. He has ris - en from the dead



through a world that would de - ceive us and to sin our spir - its lure.
Joy will fol - low all our sad - ness; where he is there is no loss.
he will free us from de - struc - tion, give to us im - mor - tal breath.
that to life we may a - wak - en. Je - sus, you are now our head,



On - ward in his foot - steps tread - ing, trav - 'lers here, our home a - bove,
Though to - day we sow no laugh - ter, we shall reap ce - les - tial joy:
Let us mor - ti - fy all pas - sion that would lead us in - to sin;
we are your own liv - ing mem - bers; where you live, there we shall be



full of faith and hope and love, let us do our Sav - ior's bid - ding.
all dis - com - forts that an - noy shall give way to mirth here - af - ter.
and the grave that shuts us in shall but prove the gate of heav - en.
in your pres - ence con - stant - ly, liv - ing there with you for - ev - er.



Faith - ful Lord, with me a - bide; I shall fol - low where you guide.
Je - sus, here I share your woe; help me there your joy to know.
Je - sus, here with you I die, there to live with you on high.
Je - sus, let me faith - ful be; life e - ter - nal grant to me.

Dismissal

L Go now in peace, for nothing can separate you from the love of God in Christ Jesus.

C **Thanks be to God.**

From Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2014 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.
Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #23779.

Soup Suppers During Lent –Soup Suppers are held Wednesday evenings from 5:30-6:25 PM from February 25 - March 18. Sign up on the kiosk if you can provide soup, bread, desserts, or help with setup and cleanup. Also posted on kiosk is a signup sheet for those who can join us for a meal so we know how many to prepare for. No Soup Supper on March 25 due to new flooring being installed in fellowship hall. There still will be the Lenten Worship service at 6:30 p.m. on March 25.

Lenten Devotionals: Please check out the table in the narthex for a variety of Lenten Devotionals for you to use at home during this season of Lent. You'll find materials for adults and families to use.