

April 19, 2026
8:00 & 10:30 a.m.
3rd 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

Today's gospel begins with two disciples walking to Emmaus, overcome with sadness, loss, and disappointment. They had hoped Jesus, who was crucified, would be the one to redeem Israel! Yet the risen Christ walks with them and then opens their eyes in the breaking of the bread. Each Sunday our hearts burn within us as the scriptures are proclaimed and Christ appears to us as bread is broken and wine is poured. The story of Emmaus becomes the pattern of our worship each Lord's day.

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 When we confess our lives, we are calling on God who promises, not only to hear us, but to heal us with forgiveness and hope. We keep silence to look inside our lives, then confess our sins together.

Silence is kept for reflection and self-examination.

P Loving God,

C We cut you to the heart with the silly choices we make. We had hoped our lives would reflect your presence, but those around us can see how empty we are. We had hoped our words might bring healing, but they end up hurting those we love the most. We had hoped to find Jesus, but cannot see him in all those you send to us. We are so foolish to think we can go on without your mercy. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, you judge us impartially from the depths of your heart, so we may be born anew by your grace, to continue the journey into your future. Amen.

P This we know for certain - we are forgiven by our gracious God. This good news never ceases to astound us!

C This promise is passed on to us, so we may share it with everyone we meet. Thanks be to God. Amen.

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

P Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

L Lift your voices to God.

C We call on the One who promises to hear us.

L In life, in death, in every moment, God deals graciously with us.

C We rejoice in the One who saves us.

L We will break the Bread of life in thanksgiving to God.

C We will lift up the cup of salvation, drinking deeply from it.

***GATHERING HYMN**

“Alleluia! Jesus is Risen!”

ELW #377



1 Al - le - lu - ia! Je - sus is ris - en!
2 Walk - ing the way, Christ in the cen - ter
3 Je - sus the vine, we are the branch - es;
4 Weep - ing, be gone; sor - row, be si - lent:
5 Cit - y of God, Eas - ter for - ev - er,



Trum - pets re - sound - ing in glo - ri - ous light!
tell - ing the sto - ry to o - pen our eyes;
life in the Spir - it the fruit of the tree;
death put a - sun - der, and Eas - ter is bright.
gold - en Je - ru - sa - lem, Je - sus the Lamb,



Splen - dor, the Lamb, heav - en for - ev - er!
break - ing our bread, giv - ing us glo - ry:
heav - en to earth, Christ to the peo - ple,
Cher - u - bim sing: O grave, be o - pen!
riv - er of life, saints and arch - an - gels,



Oh, what a mir - a - cle God has in sight!
Je - sus our bless - ing, our con - stant sur - prise.
gift of the fu - ture now flow - ing to me.
Clothe us in won - der, a - dorn us in light.
sing with cre - a - tion to God the I AM!



Je - sus is ris - en and we shall a - rise.



Give God the glo - ry! Al - le - lu - ia!

***GREETING**

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 When every day seems the same, with no one listening to our dreams, our hopes, our fears and worries, you pause, God our Baker,

C turning your head so you can read our lips.

L When every road seems the same, filled with despair's potholes, littered with pain's debris, you come alongside us, God our Lover,

C pointing out that side road that will take us to your never-ending banquet.

L When every step trips us up, when every loss weighs us down, when every grief breaks our heart, you come, God our Keeper, with your book of grace

C filled with easy words and lots of pictures to teach us hope.

L When everyone ignores us, when everything disappoints us, you walk with us, you talk with us, you refuse to abandon us, and we give you thanks.

C Amen.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

FIRST READING: Acts 2:14A, 36-41

^{14a} Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed [the crowd]: ³⁶ "Therefore let the entire house of Israel know with certainty that God has made him both Lord and Messiah, this Jesus whom you crucified."

³⁷ Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and to the other apostles, "Brothers, what should we do?" ³⁸ Peter said to them, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ³⁹ For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him." ⁴⁰ And he testified with many other arguments and exhorted them, saying, "Save yourselves from this corrupt generation." ⁴¹ So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added.

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

SPECIAL MUSIC

"Jesus is the Light"

One Voice Choir - 8am

PSALM: Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19

¹ I love the LORD, who has heard my voice, and listened to my supplication,

² **for the LORD has given ear to me whenever I called.**

³ The cords of death entangled me; the anguish of the grave came upon me; I came to grief and sorrow.

