

Announcements

THE WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS:

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Denise Arnold
Music: Jan Thompson
Coffee hour: Carol Rife
Flowers: Caroline Fittro
Communion Asst.: Carol Rife
Reader:
Greeter:
Sunday School:

Next week

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Denise Arnold
Linda Monahan
Jane Vaughn
Jane Vaughn

ALTAR FLOWERS are given to the glory of God by Caroline Fittro.

JOIN US FOR UPCOMING EVENTS

Jan 4th – Matthew Bible Study after service.

Jan 6th – Sit & Be Fit. 10:30 in Fellowship Hall.

Jan 10th – Men's Breakfast – 8:30 in the Fellowship Hall.

Jan 11th – Council meeting after service.

Jan 13th – Sit & Be Fit. 10:30 in Fellowship Hall.

Jan 14th – Wisdom Keepers – 12:00 noon – Bring a sack lunch.

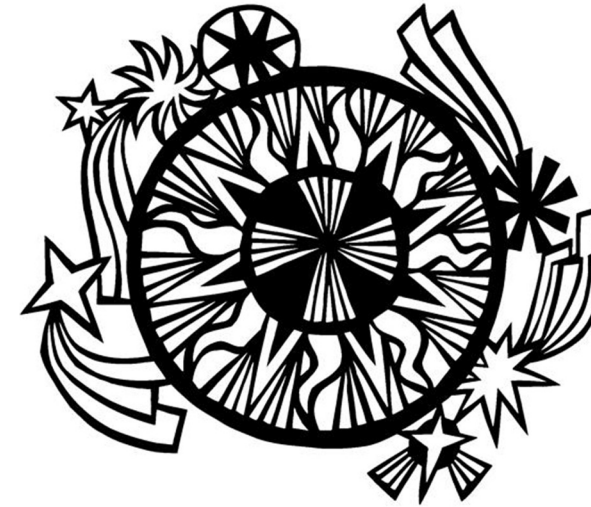
Jan 15th – CCC at 9 am.

Jan 20th – Sit & Be Fit. 10:30 in Fellowship Hall.

Jan 25th – Annual Meeting.

Family Promise News - Gloria Dei has served dinner meals to 6 adults and 10 children this week. Please keep these families in prayer as they work toward housing and employment. Thank you to dinner angels this week to Tim and Vicki, George, Carol, Kathleen, Bob and Mary Lou.

Gloria Dei Lutheran Church
Second Sunday of Christmas
ELW Holy Communion Setting Eight
Sunday, January 4, 2026



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Pastor: Rev. Dr. Denise Arnold (cell) 253-740-9006

Pastor's hours: Tuesday-10:30am-3pm & Thurs 9:30 am-3pm

Pastor Denise email: pastordenisearnold@comcast.net

Office hours: Tues. 9am-2pm & Thurs. 9am-2pm

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, Wonderful Counselor, Mighty Savior, Prince of Peace. **Amen.**

Trusting in God’s steadfast love and faithfulness,
let us confess our sin.

Reconciling God,
we yearn for your presence to transform our grief, pain, and despair.
We confess that we have not always prepared room in our hearts for your love; we have not always recognized your presence among us; we have not always embraced your message of peace.
We cry out, weary with the burden of violence, oppression, and fear. We confess our failure to make room for those seeking refuge; our participation in violent systems that harm your innocent ones; our reluctance to embody your good news.
Be born in us today and teach us to sing the joyful song of your salvation. Amen.

God’s grace upon grace flows over you.
† Christ’s presence redeems the whole creation.
Your sins are forgiven. Let the earth rejoice and be glad!
Amen.

GATHERING SONG *The First Noel* (ELW 300)

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.

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COMMUNION (sung during communion)



PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray,
Incarnate God, you are among us at this table. May we treasure this gift and ponder in our hearts the mystery of your presence. Move us to discover the wonders of your love in the everyday moments of our lives, through Christ born in us. Amen.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

BLESSING

The triune God, glorious Mystery, holy Incarnate One,
abiding Comforter † bless you with endless grace, peace, and joy. **Amen.**

SENDING SONG *I Love to Tell the Story* (ELW 661)

DISMISSAL

Glory to God in the highest!
And peace to God’s people on earth!
Go in joy. Embody God’s redeeming grace.
Thanks be to God.

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry, full of your glo-ry. Ho -
san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high -
est. Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

LORD’S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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 power, and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

God is now in flesh appearing. Come to the feast of joy!

