Gloria Dei Lutheran Church

First Sunday after Advent

Sunday, November 29, 2026

9:30 AM

Pastor Tony Van Cura

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.

130 S. Lone Oak Dr. Leesburg, FL 34748

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

Participating in Today's Service:

Pastor: Reverend Tony VanCura, Pastor
Music Director: Len Cremisio
After Worship Secretary: June Rieb
(In order to assist the Pastor, if you need the Pastor to contact someone or address something)

Assistant Ministers:
Reader: Kathy Bush
Crucifer: Leone Goding
Assisting Minister: Brian Mundy

Ushers: Byron Kirkpatrick
Ritch Cassem
John Kelly
Craig Carlson

****A Note on Advent Worship:*** *In keeping with Lutheran tradition, we do not process the cross during the season of Advent. Advent is a season of expectant waiting and quiet hope—a time to lean into God's promises as we look for Christ's coming in both history and our daily lives. In place of the cross procession, the lighting of the Advent wreath marks our watching and waiting, with each candle growing the light of hope. We will joyfully process the cross once again on the First Sunday of Christmas.*

ADVENT LITANY:
"Wexford Carol"

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH
WEEK 1: HOPE

A: As we enter into the season of Advent, may we preparing our hearts and minds to receive again, the kingdom our Lord prepared for us.

A: Keep awake. Stay alert. The kingdom of God is near.
C: We are God's partners in hope.

A: The days are surely coming when God will fulfill the promise.
C: We are God's partners in hope.

A: A righteous branch will spring up and will bring forth justice.
C: We are God's partners in hope.

A: Stand up. Raise your hands. Your redemption is drawing near.
C: We are God's partners in hope.

A: As we light this first Advent candle, the candle of hope, may we be partners in hope, witnesses to the promise that hope is coming— it is being born into the world. Amen.

~ ~ *Light the First Candle* ~ ~

***Choir**:* Good people all, this Christmas time
Consider well and bear in mind
What our good God for us has done
In sending his beloved Son

***Congregation**:* With Mary holy we should pray
To God with love this Christmas day
In Bethlehem upon that morn
There was a blessed Messiah born

GATHERING SONG:

ELW 257 "O Come, O Come Emmanuel" *(v. 1,3,5 & 7)*

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism as the presiding minister begins.

In the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Silence is kept for reflection.

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through
Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Most merciful God, **have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

APOSTOLIC GREETING

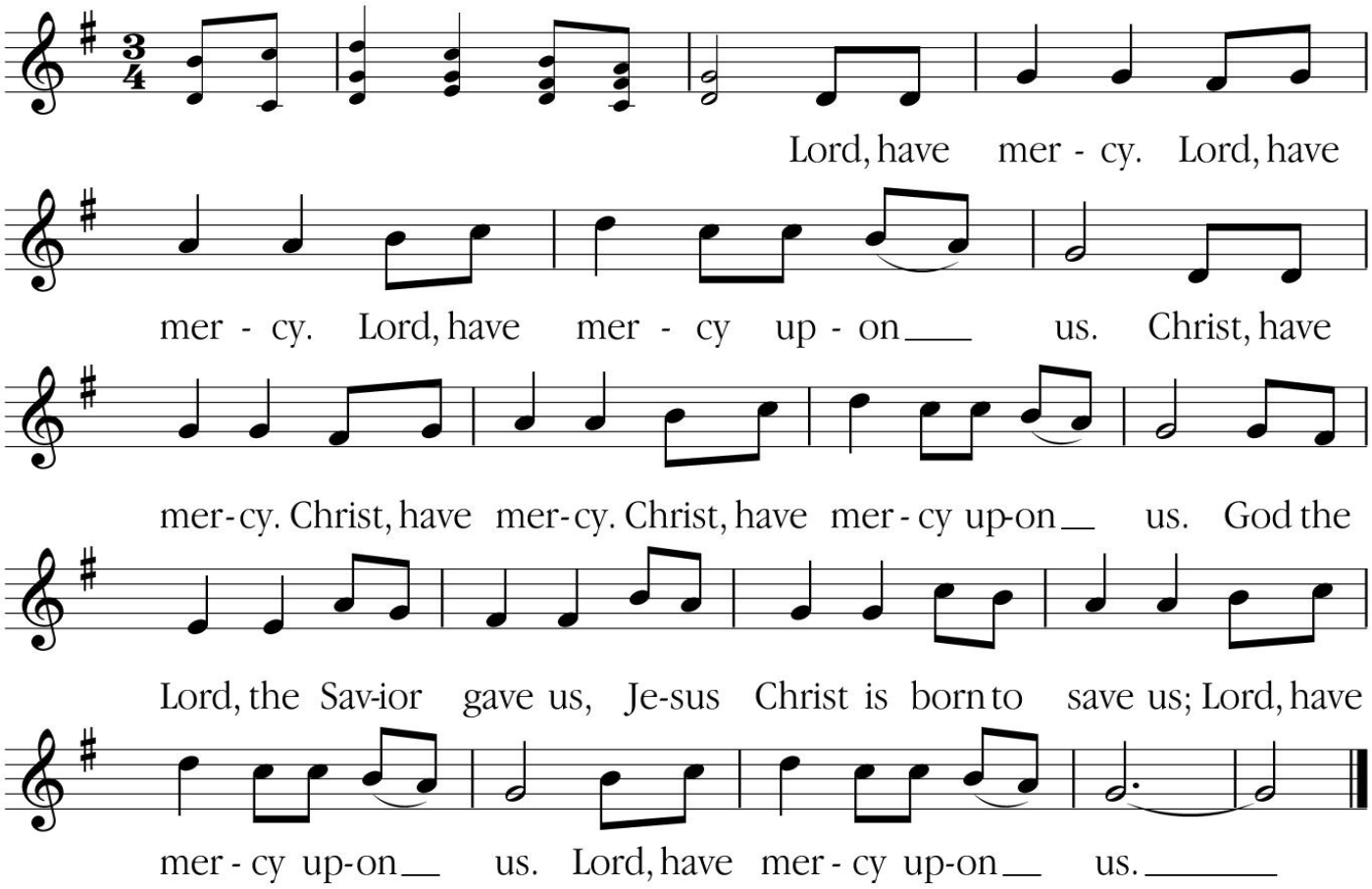
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.

