

Gloria Dei Lutheran Church

2nd Sunday of Advent

Sunday, December 7, 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.

At the heart of our Advent preparation stands John the Baptist, who calls us to repent and make a new beginning. As the darkness increases we turn toward the approaching light of Christ. For Christians he is the root of Jesse, the righteous judge who welcomes all, especially the poor and meek of the earth. We wait with hope for that day when the wolf will dwell with the lamb, and there will be no more hurt or destruction. From the Lord's table we are sent in the spirit of John the Baptist to proclaim that in Christ the kingdom of God has come near.

Participating in Today's Service:

Pastor: Pastor Lynn M. Fonfara

Music Director: Len Cremisio

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

Assistant Ministers

Reader: Dianne Marcotte

Crucifer: John Kelly

Assisting Minister: Patricia Bressler

Communion Assistant: Pastor Nancy Vogel

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,
whose home is heaven and earth,
whose salvation is sure.

Amen.

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

Long-expected God,
**we confess that we look to ourselves
for the peace and security only you can provide.
We reach for swords and spears,
reluctant to release our grip on the ways of war.
We become impatient while waiting
and weary of keeping awake.
Free us from self-reliance,
and teach us to live in harmony with our neighbors.
Increase our trust in God's timing,
and awaken us to your advent among us,
that we may abound in the hope you have promised.
Amen.**

God judges us not as we deserve,
but according to God's own righteousness.

✝ You are freed and forgiven,
saved by grace,
and ready to welcome the Savior.

Amen.

ENTRANCE HYMN: ELW 254 "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

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.

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING PRAYER

Blessed are you, God of Jacob, for you promise to transform weapons of war into implements of planting and harvest and to teach us your way of peace; you promise that our night of sin is far gone and that your day of salvation is dawning. As we light the first candle on this wreath, wake us from our sleep, wrap us in your light, empower us to live honorably, and guide us along your path of peace.

O house of Jacob, come,

let us walk in the light of the Lord. Amen.

ADVENT WREATH SONG: ELW 240 “Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah” *(vs. 1-2 only)*

KYRIE: ELW pg. 147 “Kyrie”

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming nurture our growth as people of repentance and peace; 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: Isaiah 11:1-10

Isaiah describes the coming of a future, ideal ruler who will renew David’s royal line (the stump of Jesse). Gifted by the spirit of God, this ruler will reign with perfect justice. Enmity and danger will be restored to harmony and peaceful coexistence.

- ¹ A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.
- ² The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him,
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of counsel and might,
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.
- ³ His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see
or decide by what his ears hear,

- ⁴ but with righteousness he shall judge for the poor
and decide with equity for the oppressed of the earth;
he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.

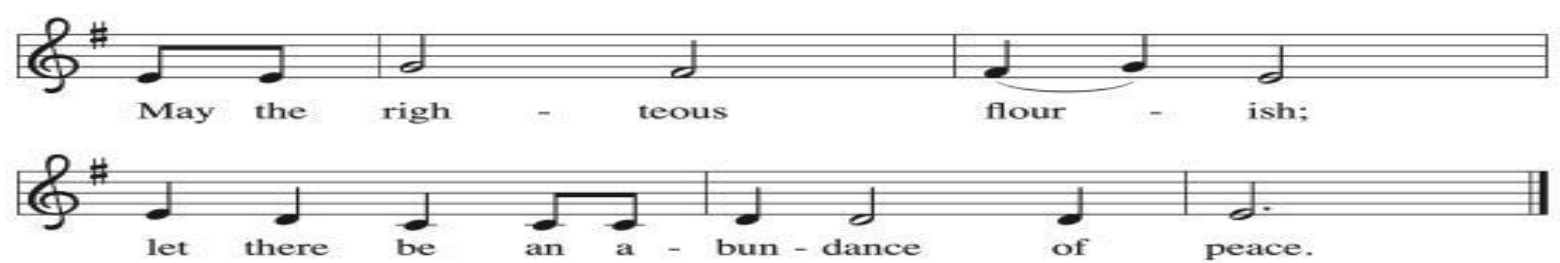
- ⁵ Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

- ⁶ The wolf shall live with the lamb;
the leopard shall lie down with the kid;
the calf and the lion will feed together,
and a little child shall lead them.
- ⁷ The cow and the bear shall graze;
their young shall lie down together;
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.
- ⁸ The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's
den.
- ⁹ They will not hurt or destroy
on all my holy mountain,
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD
as the waters cover the sea.
- ¹⁰ On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to
the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling
shall be glorious.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19