TWELVE DAYS OF CHRISTMAS

On the first day of Christmas my true love sent to me: A Partridge
in a Pear Tree

On the second day of Christmas my true love sent to me: Two
Turtle Doves and a Partridge in a Pear Tree

On the third day of Christmas my true love sent to me: Three
French Hens, Two Turtle Doves and a Partridge in a Pear Tree

On the fourth day of Christmas my true love sent to me: Four
Calling Birds, Three French Hens, Two Turtle Doves and a
Partridge in a Pear Tree

On the fifth day of Christmas my true love sent to me: Five Golden
Rings, Four Calling Birds, Three French Hens, Two Turtle Doves
and a Partridge in a Pear Tree

On the sixth day of Christmas my true love sent to me: Six Geese a
Laying, Five Golden Rings, Four Calling Birds, Three French
Hens, Two Turtle Doves and a Partridge in a Pear Tree

On the seventh day of Christmas my true love sent to me: Seven
Swans a Swimming, Six Geese a Laying, Five Golden Rings, Four
Calling Birds, Three French Hens, Two Turtle Doves and a
Partridge in a Pear Tree

On the eighth day of Christmas my true love sent to me: Eight
Maids a Milking, Seven Swans a Swimming, Six Geese a
Laying, Five Golden Rings, Four Calling Birds, Three French
Hens, Two Turtle Doves and a Partridge in a Pear Tree

On the ninth day of Christmas my true love sent to me: Nine
Ladies Dancing, Eight Maids a Milking, Seven Swans a
Swimming, Six Geese a Laying, Five Golden Rings, Four Calling
Birds, Three French Hens, Two Turtle Doves and a Partridge in a
Pear Tree

On the tenth day of Christmas my true love sent to me: Ten Lords a Leaping, Nine Ladies Dancing, Eight Maids a Milking, Seven Swans a Swimming, Six Geese a Laying, Five Golden Rings, Four Calling Birds, Three French Hens, Two Turtle Doves and a Partridge in a Pear Tree

On the eleventh day of Christmas my true love sent to me: Eleven Pipers Piping, Ten Lords a Leaping, Nine Ladies Dancing, Eight Maids a Milking, Seven Swans a Swimming, Six Geese a Laying, Five Golden Rings, Four Calling Birds, Three French Hens, Two Turtle Doves and a Partridge in a Pear Tree

On the twelfth day of Christmas my true love sent to me:12 Drummers Drumming, Eleven Pipers Piping, Ten Lords a Leaping, Nine Ladies Dancing, Eight Maids a Milking, Seven Swans a Swimming, Six Geese a Laying, Five Golden Rings, Four Calling Birds, Three French Hens, Two Turtle Doves and a Partridge in a Pear Tree

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty God, you have filled all the earth with the light of your incarnate Word. By your grace empower us to reflect your light in all that we do, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.


WORD

FIRST READING: Matthew 2:1-12


A reading from Matthew.

¹ In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, magi from the east came to Jerusalem, ² asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star in the east and have come to pay him homage.” ³ When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him, ⁴ and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵ They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it has been written by the prophet: ⁶ ‘And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah, for from you shall come a ruler


OFFERING




1 Love has come— a light in the dark - ness! Love shines forth in the
2 Love is born! Come, share in the won - der. Love is God now a -
3 Love has come and nev - er will leave us! Love is life ev - er -



Beth - le - hem skies. See, all heav - en has come to pro - claim it;
sleep in the hay. See the glow in the eyes of his moth - er;
last - ing and free. Love is Je - sus with - in and a - mong us.



hear how their song of joy a - ris - es: Love! Love! Born un - to
what is the name her heart is say - ing? Love! Love! Love is the
Love is the peace our hearts are seek - ing. Love! Love! Love is the



you, a Sav - ior! Love! Love! Glo - ry to God on high.
name she whis - pers; Love! Love! Je - sus, Im - man - u - el.
gift of Christ - mas. Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.
God of glory, great are your wonders among us and many are the blessings you bestow. Use us and these your gifts for the needs of the world, that all the ends of the earth may rejoice in your saving grace, through Christ our Savior.
Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

DIALOGUE

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

O God, you reveal yourself wherever two or three are gathered in your name. Be with us now, not only in the infant Jesus and resurrected Christ, but in the beloved people of this assembly. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You reveal yourself in the waters of the womb; in brooks, ponds, and oceans; and in the waters of baptism. Grant us wisdom to tenderly care for the earth as a garden watered by your grace. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You reveal yourself in blessed diversity. Help us to look for you in people near and far, in bodies of all kinds, and in kindred young and old. Let us seek you in many places, praising you in many tongues. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You reveal yourself in new life. Support those beginning a new job, a new relationship, or a new living situation, especially those displaced because of tragedy or loss. Be with all others who need your life-giving touch this day. Hear us, O God.
Your mercy is great.

