

Gloria Dei Lutheran Church

Fifth Sunday in Lent

Sunday, March 22, 2026

9:30 AM



130 S. Lone Oak Dr. Leesburg, FL 34748

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



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 today's gospel Jesus reveals his power over death by raising Lazarus from the dead. The prophet Ezekiel prophesies God breathing new life into dry bones. To those in exile or living in the shadows of death, these stories proclaim God's promise of resurrection. In baptism we die with Christ that we might also be raised with him to new life. At the Easter Vigil we will welcome the newly baptized as we remember God's unfailing promise in our baptism.

Participating in Today's Service:

Pastor: Pastor Lynn M. Fonfara

Music Director: Len Cremisio

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

Assistant Ministers

Reader: Patricia Bressler

Crucifer: Claudia Fetter

Assisting Minister: Vaike O'Grady

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

Prelude:

WELCOME AND WORSHIP ANNOUNCEMENTS

The assembly is seated

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

Please Stand

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 886 "Oh, for a Thousand Tongues
to Sing"**

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 3 times)*

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty God, your Son came into the world to free us all from
sin and death. Breathe upon us the power of your Spirit, that we
may be raised to new life in Christ and serve you in
righteousness all our days, 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: Ezekiel 37:1-14

*Ezekiel's vision of the valley of dry bones is a promise that Israel as a nation,
though dead in exile, will live again in their land through God's life-giving spirit.
Three times Israel is assured that through this vision they will know that "I am
the LORD."*

¹The hand of the LORD came upon me, and he brought me out by
the spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of a valley;
it was full of bones. ²He led me all around them; there were very
many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. ³He said to me,
"Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered, "O Lord GOD, you
know." ⁴Then he said to me, "Prophecy to these bones and say
to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. ⁵Thus says the
Lord GOD to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and
you shall live. ⁶I will lay sinews on you and will cause flesh to
come upon you and cover you with skin and put breath in you,
and you shall live, and you shall know that I am the LORD."

⁷So I prophesied as I had been commanded, and as I
prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones
came together, bone to its bone. ⁸I looked, and there were

sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them, but there was no breath in them. ⁹ Then he said to me, "Prophecy to the breath, prophesy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord GOD: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live." ¹⁰ I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

¹¹ Then he said to me, "Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.' ¹² Therefore prophesy and say to them: Thus says the Lord GOD: I am going to open your graves and bring you up from your graves, O my people, and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. ¹³ And you shall know that I am the LORD when I open your graves and bring you up from your graves, O my people. ¹⁴ I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the LORD, have spoken and will act, says the LORD."

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 130



Psalm 130:5
Psalm refrain reproduced from *Psalter for Worship Year A* © 2007 Augsburg Fortress.
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¹ Out ¹ of the depths

I cry to ¹ you, O LORD;

² **O LORD, ¹ hear my voice!**

Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my ¹ supplication.

³ If you were to keep watch ¹ over sins,

O LORD, ¹ who could stand?

⁴ **Yet with you ¹ is forgiveness,**

in order that you ¹ may be feared. R

⁵ I wait for you, O LORD; ¹ my soul waits;

in your word ¹ is my hope.

⁶ **My soul waits for the Lord more than those who keep watch ¹ for the morning,**

more than those who keep watch ¹ for the morning.

⁷ O Israel, wait for the LORD, for with the LORD there is ¹ steadfast love;

with the LORD there is plen- ¹ teous redemption.

**⁸ For the LORD shall ¹ redeem Israel
from ¹ all their sins. R**

SECOND READING: Romans 8:6-11

For Paul, Christian spirituality entails living in the reality of the Holy Spirit. The driving force behind our actions and values is not our sinful desire for self-satisfaction but the very Spirit by which God raised Jesus from the dead and will also raise us from the dead.

⁶ To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. ⁷ For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law—indeed, it cannot, ⁸ and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

⁹ But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. ¹⁰ But if Christ is in you, then the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. ¹¹ If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: ELW 176 "Lenten Acclamation"

GOSPEL: John 10:40-11:46 *(Video uses the Good News Bible)*

Jesus heals a man born blind, provoking a hostile reaction that he regards as spiritual blindness to the things of God.

The holy gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

⁴⁰ Then Jesus went back across the Jordan to the place where John had been baptizing in the early days. There he stayed, ⁴¹ and many people came to him. They said, "Though John never performed a sign, all that John said about this man was true." ⁴² And in that place many believed in Jesus.

