

April 12, 2026
8:00 & 10:30 a.m.
2nd Sunday of Easter



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

In today's gospel the risen Christ appears to the disciples and offers them the gift of peace. Even amid doubts and questions, we experience the resurrection in our Sunday gathering around word and meal, and in our everyday lives. Throughout the coming Sundays of Easter the first two readings will be from the Acts of the Apostles and the first letter of Peter. Even as the early Christians proclaimed the resurrection, we rejoice in the new birth and living hope we receive in baptism.

WELCOME

***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

P Blessed be Holy God, who creates all good things, offers salvation † to all people, and guides us in every word and deed.

C **Amen.**

L Afraid that God will find out how faithless we are, we try to lock up our hearts so God cannot see our foolish lives and failures. Let us confess our sins to the One who offers us peace and healing, first in the silence of our hearts, then in unison with all God's creation.

Silence is kept for reflection and self-examination.

P God, our path of life,

C **Hear the echoes of our locked hearts. We cross the borders into temptation and never seem to find our way back. We multiply the sorrows of others by our hurtful words and the harmful deeds we do. We see the ones you would give us to serve, but believe we do not have the abilities to care for them. Have mercy on us, God whose Breath gives us life. Walk through the closed doors of our worries and doubts to stand in our midst, offering us that grace which can heal us, that hope which can enliven us, and that faith which enables us to follow Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Amen.**

P It is God's great mercy through the resurrection of Jesus which gives us that hope which lives within us.

C **Thanks be to God for this precious gift by which we are able to believe and rejoice in our inheritance of eternal life. Amen.**

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

P Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C **Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

L The whole creation rejoices; the birds sing from every tree.

C **Alleluia! Christ is in our midst!**

L Babies babble with sounds of joy; words cannot express our overflowing hearts.

C Alleluia! Christ is our light forever!

L Breathing peace on us in these moments; surrounding us with grace and hope.

C Alleluia! Christ leads us through life!

P Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

***GATHERING HYMN “That Easter Day with Joy Was Bright” ELW #384**



1 That Eas - ter day with joy was bright; the
2 O Je - sus, king of gen - tle - ness, with
3 O Christ, you are the Lord of all in
4 All praise, O ris - en Lord, we give to



sun shone out with fair - er light when, to their long - ing
con - stant love our hearts pos - sess; to you our lips will
this our Eas - ter fes - ti - val, for you will be our
you, once dead, but now a - live! To God the Fa - ther



eyes re - stored, the a - pos - tles saw their ris - en Lord!
ev - er raise the trib - ute of our grate - ful praise.
strength and shield from ev - 'ry weap - on death can wield.
e - qual praise, and God the Spir - it, now we raise!

***GREETING**

L Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

P 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.

***CANTICLE OF PRAISE**

“Glory to God”

ELW #163

Glo-ry to God in the high - est, and peace to God's peo-ple on
earth. Lord God, heav-en-ly King, al-might-y God and
Fa-ther, we wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your
glo-ry. Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther,
Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world: have
mer - cy on us; you are seat-ed at the right hand of the
Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer. For you a - lone are the
Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord, you a - lone are the
Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir-it, in the
glo-ry of God the Fa - ther. A - - men.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

L All that is good and beautiful are the generous gifts from your heart of love. All the grace we will ever need is held out to us in your hands of hope.

C **We have nothing apart from you, God of Easter.**

L By your living example, we can set aside our fears to live as God's faithful children. By your compassion, we can stand in the midst of the broken, and share healing with them.

C **We can do nothing apart from you, Brother of our souls.**

L You are the Breath which gives us the gifts and lives to pour out for others. You are the composer of songs of joy which echo throughout the universe.

C **We are nothing apart from you, Spirit of wonder.**

L We pray in Jesus' name, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, God forever.

C **Amen.**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

FIRST READING: Acts 2:14A, 22-32

^{14a} Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed [the crowd]: ²² "Fellow Israelites, listen to what I have to say: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with deeds of power, wonders, and signs that God did through him among you, as you yourselves know ²³ this man, handed over to you according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of those outside the law. ²⁴ But God raised him up, having released him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for him to be held in its power. ²⁵ For David says concerning him, 'I saw the Lord always before me, for he is at my right hand so that I will not be shaken; ²⁶ therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced; moreover, my flesh will live in hope. ²⁷ For you will not abandon my soul to Hades or let your Holy One experience corruption. ²⁸ You have made known to me the ways of life; you will make me full of gladness with your presence.' ²⁹ "Fellow Israelites, I may say to you confidently of our ancestor David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. ³⁰ Since he was a prophet, he knew that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would put one of his descendants on his throne. ³¹ Foreseeing this, David spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, saying, 'He was not abandoned to Hades, nor did his flesh experience corruption.' ³² "This Jesus God raised up, and of that all of us are witnesses."

