

# Gloria Dei Lutheran Church

Transfiguration of Our Lord  
Last Sunday after Epiphany  
Sunday, February 15, 2026

9:30 AM



**130 S. Lone Oak Dr. Leesburg, FL 34748**

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**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.**

Today's festival is a bridge between the Advent-Christmas-Epiphany cycle that comes to a close today and the Lent-Easter cycle that begins in several days. On a high mountain Jesus is revealed as God's beloved Son, echoing the words at his baptism. This vision of glory sustains us as Jesus faces his impending death in Jerusalem. We turn this week to Ash Wednesday and our yearly baptismal journey from Lent to Easter. Some churches put aside the alleluia at the conclusion of today's liturgy. This word of joy will be omitted during the penitential season of Lent and will be sung again at Easter.

### **Participating in Today's Service:**

**Pastor:** Pastor Lynn M. Fonfara

**Music Director:** Len Cremisio

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

#### **Assistant Ministers**

**Reader:** Kathy Bush

**Crucifer:** John Kelly

**Assisting Minister:** Claudia Fetter

**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,  
the Creator of heaven and earth,  
the Word who spoke life into being,  
the Wind stirring the waters.

**Amen.**

Let us turn in confession to the one who knows us completely.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Mighty God, lover of justice,  
**you call us to life in community,  
but we have served our own interests  
at the expense of our neighbors.  
We have sown deceit where honesty was needed.  
We say the right words,  
but our hearts are far from you.  
Turn us to seek your face.  
Knit us together and give us the mind of Christ,  
that we may do justice, love mercy,  
and walk humbly with you, our God.  
Amen.**

The former things have passed away,  
and new things God now declares:  
Like a spring of water that never fails,  
God covers you in the righteousness of Christ,  
and forgives your sin in ✙ Jesus' name.  
May the Spirit give you strength to live for others,  
and bless you with the gift of peace.  
**Amen.**

### **ENTRANCE HYMN: ELW 834 "Immortal Invisible, God Only Wise"**

### **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.**

## HYMN OF PRAISE: ELW 828 Alleluia! Voices Raise

O God, in the transfiguration of your Son you confirmed the mysteries of the faith by the witness of Moses and Elijah, and in the voice from the bright cloud declaring Jesus your beloved Son, you foreshadowed our adoption as your children. Make us heirs with Christ of your glory, and bring us to enjoy its fullness, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

*The assembly is seated.*

**FIRST READING: Exodus 24:12-18**

<sup>12</sup> The LORD said to Moses, "Come up to me on the mountain and wait there; I will give you the tablets of stone, with the law and the commandment, which I have written for their instruction." <sup>13</sup> So Moses set out with his assistant Joshua, and Moses went up onto the mountain of God. <sup>14</sup> To the elders he had said, "Wait here for us, until we come back to you. Look, Aaron and Hur are with you; whoever has a dispute may go to them."

<sup>15</sup> Then Moses went up on the mountain, and the cloud covered the mountain. <sup>16</sup> The glory of the LORD settled on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it for six days; on the seventh day he called to Moses out of the cloud. <sup>17</sup> Now the appearance of the glory of the LORD was like a devouring fire on the top of the mountain in the sight of the Israelites. <sup>18</sup> Moses entered the cloud and went up on the mountain. Moses was on the mountain for forty days and forty nights.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

You are my son; this day have I be - got - ten you.

### Psalm 2:7

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<sup>1</sup> Why are the nations <sup>1</sup> in an uproar?  
 Why do the peoples mutter <sup>1</sup> empty threats?

<sup>2</sup> **Why do the kings of the earth rise up in revolt, and the  
 princes <sup>1</sup> plot together,  
 against the LORD and against the <sup>1</sup> LORD's anointed?**

<sup>3</sup> "Let us break their <sup>1</sup> yoke," they say;  
 "let us cast off their <sup>1</sup> bonds from us."

<sup>4</sup> **God whose throne is in heav- <sup>1</sup> en is laughing;  
 the LORD holds them <sup>1</sup> in derision. R**

<sup>5</sup> Then in wrath God <sup>1</sup> speaks to them,  
 and in rage fills <sup>1</sup> them with terror.

<sup>6</sup> **"As for me, I have anoint- <sup>1</sup> ed my king  
 upon Zion, my <sup>1</sup> holy mountain."**

<sup>7</sup> Let me announce the decree <sup>1</sup> of the LORD,  
 who said to me, "You are my son; this day have I  
 be- <sup>1</sup> gotten you.

