

March 29, 2026
8:00 & 10:30 a.m.
Palm Sunday



PALM
Sunday

Gloria Dei Lutheran Church
Neenah, Wisconsin
Service of Holy Communion

Ministers
Worship Ministry

Everyone at Gloria Dei
Pastor Doug Holtz

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

Today, we encounter the paradox that defines our faith: Jesus Christ is glorified king and humiliated servant. We too are full of paradox: like Peter, we fervently desire to follow Christ, but find ourselves afraid, denying God. We wave palms in celebration today as Christ comes into our midst, and we follow with trepidation as his path leads to death on the cross. Amid it all we are invited into this paradoxical promise of life through Christ's broken body and outpoured love in a meal of bread and wine. We begin this week that stands at the center of the church year, anticipating the completion of God's astounding work.

WELCOME (start in the Narthex)

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

P Here in this place, with these people, we begin that week we call Holy.

C We crane our necks to see the parade, we will bow our heads as the funeral procession winds through the streets.

P We have been with Jesus on this journey; we long for courage to go to the end.

C In one hand, we clutch the palm branches; in the other, we cradle our broken hearts.

P As children dance excitedly around him, Jesus humbly enters our lives.

C Hosanna! We welcome the kingdom bearer into our midst. Hosanna!

***ACCLAMATION**

P Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

C Hosanna in the highest.

***PROCESSIONAL GOSPEL: Matthew 21:1-11**

P The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

C Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, ² saying to them, "Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me. ³ If anyone says anything to you, just say this, 'The Lord needs them.' And he will send them immediately."

⁴ This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet: ⁵ "Tell the daughter of Zion, Look, your king is coming to you, humble and mounted on a donkey, and on a colt, the foal of a donkey." ⁶ The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; ⁷ they brought the donkey and the colt and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. ⁸ A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. ⁹ The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting, "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven!" ¹⁰ When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, "Who is this?" ¹¹ The crowds were saying, "This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee."

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

***BLESSING OF PALMS**

P The Lord be with you. **C And also with you.**

P Let us pray.

A brief silence is kept.

P We praise you, O God, for redeeming the world through our Savior Jesus Christ. Today he entered the holy city in triumph and was proclaimed messiah and king by those who spread garments and branches along his way. Bless these branches and those who carry them. Grant us grace to follow our Lord in the way of the cross, so that, joined to his death and resurrection, we enter into life with you; through the same Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

***PROCESSION**

P Let us go forth in peace, **C in the name of Christ. Amen.**

Walk into church waving palms during hymn

***PROCESSIONAL HYMN “All Glory, Laud, and Honor” ELW #344**



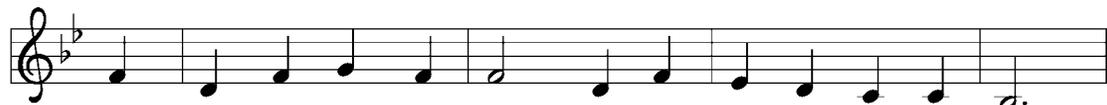
All glo - ry, laud, and hon - or to you, re - deem - er, king,



to whom the lips of chil - dren made sweet ho - san - nas ring.



- 1 You are the king of Is - rael and Da - vid's roy - al Son,
- 2 The com - pa - ny of an - gels are prais - ing you on high;
- 3 The mul - ti - tude of pil - grims with palms be - fore you went;
- 4 To you, be - fore your pas - sion, they sang their hymns of praise.
- 5 Their prais - es you ac - cept - ed; ac - cept the prayers we bring,



now in the Lord's name com - ing, our King and Bless - ed One.
cre - a - tion and all mor - tals in cho - rus make re - ply.
our praise and prayer and an - thems be - fore you we pre - sent.
To you, now high ex - alt - ed, our mel - o - dy we raise.
great au - thor of all good - ness, O good and gra - cious King.

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

L Our hearts are wounded by the nails we carry in them,

C yet you would heal us with your love.

L We are worn to the quick by the struggles of our lives,

C yet you carry us in your heart.

