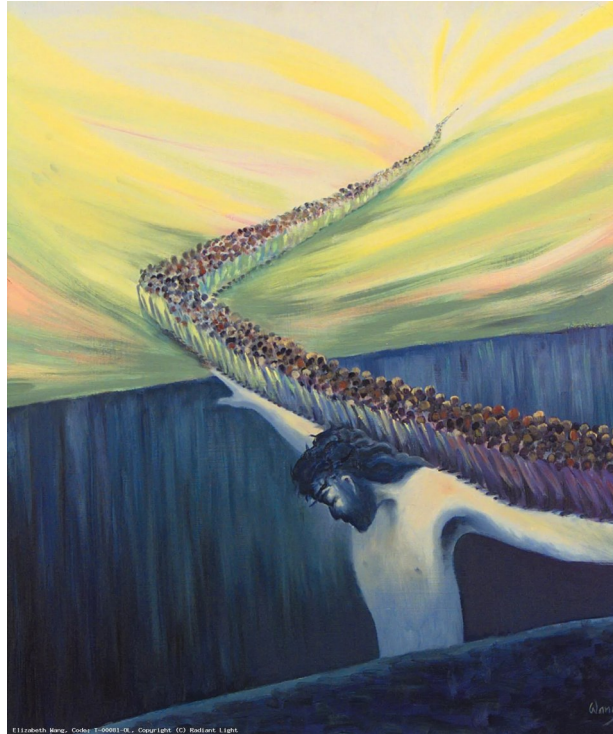


May 3, 2026
8:00 & 10:30 a.m.
5th Sunday of Easter



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

As we continue to celebrate the fifty days of Easter, today's gospel includes Jesus' promise that he goes to prepare a place for his followers in his Father's house. Our baptism commissions us to share Jesus' mission in the world. As 1 Peter reminds us, we are a holy people, called to proclaim the one who called us out of darkness into light. In words and deeds we bear witness to the risen Christ—our way, our truth, our life.

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 Considered too rough for their smooth plans, the builders cast out the stone they truly needed. But God builds salvation on the One who is the foundation of all hope. Let us confess our sins to God and one another, trusting we will not be put to shame.

Silence is kept for reflection and self-examination.

P Precious God,

C **Hear the brokenness of our lives. We cover our ears so we cannot hear the cries of those in need, or you urging us to respond. We rush together to defend every issue that matters to us, but quickly disperse when you would call us to be your holy people. We shout as loud as we can to cheer on our sports teams, but can manage only whispers when it comes to sharing the good news. Forgive us, our Eternal Guide, and do not hold our sins against us. We lay the garments of our foolishness at your feet, so you might clothe us in grace and hope. We would feed on the spiritual food which flows from your heart so we might be strong enough to follow Jesus as he leads us in the Way, the Truth, and the Life. Amen.**

P You are no longer alone - you are God's Beloved. You are not of this world, but residents of God's Kingdom. You, who once had no hope, have been filled with forgiveness.

C **Each one of us, all of us, have received God's mercy in Christ. Forgiven, redeemed, made whole - we are a people made one in faith. Thanks be to God. Amen.**

CALL TO WORSHIP

L We are God's household, crafted by the Architect of creation:

C **our hearts a shelter for the outcast; our hands open to the stranger.**

L We are God's people, created in the divine image:

C to tell others of God's love, to offer mercy as freely as we have received it.

L We are God's children, called to give of ourselves:

C chosen to serve the lost and lonely, gifted to minister to a hurting world.

***GATHERING HYMN**

"Lord of All Hopefulness"

ELW #765



1 Lord of all hope - ful - ness, Lord of all joy,
2 Lord of all ea - ger - ness, Lord of all faith,
3 Lord of all kind - li - ness, Lord of all grace,
4 Lord of all gen - tle - ness, Lord of all calm,



whose trust, ev - er child - like, no cares could de - stroy:
whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe:
your hands swift to wel - come, your arms to em - brace:
whose voice is con - tent - ment, whose pres - ence is balm:



be there at our wak - ing, and give us, we pray,
be there at our la - bors, and give us, we pray,
be there at our hom - ing, and give us, we pray,
be there at our sleep - ing, and give us, we pray,



your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.
your strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the day.
your love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.
your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.

***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 You call us to celebrate your peace in a world which worships war; to celebrate your freedom in the face of oppression; to celebrate the seed of faith planted in the doubts of our hearts.

C You are the way.

L You teach us to celebrate our new life in the gift of the Risen Lord; to celebrate the grace of your heart which melts our fears; to celebrate that all our moments are cradled in your hands.

