

Gloria Dei Lutheran Church

Second Sunday in Lent

Sunday, March 1, 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.

During Lent we journey with all those around the world who will be baptized at the Easter Vigil. In today's gospel Jesus tells Nicodemus that he must be born of water and Spirit. At the font we are given a new birth as children of God. As God made a covenant with Abraham, in baptism God promises to raise us up with Christ to new life. From worship we are sent forth to proclaim God's love for all the world.

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: Dianne Marcotte

Crucifer: John Kelly

Assisting Minister: Patricia Bressler

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

Prelude:

WELCOME AND WORSHIP ANNOUNCEMENTS

PREPARE FOR WORSHIP: ELW 801 "Change My Heart, O God"

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 before God, who removes our guilt
and blots out all offenses.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Gracious God,

have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

For seeking worldly delights that deceive us and dishonor you:

Gracious God,

have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

For desiring self-reliance instead of hungering for your word:

Gracious God,

have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

For failing to recognize your coming reign,

and for hindering the work of the Spirit: Gracious God,

have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

For drawing from the well of self-serving ambition,

and for disdaining the living water Christ offers: Gracious God,

have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

For disregarding voices from the margin,

and for distrusting signs of your healing and hope in the world:

Gracious God,

have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

For dwelling in tombs of self-pity and discontent,

and for disregarding Christ's call to come forth to life:

Gracious God,

have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

God's steadfast love, grace, and forgiveness abound.

Through faith, the free gift of God,

you have been clothed in the righteousness of Christ.

In the name of ✝ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven.

The Spirit of the One who raised Christ from the dead

dwells in you,
pours God's love into your hearts,
and gives you life and peace.

Amen.

ENTRANCE HYMN: ELW 638 "Blessed Assurance"

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 154 Kyrie *(Sing 2 or 3 times)*

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God, our leader and guide, in the waters of baptism you bring us to new birth to live as your children. Strengthen our faith in your promises, that by your Spirit we may lift up your life to all the world through your Son, 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: Genesis 12:1-4a

God's call of Abram and Sarai has a clear purpose—that through them all the families of the earth would gain a blessing. As they set out on their journey, they are accompanied by promises of land, nation, and a great reputation.

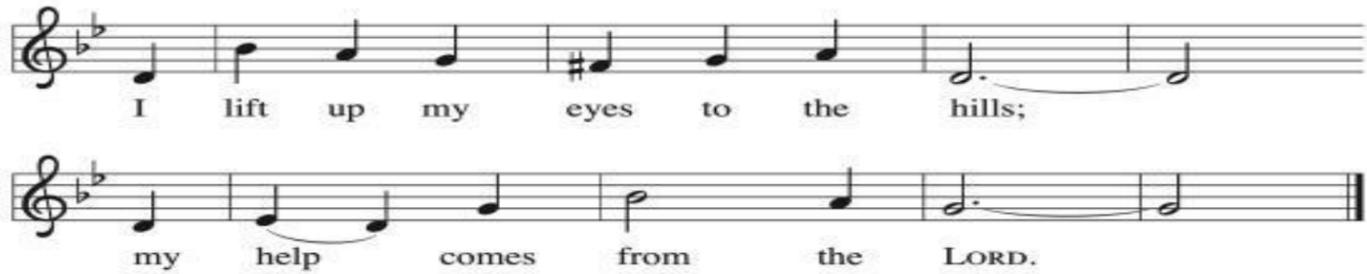
¹The LORD said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. ²I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. ³I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

^{4a}So Abram went, as the LORD had told him, and Lot went with him.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 121



Psalm 121:1-2
Psalm refrain reproduced from *Psalter for Worship Year A* © 2007 Augsburg Fortress.
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- ¹ I lift up my eyes | to the hills;
from where is my | help to come?
- ² **My help comes | from the LORD,
the maker of heav- | en and earth.**
- ³ The LORD will not let your | foot be moved
nor will the one who watches over you | fall asleep.
- ⁴ **Behold, the keep- | er of Israel
will neither slum- | ber nor sleep; R**
- ⁵ the LORD watches | over you;
the LORD is your shade at | your right hand;
- ⁶ **the sun will not strike | you by day,
nor the | moon by night.**
- ⁷ The LORD will preserve you | from all evil
and will | keep your life.
- ⁸ **The LORD will watch over your going out and
your | coming in,
from this time forth for- | evermore. R**

SECOND READING: Romans 4:1-5, 13-17

In the person and example of Abraham we discover that a right relationship with God does not involve earning a reward from God but entails trusting God's promises. Abraham is the forebear and model for both Jews and Gentiles, because we too trust that ours is a God who gives life to the dead.

¹ What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? ² For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. ³ For what does the scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness." ⁴ Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. ⁵ But to one who does not work but trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness.

¹³ For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. ¹⁴ For if it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. ¹⁵ For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law,

neither is there transgression.

¹⁶ For this reason the promise depends on faith, in order that it may rest on grace, so that it may be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (who is the father of all of us, ¹⁷ as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations"), in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: ELW 176 "Lenten Acclamation"

GOSPEL: John 3:1-17

A curious Pharisee visits Jesus by night to learn from the teacher his friends reject. Jesus speaks to him about life in the Spirit and the kingdom of God.

The holy gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. ² He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with that person." ³ Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above." ⁴ Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?" ⁵ Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. ⁶ What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷ Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' ⁸ The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." ⁹ Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" ¹⁰ Jesus answered him, "Are you the teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?"