P The word of the Lord. **C** **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: Psalm 16

L Protect me, O God, for I take refuge in you; I have said to the LORD, “You are my Lord, my good above all other.” All my delight is in the godly that are in the land, upon those who are noble among the people.

C But those who run after other gods shall have their troubles multiplied.

L I will not pour out drink offerings to such gods, never take their names upon my lips.

C O LORD, you are my portion and my cup; it is you who uphold my lot.

L My boundaries enclose a pleasant land; indeed, I have a rich inheritance.

C I will bless the LORD who gives me counsel; my heart teaches me night after night.

L I have set the LORD always before me; because God is at my right hand, I shall not be shaken. My heart, therefore, is glad, and my spirit rejoices; my body also shall rest in hope.

C For you will not abandon me to the grave, nor let your holy one see the pit. You will show me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy, and in your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

SECOND READING: 1 PETER 1:3-9

³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead ⁴ and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, ⁵ who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. ⁶ In this you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials, ⁷ so that the genuineness of your faith—being more precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.

⁸ Although you have not seen him, you love him, and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, ⁹ for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls. The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

C

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

P

Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.

Repeat alleluia

*GOSPEL: John 20:19-31

P The Holy Gospel according to John.

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

¹⁹ When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors were locked where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." ²⁰ After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹ Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." ²² When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³ If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained." ²⁴ But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵ So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe." ²⁶ A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." ²⁷ Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." ²⁸ Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" ²⁹ Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe." ³⁰ Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples that are not written in this book. ³¹ But these are written so that you may continue to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

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

SERMON

Pastor Doug Holtz

*SONG OF RESPONSE

“We Walk by Faith”

ELW #635



1 We walk by faith and not by sight; with
 2 We may not touch your hands and side, nor
 3 Help then, O Lord, our un - be - lief; and
 4 For you, O res - ur - rec - ted Lord, are
 5 And when our life of faith is done, in



gra - cious words draw near, O Christ, who spoke as
 fol - low where you trod; but in your prom - ise
 may our faith a - bound to call on you when
 found in means di - vine: be - neath the wa - ter
 realms of clear - er light may we be - hold you



none e'er spoke: "My peace be with you here."
 we re - joice, and cry, "My Lord and God!"
 you are near and seek where you are found:
 and the word, be - neath the bread and wine.
 as you are, with full and end - less sight.

*NICENE CREED

L Together, with the whole church, we profess our faith, using the words of the Nicene Creed

C We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION


L Merciful God, **C** receive our prayer.

*** SHARING OF THE PEACE**

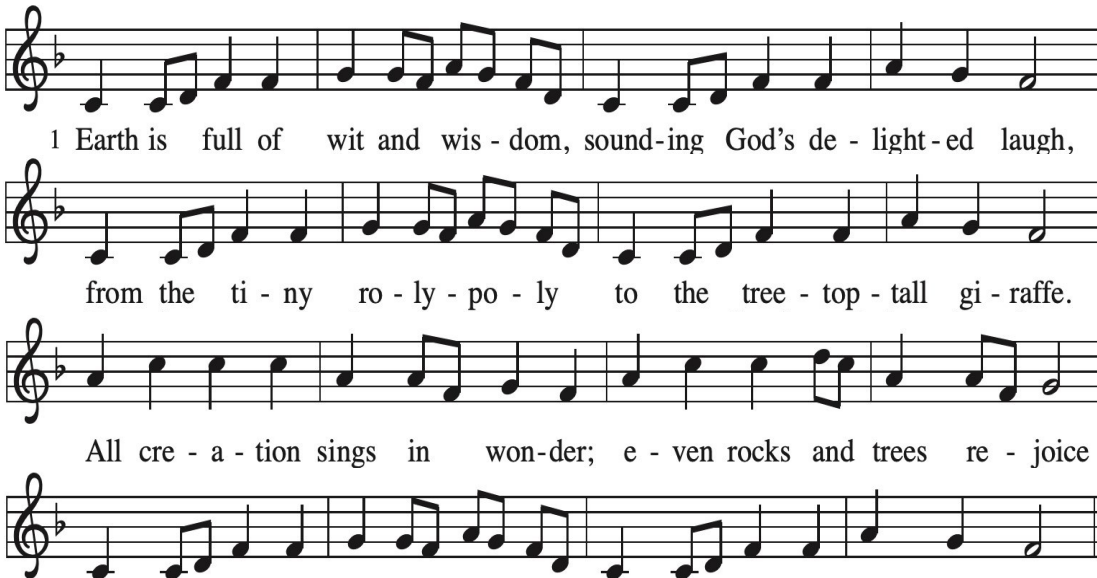
P The peace of Christ be with you always. **C** And also with you.

