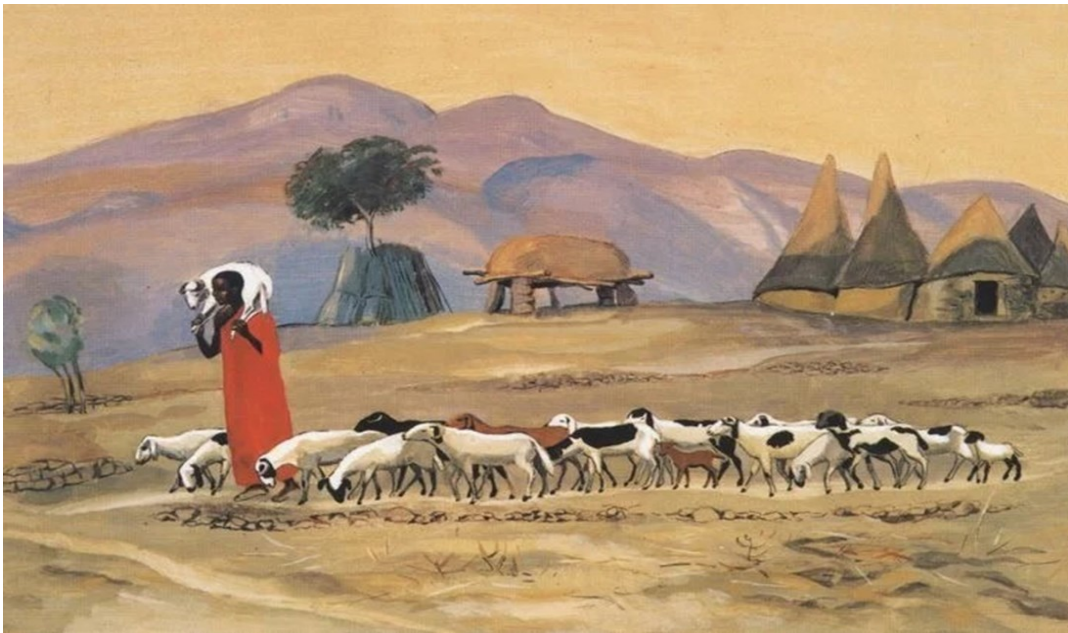


April 26, 2026
8:00 & 10:30 a.m.
4th Sunday of Easter
Confirmation Sunday



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 is sometimes called "Good Shepherd Sunday." Jesus is called the "gate" of the sheep in today's gospel. The risen Christ opens the way to abundant life. He anoints our heads with oil and guides us beside the still waters of our baptism. Each Sunday he spreads a feast before us amid the world's violence and war. We go forth to be signs of the resurrection and extend God's tender care to all creation.

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 Day by day, God would lead us to the places of hope and healing, while moment by moment, we continue to follow sin down all the wrong paths. Let us confess our lives, as we draw near to the One who would restore us to wholeness.

Silence is kept for reflection and self-examination.

P Gate of our lives,

C The wrong paths to foolish lives and repeated mistakes? We know all too well where they are. We confess that stirring up the waters with trouble comes all too easy to us, and locking the doors of our hearts so we don't have to love others is second nature to us. Forgive us, God of goodness and mercy. May our hearts overflow with hope for others, as you anoint us with healing oil. May we share from our abundance with all who hunger for life. May we follow Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, to the places of service and life with you forever. Amen.

P Our Comforter leads us to that place where God's Table is spread with forgiveness and overflowing with grace. Here, we are called to life and love.

C We will live as God's people: forgiven to serve, blessed to share, loved so we might care. Thanks be to God. Amen.

***GATHERING HYMN "Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing!" ELW #385**



1 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice and sing! Now is the tri - umph
 2 The Lord of life is ris'n this day; death's might-y stone is
 3 Praise we in songs of vic - to - ry that love, that life which
 4 Your name we bless, O ris - en Lord, and sing to - day with



of our king! To all the world glad news we bring:
 rolled a - way; let all the earth re - joice and say:
 can - not die, and sing with hearts up - lift - ed high:
 one ac - cord, the life laid down, the life re - stored:



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

PRAYER OF THE DAY

L Buoyed by your living waters,

C **we are at peace in seas of stress and success;**

L detoured onto those walkways leading to your joy,

C **we find our way out of mazes of meetings and deadlines;**

L nourished at your picnic in that garden of grace,

C **our shredded souls are anointed by your healing;**

L you slow us down just enough, as we try to escape the very lives we think we want,

C **so goodness and mercy can catch up with us and carry us into your heart.**

L God in Community, Holy in One, may you always be with us on our journey, in your Jesus' name we pray.

C **Amen**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SPECIAL MUSIC "Jesus is the Light" One Voice Choir - 10:30am

FIRST READING: Acts 2:42-47

⁴² [The baptized] devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. ⁴³ Awe came upon everyone because many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. ⁴⁴ All who believed were together and had all things in common; ⁴⁵ they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. ⁴⁶ Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, ⁴⁷ praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

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

PSALM: Psalm 23

"Shepherd Me, O God"

ELW #780

Refrain
All

C

Shep- herd me, O God, be - yond my wants, be - yond my fears, from
death in - to life. life.

