

Gloria Dei Lutheran Church

Christ the King

24th Sunday after Pentecost

Sunday, November 23, 2025

9:30 AM



130 S. Lone Oak Dr. Leesburg, FL 34748

Email: gloriadeilutheranleesburg@gmail.com Phone: 352-787-3223



We welcome all who worship with us. If you are a guest, we are especially glad that you have chosen to worship with us today. Our worship is always enhanced by new faces and voices. If you are already a part of our church family, welcome home.

Jeremiah's promise of the execution of "justice and righteousness in the land" finds ironic fulfillment in the execution of Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews. It appears utterly contradictory that a king should be crucified with a criminal. This victory appears for all the world as humiliating defeat. Yet through the gate of death Jesus opens the door to paradise.

Participating in Today's Service:

Pastor: Pastor Lynn M. Fonfara

Music Director: Len Cremisio

After Worship Secretary: June Reib *(In order to assist the Pastor, if you need the Pastor to contact someone or address something)*

Assistant Ministers

Reader: Linda Hide

Crucifer: Leone Goding

Assisting Minister: Vaike O'Grady

Ushers: Crystal Kirkpatrick, Byron Kirkpatrick, John Kelly, Craig Carlson

Prelude:

WELCOME AND WORSHIP ANNOUNCEMENTS

PREPARE FOR WORSHIP

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
who forgives all our sin,
whose mercy endures forever.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God
and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Faithful God,
**you have shown us the ways of your heart,
yet we stray from your paths.
We are stuck in sinful systems of oppression
and do not embrace the freedom
of your faithful promises.
We ignore our neighbors.
We exploit the earth.
We reject your abundance,
trusting our impulses instead of your steadfast love.
Repair our relationships,
restore what we have broken,
renew our hearts,
and bring us to new life.
Amen.**

Hear the good news:
God the Faithful One loves you,
† in Christ Jesus your sins are forgiven,
and by the power of the Holy Spirit you are set free.
Amen.

ENTRANCE HYMN: ELW 434 “Jesus Shall Reign”

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the
communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

KYRIE: ELW pg. 184 “Kyrie Eleison”

*Kyrie eleison, on our world and on our way.
Kyrie eleison, every day.*

*For peace in the world, for the health of the Church,
for the unity of all; for this holy house,
for all who worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord,
let us pray to the Lord.*

*Kyrie eleison, on our world and on our way.
Kyrie eleison, every day.*

*That we may live out your impassioned response to the
hungry and the poor;
that we may live out truth and justice and grace,
let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.*

*Kyrie eleison, on our world and on our way.
Kyrie eleison, every day.*

*For peace in our hearts, for peace in our homes,
for friends and family; for life and for love,
for our work and our play, let us pray to the Lord,
let us pray to the Lord.*

*Kyrie eleison, on our world and on our way.
Kyrie eleison, every day.*

*For your Spirit to guide; that you center our lives in
the water and the Word; that you nourish our souls
with your body and blood, let us pray to the Lord,
let us pray to the Lord.*

*Kyrie eleison, on our world and on our way.
Kyrie eleison, every day.*

HYMN OF PRAISE: ELW pg.187 “This is the Feast”

*This is the feast of victory for our God, for the
Lamb who was slain has begun his reign. Alleluia.
Worthy is Christ, the lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to
be people of God. Power, riches, wisdom, and strength, and
honor, blessing, and glory are his. This is the feast of
vict'ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign.
Alleluia. Sing with all the people of God, and
join in the hymn of all creation: Blessing, honor,
glory, and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen.
This is the feast of vict'ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain has
begun his reign. Alleluia.*

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God, our true life, to serve you is freedom, and to know you is unending joy. We worship you, we glorify you, we give thanks to you for your great glory. Abide with us, reign in us, and make this world into a fit habitation for your divine majesty, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

The assembly is seated.

WORD

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 23:1-6

Today's reading builds on the common, ancient Near Eastern metaphor of the king as shepherd. Judah's unjust rulers have caused their people, their "flock," to be scattered. Nevertheless, God will raise up a new and righteous shepherd who will rule a restored Judah.

¹ Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture! says the LORD. ² Therefore thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, concerning the shepherds who shepherd my people: It is you who have scattered my flock and have driven them away, and you have not attended to them. So I will attend to you for your evil doings, says the LORD. ³ Then I myself will gather the remnant of my flock out of all the lands where I have driven them, and I will bring them back to their fold, and they shall be fruitful and multiply. ⁴ I will raise up shepherds over them who will shepherd them, and they shall no longer fear or be dismayed, nor shall any be missing, says the LORD.

⁵ The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. ⁶ In his days Judah will be saved, and Israel will live in safety. And this is the name by which he will be called: "The LORD is our righteousness."

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 46



Psalm 46:10

Psalm refrain reproduced from *Psalter for Worship Year C* © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.

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¹ God is our ref- | uge and strength, a very present | help in trouble.

² **Therefore we will not fear, though the | earth be moved, and though the mountains shake in the depths | of the sea;**

³ though its waters | rage and foam,
and though the mountains tremble | with its tumult.