KYRIE:

Lord, Have Mercy

Kyrie

The St. James Christmas Service



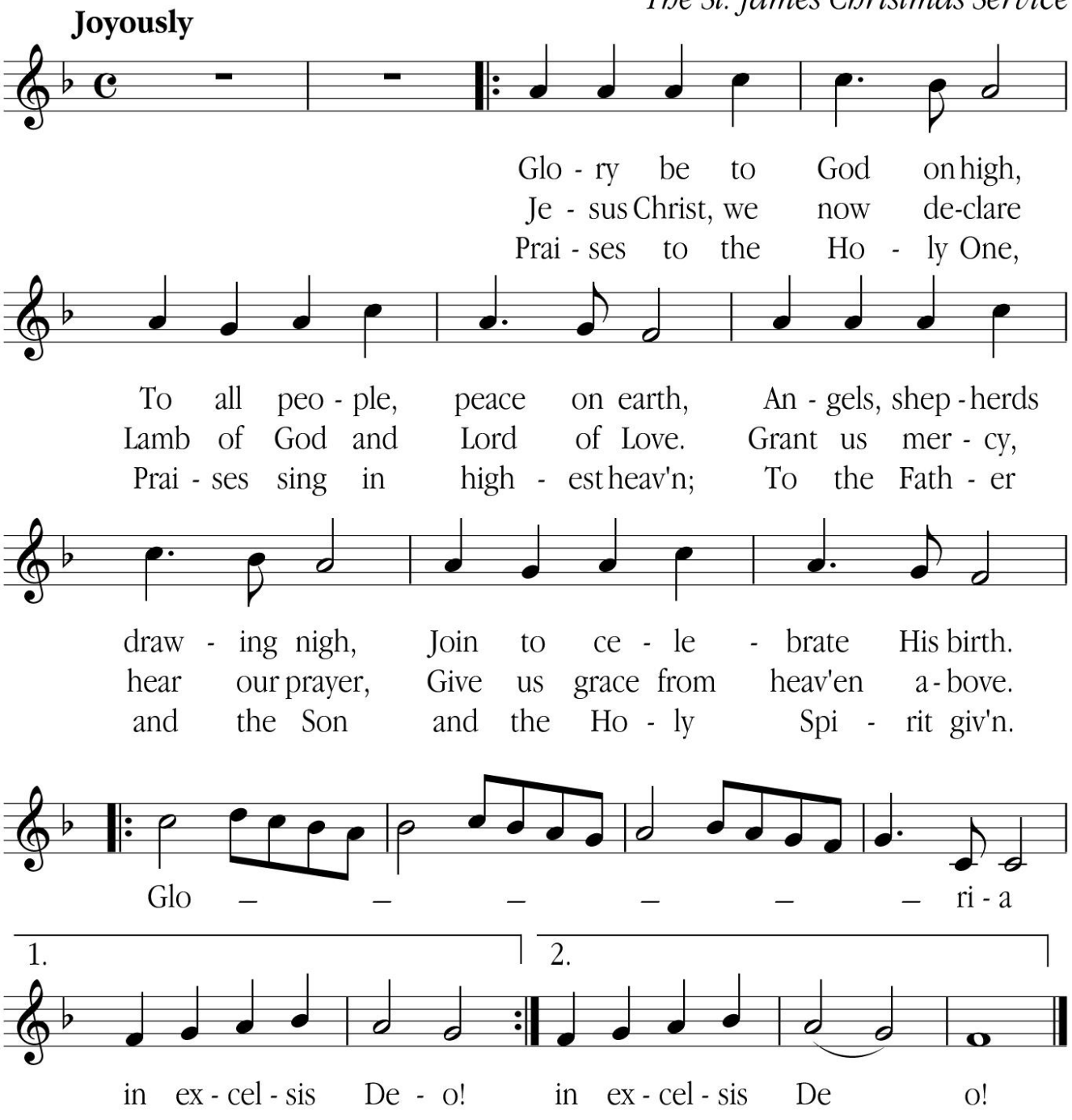
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HYMN OF PRAISE