<sup>8</sup> **Ask of me, and I will give you the nations for <sup>1</sup> your  
 inheritance  
 and the ends of the earth for <sup>1</sup> your possession. R**

<sup>9</sup> You shall crush them with an <sup>1</sup> iron rod  
 and shatter them like a <sup>1</sup> piece of pottery."

<sup>10</sup> **And now, you <sup>1</sup> kings, be wise;  
 be warned, you rulers <sup>1</sup> of the earth.**

<sup>11</sup> Submit to the <sup>1</sup> LORD with fear,  
 and with trembling <sup>1</sup> bow in worship;

<sup>12</sup> **lest the LORD be angry, and you perish in a  
 sudden <sup>1</sup> blaze of wrath.**

**Happy are all who take ref- <sup>1</sup> uge in God! R**

## **SECOND READING: 2 Peter 1:16-21**

*At the transfiguration, God's voice was heard, declaring Jesus to be the beloved Son. By the activity of the Holy Spirit, God's voice continues to be heard through the word of scripture.*

<sup>16</sup> We did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we had been eyewitnesses of his majesty. <sup>17</sup> For he received honor and glory from God the Father when that voice was conveyed to him by the Majestic Glory, saying, "This is my Son, my Beloved, with whom I am well pleased." <sup>18</sup> We ourselves heard this voice come from heaven, while we were with him on the holy mountain.

<sup>19</sup> So we have the prophetic message more fully confirmed. You will do well to be attentive to this as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in

your hearts. <sup>20</sup> First of all you must understand this, that no prophecy of scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, <sup>21</sup> because no prophecy ever came by human will, but men and women moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: ELW pg. 518 "We Eat the Bread of Teaching"** *(Refrain only)*

**GOSPEL: Matthew 17:1-9**

*Shortly before he enters Jerusalem, where he will be crucified, Jesus is revealed to Peter, James, and John in a mountaintop experience of divine glory called the transfiguration.*

The holy gospel according to Matthew

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup> Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain, by themselves. <sup>2</sup> And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became bright as light. <sup>3</sup> Suddenly there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. <sup>4</sup> Then Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good for us to be here; if you wish, I will set up three tents here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." <sup>5</sup> While he was still speaking, suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them, and a voice from the cloud said, "This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!" <sup>6</sup> When the disciples heard this, they fell to the ground and were overcome by fear. <sup>7</sup> But Jesus came and touched them, saying, "Get up and do not be afraid." <sup>8</sup> And when they raised their eyes, they saw no one except Jesus himself alone.

<sup>9</sup> As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus ordered them, "Tell no one about the vision until after the Son of Man has been raised from the dead."

*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 315 "How Good, Lord, to Be Here!"**

## **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.**

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Merciful God,

**Receive 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.  
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: ACS 1056 "God Bless to Us Our Bread"** *(See Insert) (Sing two times)*

## OFFERTORY PRAYER

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

God of majesty,  
no eye has seen, no ear has heard  
what you have prepared for those who love you,  
yet in this meal you reveal the wideness of your mercy.  
Use what we have gathered  
to feed us with the reign of God come near,  
Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**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 762 "Holy, Holy, Holy, Holy"**

## THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

*The Presiding minister leads the Eucharistic Prayer*

*Blessed are you ... without end.*  
*At the conclusion of the Eucharistic Prayer, all say:*  
**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. Amen.**

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!  
Come to the table; taste and see.

**LAMB OF GOD: ELW 195 "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 867 "In Thee Is Gladness"**

**CHOIR: "Rock of Ages"**

## **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

*Please remain seated:*

Radiant God,  
we have seen your glory in the face of Jesus Christ.  
In the sacrament of his body and blood  
you have drawn us to your heart.  
Send us from this table with delight,  
that our lives may reflect the beauty of your love,  
and bear witness to all we have seen and heard,  
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

## **FAREWELL TO ALLELUIA**

## **SENDING**

### **BLESSING**

May the triune God,  
who has put a new song in your mouth  
and tuned your heart for praise

✠ bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

**SENDING HYMN: ELW 318 "Alleluia, Song of Gladness"**

## **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Do justice. Love mercy.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **POSTLUDE: Voluntary**

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

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**Gloria Dei Lutheran Church**  
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**130 South Lone Oak Drive**  
**Leesburg, Florida 34748**

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.** Julie Eld *(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:** Julie and Jerry Eld