⁴ **There is a river whose streams make glad the cit- | y of God, the holy habitation of | the Most High.**

⁵ God is in the midst of the city; it shall | not be shaken;
God shall help it at the | break of day.

⁶ **The nations rage, and the ¹ kingdoms shake;
God speaks, and the earth ¹ melts away. R**

⁷ The LORD of ¹ hosts is with us; the God of Jacob ¹ is our stronghold.

⁸ **Come now, regard the works ¹ of the LORD,
what desolations God has brought up- ¹ on the earth;**

⁹ behold the one who makes war to cease in ¹ all the world;
who breaks the bow, and shatters the spear, and burns
the ¹ shields with fire.

¹⁰ **“Be still, then, and know that ¹ I am God;
I will be exalted among the nations; I will be
exalted ¹ in the earth.”**

¹¹ The LORD of ¹ hosts is with us; the God of Jacob ¹ is our stronghold. **R**

SECOND READING: Colossians 1:11-20

An early Christian hymn praises the mystery of the political, personal, and mystical Christ, the one who was present at creation and is eternally reigning with God.

¹¹ May you be made strong with all the strength that comes from his glorious power, so that you may have all endurance and patience, joyfully ¹² giving thanks to the Father, who has enabled you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the light. ¹³ He has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved Son, ¹⁴ in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

¹⁵ He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation, ¹⁶ for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him. ¹⁷ He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. ¹⁸ He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. ¹⁹ For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, ²⁰ and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: ELW pg. 188 “Alleluia, Lord, to whom shall we go?”

GOSPEL: Luke 23:33-43

Amid scoffing and slander from those who sarcastically call him Messiah and king, Jesus reveals that to be Messiah and king is to give one's life for others. Here he uses his power to welcome a despised sinner to paradise but puts his own death into God's hands.

The holy gospel according to Luke

Glory to you, O Lord.

³³ When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. ³⁴ [[Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing."]] And they cast lots to divide his clothing. ³⁵ And the people stood by watching, but the leaders scoffed at him, saying, "He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God, his chosen one!" ³⁶ The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine ³⁷ and saying, "If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!" ³⁸ There was also an inscription over him, "This is the King of the Jews."

³⁹ One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, "Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!" ⁴⁰ But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation?" ⁴¹ And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong." ⁴² Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come in your kingdom." ⁴³ He replied, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise."

The gospel concludes:

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

The assembly is seated.

Silence for reflection follows the sermon.

HYMN OF THE DAY: ELW 637 "Holy God, Holy and Glorious"

APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;**

**he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

The assembly is seated.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

PEACE

The presiding minister and the assembly greet each other.

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

*The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace, and may say,
"Peace be with you," or similar words.*

The assembly is seated.

MEAL

OFFERING

An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need. A second collection is received today for our hunger ministry.

Deuteronomy 16:17

Every man shall give as he is able, according to the blessing of the Lord, your God, which he has given you.

OFFERTORY: ELW 682 "To God Our Thanks We Give"

(Several times)

OFFERTORY PRAYER

After the table is set, the assisting minister leads in prayer. Please stand at the invitation to pray:

God of healing and hope,
you bless those who are hungry,
promising to fill them with good things.
Fulfill that promise through us and these your gifts.
Nourish us with the abundance of your feast
and unite us into the blessed body of Jesus Christ our Savior,
now and forever.
Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. **And also 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.

PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy....

...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS: ELW pg. 190 "Holy, holy, holy"

*Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory, full of your glory.
Hosana, hosana, hosana in the highest
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosana, hosana, hosana in the highest.*

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

The Presiding minister leads the Eucharistic Prayer After the Words of Institution:

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal:
Surrounded by evil and bordered by death we appeal to you,
Our Sovereign, our Wisdom, and our Judge.

At the conclusion of the Eucharistic Prayer, all say:

... Now and forever. **Amen.**

***THE LORDS PRAYER (Spoken)**

(Those who wish may hold hands as a sign of Christian unity).

**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.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

There is a place for you at the table of God.
Come, receive the food that does not perish,
a taste of life eternal.

LAMB OF GOD: ELW pg. 191 "Lamb of God"

*Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
Have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the
world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the
world; grant us peace, grant us peace, Lamb of God.*

DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

All Baptized Christians are welcome to commune. Those who do not wish to commune are invited to come forward to receive a blessing (fold your arms over your chest).

The Body is available as bread or gluten-free Host.

The Blood is available as wine (large chalices) or non-alcoholic juice (small chalice).

When giving the bread and cup, the communion ministers say:

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

The appropriate response is:

Amen.

During the distribution, please pray silently or join in singing.

HYMN: ELW 838 “Beautiful Savior”

CHOIR: “Majesty”

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Please remain seated:

God of field and flower, wheat and grape,
you have nourished us with the bread of heaven
that gives life to the world.

Strengthened by the body and blood of your Son,
send us out to gather your good gifts for all who
hunger and thirst,
and embolden us to love and serve in Christ’s name.

Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SENDING

BLESSING

The love of God the Sovereign strengthen you,
God the Son save you,
and God the Holy Spirit anoint you for the work ahead.
The holy Trinity bless you ✚
and grant you a faithful and courageous heart
now and forever.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN: ELW 551 “The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve”

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share the harvest.

