

Gloria Dei Lutheran Church

Seventh Sunday of Easter

Sunday, May 17, 2026

9:30 AM



130 S. Lone Oak Dr. Leesburg, FL 34748

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GLORIA DEI
LUTHERAN CHURCH
GATHERING IN CHRIST † SHARING HIS LOVE

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.

In these days between Ascension and Pentecost, we gather with the disciples in the upper room, waiting for the Spirit to transform the church around the world. In today's gospel Jesus prays for his followers and for their mission in his name. Amid religious, social, and economic divisions, we seek the unity that Jesus had with his Father. Made one in baptism, we go forth to live our faith in the world, eager for the unity that God intends for the whole human family.

Participating in Today's Service:

Pastor: Pastor Lynn M. Fonfara

Music Director: Len Cremisio

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

Assistant Ministers

Reader: Patricia Bressler

Crucifer: Kathy Bush

Assisting Minister: Patricia Bressler

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

Prelude:

WELCOME AND WORSHIP ANNOUNCEMENTS

PREPARE FOR WORSHIP: ELW 752 “Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying” *(3 times)*

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

In the name of † the One who was, who is, and who is to come.

Amen.

Baptized into Christ’s death and resurrection, and called to live the baptized life, let us give thanks for the gifts of baptism.

Holy God,

we give you thanks for the waters of baptism, waters that make a people your own, that restore to wholeness, and empower us to be witnesses in your name. Baptized into you, O Living One,

make us one as you are one.

We give you thanks for the waters of baptism, waters that strengthen believers and give new life to beloved servants of your church; waters that extend your boundless love and cross barriers of our own making. Baptized into you, O Living One, **make us one as you are one.**

We give you thanks for the waters of baptism, waters that open the hearts of believers and give a voice in the night to those in captivity; waters that set your people on a new path, rejoicing in the Spirit’s power. Baptized into you, O Living One, **make us one as you are one.**

Grant us grace, love, and life, O Living One, that our every day is shaped by these waters that give us our very lives in you. We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Crucified and Risen One.

Amen.

GATHERING HYMN: ELW 392 “Alleluia! Sing to 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.

KYRIE: ELW 151 Kyrie Eleison

HYMN OF PRAISE: ELW 819 “Come, All You People”

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God of glory, your Son Jesus Christ suffered for us and ascended to your right hand. Unite us with Christ and each other in suffering and in joy, that all the world may be drawn into your bountiful presence, 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 45:1-7

From east to west, there is no other God.

- ¹ Thus says the LORD to his anointed, to Cyrus,
whose right hand I have grasped
to subdue nations before him
and to strip kings of their robes,
to open doors before him—
and the gates shall not be closed:
- ² I will go before you
and level the mountains;
I will break in pieces the doors of bronze
and cut through the bars of iron;
- ³ I will give you the treasures of darkness
and riches hidden in secret places,
so that you may know that it is I, the LORD,
the God of Israel, who call you by your name.
- ⁴ For the sake of my servant Jacob
and Israel my chosen,
I call you by your name;
I give you a title, though you do not know me.
- ⁵ I am the LORD, and there is no other;
besides me there is no god.
I arm you, though you do not know me,
- ⁶ so that they may know, from the rising of the sun
and from the west, that there is no one besides me;
I am the LORD, and there is no other.
- ⁷ I form light and create darkness,
I make weal and create woe;
I the LORD do all these things.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 21:1-7

Read responsively, the congregation speaks the bold lines.

- ¹ The king rejoices in your strength, O LORD;
how greatly he exults in your victory!
- ² You have given him his heart's desire;
you have not denied him the request of his lips.
- ³ For you meet him with blessings of prosperity,
and set a crown of fine gold upon his head.

⁴ He asked you for life, and you gave it to him:
length of days, forever and ever.

⁵ His honor is great, because of your victory;
splendor and majesty you bestow upon him.

⁶ For you will give him everlasting blessings
and will make him glad with the joy of your presence.

⁷ For the king puts his trust in the LORD;
because of the lovingkindness of the Most High, he will not fall.

SECOND READING: 1 Peter 4:12-14, 5:6-11

Our faith in Christ does not make us immune from the scorn of others. Nevertheless, we are to resist the designs of evil when we experience disparagement from others because we trust God's grace will strengthen and guide us.

¹² Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that is taking place among you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. ¹³ But rejoice insofar as you are sharing Christ's sufferings, so that you may also be glad and shout for joy when his glory is revealed. ¹⁴ If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the spirit of glory, which is the Spirit of God, is resting on you.

^{5:6} Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt you in due time. ⁷ Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you. ⁸ Discipline yourselves; keep alert. Like a roaring lion your adversary the devil prowls around, looking for someone to devour. ⁹ Resist him, steadfast in your faith, for you know that your brothers and sisters in all the world are undergoing the same kinds of suffering. ¹⁰ And after you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, support, strengthen, and establish you. ¹¹ To him be the power forever and ever. Amen.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: ELW 172 "Halle, Halle, Hallelujah"

GOSPEL: John 17:1-11

On the night before his crucifixion, Jesus prays to his heavenly Father, asking that those who continue his work in this world will live in unity.