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

**Altar Flowers:** Given to the Glory of God

# ANNOUNCEMENTS!

## THIS WEEKS CALENDAR

Sun.	2/15	9:30 a.m.	Sunday Worship Hunger Offering
Mon.	2/16	7:00 p.m.	Zoom Bible Study
Tues.	2/17	10:00 a.m.	Morning Prayer
Wed.	2/18	9:30 a.m.	Call Committee Meeting
		11:00-12:30	Ashes to Go
		4:00 p.m.	Ash Wednesday Service
		4:30 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal

## NEXT WEEKS CALENDAR

Sun.	2/22	9:30 a.m.	Sunday Worship
Mon.	2/23	7:00 p.m.	Zoom Bible Study
Tues.	2/24	10:00 a.m.	Morning Prayer
Wed.	2/25	9:30 a.m.	Call Committee Meeting
		4:00 p.m.	Lent Service
		4:30 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal

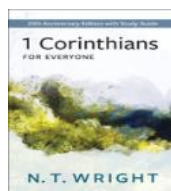
**Attendance for Sunday, February 8, 2026: 82**

## BIRTHDAYS

**Marti Yance**  
**Ellen Clement**  
**Taeko Mincer**

**February 18<sup>th</sup>**  
**February 18<sup>th</sup>**  
**February 20<sup>th</sup>**

## BIBLE STUDIES



### Zoom Bible Study

For the Monday Zoom Bible Study we are studying *1 Corinthians for Everyone*, by NT Wright. We meet **Every Monday at 7pm**. Contact the church office for the Zoom meeting link.

**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.

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION

### No Flowers During Lent

In keeping with the solemn season of Lent, there will be no flowers in the sanctuary from **February 18 through April 2**. This practice helps us reflect prayerfully as we journey toward Holy Week and Easter.

### Request for Dried Palms

Congregation members are invited to bring in **dried palms** to be used in preparation for the Lenten season.

## WE NEED VOLUNTEERS.....



### Soup Supper Volunteers Needed!

Join us in serving during Lent! Volunteers are needed for Soup Suppers on Wednesdays, **February 25–March 25**, starting at **4:30 PM right after the Lenten service**. A sign-up sheet is available in the Fellowship Hall. We'd love your help—thank you for serving! 🍲



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.** Our Daily Prayer List has grown quite long over time, and many entries are now out of date. In order to keep our prayers current and meaningful, the following categories will be removed **from the Daily Prayer List starting February 8th.**

Special Requested Prayer

Memorium

Healing

Chronic Illness

If you would like to have someone included on the updated Prayer List, please contact the Church office at 352-787-3223 or Christine Carlson at 516-458-7355 or email at skauvold.carlson@gmail.com so we may continue to lift up current prayer needs together.

Thank you for helping us keep this ministry active and relevant.



**Order Easter Plants. Honor or Memorialize a loved one or special event by ordering Easter plants** to decorate the sanctuary. Fill out the included form and return it by **Sunday, March 29th.** Thank you for helping make our Easter celebration beautiful and memorable!