Thanks be to God.

***The end of Worship –
The beginning of Christian Ministry.***

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Pastor Lynn M. Fonfara	c. 352-249-8533
Evelyn Rollins, Administrator	c. 352-787-3223
Leonard Cremisio, Music Director	c. 352-638-3695

Altar Care: Crystal & Byron Kirkpatrick,
Craig Carlson

After Worship Sec.: 9:30 a.m. June Rieb *(In order to assist the Pastor, if you need the Pastor to contact someone or address something)*

Counters: Arlene Kelly, Lillian Ostrander

Greeters: **9:30 a.m.**

Fellowship: Jon and Janet Braun

Communion Wine: For November In Memory of Joseph J. Kancel Given by Nancy & MaryJean Kancel.

Altar Flowers: Given by Richard Ritter, In Memory of Madalon Ritter 11/15/24

ANNOUNCEMENTS!

THIS WEEKS CALENDAR

Sun.	11/23	9:30 a.m.	Sunday Worship
		11:00 a.m.	Council Meeting
Mon.	11/24	7:00 p.m.	Zoom Bible Study
Tues.	11/25	10:00 a.m.	Morning Prayer
Wed.	11/26	10:00 a.m.	Call Committee
		4:30 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
Thurs.	11/27	Thanksgiving Day / Office Closed 11/27 - 12/1	
Fri.	11/28	9:00 a.m.	Mary Martha Circle
		9:00 a.m.	LWR Quilting

NEXT WEEKS CALENDAR

Sun.	11/30	9:30 a.m.	Sunday Worship 1 st Sunday of Advent
Mon.	12/1	OFFICE CLOSED 12/1	
		7:00 p.m.	Zoom Bible Study
Tues.	12/2	10:00 a.m.	Morning Prayer
		10:30 a.m.	WELCA Board Meeting
Wed.	12/3	10:00 a.m.	Call Committee
		4:00 p.m.	1 st Wednesday of Advent
Thurs.	12/4	11:30 a.m.	WELCA Christmas Luncheon

Attendance for Sunday, November 16, 2025: 80

BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

Lynn Crane

November 27th

BIBLE STUDIES

Developing Disciples Bible Study will not be meeting until further notice.

Join us for our **weekly Zoom Bible Study** on **Monday evenings at 7:00 pm.** We are studying *The Nicene Creed* and we are using the book *Worshiped and Glorified: A Study of the Nicene Creed*. If you would like to participate, please email Pastor Lynn at pastorgdlclesburg@gmail.com or Evelyn Rollins at gloradeilutheranleesburg@gmail.com , and one of us will send you the link. **We look forward to studying with you!**

Interested in Leading a Bible Study? We are looking for individuals who feel called to lead a Bible Study group. If you have a passion for scripture and a desire to help others grow in their faith, we encourage you to consider this opportunity. If you're interested or would like more information, please speak with Christine Carlson.

WE NEED VOLUNTEERS.....

We need **volunteers for Assisting Ministers, Crucifers and Readers!!!** If you would like to try it but need a little more information, please contact the church office. Thank you.



Help Host Our After-Worship Gatherings!

We're looking for volunteers to provide light refreshments—such as snacks, coffee, and juice—after worship on Sundays. It's a great way to extend our fellowship and hospitality. **If you'd like to help, please enter your name on the kitchen counter sign-up sheet or contact the church office.** Thank you!



Prayer List Update. Please take a moment to review the Prayer List located on the podium in the Gathering Hall. If you would like to add or remove a name from the list, please reach out to Christine or call the Church Office. **Your help in keeping our Prayer List current is greatly appreciated.**



Today will be the last day to buy Tickets for the **WELCA Christmas luncheon on Dec. 4th** . See poster in the Fellowship hall or speak to a member of Ruth Circle for further information.



Order Christmas Eve Poinsettias

Honor a loved one or special event by ordering poinsettias to decorate the sanctuary. Fill out the included form and return it by **December 17th**. Thank you for helping make our Christmas celebration beautiful and memorable!



Toys for Tots Collection

We are supporting the Toys for Tots program again this year! Please consider donating a **new, unwrapped toy** by **December 4th**. Donations may be placed in the collection bin located in the **narthex**. Thank you for helping bring joy to children in need this Christmas season!



Help Fill the Table This Thanksgiving and Christmas

As Thanksgiving and Christmas approach, many families with children at Leesburg elementary school are facing uncertainty about their next meal. With possible changes and delays in the SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program), some neighbors are struggling more than ever to put food on the table.

We can make a difference. Your donations are a vital part of that effort. Please consider bringing non-perishable food items such as canned vegetables, soups, pasta, rice, peanut butter, shelf stable milk, gallons of water, and cereal. Every can, box, and bag helps provide comfort and nourishment to someone in need.

Let's share the spirit of Thanksgiving by donating food as we are able to provide for those in need. Deliveries will be made just prior to Thanksgiving and Christmas school breaks. School breaks are Nov 24th to 28th and Dec 22 until Jan 6th. Let's help Florence (school family liaison) send these children home with food.