⁴ **Then I called upon the name of the LORD: "O LORD, I pray you, save my life."**

¹² How shall I repay the LORD for all the good things God has done for me?

¹³ **I will lift the cup of salvation and call on the name of the LORD.**

¹⁴ I will fulfill my vows to the LORD in the presence of all God's people.

¹⁵ **Precious in your sight, O LORD, is the death of your servants.**

¹⁶ O LORD, truly I am your servant; I am your servant, the child of your handmaid; you have freed me from my bonds.

¹⁷ **I will offer you the sacrifice of thanksgiving and call upon the name of the LORD.**

¹⁸ I will fulfill my vows to the LORD in the presence of all God's people,

¹⁹ **in the courts of the LORD's house, in the midst of you, O Jerusalem.**

Hallelujah!

SECOND READING: 1 PETER 1:17-23

¹⁷ If you invoke as Father the one who judges impartially according to each person's work, live in fear during the time of your exile. ¹⁸ You know that you were ransomed from the futile conduct inherited from your ancestors, not with perishable things like silver or gold ¹⁹ but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without defect or blemish. ²⁰ He was destined before the foundation of the world but was revealed at the end of the ages for your sake. ²¹ Through him you have come to trust in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your trust and hope are in God. ²² Now that you have purified your souls by your obedience to the truth so that you have genuine mutual affection, love one another deeply from the heart. ²³ You have been born anew, not of perishable but of imperishable seed, through the living and enduring word of God.

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

C

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

P Our hearts ^l burn within us* while you open to ^l us the scriptures.

Repeat alleluia

***GOSPEL: Luke 24:13-35**

P The Holy Gospel according to Luke.

C Glory to you, O Lord.

¹³ Now on that same day two [disciples] were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, ¹⁴ and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. ¹⁵ While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, ¹⁶ but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. ¹⁷ And he said to them, “What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?” They stood still, looking sad. ¹⁸ Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, “Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?” ¹⁹ He asked them, “What things?” They replied, “The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, ²⁰ and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. ²¹ But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. ²² Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, ²³ and when they did not find his body there they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. ²⁴ Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but they did not see him.” ²⁵ Then he said to them, “Oh, how foolish you are and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! ²⁶ Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?” ²⁷ Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures. ²⁸ As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. ²⁹ But they urged him strongly, saying, “Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over.” So he went in to stay with them. ³⁰ When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. ³¹ Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him, and he vanished from their sight. ³² They said to each other, “Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?” ³³ That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem, and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. ³⁴ They were saying, “The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!” ³⁵ Then they told what had happened on the road and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ

SERMON

Pastor Doug Holtz

*SONG OF RESPONSE

“Day of Arising”

ELW #374



1 Day of a - ris - ing, Christ on the road - way,
2 When we are walk - ing, doubt - ful and dread - ing,
3 Lo, I am with you, Je - sus has spo - ken.
4 Christ, our com - pan - ion, hope for the jour - ney,



un - known com - pan - ion walks with his own.
blind - ed by sad - ness, slow - ness of heart,
This is Christ's prom - ise, this is Christ's sign:
bread of com - pas - sion, o - pen our eyes.



When they in - vite him, as fades the first day,
yet Christ walks with us, ev - er a - wait - ing
when the church gath - ers, when bread is bro - ken,
Grant us your vi - sion, set all hearts burn - ing



and bread is bro - ken, Christ is made known.
our in - vi - ta - tion: Stay, do not part.
there Christ is with us in bread and wine.
that all cre - a - tion with you may rise.