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 “Earth Is Full of Wit and Wisdom” vs 1 ACS #1064**



1 Earth is full of wit and wis - dom, sound - ing God's de - light - ed laugh,
 from the ti - ny ro - ly - po - ly to the tree - top - tall gi - raffe.
 All cre - a - tion sings in won - der; e - ven rocks and trees re - jice
 as they join the ring - ing cho - rus: ech - oes of our Mak - er's voice.

***OFFERING PRAYER**

L God of abundance,

C **May the gifts we offer be used to open doors closed to strangers, release hands shut tight against generous giving, and thaw hearts frozen by fears of the unknown. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.**

***SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION**

***GREAT THANKSGIVING**

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

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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:

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 O God most mighty, O God most merciful, O God our rock and our salvation, hear us as we praise, call us to your table, grant us your life. When the earth was a formless void, you formed order and beauty. When Abraham and Sarah were barren, you sent them a child; When the Israelites were enslaved, you led them to freedom. Ruth faced starvation, David fought Goliath, and the psalmists cried out for healing, and full of compassion, you granted the people your life. You entered our sorrows in Jesus our brother. He was born among the poor, he lived under oppression, he wept over the city. With infinite love, he granted the people your life. 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. Remembering his death, we cry out Amen.

C Amen.

P Celebrating his resurrection, we shout Amen.

C Amen.

P Trusting his presence in every time and place, we plead Amen.

C Amen.

P O God, you are Breath: send your Spirit on this meal. O God, you are Bread: feed us with yourself. O God, you are Wine: warm our hearts and make us one. O God, you are Fire: transform us with hope. O God most majestic, O God most motherly, O God our strength and our song, you show us a vision of a tree of life with fruits for all and leaves that heal the nations. Grant us such life, the life of the Father to the Son, the life of the Spirit of our risen Savior, life in you, now and forever.

C Amen.

***LORD'S PRAYER**

P Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**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 The one who stood among his disciples and breathed on them the Holy Spirit stands among you here and invites you to experience his presence in this holy meal. Come, be fed and nourished for a life of faith.

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.

***TABLE BLESSING**

P The body and blood of our risen Savior Jesus Christ, strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

L Holy One, through this meal you have made your home among us and are making all things new. Send us now to speak peace to anxious hearts, to love our enemies, and to bring your healing to the nations. In the name of Jesus,

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**

“This Joyful Eastertide”

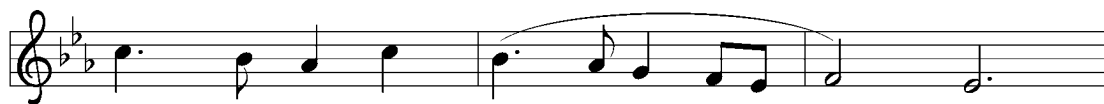
ELW #391



1 This joy - ful Eas - ter - tide, a - way with sin and
2 My flesh in hope shall rest and for a sea - son
3 Death's flood has lost its chill since Je - sus crossed the



sor - - row! My love, the Cru - ci - fied, has
slum - - ber till trump from east to west shall
riv - - er. Lov - er of souls, from ill my



sprung to life this mor - - row.
wake the dead in num - - ber.
pass - ing soul de - liv - er.

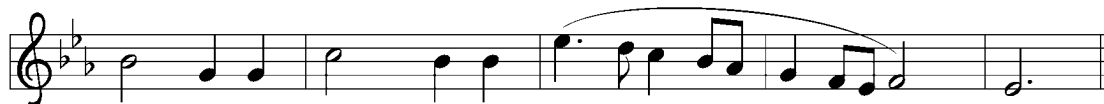
Refrain



Had Christ, who once was slain, not burst his three-day pris - on, our



faith had been in vain. But now has Christ a - ris - en, a -



ris - en, a - ris - en, a - ris - en.

DISMISSAL

L Go forth in the love of God.

C We will take this love into unlovely parts of our lives.

L Go forth in the grace of Jesus Christ.

C We will look for him in the faces of every person we meet.

L Go forth in the peace of the Spirit.

C We will share this hope with the brokenness all around us.

L Go in peace. Praise the Lord. Alleluia!

C Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

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	Chris Drews	Chris Drews
LECTOR	Chris Drews	Chris Drews
COMMUNION ASSISTANTS	Valerie Gulke	Linda Christianson
USHERS	Christine Olsen/ Nancy Swanson	Lia & Garrison Cummings
GREETERS		Darlene Bilstad
ACOLYTE	Hailey Crawford	Landon Schaller
NURSERY ATTENDANT		
ALTAR GUILD	Christine Olsen	Christine Olsen
COFFEE HOST		
LIVE STREAMING		Ryan Helms

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