



GLORIA DEI LUTHERAN CHURCH

GRACE CHANGES EVERYTHING.

Dana Point, California

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14TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

August 25, 2024

8:30am, 10:00am, 5:00pm

WELCOME to worship! We are finishing up the “people’s choice” of hymns for the summer. We hope you have sung a favorite song/hymn. Also, today, the Gospel reading finishes up John 6 and in it, people are offended at Jesus’ words. Sometimes following Jesus is hard, but so is love. And God’s love for you is unconditional. May you experience the power of that love and grace today.

PRELUDE

Stephanie Assisi, Pianist (8:30am/10am)

Micaela Lum, Worship Leader (5pm)

GATHERING HYMN: *Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross*

#335 vv. 1, 3

**Jesus, keep me near the cross, there’s a precious fountain;
free to all, a healing stream flows from Cal-v’ry’s mountain.**

Refrain: **In the cross, in the cross be my glory ever;
till my ransomed soul shall find rest beyond the river.**

**Near the cross! O Lamb of God, bring its scenes before me;
help me walk from day to day with its shadow o’er me.** (Refrain.)

INVOCATION AND WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP (People read **bold** words.)

We come to celebrate Your grace, Lord God.

Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.

Your mercy reaches to the heavens and to the depths of despair.
Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.

In the midst of the noise and clamor, Your voice speaks the true Word of hope.
Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.

In days of sorrow and in days of joy, all people turn to You, the source of new beginnings.
Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.

And so we come with open hearts to hear the Good News of Your Son.
Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Amen.

THE HYMN: *Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross*

#335 v. 4

**Near the cross I’ll watch and wait, hoping, trusting ever,
till I reach the golden strand just beyond the river.** (Refrain.)

Refrain: **In the cross, in the cross be my glory ever;
till my ransomed soul shall find rest beyond the river.**

(The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**)

PRAYER OF THE DAY

THE FIRST LESSON: Joshua 24:1-2, 14-18

Then Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem and summoned the elders, the heads, the judges, and the officers of Israel, and they presented themselves before God. And Joshua said to all the people, "Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel: Long ago your ancestors—Terah and his sons Abraham and Nahor—lived beyond the Euphrates and served other gods... Now, therefore, revere the Lord and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness; put away the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River and in Egypt and serve the Lord. Now if you are unwilling to serve the Lord, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served in the region beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living, but as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord." Then the people answered, "Far be it from us that we should forsake the Lord to serve other gods, for it is the Lord our God who brought us and our ancestors up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, and who did those great signs in our sight. He protected us along all the way that we went and among all the peoples through whom we passed, and the Lord drove out before us all the peoples, the Amorites who lived in the land. Therefore we also will serve the Lord, for he is our God."
(Word of God. Word of Life. **Thanks be to God!**)

Psalm 34:15-22 (Read responsively.)
The eyes of the Lord are on the righteous,
and his ears are open to their cry.

The face of the Lord is against evildoers,
to cut off the remembrance of them from the earth.

When the righteous cry for help, the Lord hears
and rescues them from all their troubles.

The Lord is near to the brokenhearted
and saves the crushed in spirit.

Many are the afflictions of the righteous,
but the Lord rescues them from them all.

He keeps all their bones;
not one of them will be broken.

Evil brings death to the wicked,
and those who hate the righteous will be condemned.

The Lord redeems the life of his servants;
none of those who take refuge in him will be condemned.

THE SECOND LESSON: Ephesians 6:10-20

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power; put on the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil, for our struggle is not against blood and flesh but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to withstand on the evil day and, having prevailed against everything, to stand firm. Stand, therefore, and belt your waist with truth and put on the breastplate of righteousness and lace up your sandals in preparation for the gospel of peace. With all of these, take the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. Pray in the Spirit at all times in every prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert and always persevere in supplication for all the saints. Pray also for me, so that when I speak a message may be given to me to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it boldly, as I must speak.
(Word of God. Word of Life. **Thanks be to God!**)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: (Please stand for the Gospel.)

#169



Leader: Speak, O Lord, Your servant is listening. You have the words of eternal life.
(People sing Alleluia again.)