***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 Holy and wonderful God,

C **receive our prayer.**

*** SHARING OF THE PEACE**

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

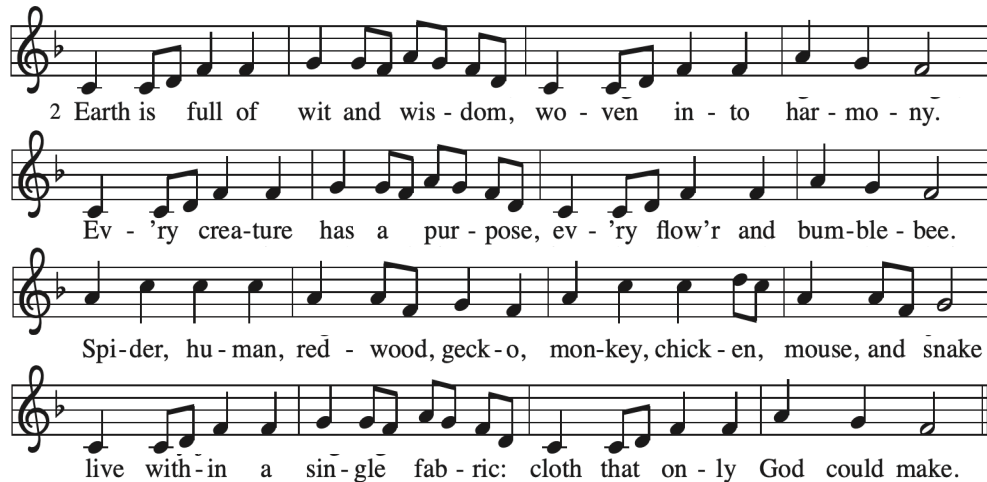
C **And also with you.**

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 2 ACS #1064**



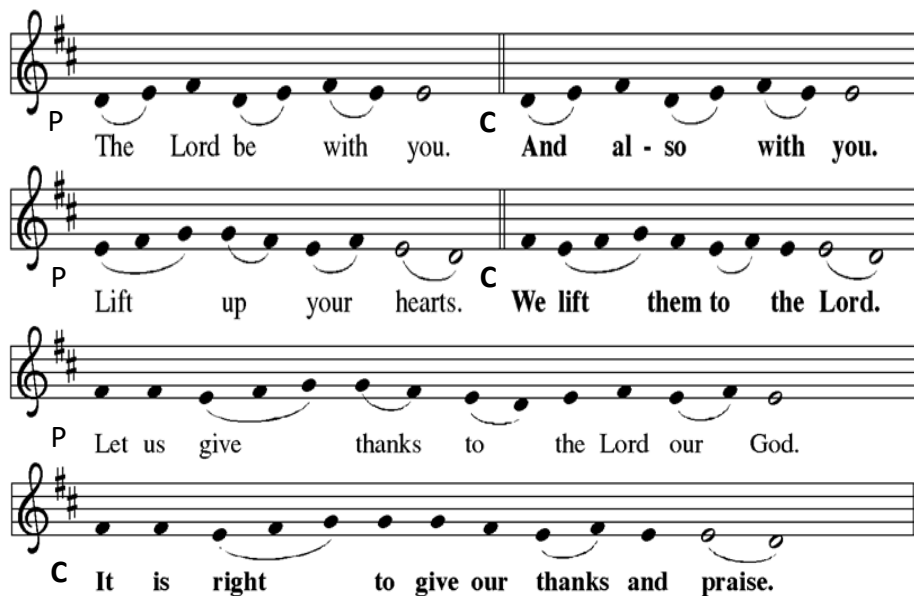
2 Earth is full of wit and wis - dom, wo - ven in - to har - mo - ny.
 Ev - 'ry crea-ture has a pur - pose, ev - 'ry flow'r and bum-ble - bee.
 Spi-der, hu - man, red - wood, geck - o, mon-key, chick - en, mouse, and snake
 live with-in a sin - glē fab - ric: cloth that on - ly God could make.

***OFFERING PRAYER**

L Sustaining God,

C As we offer our treasure and hearts to you, may they be used to pass on the promise of hope, of peace, of life, of community to all in need of your gifts and presence in their lives. 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...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 Because you are holy, you are gracious, God of our every moment, and being Grace itself, your Child was willing to become one of us. He took on our humanity, so your love might be seen face-to-face. He blessed us, when the rest of the world cursed us and tossed us aside. He broke the power of sin by dying on the cross, and he gave death its notice, as he walked out of the tomb from which you raised him to new 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. Baptized at the font as your beloved children, sustained by the feast of the Lamb of life, we speak of that faith which seems so familiar, yet is still a mystery:

C Christ died, suffering those things for us; Christ was raised by God, walking side by side; Christ will come, and our eyes will be opened so we can recognize him.