L Our souls are emptied by the loneliness of our lives,

C yet you would fill us with our siblings. Blessed are you, who comes to live with us!

L You could have remained in Nazareth, caring for your family,

C but you journeyed through our lives to bring us home.

L You could have stayed at home in glory,

C but you vacated God's heart, to serve us with grace.

L You could have come clutching unbearable power,

C but you filled your pockets with humility's wealth to share it with us. Blessed are you, who comes to save us!

L When we would puff up with pride,

C deflate us with your gentleness.

L When we would go home, after the parade has ended,

C walk us to the foot of the cross.

L When we would put our "Hosannas" away for another year,

C teach us to sing our gratitude for new life. Blessed are you, who comes to help us.

L God in Community, Holy in One we bless you and worship you, now and forever.

C Amen.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SCRIPTURE READING: Zechariah 9:9-10

⁹ Rejoice greatly, O daughter Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter Jerusalem! See, your king comes to you; triumphant and victorious is he, humble and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey. ¹⁰ He will cut off the chariot from Ephraim and the war horse from Jerusalem; and the battle bow shall be cut off, and he shall command peace to the nations; his dominion shall be from sea to sea and from the River to the ends of the earth.

L The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

SPECIAL MUSIC "Day to Sing Hosanna" One Voice Choir (both services)

PSALM: Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29

¹ Give thanks to the LORD, for the LORD is good; God's mercy endures forever.

² **Let Israel now declare, "God's mercy endures forever."**

¹⁹ Open for me the gates of righteousness; I will enter them and give thanks to the LORD.

²⁰ **"This is the gate of the LORD; here the righteous may enter."**

²¹ I give thanks to you, for you have answered me and you have become my salvation.

²² **The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.**

²³ By the LORD has this been done; it is marvelous in our eyes.

²⁴ **This is the day that the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

²⁵ Hosanna! O LORD, save us! We pray to you, LORD, prosper our days!

²⁶ **Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the LORD; we bless you from the house of the LORD.**

²⁷ The LORD is God and has given us light. Form a procession with branches up to the corners of the altar.

²⁸ **You are my God, and I will thank you; you are my God, and I will exalt you.**

²⁹ Give thanks to the LORD, for the LORD is good; God's mercy endures forever.

GOSPEL READING: John 12:12-19

P The Holy Gospel according to John.

C Glory to you, O Lord.

¹² The next day the great crowd that had come to the festival heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. ¹³ So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, shouting, "Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord— the King of Israel!" ¹⁴ Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it, as it is written: ¹⁵ "Do not be afraid, daughter of Zion. Look, your king is coming, sitting on a donkey's colt!" ¹⁶ His disciples did not understand these things at first, but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that these things had been written of him and had been done to him. ¹⁷ So the crowd that had been with him when he called Lazarus out of the tomb and raised him from the dead continued to testify. ¹⁸ It was also because they heard that he had performed this sign that the crowd went to meet him.

¹⁹ The Pharisees then said to one another, "You see, you can do nothing. Look, the world has gone after him!"

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

SERMON

Pastor Doug Holtz

*SONG OF RESPONSE

Words: ELW #346 Tune: ELW #389



1 Ride on ride on in ma -- je -- sty! Hear all the
 2 Ride on ride on in ma -- je -- sty! In low -- ly
 3 Ride on ride on in ma -- je -- sty! The hosts of
 4 Ride on ride on in ma -- je -- sty! In low -- ly



tribe ho --- san -- na cry; O Sa -- vior meek, your
 pomp ride on to die. O Christ your tri -- umphs
 an -- gels in the sky look down with sad and
 pomp ride on to die, how your meek head to



road pur -- sue with palms and scattered garments strewed.
 now be -- gin o'er cap -- tive death and conquered sin.
 wond 'ring eyes to see the approaching sacr - if -- ice.
 mor -- tal pain, then take, O Christ, your pow'r and reign!

*APOSTLES' CREED

L Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

C I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

***PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

L Faithful God.

C Hear our prayer.