(The Holy Gospel according to Saint John, the 6th chapter. **Glory to You, O Lord.**)

THE GOSPEL: John 6:60-69

When many of his disciples heard it, they said, "This teaching is difficult; who can accept it?" But Jesus, being aware that his disciples were complaining about it, said to them, "Does this offend you? Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? It is the spirit that gives life; the flesh is useless. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. But among you there are some who do not believe." For Jesus knew from the beginning who were the ones who did not believe and who was the one who would betray him. And he said, "For this reason I have told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted by the Father." Because of this many of his disciples turned back and no longer went about with him. So Jesus asked the twelve, "Do you also wish to go away?" Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God." (The Gospel of our Lord. **Praise to You, O Christ!)**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE (8:30am/10am)

Art & Music Minister Michelle Lum

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

HYMN OF THE DAY: Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service

#712 vv.1-3

**Lord, whose love in humble service bore the weight of human need,
who upon the cross, forsaken, worked your mercy's perfect deed:
we, your servants, bring the worship not of voice alone, but heart;
consecrating to your purpose ev-'ry gift which you impart.**

**Still your children wander homeless; still the hungry cry for bread;
still the captives long for freedom; still in grief we mourn our dead.
As you, Lord, in deep compassion healed the sick and freed the soul,
by your Spirit send your power to our world to make it whole.**

**As we worship, grant us vision, till your love's revealing light
in its height and depth and greatness dawns upon our quickened sight,
making known the deeds and burdens your compassion bids us bear,
stirring us to ardent service, your abundant life to share.**

THE MESSAGE: "*Scandalous*"

Pastor David R. Mattson

OFFERTORY MUSIC: *Whom Shall I Fear* by Chris Tomlin

Andy Degan

OFFERTORY RESPONSE: Precious Lord Take My Hand

#773 vv. 1-2

**Precious Lord, take my hand,
lead me on, let me stand,
I am tired, I am weak, I am worn.
Through the storm, through the night,
lead me on to the light.
Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.**

**When my way grows drear,
precious Lord, linger near,
when my life is almost gone,
hear my cry, hear my call,
hold my hand lest I fall.
Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.**

OFFERTORY PRAYER

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH (Lord in Your mercy. **Hear our Prayer.**)

WORDS OF INSTITUTION FOR HOLY COMMUNION

(All who believe Christ is present in this sacrament are welcome. Non-communing children and adults who choose not to receive, may come forward for a blessing. Please cross your arms as a signal you would prefer a blessing. Juice is located in the center of each tray, and gluten-free wafers are available upon request.)

HOLY COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION MUSIC:

Lamb of God (Repeat phrase after the leader.)

O God Beyond All Praising (Soloist sings 1st verse and then all sing again.)

#880

O God beyond all praising, we worship you today
and sing the love amazing that songs cannot repay;
for we can only wonder at ev-'ry gift you send,
at blessings without number and mercies without end:
we lift our hearts before you and wait upon your word,
we honor and adore you, our great and mighty Lord.

**The flow'r of early splendor in time must surely die,
its fragile bloom surrender to you, the Lord most high;
but hidden from all nature the eternal seed is sown-
though small in mortal stature, to heav-en's garden grown:
for Christ, your gift from heaven, from death has set us free,
and we through him are given the final victory.**

**Then hear, O gracious Savior, accept the love we bring,
that we who know your favor may serve you as our King;
and whether our tomorrows be filled with good or ill,
we'll triumph through our sorrows and rise to bless you still:
to marvel at your beauty and glory in your ways,
and make a joyful duty our sacrifice of praise.**

POST COMMUNION PRAYER AND BLESSING

THE BENEDICTION

THE SENDING HYMN: Thine Is the Glory

#376 vv. 1-2

**Thine is the glory, risen, con-qu'ring Son;
endless is the vic-t'ry thou o'er death hast won!
Angels in bright raiment rolled the stone away,
kept the folded grave clothes where thy body lay.**

Refrain: **Thine is the glory, risen, con-qu'ring Son;
endless is the vic-t'ry thou o'er death hast won!**

**Lo, Jesus meets thee, risen from the tomb!
Lov-ing-ly he greets thee, scatters fear and gloom;
let his church with gladness hymns of triumph sing,
for the Lord now liveth; death hath lost its sting!** (Refrain)

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

POSTLUDE Stephanie Assisi, Pianist (8:30am/10am)
Micaela Lum (5pm)

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THANKS TO OUR WORSHIP LEADERS TODAY!