P We act as if we are going on, but you urge us to stay, inviting us to this Table where your Spirit blesses the bread and the cup, and your children gathered together. We take the bread you have blessed and in its breaking, our eyes are opened to see the despair around us, to glimpse the grief of our friends, to witness to the suffering in our midst. We take the cup you give us, and as we drink from it, our hearts burn for the oppressed in our world, for those we walk past, for the hungry and homeless. And at the same hour when all time ends, we will return to your heart, finding our siblings gathered together around the Table of glory, and join forever in singing your praises, God in Community, Holy in One.

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.**

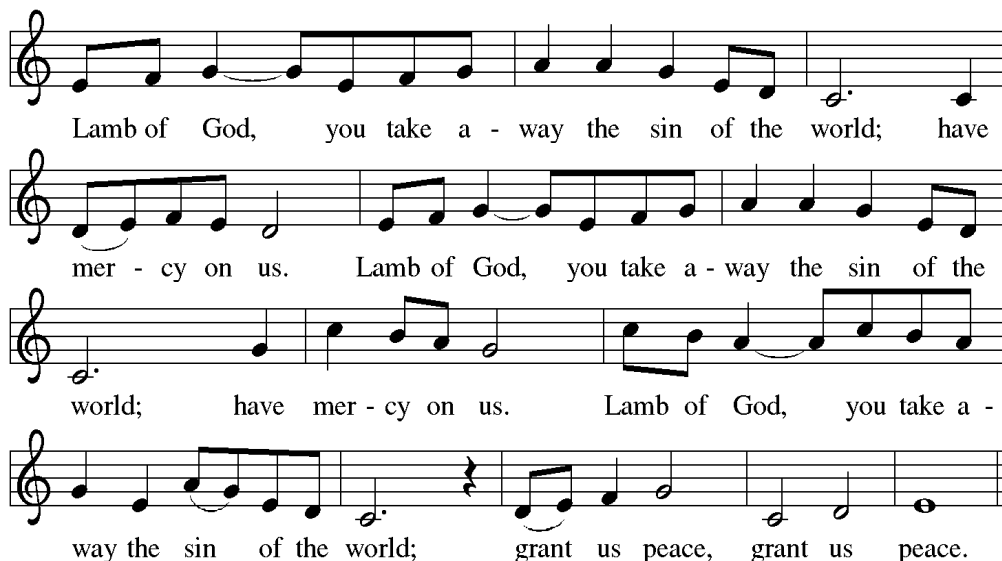
*WELCOME TO THE TABLE

P Jesus, who reveals himself in the breaking of the bread, invites you now to this meal in which he is fully present. Come and dine with him and your siblings in his holy name, and be fed and nourished for life's journey.

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**

“Rise, O Church, like Christ Arisen”

ELW #548



1 Rise, O church, like Christ a - ris - en,
2 Rise, trans - formed, and choose to fol - low
3 Rise, re - mem - ber well the fu - ture
4 Ser - vice be our sure vo - ca - tion;



from this meal of love and grace;
af - ter Christ, though wound - ed, whole;
God has called us to re - ceive;
cour - age be our dai - ly breath;



may we through such love en - vi - sion
bro - ken, shared, our lives are hal - lowed
pres - ent by God's lov - ing nur - ture,
mer - cy be our des - ti - na - tion



whose we are, and whose, our praise.
to re - lease and to con - sole.
Spir - it - ed then let us live.
from this day and un - to death.



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



God, the won - der of our days.
Christ, our pres - ent, past, and goal.
Spir - it, grace by whom we live.
Rise, O church, a liv - ing faith.

DISMISSAL

L The stone has been rolled away!

C We will go to share this good news!

L Jesus walks with us on our journey.

C We will go with him wherever the road takes us.

L Jesus has opened our eyes.

C We will go to serve everyone we see.

L Go in peace. Share the good news.

C Thanks be to God!

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	Robyn Krueger	
LECTOR	Robyn Krueger	Roger Herman
COMMUNION ASSISTANTS	Jeanee Schoessow	Mary Kuehnl
USHERS	Don Krueger	Steve Kuehnl
GREETERS	Linda Voss	Marilyn Catlin
ACOLYTE		Landon Schaller
NURSERY ATTENDANT		
ALTAR GUILD	Judy Brown	Judy Brown
COFFEE HOST		
LIVE STREAMING		Ryan Helms

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920-725-6822

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