C You are the truth.

L You would have us celebrate the safe ground of hope emerging from the flood of our tears; celebrate those who love us in the midst of hurt and hatred; celebrate our salvation as we struggle with sin.

C You are the life.

L For all you offer, Lord, and for all you give us, we give you thanks!

C Amen!

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SPECIAL MUSIC

"Come to the Water"

One Voice Choir - 8am

FIRST READING: Acts 7:55-60

⁵⁵ Filled with the Holy Spirit, [Stephen] gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. ⁵⁶ "Look," he said, "I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!" ⁵⁷ But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. ⁵⁸ Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him, and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. ⁵⁹ While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." ⁶⁰ Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." When he had said this, he died.

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

PSALM: Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16

¹ In you, O LORD, have I taken refuge; let me never be put to shame; deliver me in your righteousness.

² **Incline your ear to me; make haste to deliver me.**

³ Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe, for you are my crag and my stronghold; for the sake of your name, lead me and guide me.

⁴ **Take me out of the net that they have secretly set for me, for you are my tower of strength.**

⁵ Into your hands I commend my spirit, for you have redeemed me, O LORD, God of truth.

¹⁵ **My times are in your hand; rescue me from the hand of my enemies, and from those who persecute me.**

¹⁶ Let your face shine upon your servant; save me in your steadfast love." 5

SECOND READING: 1 Peter 2:2-10

² Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation ³ if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good. ⁴ Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and ⁵ like living stones let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. ⁶ For it stands in scripture: "See, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious, and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame." ⁷ This honor, then, is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe, "The stone that the builders rejected has become the very head of the corner," ⁸ and "A stone that makes them stumble and a rock that makes them fall." They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do. ⁹ But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the excellence of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. ¹⁰ Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

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 I am the way, the truth, ¹ and the life.* No one comes to the Father ex- ¹ cept through me.

***GOSPEL: John 14:1-14**

P The Holy Gospel according to John.

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

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹ "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. ² In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place

for you? ³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. ⁴ And you know the way to the place where I am going.” ⁵ Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” ⁶ Jesus said to him, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. ⁷ If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.” ⁸ Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.” ⁹ Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? ¹⁰ Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own, but the Father who dwells in me does his works. ¹¹ Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, but if you do not, then believe because of the works themselves. ¹² Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. ¹³ I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴ If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.”

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

SERMON **Pastor Doug Holtz**

***SONG OF RESPONSE** **“You Are the Way”** **ELW #758**



1 You are the way; to you a - lone from sin and death we flee;
 2 You are the truth; your word a - lone true wis - dom can im - part;
 3 You are the life; the rend - ing tomb pro - claims your con - qu'ring arm;
 4 You are the way, the truth, the life; grant us that way to know,



all those who search for God, you find and by your grace set free.
 you on - ly can in - form the mind and pu - ri - fy the heart.
 and those who put their trust in you not death nor hell shall harm.
 that truth to keep, that life to win, whose joys e - ter - nal flow.

***NICENE CREED**

L Together with all people of God, 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 - joice

as they join the ring - ing cho - rus: ech - oes of our Mak - er's voice.

***OFFERING PRAYER**

L God of abundance,

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 every way be with you.

C And also with you.

P Lift your hearts to the One who is the Truth for God's own people.

C We offer them to the One who warms them with love.

P Sing praises to God, who is our Life.

C We sing glad songs to the One who provides shelter for us.

P You made a way through chaos, Constructing God...we join with the heavenly chorus in singing your praise:

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 You shape a safe place for us, Imaginative God, and send your Child, Jesus, to show us the Way. Born a tiny baby as we are, he shows us how to grow into your people. The cornerstone of your kingdom, he uses us to build a spiritual home for all. Committing his spirit to you, he entered the emptiness of death, so we might stand on the solid ground of the resurrected life. This same Lord Jesus, in the night in which he was betrayed...

Even as we celebrate the Life which was his, as we claim the Truth that all are one with you, we take refuge in that mystery called faith:

C Christ died, trusting in God's promises; God raised him from the dead, promising the same for us; Christ will come, fulfilling all the promises of God.