***SHARING OF THE PEACE**

L The peace of Christ be with you always.

C And also with you.

SHARING OUR TITHES & OFFERINGS

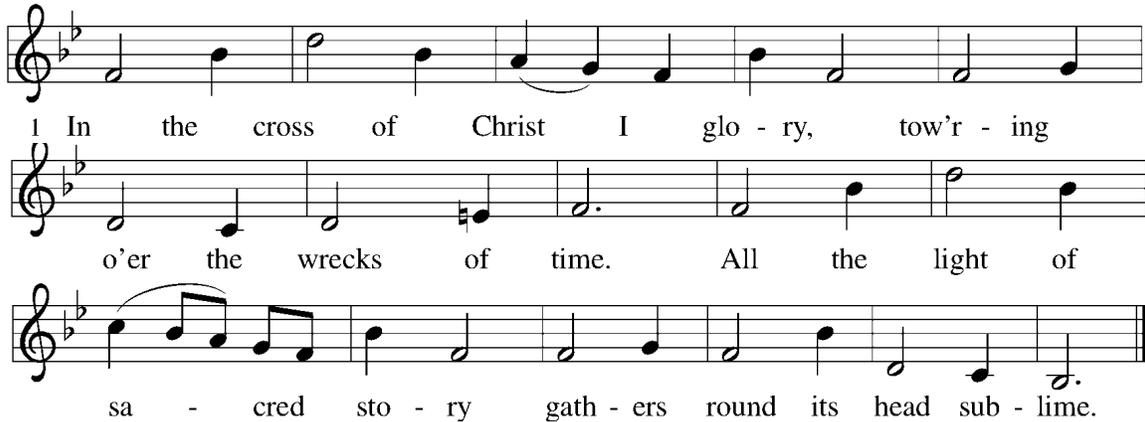
We joyfully offer financial gifts to God's ministry through Gloria Dei in a variety of ways. Either place gifts in offering baskets as they are distributed or go to www.gloriadeilc.org/give (or scan QR code) or text your gift to 1-877-952-9422 this morning. If you are giving electronically or at a frequency 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**

"In the Cross of Christ I Glory" vs 1

ELW #324



1 In the cross of Christ I glo - ry, tow'r - ing
o'er the wrecks of time. All the light of
sa - cred sto - ry gath - ers round its head sub - lime.

***OFFERING PRAYER**

L O God, maker of heaven and earth,

C **your steadfast love embraces all creation. You send rain and sunshine to nourish the earth and bring forth its bounty. Through these gifts of bread and wine, draw us into the death and life of your Son, who calls us to bear witness to his saving work. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.**

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION
***GREAT THANKSGIVING**

P The Lord be with you. C And al - so 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.

P It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of

pow-er and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -

san - na in the high-est. Blessed is he who comes in the

name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

***THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

P In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

***LORD'S PRAYER**

P Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**C 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.**

