

# Gloria Dei Lutheran Church

Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

Sunday, February 8, 2026

9:30 AM



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

Email: [gloriadeilutheranleesburg@gmail.com](mailto: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.**

Light shines in the darkness for the upright, the psalmist sings. Isaiah declares that when we loose the bonds of injustice and share our bread with the hungry, the light breaks forth like the dawn. In another passage from the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus, the light of the world, calls his followers to let the light of their good works shine before others. Through baptism we are sent into the world to shine with the light of Christ.

### **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:** Linda Hide

**Crucifer:** Julian Menchaca

**Assisting Minister:** Patricia Bressler

**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 665 "Rise, Shine, You People!"**

### **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 157 Kyrie**

## **HYMN OF PRAISE: ELW 828 “Alleluia! Voices Raise”**

### **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Lord God, with endless mercy you receive the prayers of all who call upon you. By your Spirit show us the things we ought to do, and give us the grace and power to do them, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

*The assembly is seated.*

## **WORD**

### **FIRST READING: Isaiah 58:1-9a**

*Shortly after the return of Israel from exile in Babylon, the people were troubled by the ineffectiveness of their fasts. God reminds them that outward observance is no substitute for genuine fasting that results in acts of justice, such as feeding the hungry, sheltering the homeless, and clothing the naked.*

- <sup>1</sup> Shout out; do not hold back!  
Lift up your voice like a trumpet!  
Announce to my people their rebellion,  
to the house of Jacob their sins.
- <sup>2</sup> Yet day after day they seek me  
and delight to know my ways,  
as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness  
and did not forsake the ordinance of their God;  
they ask of me righteous judgments;  
they want God on their side.
- <sup>3</sup> “Why do we fast, but you do not see?  
Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?”  
Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day  
and oppress all your workers.
- <sup>4</sup> You fast only to quarrel and to fight  
and to strike with a wicked fist.  
Such fasting as you do today  
will not make your voice heard on high.
- <sup>5</sup> Is such the fast that I choose,  
a day to humble oneself?  
Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush  
and to lie in sackcloth and ashes?  
Will you call this a fast,  
a day acceptable to the LORD?
- <sup>6</sup> Is not this the fast that I choose:  
to loose the bonds of injustice,  
to undo the straps of the yoke,  
to let the oppressed go free,  
and to break every yoke?
- <sup>7</sup> Is it not to share your bread with the hungry  
and bring the homeless poor into your house;  
when you see the naked, to cover them  
and not to hide yourself from your own kin?



- <sup>8</sup> Then your light shall break forth like the dawn,  
and your healing shall spring up quickly;  
your vindicator shall go before you;  
the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard.  
<sup>9a</sup> Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer;  
you shall cry for help, and he will say, "Here I am."

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **PSALM: Psalm 112:1-9a (10)**



Psalm 112:4

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- <sup>1</sup> Hallelujah! Happy are they who <sup>1</sup> fear the LORD  
and have great delight in <sup>1</sup> God's commandments!
- <sup>2</sup> **Their descendants will be mighty <sup>1</sup> in the land;  
the generation of the upright <sup>1</sup> will be blessed.**
- <sup>3</sup> Wealth and riches will be <sup>1</sup> in their house,  
and their righteousness will <sup>1</sup> last forever.
- <sup>4</sup> **Light shines in the darkness <sup>1</sup> for the upright;  
the righteous are merciful and full <sup>1</sup> of compassion. R**
- <sup>5</sup> It is good for them to be gener- <sup>1</sup> ous in lending  
and to manage their af- <sup>1</sup> fairs with justice.
- <sup>6</sup> **For they will nev- <sup>1</sup> er be shaken;  
the righteous will be kept in everlast- <sup>1</sup> ing  
remembrance.**
- <sup>7</sup> They will not be afraid of any <sup>1</sup> evil rumors;  
their heart is steadfast, trusting <sup>1</sup> in the LORD.
- <sup>8</sup> **Their heart is established and <sup>1</sup> will not shrink,  
until they see their desire up- <sup>1</sup> on their enemies.**
- <sup>9</sup> They have given freely to the poor, and their righteousness  
stands <sup>1</sup> fast forever;  
they will hold up their <sup>1</sup> head with honor.
- [ <sup>10</sup> **The wicked will see it and be angry; they will gnash  
their teeth and <sup>1</sup> pine away;  
the desires of the wick- <sup>1</sup> ed will perish. R**

## **SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 2:1-16**

*Though people such as the Corinthians are enamored with human philosophy and wisdom, Paul continuously presents God's hidden wisdom which is Jesus Christ crucified. True spiritual maturity involves judging ourselves and others in light of God's revelation in the cross.*

<sup>1</sup> When I came to you, brothers and sisters, I did not come proclaiming the testimony of God to you with superior speech or wisdom. <sup>2</sup> For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. <sup>3</sup> And I came to you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling. <sup>4</sup> My speech and my proclamation were made not with persuasive words of wisdom but with a demonstration of the Spirit and of power, <sup>5</sup> so that your faith might rest not on human wisdom but on the power of God.