Glory Be To God On High

Gloria [paraphrase]

The St. James Christmas Service



PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you;
And also with you.
Let us pray: Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection save us from the threatening dangers of our sins, and enlighten our walk in the way of your salvation, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

The assembly is seated.

WORD

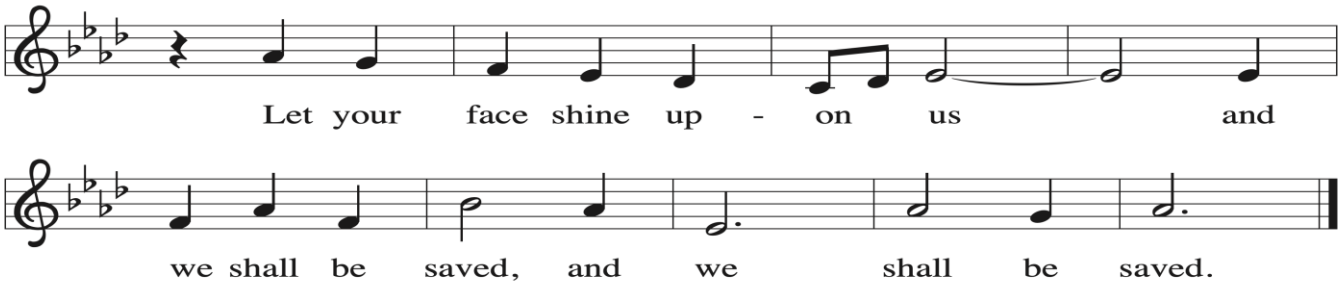
FIRST READING: Isaiah 64:1-9

1 O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,
so that the mountains would quake at your presence—
2 as when fire kindles brushwood
and the fire causes water to boil—
to make your name known to your adversaries,
so that the nations might tremble at your presence!
3 When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,
you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.
4 From ages past no one has heard,
no ear has perceived,
no eye has seen any God besides you,
who works for those who wait for him.
5 You meet those who gladly do right,
those who remember you in your ways.
But you were angry, and we sinned;
because you hid yourself we transgressed.

[6]We have all become like one who is unclean,
and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.
We all fade like a leaf,
and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.
[7]There is no one who calls on your name,
or attempts to take hold of you;
for you have hidden your face from us,
and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.
[8]Yet, O LORD, you are our Father;
we are the clay, and you are our potter;
we are all the work of your hand.
[9]Do not be exceedingly angry, O LORD,
and do not remember iniquity forever.
Now consider, we are all your people.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19



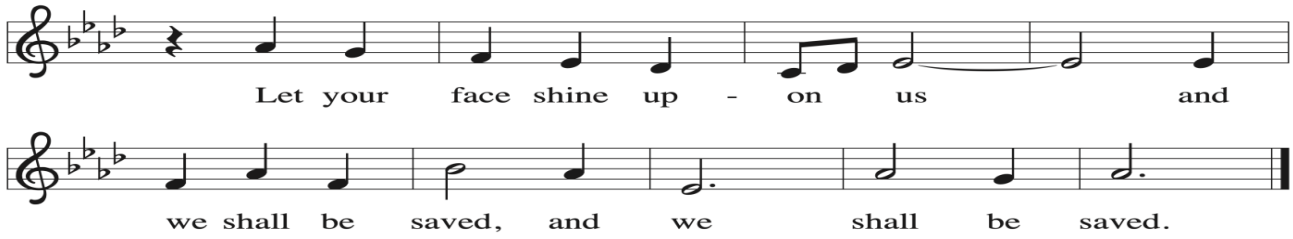
Psalm 80:7
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[1] Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock;
shine forth, you that are enthroned up- on the cherubim.