P Once, we were nobodies, alone and hopeless, but by your mercy, Living God, we are now a family, gathered in your love around this Table, here the Spirit sanctifies the bread and cup. You lean over to serve us the bread, enveloping us in your grace so we might go to be your people. You offer to us the cup of hope, which can heal our troubled hearts and strengthen us to serve our world. And when the Way leads us home to you, when your Life gathers us with our siblings around the Table which is prepared by your Truth, we will sing glad songs of praise to you forever, 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.**

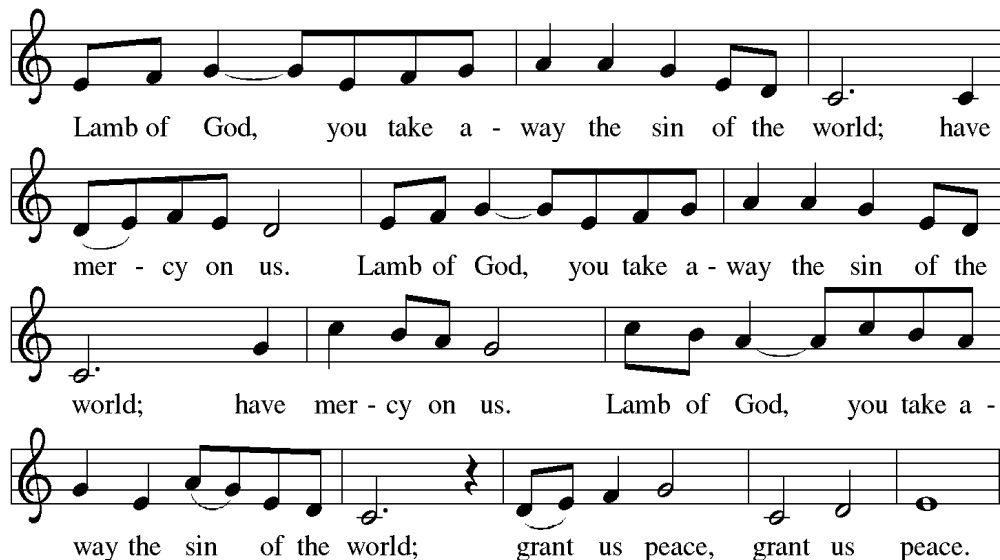
***WELCOME TO THE TABLE**

P Do not let your hearts be troubled. God has already redeemed the world, and holds all creation and all people in a loving, merciful embrace. Come now to the table where your hearts will be fed on the word and the words of life; join in the feast of our risen Savior!

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**

“Lead Me, Guide Me”

ELW #768

Refrain

Lead me, guide me, a - long the way;
for if you lead me, I can - not stray.
Lord, let me walk each day with thee.
Lead me, O Lord, lead me.

1 I am weak and I need thy strength and pow'r
2 Help me tread in the paths of righ - teous - ness,
3 I am lost if you take your hand from me,

to help me o - ver my weak - est hour.
be my aid when Sa - tan and sin op - press.
I am blind with - out . . . thy light to see.

Help me through the dark - ness thy face to see.
I am put - ting all . . . my trust in thee.
Lord, just al - ways let me thy ser - vant be.

Refrain

Lead me, O Lord, lead me.

***DISMISSAL**

P May the blessings of the One who is the Way be with you in the days to come.

C May God guide our feet wherever we go.

P May the blessings of Jesus who is our Life be with you in the days to come.

C May he lead us by the hand to those who are our sisters and brothers in need.

P May the blessings of the Spirit of Truth be with you in the days to come.

C May we journey with the Spirit to that way which is everlasting.

P 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	Steve Graf	Steve Graf
LECTOR	Steve Graf	Roger Herman
COMMUNION ASSISTANTS	Tom Riedasch	Jean Herman
USHERS	Christine Olsen/ Nancy Swanson	Don Reid/ Mike Farrell
GREETERS	Cathy Graf/Linda Voss	
ACOLYTE		Landon Schaller
NURSERY ATTENDANT		
ALTAR GUILD	Carol Anderson	Carol Anderson
COFFEE HOST		
LIVE STREAMING	Vincent Guardiola	

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Synod Assembly 2026 - Bishop Election

June 4-6, 2026

Oshkosh Marriott Waterfront Hotel
and Convention Center

Synod Assembly 2026 will be a particularly meaningful and historic gathering as it includes the election of a bishop.

Sending delegates to the East Central Synod of Wisconsin assembly in June allows a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to faithfully participate in the election of a bishop—who serves as a spiritual leader, pastor to the pastors, and partner in guiding the mission and ministry of congregations across the synod.

Congregations can support their delegates by praying for them, encouraging thoughtful discernment, and trusting them to listen for the guidance of the Holy Spirit as they participate in this important decision on behalf of the church.

LEARN MORE AT:

ECSW.ORG/2026-SYNOD-ASSEMBLY