Psalm 72:7
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- ¹ Give the king your jus- | tice, O God,
and your righteousness to | the king's son;
- ² **that he may rule your | people righteously
and the | poor with justice;**
- ³ that the mountains may bring prosperity | to the people,
and the | hills, in righteousness.
- ⁴ **Let him defend the needy a- | mong the people,
rescue the poor, and crush | the oppressor. R**
- ⁵ May he live as long as the sun and | moon endure,
from one generation | to another.
- ⁶ **Let him come down like rain upon | the mown field,
like showers that wa- | ter the earth.**
- ⁷ In his time may the | righteous flourish;
and let there be an abundance of peace till the moon shall | be
no more.
- ¹⁸ **Blessed are you, LORD God, the | God of Israel;
you alone do | wondrous deeds!**
- ¹⁹ And blessed be your glorious | name forever,
and may all the earth be filled with your glory. A- | men.
Amen. R

SECOND READING: Romans 15:4-13

God's promise to include Gentiles within the circle of God's blessed people has been fulfilled in Jesus Christ. Christians live out their unity by welcoming and encouraging each other just as Christ has welcomed them into God's family.

⁴ Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. ⁵ May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, ⁶ so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

⁷ Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. ⁸ For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the ancestors ⁹ and that the gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written,

“Therefore I will confess you among the gentiles
and sing praises to your name”;

¹⁰ and again he says,

“Rejoice, O gentiles, with his people”;

¹¹ and again,

“Praise the Lord, all you gentiles,
and let all the peoples praise him”;

¹² and again Isaiah says,

“The root of Jesse shall come,
the one who rises to rule the gentiles;
in him the gentiles shall hope.”

¹³ May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: ELW pg. 151 “Alleluia, Lord, to whom shall we go?”

GOSPEL: Matthew 3:1-12

Just before Jesus begins his public ministry, John the Baptist appears, calling people to mend their ways and speaking of a powerful one who is to come.

The holy gospel according to Matthew

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, ² “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” ³ This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said,

“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord;
make his paths straight.’ ”

⁴ Now John wore clothing of camel’s hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. ⁵ Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region around the Jordan were going out to him, ⁶ and they were baptized by him in the River Jordan, confessing their sins.

⁷ But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for his baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? ⁸ Therefore, bear fruit worthy of repentance, ⁹ and do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor,’ for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. ¹⁰ Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.

¹¹ “I baptize you with water for repentance, but the one who is coming after me is more powerful than I, and I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹² His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

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 255 “There’s a Voice in the Wilderness”

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.**

BRIEF ORDER FOR HEALING

The congregation is seated

Introduction:

P: Our Lord Jesus healed many as a sign of the reign of God come near and sent the disciples to continue this work of healing—with prayer, the laying on of hands, and anointing. In the name of Christ, the great healer and reconciler of the world, we now entrust to God all who are in need of healing

Prayer:

Mighty God, your Son Jesus brought healing and wholeness to all. Bring your healing presence now to all who are sick or in pain. Grant hope to all who are discouraged or in despair. In your great mercy, hear us, O God. **Amen**

Laying on of Hands:

P: Sisters and brothers, I invite you to come and receive a sign of healing and wholeness in the name of the triune God.

You are invited to come forward if you wish to do so.

P: in the name of our Savior Jesus Christ, be strengthened and filled with God's grace, that you may know the healing power of the Spirit.

C AMEN.

When all have returned to their seats, the Assisting Minister continues

A: Let us Pray.

Living God, through the laying on of hands and anointing, grant comfort in suffering to all who are in need of healing. When they are afraid, give them courage; when afflicted, give them patience; when dejected, give them hope; and when alone, assure them of

the support of your holy people. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

C: AMEN.

Blessing:

P: Almighty God, who is a strong tower to all, to whom all things in Heaven and on Earth bow and obey, be now and evermore your sure defense, and help you to know that the name given to us for health and salvation is the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

The assembly is seated.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

God of grace,

Hear our prayer.

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.

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 253 "He Came Down"

OFFERTORY PRAYER

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

Nourishing God,
you are water in the wilderness and streams in the desert.
Through this meal, satisfy our parched places,
that we may rejoice and be for the world
signs of your kingdom come.

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. 153 "Holy, holy, holy"

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

The Presiding minister leads the Eucharistic Prayer

Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

... We look with hope for his coming.

Come, Lord Jesus.

... Bring the gift of peace on earth.

Come, Holy Spirit.

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 debts

as we forgive our debtors.

**And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil,
for Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory,
forever. Amen.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Here is life. God is with us.

Come, receive what God has promised.

LAMB OF GOD: ELW pg. 154 "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: ACS 905 “We Are Waiting for Jesus” *(Sing twice)*

CHOIR: “Advent Promise”

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Please remain seated:

God our host,
at this table you have fed us with joy and gladness.
Send us forth, eager to share the feast,
welcome the stranger,
and bear good fruit in the name of Jesus.

Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SENDING

BLESSING

May God who comes among us,
Father, ✝ Son, and Holy Spirit,
grant you patience in waiting, peace in the darkness,
and good news to share today and always.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN: ELW 264 “Prepare the Royal Highway”

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Keep awake.

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 Rita Moritz *(In order to assist the Pastor, if you need the Pastor to contact someone or address something)*

Counters: Jeanne Talts

Greeters: 9:30 a.m.

Fellowship: Joan Davis, Helen Ames

Communion Wine: For December is given to the Glory of God.

Altar Flowers: Given by Richard Ritter, In Loving Memory of Madalon Ritter’s Birthday.

ANNOUNCEMENTS!

THIS WEEKS CALENDAR

Sun.	12/7	9:30	a.m.	Sunday Worship/Healing Service
Mon.	12/8	7:00	p.m.	Zoom Bible Study
Tues.	12/9	9:00	a.m.	Mary Martha Circle
		10:00	a.m.	Morning Prayer
Wed.	12/10	10:00	a.m.	Call Committee
		4:00	p.m.	2 nd Wednesday of Advent
Fri.	12/12	8:30	a.m.	Joining Hands in Food Ministry

NEXT WEEKS CALENDAR

Sun.	12/14	9:30	a.m.	Sunday Worship
Mon.	12/15	7:00	p.m.	Zoom Bible Study
Tues.	12/16	10:00	a.m.	Morning Prayer
Wed.	12/17	10:00	a.m.	Call Committee
		4:00	p.m.	3 rd Wednesday of Advent
Fri.	12/19	9:30	a.m.	Homebound Christmas Baskets

Attendance for Sunday, November 30, 2025: 70.

BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

Gayle Bloom
Linda Hide
Forrest Berg

December 8th
December 8th
December 10th

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.**



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!



Salvation Army Christmas Angels Are Here!

The Christmas Angel tree is up! **You're invited to take a name tag from the tree and bless a person in need this holiday season.** When you choose an Angel, please **be sure to pick up one of the clear Salvation Army Hope bags to go along with it.** Thank you for helping share hope and joy this Christmas.



On Friday, Dec. 19th, the baskets for the homebound members will be packed in the morning. We are needing cookies to put into the baskets, and **we need your help!** If you are able, **please bring 1 dozen (or more) cookies to the church before then or that morning to be packed.** Please mark them for the Christmas baskets, so they are not accidentally used for fellowship. Thank you for your help!



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.

Honoring the Past, Embracing the Future

Strategic Planning Team

Change is an inevitable part of life, and our congregation cannot avoid it. As we look toward the future, we find ourselves at an important moment—one of embracing what is new while still holding fast to the rich heritage that has shaped us. This is not a choice between two competing paths, but a call to walk forward with a firm foundation under our feet. We honor our past not by preserving things as they were, but by continuing the mission they began.

This is where embracing the future comes in. It is about recognizing that God meets us where we are, whether that is in

our church building or on a screen for those who cannot be with us in person. It is about being willing to adapt our methods without sacrificing our core beliefs. The foundation of our faith is not in our customs and methods, but in Jesus.

We do this by trusting in the guidance of the Holy Spirit. The same Spirit that has sustained our church for so long is still at work, calling us to new and creative expressions of that faith.

As we move forward together, let us:

□ **Tell our story:**Recall and celebrate the ways God has worked in our midst, using our legacy not as a barrier but as a guide.

□ **Invest in new generations and new people:**Honor our legacy by faithfully stewarding the resources God has given us and investing in those who may not yet know Jesus Christ.

□ **Practice “traditioned innovation”:**Root our innovations in our rich traditions, allowing some forms to die so that new, life-giving ones can emerge ***“Gathering in Christ, Sharing His Love.”***

The future is not a departure from who we are, but a continuation of the meaningful work that has always defined us. By honoring the past and embracing the future, we can ensure that our church remains a beacon of faith, a place of community, and a testament to God’s unchanging love for generations to come.

The new Strategic Planning Team has been meeting for several months studying congregational trends in general and specifically at GDLC, area demographics, cultural developments, church health, and growth strategies used by other churches and has adopted a purpose statement we will use to guide us moving forward:

“To facilitate a responsive strategic planning process that equips our church to navigate change, innovate in ministry, and faithfully adapt to the evolving needs of our community, ensuring the long-term health and effectiveness of our mission and vision.”

In the next few months, you will hear from our team about how we can strengthen our congregation to both warmly greet and creatively partner with our new pastor to make disciples for Christ.

The following Team Members will be happy to answer any specific questions you might have about this process:

Rev. Nancy Vogel, Team Leader

Bill Birdsall, Council Liaison

Richard Healy, Bob Pierce, Joel Weinhardt, Art Zerbel