2 **In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh,**
stir up your strength and come to help us.

3 Restore us, O God;
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

4 **O LORD God of hosts,**
how long will your anger fume when your people pray?



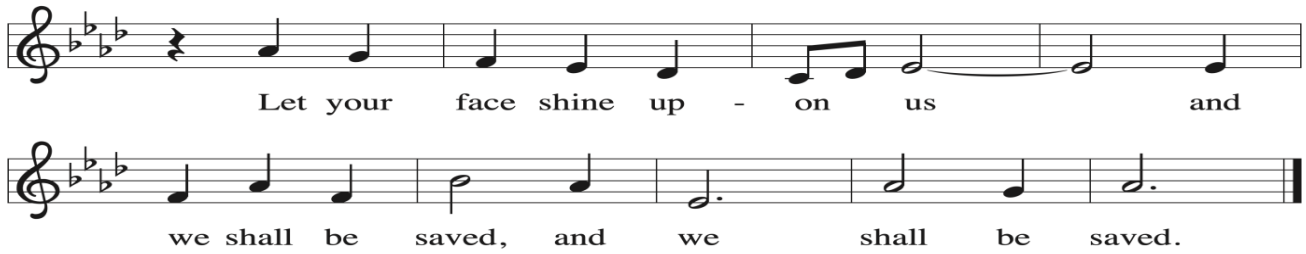
Psalm 80:7
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5 You have fed them with the bread of tears;
you have given them bowls of tears to drink.

6 **You have made us the derision of our neighbors,**
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.

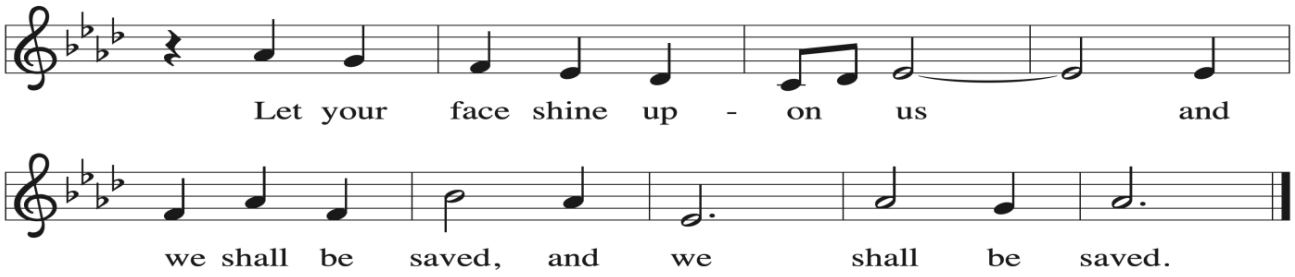
7 Restore us, O God of hosts;
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

17 **Let your hand be upon the one at your right hand,**
the one you have made so strong for yourself.



Psalm 80:7
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18 And so will we never turn a- way from you;
give us life, that we may call up- on your name.
19 **Restore us, O LORD God of hosts;**
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.



Psalm 80:7
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SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