<sup>6</sup> Yet among the mature we do speak wisdom, though it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are being destroyed. <sup>7</sup> But we speak God's wisdom, a hidden mystery, which God decreed before the ages for our glory <sup>8</sup> and which none of the rulers of this age understood, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. <sup>9</sup> But, as it is written,

“What no eye has seen, nor ear heard,  
nor the human heart conceived,  
what God has prepared for those who love him”—

<sup>10</sup> God has revealed to us through the Spirit, for the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. <sup>11</sup> For what human knows what is truly human except the human spirit that is within? So also no one comprehends what is truly God's except the Spirit of God. <sup>12</sup> Now we have received not the spirit of the world but the Spirit that is from God, so that we may understand the gifts bestowed on us by God. [<sup>13</sup> And we speak of these things in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual things to those who are spiritual.

<sup>14</sup> Those who are unspiritual do not receive the gifts of God's Spirit, for they are foolishness to them, and they are unable to understand them because they are spiritually discerned. <sup>15</sup> Those who are spiritual discern all things, and they are themselves subject to no one else's scrutiny.

<sup>16</sup> “For who has known the mind of the Lord  
so as to instruct him?”

But we have the mind of Christ.]

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

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

## **GOSPEL: Matthew 5:13-20**

*In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus encourages his followers to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world, doing good works and keeping God's commandments.*

The holy gospel according to Matthew

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said:] <sup>13</sup>“You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything but is thrown out and trampled under foot.

<sup>14</sup>“You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. <sup>15</sup>People do not light a lamp and put it under the bushel basket; rather, they put it on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. <sup>16</sup>In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

<sup>17</sup>“Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. <sup>18</sup>For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. <sup>19</sup>Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. <sup>20</sup>For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.”

*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: WOV 753 “You Are the Seed”** *(See Insert)*

## **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.*

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 510 “Word of God, Come Down on Earth”**  
**CHOIR: “All My Hope on God is Founded”**

## **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**

## **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 717 “Let Justice Flow like Streams”**

### **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  
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:** Linda Steege, Janet Braun

**Greeters:** 9:30 a.m.

**Fellowship:** Claudia Fetter, Carla Hoback

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

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

# ANNOUNCEMENTS!

## THIS WEEKS CALENDAR

Sun.	2/8	9:30 a.m.	Sunday Worship
Mon.	2/9	7:00 p.m.	Zoom Bible Study
Tues.	2/10	9:00 a.m.	Mary Martha Circle
		9:00 a.m.	LWR Quilting
		10:00 a.m.	Morning Prayer
Wed.	2/11	4:30 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
Fri.	2/13	8:30 a.m.	Joining Hands in Food Ministry

## NEXT 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
		4:00 p.m.	Vesper
		4:30 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal

Attendance for Sunday, February 1, 2026: 69

## BIRTHDAYS

Marilyn Czuprynski	February 11 <sup>th</sup>
Joel Weinhardt	February 11 <sup>th</sup>

## ANNIVERSARIES

Joel and Sharon Weinhardt 2/14 37 yrs.

## BIBLE STUDIES



### Zoom Bible Study

For the Monday Zoom Bible Study: *1 Corinthians for Everyone*, by NT Wright. Read 1 Cor. Chapters 1-2, roughly pages 16-38 in the book, or at least that much in your Bible.

The comments from your own study Bibles will be welcome! 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.



**The Holy Land Christians are going to be our guests!** Hear their story and see their beautiful olive wood crafts. **They will be here TODAY Feb. 8<sup>th</sup>** to tell us about the Christians of the Holy Land and **after the service they will be hosting a nice display of handmade olive wood religious articles from Bethlehem available for purchase.**

## **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.....**

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 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!



### **Gloria Dei Instant Church Directory Update:**

It has been three years since our directory was last updated, and we're ready to refresh both information and photos. We also want to be sure our newer members are included.

**On or shortly after February 8th the church service we will have a section of our fellowship area set aside to take photos and for members to fill out the needed form which will then be entered into the online instant church directory.** If the information that is currently in the Instant Church Directory is accurate, but you would still like your photo updated, we are happy to take a new photo.

If you do not yet have access to the Instant Church Directory, printed instructions for Android and Apple devices are available on the information desk by the entry door.

We look forward to seeing our members who want to update their photo and/or their current information in the directory and we especially look forward to adding and meeting our newer members. If you have questions or are having difficulty setting up the Instant Church Directory app on your device, give either one of us a call.

Dick Healy, 352-223-4800  
Linda Steege, 815-222-6195



### **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.



Dear Gloria Dei Church Family,

There are moments in our work when we are reminded that kindness truly changes lives. Your continued food donations is one of those moments, and we want to share just how deeply it has impacted our families.

Every week, 60 bags of food are sent home with students whose families are struggling to make ends meet. Many parents quietly visit our very small food bank, often with hesitation in their eyes and gratitude in their hearts. Because of your generosity, those shelves were fuller — and so were the hearts of the families who depend on them.

One parent recently shared that the bag of food their child brought home meant they didn't have to choose between paying a bill and feeding their family that week. Another child excitedly told us, "We had dinner together last night." For some of our families, that meal was made possible because of you.

Your donation did more than provide food — it provided relief, dignity, and reassurance. It reminded families that they are not alone and that their community sees them, cares for them, and stands beside them during difficult times.

In a world where so many of our families face uncertainty, your compassion has become a steady source of hope. Because of Gloria Dei Church, parents sleep easier, children come to school nourished, and families feel valued and supported.

From the bottom of our hearts, thank you for being a blessing to our school community. Your generosity continues to ripple outward in ways that truly matter.

With deepest gratitude,

**Florence Katzenberger**

Family School Liaison

Leesburg Elementary