¹ Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. ² Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. ³ So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, "Lord, he whom you love is ill." ⁴ But when Jesus heard it, he said, "This illness does not lead to death; rather, it is for God's glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it." ⁵ Accordingly, though

Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, ⁶ after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was.

⁷ Then after this he said to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea again." ⁸ The disciples said to him, "Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?" ⁹ Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day do not stumble because they see the light of this world. ¹⁰ But those who walk at night stumble because the light is not in them." ¹¹ After saying this, he told them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him." ¹² The disciples said to him, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right." ¹³ Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. ¹⁴ Then Jesus told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead. ¹⁵ For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him." ¹⁶ Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him."

¹⁷ When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. ¹⁸ Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, ¹⁹ and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. ²⁰ When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. ²¹ Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. ²² But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him." ²³ Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." ²⁴ Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." ²⁵ Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, ²⁶ and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" ²⁷ She said to him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world."

²⁸ When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary and told her privately, "The Teacher is here and is calling for you." ²⁹ And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. ³⁰ Now Jesus had not yet come to the village but was still at the place where Martha had met him. ³¹ The Jews who were with her in the house consoling her saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there. ³² When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." ³³ When Jesus saw her weeping and the Jews who came with her also weeping,

he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. ³⁴ He said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see." ³⁵ Jesus began to weep. ³⁶ So the Jews said, "See how he loved him!" ³⁷ But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?"

³⁸ Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. ³⁹ Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days." ⁴⁰ Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?" ⁴¹ So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, "Father, I thank you for having heard me. ⁴² I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me." ⁴³ When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" ⁴⁴ The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go."

⁴⁵ Many of the Jews, therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did believed in him. ⁴⁶ But some of them went to the Pharisees and told them what Jesus had done.

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 666 "What Wondrous Love Is This"

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

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.

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 773 "Precious Lord, Take My Hand"
CHOIR: "If You Love Me"

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 333 "Jesus Is a Rock in a Weary Land"

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. Joy Yonko *(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:

Joan Davis, Helen Ames

Communion Wine: For March is given by Nancy and MaryJean Kancel in loving memory of Allen, Emma and Helen Weber.

Altar Flowers: Given to the Glory of God

ANNOUNCEMENTS!

THIS WEEKS CALENDAR

Sun.	3/22	9:30 a.m.	Sunday Worship
Mon.	3/23	7:00 p.m.	Zoom Bible Study
Tues.	3/24	11:30 a.m.	WELCA Spring Fashion Show
Wed.	3/25	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.	3/27	9:00 a.m.	LWR Quilting
		9:00 a.m.	Mary Martha Circle

NEXT WEEKS CALENDAR

Sun.	3/29	9:30 a.m.	Sunday Worship
Mon.	3/30	7:00 p.m.	Zoom Bible Study
Tues.	3/31	10:00 a.m.	Morning Prayer
Wed.	4/1	9:30 a.m.	Call Committee Meeting
		4:30 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
Thurs.	4/2	10:30 a.m.	Ruth Circle

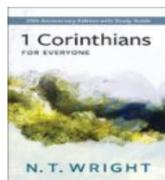
Attendance for Sunday, March 15, 2026: 81

BIRTHDAYS

Byron Kirkpatrick

March 22nd

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.....



Readers Needed for Palm Sunday

On Palm Sunday, March 29th we will proclaim the **Passion of Matthew**, a powerful telling of our Lord's suffering and sacrifice. This reading will be shared by several voices, and we are seeking **4–8 volunteers** to serve as readers. If you feel called to take part in this important proclamation of the Gospel, please contact **Pastor Lynn** by email (pastorgdclcesburg@gmail.com) or phone (352-249-8533). Thank you for helping bring the Passion story to life for our congregation.



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!



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!



**WELCA Spring Fashion/Salad Luncheon
Tuesday, March 24, 11:30am**

Join us for an afternoon of fashion, fellowship, and food! Donations from the event will benefit the **Lake/Sumter Children's Advocacy Center**. Please bring a **salad to serve 6-8 ladies** and invite your friends and family. A **sign-up sheet** will help us plan seating and setup.

Thank you in advance,

The WELCA Board



Articles for the April Glorion are due by March 25th Getting everything in on time helps us stay on track to review and publish the newsletter by **Wednesday, April 1st**. Thanks so much for your cooperation and timely submissions!

Please remember to sign up to serve as **Assistant Minister, Crucifer, or Reader for the month of April**. Your help is greatly appreciated! Kindly add your name to the sign-up sheet so it can be included in the **April issue of the Glorion**. Thank you for your willingness to serve!