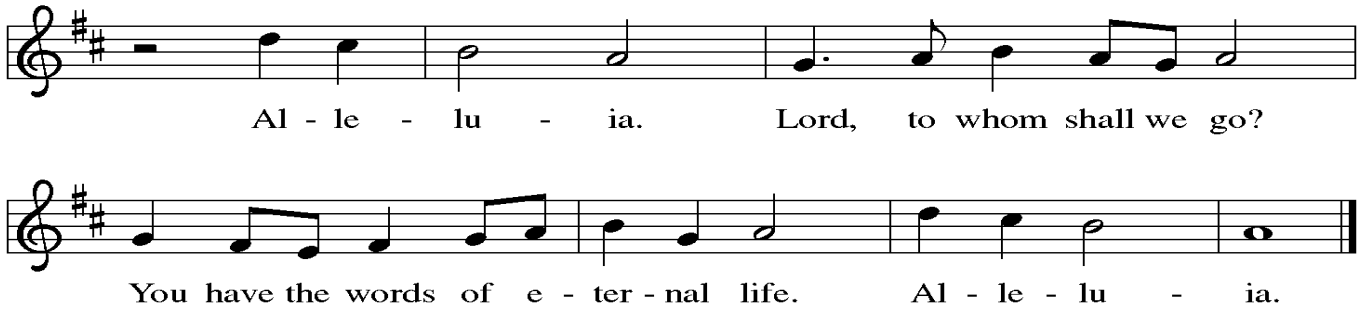
3 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the
Lord Jesus Christ. 4 I give thanks to my God always for you
because of the grace of God that has been given you in
Christ Jesus, 5 for in every way you have been enriched in
him, in speech and knowledge of every kind— 6 just as the
testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you—
7 so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait
for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ.

8 He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you
may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.
9 God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship
of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

The Word of the Lord;
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

ELW pg. 151 "Alleluia, Lord to Whom Shall We Go"



GOSPEL: Mark 13:24-37

The Holy Gospel according to Mark.

Glory to You, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] 24"In those days, after that suffering, the sun
will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light,
25and the stars will be falling from heaven,
and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.
26Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in clouds'
with great power and glory. 27Then he will send out the
angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the
ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

28"From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its
branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know
that summer is near. 29So also, when you see these things
taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates.
30Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away
until all these things have taken place. 31Heaven and earth
will pass away, but my words will not pass away.
32"But about that day or hour no one knows, neither
the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.

[33]Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. [34]It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch.

[35]Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, [36]or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly.

[37]And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake."

The gospel concludes:

The Gospel of our Lord.
Praise to You, O Christ.

HYMN OF THE DAY:
ELW 264 "Prepare the Royal Highway"

MESSAGE: Rev. Tony VanCura, Pastor
The assembly is seated.

SHARING OF THE PEACE
The presiding minister and the assembly greet each other.

The peace of the Lord 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.
Please remain standing.

APOSTLES' CREED:

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended into hell.
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again 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 THE CHURCH

Lord in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

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 686 "We Give Thee but Thine Own" *v.1,4*

OFFERTORY PRAYER

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

Let us pray.
God of all creation, all you have made is good, and your love endures forever. You bring forth bread from the earth and fruit from the vine. Nourish us with these gifts, that we might be for the world signs of your gracious presence in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