- P
- 1 God is my shepherd, so nothing shall I want, I rest in the meadows of faithfulness and love, I walk by the quiet waters of peace. *Refrain*
 - 2 Gently you raise me and heal my weary soul, you lead me by pathways of righteousness and truth, my spirit shall sing the music of your name. *Refrain*
 - 3 Though I should wander the valley of death, I fear no evil, for you are at my side, your rod and your staff, my comfort and my hope. *Refrain*
 - 4 You have set me a banquet of love in the face of hatred, crowning me with love beyond my pow'r to hold. *Refrain*
 - 5 Surely your kindness and mercy follow me all the days of my life; I will dwell in the house of my God forevermore. *Refrain*

SECOND READING: 1 PETER 2:19-25

¹⁹ It is a commendable thing if, being aware of God, a person endures pain while suffering unjustly. ²⁰ If you endure when you are beaten for doing wrong, what credit is that? But if you endure when you do good and suffer for it, this is a commendable thing before God. ²¹ For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his steps. ²² "He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth." ²³ When he was abused, he did not return abuse; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly. ²⁴ He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, having died to sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. ²⁵ For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls .

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. *Repeat alleluia*

p Jesus says, I am ¹ the good shepherd.* I know my own and my ¹ own know me.

*GOSPEL: John 10:1-10

P The Holy Gospel according to John.

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

[Jesus said:] ¹ "Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. ² The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. ³ The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴ When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. ⁵ They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers." ⁶ Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was

***OFFERTORY “Earth Is Full of Wit and Wisdom” vs 3 ACS #1064**

3 Earth is full of wit and wis - dom: pen - guin, pla - ty - pus, and snail,
 cac - tus, sea slug, oak, and al - gae, from the mi - crobe to the whale.
 In this great and strange cre - a - tion, with a breath God gives us birth:
 born of soil to live as stew - ards, called to love and serve the earth.

***OFFERING PRAYER**

L God of all good things,

C in your mercy you provide all that we need to live lives abundantly in your name. With humble gratitude we return to you this portion of your generosity to us. Accept these gifts for the sake of Jesus Christ, and use them according to your loving will. Amen.

***SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION / GREAT THANKSGIVING**

P May the God of gates be with you!

C And also with you!

P God calls us to open our hearts to others,

C for they are filled to overflowing with grace.

P Every day, let us rejoice in the Restorer of our lives.

C We sing glad songs to the One who leads us.

P You watched over creation...we offer the song of glad and generous hearts to you:

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



THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

P You alone are holy, Gate of the Way, and Jesus Christ, your Child, is Shepherd of life. He kept to the path of righteousness, so we might learn how to walk in his footsteps. Knowing our voices, he followed us to the gate of death, where the keeper let him in, locking the gate behind him. But you came another way and, knowing your voice, Jesus followed you out of the tomb, receiving life, abundantly, for all your children. In the night in which he was betrayed...

P As we gather in prayer and worship, as we seek to devote ourselves to following Jesus, we sing of that mystery known as faith:

C Christ bore our sins in his body on the cross; Christ was raised by you out of death; Christ will come, so we might live for righteousness.

P You lead us to this Table where we want for nothing, for your Spirit transforms everyday foods into a sacred feast. Your bread and cup comfort us, nourishing us so we might be together in everything with our siblings. The broken bread strengthens us to provide clean, still waters to all; to build shelter for those who sleep rough; to feed those who are hungry. Your grace overflows into us so we may offer companionship to those who wander shadowed valleys; an open gate to those longing for a community; voices of compassion and hope to the oppressed. When we follow goodness and mercy to the end of time, we will find you coming out of the kitchen, setting dish upon dish of peace and hope on that great table prepared for all your children, and we will join our hearts and hands as we sing praise and wonder to you, God in Community, Holy in One.

C Amen.

*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 Jesus, our good shepherd, has prepared this table before us, and invites all who hear his voice to come and be fed on the bread and wine in which he is present with and for us. Come and dine; this invitation is for you!

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 Lord and Savior Jesus Christ fortify you and keep you in God's 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**

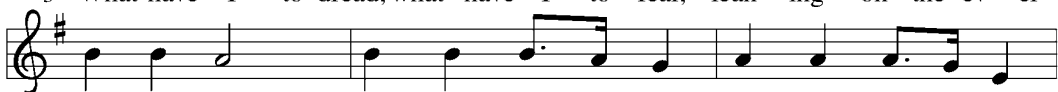
P The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace. In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

***SENDING HYMN "What A Fellowship, What a Joy Divine" ELW #774**



1 What a fel - low-ship, what a joy di - vine, lean - ing on the ev - er -
2 Oh, how sweet to walk in this pil - grim way, lean - ing on the ev - er -
3 What have I to dread, what have I to fear, lean - ing on the ev - er -



last - ing arms; what a bless - ed - ness, what a peace is mine,
last - ing arms; oh, how bright the path grows from day to day,
last - ing arms? I have bless - ed peace with my Lord so near,



lean - ing on the ev - er - last - ing arms.
lean - ing on the ev - er - last - ing arms.
lean - ing on the ev - er - last - ing arms.



Lean - ing, lean - ing, safe and se - cure from all a - larms;



lean - ing, lean - ing, lean - ing on the ev - er - last - ing arms.



DISMISSAL

L Go in peace. Serve the Lord. 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	Christine Olsen	Michelle Higgins
LECTOR	Christine Olsen	Audrey Johnson/ Jackson Rougeux
COMMUNION ASSISTANTS	Valerie Gulke	Jason Miserlian/ Zack Wilson
USHERS		Don Reid/ Mike Farrell
GREETERS	Valerie Gulke	
ACOLYTE		Hailey Crawford
NURSERY ATTENDANT		
ALTAR GUILD	Marlene Marks	Marlene Marks
COFFEE HOST		
LIVE STREAMING		Ryan Helms

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