You reveal yourself in holy communion. Sustain all who provide food and fellowship in this congregation and in the wider community. Make our tables signs of your welcoming presence among us. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

For what else do the people of God pray?

You promise to turn mourning into joy and to comfort those who weep. We remember those who have died and look to being united with them in your glory. Hear us, O God.
Your mercy is great.

With the joy of Christ’s birth in our hearts, we commend our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your boundless mercy and eternal love; through Jesus Christ our Savior.
Amen.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

who is to shepherd my people Israel.’ ” ⁷ Then Herod secretly called for the magi and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸ Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.” ⁹ When they had heard the king, they set out, and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen in the east, until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰ When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹ On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. ¹² And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: Psalm 147:12-20

¹² Worship the LORD, O Jerusalem; praise your God, O Zion,

¹³ **who has strengthened the bars of your gates
and has blessed your children within you.**

¹⁴ God has established peace on your borders
and satisfies you with the finest wheat.

¹⁵ **God sends out a command to the earth,
a word that runs very swiftly.**

¹⁶ God gives snow like wool,
scattering frost like ashes.

¹⁷ **God scatters hail like bread crumbs.
Who can stand against God’s cold?**

¹⁸ The LORD sends forth the word and melts them;
the wind blows, and the waters flow.

¹⁹ **God declares the word to Jacob,
statutes and judgments to Israel.**

²⁰ The LORD has not done so to any other nation;
they do not know God’s judgments. Hallelujah!

SECOND READING: Ephesians 1:3-14

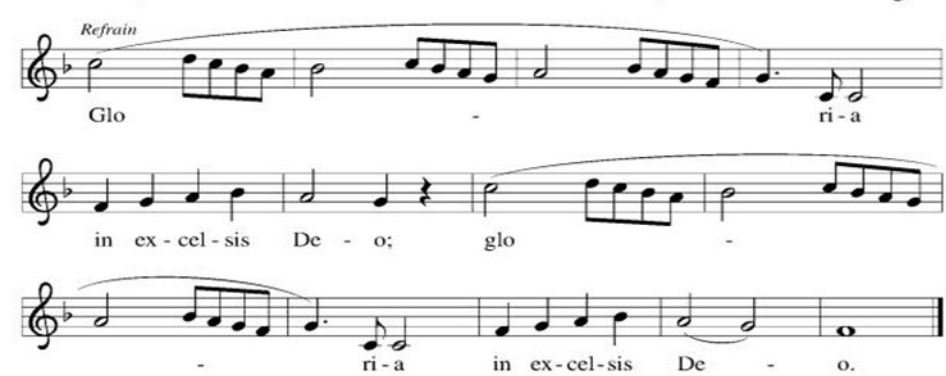
A reading from Ephesians.

³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, ⁴ just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. ⁵ He destined us

for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, ⁶ to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. ⁷ In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace ⁸ that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight ⁹ he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, ¹⁰ as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. ¹¹ In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, ¹² so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. ¹³ In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; ¹⁴ this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God’s own people, to the praise of his glory.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL: John 1:1-18

The holy gospel according to John. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.
² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴ in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it. ⁶ There was a man sent from God whose name was John. ⁷ He came as

a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸ He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹ The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. ¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world came into being through him, yet the world did not know him. ¹¹ He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹² But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³ who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. ¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father’s only son, full of grace and truth. ¹⁵ (John testified to him and cried out, “This was he of whom I said, ‘He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.’ ”) ¹⁶ From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. ¹⁷ The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸ No one has ever seen God. It is the only Son, himself God, who is close to the Father’s heart, who has made him known. The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

CHILDREN’S/COMMUNITY TIME

MESSAGE

HYMN OF THE DAY *We Three Kings of Orient Are* (WOV 646)

CHRISTMAS CREED

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, who sent His Son as my Savior on Christmas Day. I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Savior, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, announced by the angels, worshipped by the shepherds, and adored by the Wise Men; who lived to suffer, die and rise again to free us from sin, death, and the power of the devil. I believe in the Holy Spirit, who has brought me to faith in the Christ of Christmas and who continues to work in my heart, also I am able to trust in God's promise, both now and forevermore. Amen.

*Or, “he descended into hell,” another translation of this text in widespread use.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Empowered by the news of Christ’s birth, let us pray boldly for the church, creation, and all who are in need.