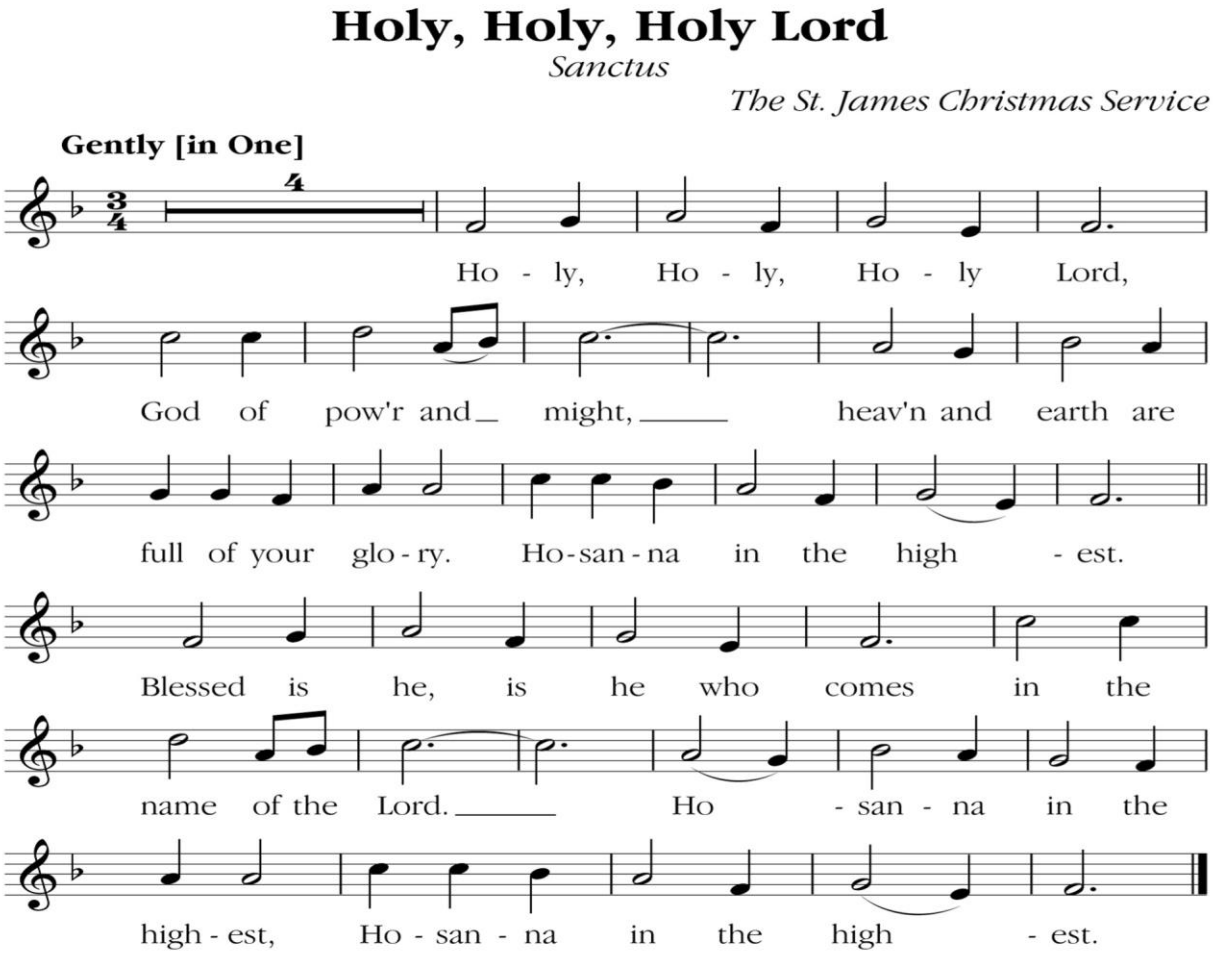
GREAT THANKSGIVING

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: "Holy, Holy, Holy"



EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.
Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

***THE LORD'S PRAYER** *(Spoken)*

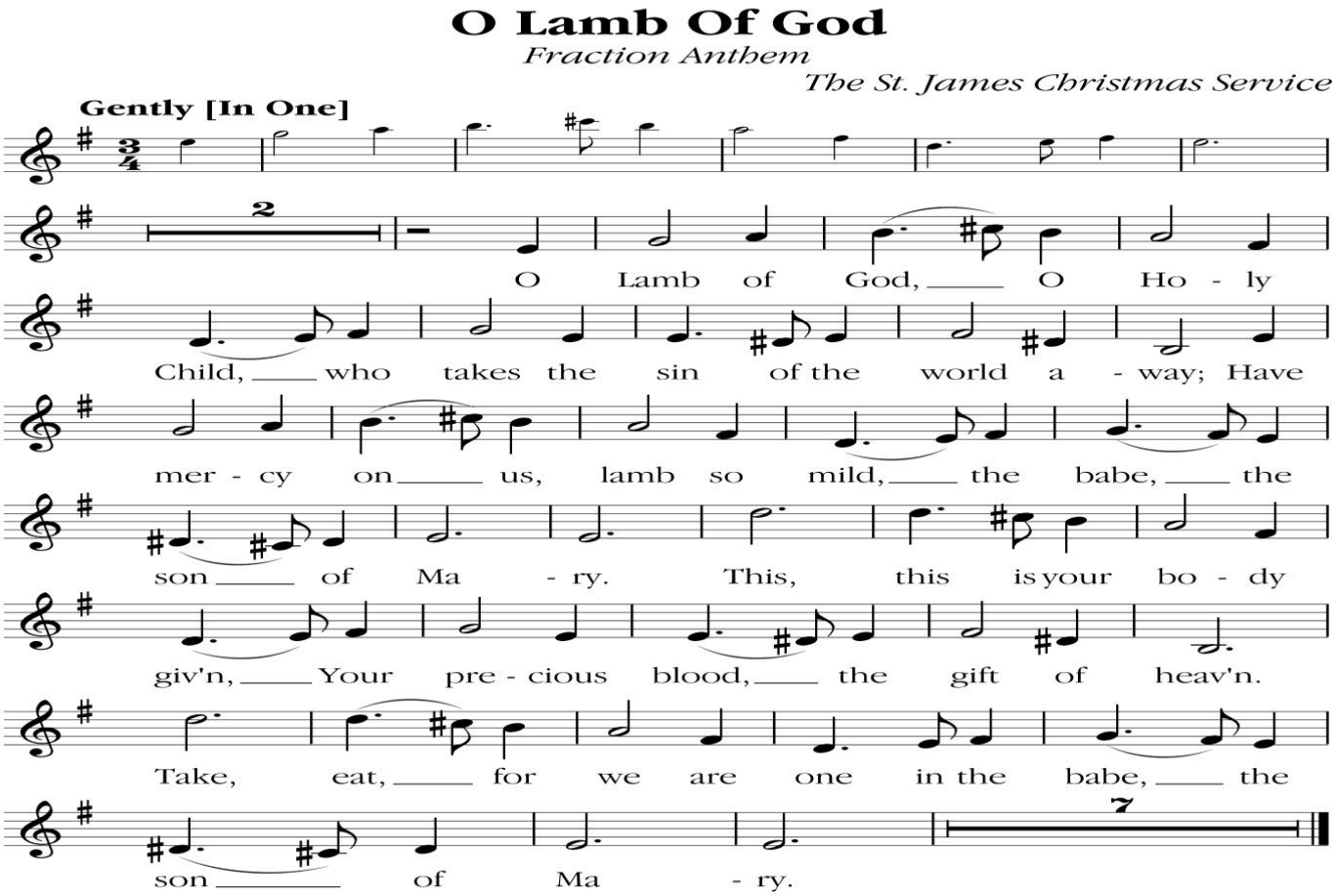
Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