¹¹ "Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen, yet you do not receive our testimony. ¹² If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? ¹³ No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. ¹⁴ And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted

up, ¹⁵ that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

¹⁶ "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

¹⁷ "Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him."

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 660 "Lift High the Cross"

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.

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 185 "Create in Me a Clean Heart"

OFFERTORY PRAYER

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

O God, maker of heaven and earth,
your steadfast love embraces all creation.
You send rain and sunshine to nourish the earth
and bring forth its bounty.
Through these gifts of bread and wine,
draw us into the death and life of your Son,
who calls us to bear witness to his saving work.
We ask this in Jesus' name.

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 189 "Holy, Holy, Holy"

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

The Presiding minister leads the Eucharistic Prayer

O God triune, ... The earth is full of your glory.
The earth is full of your glory.

O God triune, ... The earth is full of your glory.
The earth is full of your glory.

In the night ...

Gathered around this table ...The earth is full of your glory.
The earth is full of your glory.

O God triune, ... The earth is full of your glory.
The earth is full of your glory.

At the conclusion of the Eucharistic Prayer, all say:

Amen, and amen.

Amen, and amen.

***THE LORDS PRAYER** *(Sung)* **ELW Pg. 305**

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

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the pow'r and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Come to the table.

Feast on God's goodness and mercy.

LAMB OF GOD: ELW 198 "O 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 451 "We Are Baptized in Christ Jesus"

CHOIR: "When You Prayed Beneath the Tree"

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Please remain seated:

God of our salvation,
we give you thanks for this meal that restores our souls,
reconciles us to you, and strengthens us for the journey.
Through the body and blood of your Son,
may we become Christ's body in the world,
bearing witness to your love for all creation,
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SENDING

BLESSING

Receive the blessing of the holy Trinity:
God, who calls all things into existence,
Jesus Christ, who redeems us,
and the Holy Spirit, whose breath sustains creation,
✝ bless you now and always.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN: ELW 803 "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross"

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Believe the good news.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE: Voluntary

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

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Gloria Dei Lutheran Church

www.gloriadeielca.com

**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:

Jeanne Talts

Greeters:

9:30 a.m.

Fellowship:

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

Altar Flowers: Given to the Glory of God

ANNOUNCEMENTS!

THIS WEEKS CALENDAR

Sun. 3/1	9:30 a.m.	Sunday Worship/ Healing Service
Mon. 3/2	7:00 p.m.	Zoom Bible Study
Tues. 3/3	10:00 a.m.	Morning Prayer
	10:30 a.m.	WELCA Board Meeting
Wed. 3/4	9:30 a.m.	Call Committee Meeting
	4:00 p.m.	Lent Service
	4:30 p.m.	Soup & Bread after Service
	4:30 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
Thurs. 3/5	10:30 a.m.	Ruth Circle

NEXT WEEKS CALENDAR

Sun. 3/8	9:30 a.m.	Sunday Worship
Mon. 3/9	7:00 p.m.	Zoom Bible Study
Tues. 3/10	9:00 p.m.	Mary Martha Circle
	9:00 p.m.	LWR Quilting
	10:00 a.m.	Morning Prayer
Wed. 3/11	9:30 a.m.	Call Committee Meeting
	4:00 p.m.	Lent Service
	4:30 p.m.	Soup & Bread after Service
	4:30 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
Fri. 3/13	8:30 a.m.	Joining Hands in Food Ministry

Attendance for Sunday, February 22, 2026:

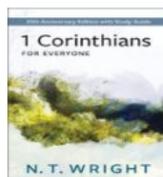
BIRTHDAYS

Arlene Kelly	March 1 st
Helga La Cava	March 3 rd
Carol Marshall	March 6 th

ANNIVERSARIES

Irvin and Susan Johnson	March 3 rd	43yrs.
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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.

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!

Joining Hands in Food Ministry

JHIFM is continuing the practice of adding jelly beans to the food bags as an Easter sweet treat. Since Easter is on April 5th this year, jelly beans need to be distributed at March distribution.

Please add a bag or two to your shopping list and leave in JHIFM bin in the Narthex by March 12th.

It is the simple things in life that may bring joy to children and children at heart. Thank you for your continued support of our food ministry.

🎺 Support Julian Menchaca's High School Band! 🎺

Julian is participating in his high school band fundraiser to help purchase new marching uniforms, repair the band's box truck, and replace or repair instruments that are more than 15 years old.

These goals cannot be reached without community support. If Julian reaches his \$1,000 donation goal, his end-of-year field trip will also be fully paid for! Please consider helping Julian reach his goal and supporting the band's students as they work toward an incredible high school experience.

Donate or learn more at:
<https://vraise.org/WhfOt5>

Thank you for supporting our youth!



Photographs for the Online Church Directory. The regular Sunday photography sessions for the Online Church Directory have ended. However, we can schedule a one-on-one session after any Sunday service if you have missed the initial opportunity or if you have PPR (Post-Photograph Remorse) and wish a re-take. Please contact either Linda Steege (815-222-6195) or Dick Healy (352-223-4800).



Contribution Reports are now available and may be picked up in the fellowship hall on the countertop. Please be sure to stop by and collect yours at your earliest convenience.

This week I will also be working on the *Glorion*. If you have not yet signed up to serve, now is a great time to add your name! Volunteer sign-up sheets for lay reader, assistant minister, and crucifer are located in the fellowship hall by the mailboxes. The fellowship sign-up sheet can be found by the kitchen countertop. Thank you for your willingness to serve and support the life of our church!