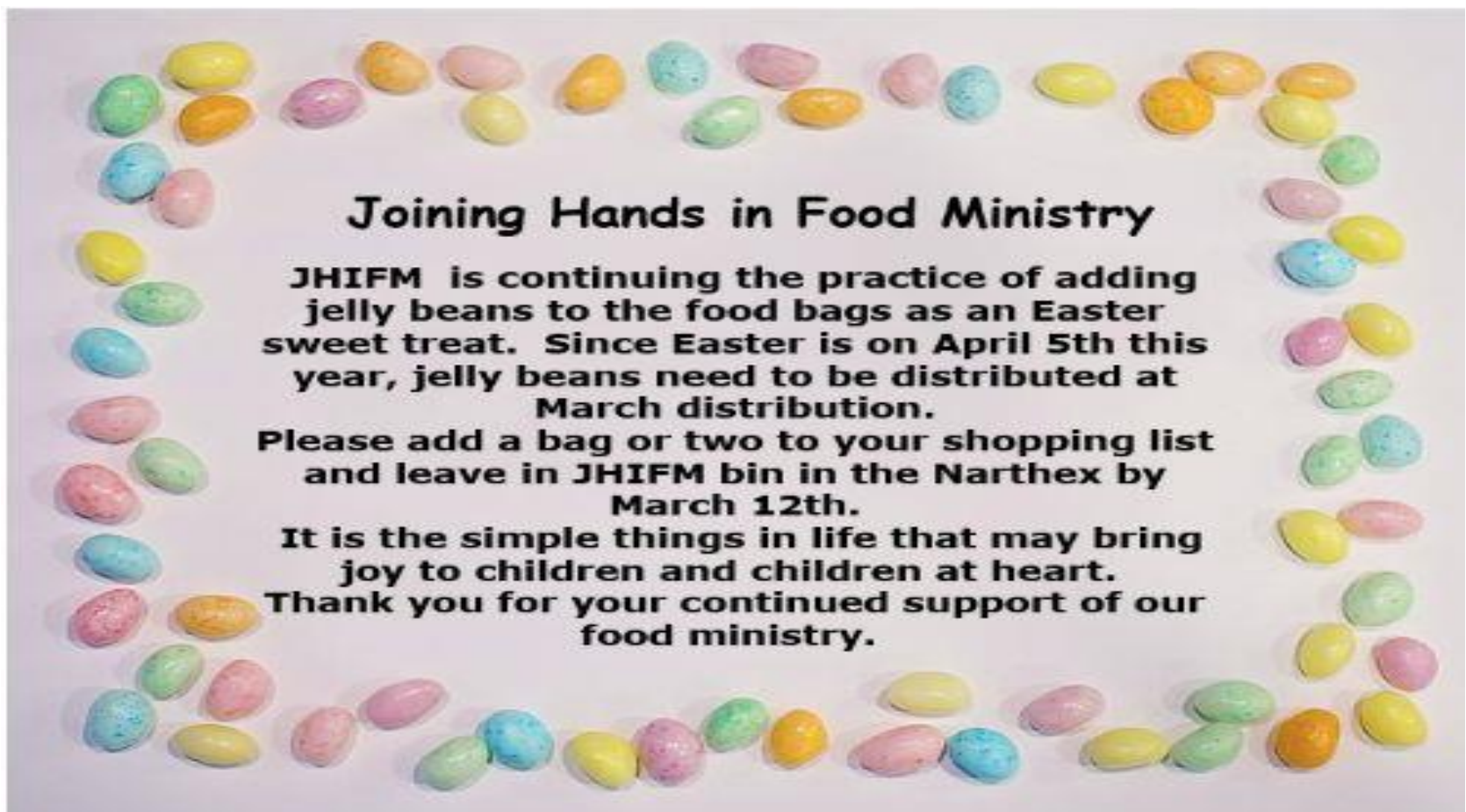
### **Lenten Journey at Gloria Dei**

Join us this Lent for worship and reflection.

**Ash Wednesday is February 18, with worship at 4:00 PM.**

**"Ashes to Go" will be offered from 11:30 AM–1:00 PM.**

All are welcome at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church.



## *Notes From the Office*

We want to thank everyone who contributes articles to ***The Glorion***—your time, creativity, and dedication truly make it special. To help ensure a smooth and timely production process, please note that article submission deadlines will now be **set in stone**. Any articles received after the stated deadline will be held and published in the **following month's bulletin**.

Because ***The Glorion*** is scheduled to be distributed by the **1st of each month**, late submissions unfortunately cause delays in production. While we understand that schedules can be busy, meeting the deadline is essential for keeping everything on track.

We appreciate your understanding and cooperation as we work together to make ***The Glorion*** the best it can be. Thank you for your continued support!

Alleluia is a special liturgical word that means, "Praise God." But its significance is more mystical than the words "Praise God" can convey. Alleluia signifies that ineffable joy present in those heavenly habitations where saints and angels behold God face to face in God's perfect love. As we lift our hearts to God in prayer and praise, we use this word as an expression of our highest praise. Alleluia is a foretaste and a pledge of what awaits us in the life to come- a bit of heaven come down to earth.

Since the fifth century, the Church has suspended the use of this mystical word of praise during Lent, as a reminder of the separation from God that sin brings. We walk the Lenten journey of repentance so that the Holy Spirit may bring healing and wholeness to our wounded hearts. We do not say alleluia, because for a time we mourn our sins and seek God's mercy and forgiveness. But that does not mean that we do not offer any sacrifice of praise. Even as we contemplate our sins and seek God's healing, we replace our alleluias with praise to Christ who reconciles us to God and forgives our sins. During the Mass of the lenten season we sing, "Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, King of endless glory,"- a glory which comforts and supports us during the Lenten season. On the last Sunday after the Epiphany, we say farewell to the Alleluia. During medieval times their elaborate ceremonies evolved in which the alleluia was actually buried and "resurrected" on Easter. While we won't be burying the alleluia, we will end the Mass on Sunday with many sung alleluias, as we turn away from the beauty of our Lord in his Transfigured Glory, and turn towards the healing lenten desert which will take us to the Cross and finally back to Easter Joy.