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 and ever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

The banquet of our Lord is prepared and offered to all. Taste and see the Lord is good.

LAMB OF GOD: "Lamb of God"



DISTRIBUTION HYMN:

ELW 496 "One Bread, One Body"
Choir Anthem "Advent Promise"

DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION:

Communion is open to all. We offer wine in individual glasses, followed by the Common Cup for those who prefer this tradition. The center ring of the tray contains white grape juice for those who prefer juice instead of wine. Gluten-free wafers are also available to anyone who requires or prefers them.

COMMUNION BLESSING

May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen and preserve you unto eternal life. **Amen.**

POST COMMUNION CANTICLE:

"Let There be Peace on Earth"

Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me.
Let there be peace on earth, the peace that was meant to be.
With God as our Father, brothers all are we.
Let me walk with my brother in perfect harmony.
Let peace begin with me; let this be the moment now.
With ev'ry step I take, let this be my solemn vow;
To take each moment, and live each moment in peace eternally!
Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me.

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PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Please remain standing:

Let us pray together. **We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life. In your mercy, strengthen us through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

SENDING

BENEDICTION

The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord's face shine on you and be gracious unto you.
The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and ☩ give you His peace.

THREEFOLD AMEN *(SUNG)*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SENDING HYMN:

ELW 263 "Savior Of the Nations, Come"

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God!

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

Reverend Tony VanCura, Pastor pastorgdlcleesburg@gmail.com
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.: June Rieb *(In order to assist the Pastor, if you need the Pastor to contact someone or address something)*

Counters: Jeanne Talts

Greeters:

Fellowship: Patricia Bressler
Taeko Mincer

Communion Wine: Joseph J. Kancel

Altar Flowers: Given by Ritch and Debbie Cassem
In Thanksgiving to God

ANNOUNCEMENTS!

THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

Sun.	**11/29**	**9:30 a.m.**	**Sunday Service**
Mon.	**11/30**	**7:00 p.m.**	**Zoom Bible Study**
Tues.	**12/1**	**10:00 a.m.**	**Morning Prayer**
		10:30 a.m.	**WELCA Board Meeting**
		4:00 p.m.	**Choir Rehearsal**
Weds.	**12/2**	**1:00 p.m.**	**Mid-Week Advent**
Fri.	**12/3**	**11:00 a.m.**	**WELCA Christmas Luncheon**

NEXT WEEK'S CALENDAR

Sun.	**12/6**	**9:30 a.m.**	**Sunday Service**
Mon.	**12/7**	**7:00 p.m.**	**Zoom Bible Study**
Tues.	**12/8**	**9:00 a.m.**	**Mary Martha/ Mission Quilting**
		10:00 a.m.	**Morning Prayer**
		4:00 p.m.	**Choir Rehearsal**
Weds.	**12/9**	**1:00 p.m.**	**Mid-Week Advent**
Fri.	**12/11**	**8:30 a.m.**	**Joining Hands in Food Ministry**

Attendance for Sunday, November 22, 2026: 63

BIRTHDAYS

John Braun Dec. 3
Bill Van Haecke Dec. 5

ANNIVERSARY

Paula and Allen Francis Dec. 4 55yrs



Please Mark Your Calendars!
Annual Congregational Meeting
Sunday, January 24

Immediately following the worship service. We encourage all members of the congregation to attend and participate in this important meeting. Your presence and involvement are greatly appreciated! We look forward to seeing everyone there!