The holy gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ After Jesus had spoken these words [to his disciples,] he looked up to heaven and said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, ² since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. ³ And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent. ⁴ I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. ⁵ So now, Father, glorify me in your own

presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed.

⁶“I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. ⁷ Now they know that everything you have given me is from you, ⁸ for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you, and they have believed that you sent me. ⁹ I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. ¹⁰ All mine are yours, and yours are mine, and I have been glorified in them. ¹¹ And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one.”

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 MONTH: ELW 735 “Mothering God, You Gave Me Birth”

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 1067 "For the Wholeness of the Earth"

(See insert)

OFFERTORY PRAYER

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

Merciful God,

accept the fruits of our labor, gathered to give you glory.

You have set a table before us, a glimpse of that great day when we will hunger and thirst no more.

Nourish us with the body and blood of Jesus,

that goodness and mercy may follow us

and bless the world you love.

In the name of Jesus,

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 473 "Holy, Holy, Holy"

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

The Presiding minister leads the Eucharistic Prayer

Pastor Lori presents the sacrament of Holy Communion using the words of the deaf community.

***THE LORDS PRAYER** *(Spoken using the words of the deaf community)*

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, we pray as Jesus taught us with Lord's prayer. **Our Father in heaven, help us to honor your name, come and set up your kingdom, so that everyone on earth will obey you, as you are obeyed in heaven. Give us our food for today. Forgive us for doing wrong, as we forgive others. Keep us from being tempted and protect us from evil. The Kingdom, the power, the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Come to the table of new life.
Receive the risen Lord.

LAMB OF GOD: ELW Page 208 Setting 10

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 482 "I Come with Joy"

ELW 781 "Children of the Heavenly Father"

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Please remain seated:

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, **Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SENDING

BLESSING

God Almighty, who is the beginning and the end,
Jesus Christ, the firstborn of the dead,
and the Spirit, our advocate and peace,

✠ bless you now and forever.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN: ELW 668 "O Zion, Haste"

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Praise the Lord. Alleluia!

Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

POSTLUDE: Voluntary

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

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Gloria Dei Lutheran Church

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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. Joan Davis *(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:

Loraine Van Haecke, Sue Johnson

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

Altar Flowers: From Jeanne Talts

In loving memory of All the Saints.

ANNOUNCEMENTS!

THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

Sun. 5/17	9:30 a.m.	Sunday Worship/ Hunger Offering
	11:00 a.m.	Bible Study (Book of Acts)
Mon. 5/18	7:00 p.m.	Zoom Bible Study
Tues. 5/19	10:00 a.m.	Morning Prayer

NEXT WEEK'S CALENDAR

Sun. 5/24	9:30 a.m.	Sunday Worship
	11:00 a.m.	Bible Study (Bearing Witness)
Mon. 5/25	7:00 p.m.	Zoom Bible Study
Tues. 5/26	10:00 a.m.	Morning Prayer

Attendance for Sunday, May 10, 2026:

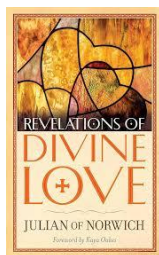
BIRTHDAYS

Linda Steege	May 20th
Dick Healy	May 22nd

BIBLE STUDIES

Zoom Bible Study

For the Monday Zoom Bible Study we are learning about St Julian of Norwich, using YouTube Videos from the National Cathedral. We meet **Every Monday at 7pm**. Contact the church office for the Zoom meeting link.



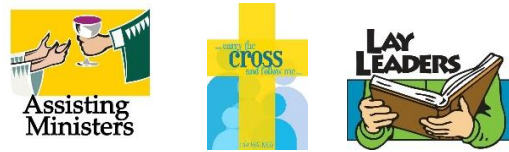
Starting May 18, the Zoom Bible Study will be watching a video about **St Julian of Norwich** with discussion following.

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.

Bible Study Opportunity

We warmly invite all members and friends to participate in an enriching Bible study on Acts, held at 11:00 a.m. on Sundays: May 17, 24 and 31. This thoughtfully prepared study, developed by the Synod, offers a meaningful opportunity for spiritual growth and deeper understanding of the early Church. All are encouraged to attend.

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!



Missed the Gloria Dei Video Presentation? Watch It Online!

Last Sunday everyone got to see the new Gloria Dei Video/slide presentation. In case you missed it or would like to see it again or invite someone else to view it, there is a link to the video posted on the homepage of our website for your use.

Thank you!



We want to thank the entire choir for the beauty and glory they have added to our worship services not only on Sundays but also during Lent, Easter, Advent and Christmas as well. Gloria Dei is blessed because you all share your talents in the service of Christ. Thank you for lovingly and faithfully doing so!



Thanksgivings & God-sightings At the end of worship each week we will take time to lift up those people and events for which we give thanks to God, and those times we have seen God present among us.

Articles for the June Glorion are due by May 20th Getting everything in on time helps us stay on track to review and publish the newsletter by **Friday, May 29th**. Thanks so much for your cooperation and timely submissions.