

**Midweek Lent Worship**  
**March 25, 2026**  
**Making Change**



**Gloria Dei Lutheran Church**  
Neenah, Wisconsin  
[www.gloriadeilc.org](http://www.gloriadeilc.org)  
*A congregation of the ELCA*

Ministers  
Pastor

Everyone at Gloria Dei  
Pastor Doug Holtz

## **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 5 of Lent: Change of Plans**

God's ways are not our own. We expect a conquering king and hero, but Jesus instead leads us down the road to Jerusalem and humbles himself on the cross. God changes our plans and replaces them with a love broader and deeper than anything we could imagine.

#### **Opening Litany**

L We see Jesus walking ahead on the road.

**C He leads us toward Jerusalem.**

L We follow but are very afraid.

**C He says the Son of Man will be handed over.**

L We understand nothing about all these things.

**C He says the prophets' words will be fulfilled.**

L We hear him talk of suffering and death.

**C Forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you!**

**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 our surprise, you offer so much more than our own limited plans envision. You take our place, becoming our salvation through the cross. As we prepare for Holy Week, strengthen our hearts and minds to follow Jesus on the road to Jerusalem. When we betray like Judas, deny like Peter, and scatter like the disciples, forgive our frailties. Bring us the promise of resurrection and new life in you. In Jesus' name we pray.

**C Amen.**

### **Reading: Isaiah 52:13-15**

<sup>13</sup>See, my servant shall prosper; he shall be exalted and lifted up, and shall be very high. <sup>14</sup>Just as there were many who were astonished at him — so marred was his appearance, beyond human semblance, and his form beyond that of mortals — <sup>15</sup>so he shall startle many nations; kings shall shut their mouths because of him; for that which had not been told them they shall see, and that which they had not heard they shall contemplate.

L The Word of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

### **\*The Gospel: Mark 10:32-34**

<sup>32</sup>They were on the road, going up to Jerusalem, and Jesus was walking ahead of them; they were amazed, and those who followed were afraid. He took the twelve aside again and began to tell them what was to happen to him, <sup>33</sup>saying, "See, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be handed over to the chief priests and the scribes, and they will condemn him to death; then they will hand him over to the Gentiles; <sup>34</sup>they will mock him, and spit upon him, and flog him, and kill him; and after three days he will rise again."

L The Word of the Lord

**C Thanks be to God.**

## 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.

**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**

**“O Lamb of God, Sweet Lamb of God”**

**ELW#336**



1 Your on - ly Son, no sin to hide, but you have  
2 Your gift of love we cru - ci - fied. We laughed and  
3 I was so lost, I should have died, but you have



sent him from your side to walk up - on this guilt - y  
scorned him as he died. The hum - ble king we named a  
brought me to your side to be led by your staff and



sod and to be - come the Lamb of God. O Lamb of  
fraud and sac - ri - ficed the Lamb of God.  
rod and to be called a lamb of God.



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.

**Dismissal**

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

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

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## **Holy Week and Easter Schedule**

### **Palm Sunday**

**March 29** 8:00 & 10:30 AM Worship Services with procession of palms  
9:15 Egg Hunt

### **Maundy Thursday**

**April 2** 6:30 PM Holy Communion Service with First Communion  
Participants and Stripping of the Altar

### **Good Friday**

**April 3** 12:00 Noon Ecumenical Service at St Paul's  
6:30 PM Worship Service at Gloria Dei

### **Easter**

**April 5** 8:00 & 10:30 AM Worship services