Would you like to take today's sermon home with you? A printed copy of the Pastor's written sermon will be available every Sunday morning on the counter by the podium, just before entering the sanctuary. Please feel free to pick up a copy!

Advent Series 2026 – Wednesday 1:00pm
Table in the Wilderness:
God Preparing Us for the Bread of Life
Holden Evening Prayer with Holy Communion



Week 1 (December 2nd):
Harvesting the Wild Grain



Week 2 (December 9th):
Kneaded by the Spirit



Week 3 (December 16th):
Resting in the Proof



Week 4 (December 23rd):
Receiving the Bread of Christ

BIBLE STUDIES

Zoom Bible Study

Please join us on Monday Evenings at 7pm for a Bible Study that focuses on the Lectionary Texts in a structured format provided by the ELCA (Daily Discipleship). The meeting is hosted on Zoom and can be joined with **Meeting ID:8732742912 and the Password: 12345** We look forward to gathering in Word and Spirit with you!

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.

NEW MEMBERS: If you would like to join Gloria Dei Church, please see Pastor Tony after our 9:30 Sunday service. You can also give him a call at 407-765-2822.

WE NEED VOLUNTEERS…..



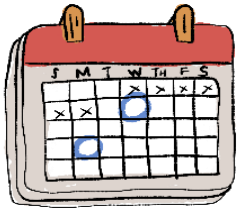




We need **volunteers for Assisting Ministers, Crucifers and Readers!!!** If you would like to try it but need a little more information, please contact the church office. Thank you.



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 contact **Marie Davids via email at mewdean@live.com.**



Planning for Next Year!

A friendly reminder to all committee leaders: Please share your upcoming events, programs, and meeting dates with Evelyn so she can begin preparing next year's church calendar. Thank you for helping us keep everyone informed and connected!

FROM THE CHURCH OFFICE

Please Check Your Church Directory Information!

We kindly ask everyone to take a moment to review their information in the church directory. Please let the church office know if any corrections are needed or if you have a new phone number, address, or other contact information. Keeping our directory up to date helps us stay connected as a church family. Thank you for your help!



Order Christmas Eve Poinsettias

Honor a loved one or special event by ordering poinsettias to decorate the sanctuary. Fill out the form included and return it by **Thursday, December 17th**. Thank you for helping make our Christmas celebration beautiful and memorable!

WELCA Christmas Party



Thursday December 3, 2026
11:30am
Chesapeake Bay Grille - Arlington Ridge
Tickets on Sale each Sunday
$25.00



Gloria Dei is turning 75 in 2027, and we want YOUR ideas!

Join us for a Brainstorming Session on Sunday, December 6 from 11:00 am to 11:30 am in the choir room to help plan how we'll celebrate this special milestone.

Whether you have ideas for events, traditions, service projects, or ways to honor our history, we'd love to hear them. No experience needed, just bring your memories and your imagination. Everyone is welcome!

Hope to see you there!

ANGEL TREE

Salvation Army Christmas Angels Are Here!

The Christmas Angel tree is up! **You're invited to take a name tag from the tree and bless a person in need this holiday season.** When you choose an Angel, please **be sure to pick up one of the clear Salvation Army *Hope* bags to go along with it.** Thank you for helping share hope and joy this Christmas!



We are implementing Call Multiplier

A new way to stay connected with our members and friends using **cell phones** and **text messages**.

The intent of this system is to provide timely updates regarding our ministries and events, including our **weekly Sunday worship**.

By default, **all members** will initially be included in these Call Multiplier updates.

Weekly messages will be limited to a brief, **two minute phone call** at a set time each week.

Additionally, we will send automated calls or texts as necessary to notify you of **urgent matters**, such as service cancellations or serious concerns that need immediate communication.

OPT OUT

You can **opt out** of these messages at any time.

Our goal with Call Multiplier is not to clutter your phone, but rather to **improve the efficiency** of our communication while **reducing duplication and redundancy**.

Prayer MATTERS



Pastor Tony invites all
to come join him on

TUESDAY MORNINGS

FOR PRAYER AT 10:00AM

Together we can lift our hearts,
our church and our community in prayer.