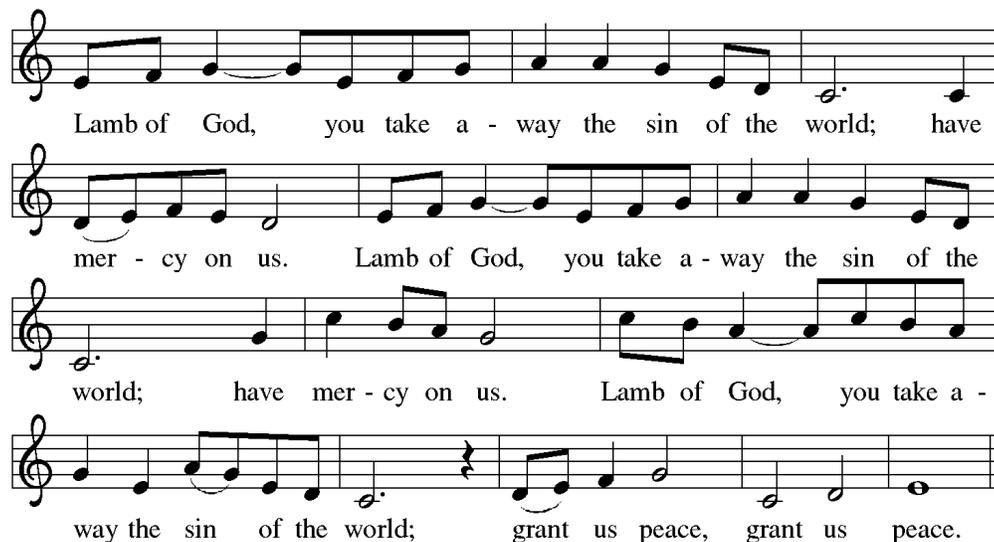
***WELCOME TO THE TABLE**

P Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Gather us closely around your table as we tell the story of your sacrificial love once again. Feed us for the journey and comfort us with your presence in this meal. May all come and join in this holy supper.

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 God of our salvation, we give you thanks for this meal that restores our souls, reconciles us to you, and strengthens us for the journey. Through the body and blood of your Son, may we become Christ's body in the world, bearing witness to your love for all creation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

*BLESSING

P The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace. In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

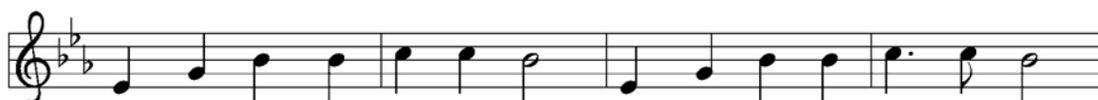
***SENDING HYMN**

“Go to Dark Gethsemane”

ELW #347



1 Go to dark Geth-sem - a - ne, all who feel the tempt - er's pow'r;
2 Fol - low to the judg-ment hall, view the Lord of life ar - raigned;
3 Cal - v'ry's mourn-ful moun-tain climb; there, a - dor - ing at his feet,
4 Ear - ly has - ten to the tomb where they laid his breath - less clay;



your Re-deem - er's con - flict see. Watch with him one bit - ter hour;
oh, the worm-wood and the gall! Oh, the pangs his soul sus-tained!
mark that mir - a - cle of time, God's own sac - ri - fice com-plete.
all is sol - i - tude and gloom. Who has tak - en him a - way?



turn not from his griefs a - way; learn from Je - sus Christ to pray.
Shun not suf - f'ring, shame, or loss; learn from him to bear the cross.
“It is fin - ished!” hear him cry; learn from Je - sus Christ to die.
Christ is ris'n! He meets our eyes. Sav - ior, teach us so to rise.

DISMISSAL

L Now we will set aside our palm branches,

C to go and serve at God's side in a broken and fearful world.

L Now we will pick up our cloaks and follow Jesus wherever he leads,

C to learn from those the world ignores, to be touched by the grace within them.

L Now we will sing songs of wonder, as we work alongside the Spirit,

C sustaining the weary with peace and hope.

L Go in peace. Believe the good news.

C Thanks be to God.

JOURNEY TO HOPE

We in America are most fortunate to have some of the best health care anywhere in the world, but many of our sisters and brothers do not have this privilege. You can help change that. Our Lenten giving focus this year is to help ensure safe births and growth to adulthood for children around the world. Your gifts to our Lenten "[Journey to Hope](#)" campaign will reach out to children around the world for their growth in the womb to adulthood. Your gifts will make it possible for disadvantaged children to grow to their full potential. Please join us with your commitment to help those in need.

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
WORSHIP MINISTRY	Pastor Doug Holtz	Pastor Doug Holtz
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	Christine Olsen	Christine Olsen
COMMUNION ASSISTANTS	Valerie Gulke	Jean Herman
USHERS		Don Reid
GREETERS	Johnson Family	Jean Herman
ACOLYTE	Ally Keck	
NURSERY ATTENDANT		
ALTAR GUILD	Christine Olsen	Christine Olsen
COFFEE HOST		
LIVE STREAMING	Vincent Guardiola	

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

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