8:30am: Coffee Prep: Dave Ross; Communion: John Adams & Barbara Keim; Lector: Bill Jonas; Ushers: John Gustavson & Scott Neiderhiser; Welcome Table: Janice Olson

10am: Coffee Clean-up: Dennis Pysz; Communion: Ron Bacon & Mary Jane Rylaarsdam; Lector: David Zylstra; Ushers: David & Susan Warneke; Welcome Table: Lora & William Stoll

5pm: Communion & Lector: Nancy Marcello

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ALTAR FLOWERS are provided by John & Linda Friend in loving memory of their daughter, Lisa Marie, and their parents.

WELCOME to pianist Stephanie Assisi! We thank her for sharing her talent and leading us in worship today.

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION - 90+ party, today, 11:15am, Bankson Hall. We honor all nonagenarians and centenarians! Of course, everyone is welcome to come.

NEWSLETTER - Pick up a copy of the September Newsletter at the Welcome Table or read it online at: mygloriadei.org. under the Calendar tab.

SUMMER CONCERT SERIES - Bring a friend and enjoy some wonderful music! Concerts are held in the sanctuary at 6pm. August 30th at 6pm - Harrison Michael, pianist/vocalist is our final concert.

OFFERING - Thank you for supporting Gloria Dei! Please place check/money in donation boxes or give electronically - Venmo app - @GloriaDei-DanaPoint or Zelle - gloriadei@mygloriadei.org. You can also donate via credit/ debit card through Vanco, our secure site: mygloriadei.org/donate.

NURSERY is available on Sunday mornings at 8:30am & 10am services (babies - pre-K.). It is located up the steps, inside the preschool room, closest to the church. Sign your child in and grab a pager.

PRAYER SUPPORT - If you would ever like extra prayers, join Deacon Daneen after each morning service by the Prayer Candle Station. She will pray with you and for you. To be a part of the Prayer Support Team: deacondaneen@mygloriadei.org.

SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER MEETING - Sunday, September 1, 9:30am in the Sunday School Room located upstairs in Knudson Hall. All interested in teaching Sunday School are invited to attend. Questions? Contact Susie Boland at fellowship@mygloriadei.org.

SUNDAY SCHOOL REGISTRATION - If you have a child who will be attending Sunday school in September, please fill out a registration form at the Welcome Table and place it in an offering box. Sunday school begins September 8 at morning services and is for children 4 years old - 5th grade.

SANCTUARY CHOIR (Adults & Teens) - Thursdays, 7:30pm in the Sanctuary beginning September 5. Join us as we start a new season of choir! Contact Michelle at michellelum@mygloriadei.org.

HANDBELL CHOIR - Thursdays, 6:30-7:30pm in the Sanctuary beginning September 5. Come make music with us this Fall! To join or help out, contact Michelle at michellelum@mygloriadei.org.

WOMEN'S FALL BUNCO - Friday, September 6, 6pm. All women and girls are invited to join in this fun fellowship event. Friends are welcome! Details and sign-up at the Welcome Table.

PRAYER WALK THE LABYRINTH - Saturday, Sept. 7, 8am-3pm. Sign-up at the Welcome Table for your half hour slot to pray and walk the Labyrinth in front of the Sanctuary. Questions - Deacon Daneen.

MEMBERSHIP AT GLORIA DEI - If you are interested in officially joining the Gloria Dei family, see the sign-up at the Welcome Table or call the office. For non-Lutherans, an adult inquiry class will be held Saturday, September 7, 9am. Questions, speak with Pastor David.

RALLY SUNDAY is Sunday, September 8 and will begin all Fall ministries - choirs, Bible studies, fellowship events, and more. There will be special refreshments, the beginning of Sunday school, and the Sanctuary Choir sings at both morning services. Invite a friend to join you! Pastor David kicks off a sermon series: *Grace Changes Everything!* Join in!

SUNDAY SCHOOL - Sunday school for children (Age 4 - 5th grade/8:30am & 10am services) will resume on "Rally Sunday", September 8. If you have questions or if you would like to register your child, please contact Susie Boland - sundayschool@mygloriadei.org.

WOMEN'S WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY - Starting September 11, every Wednesday at 10am all women are invited to join in! Study is led by Pastor David. We meet upstairs in Knudson Hall.

MEN'S BREAKFAST BIBLE STUDY - Kicks off on September 14, 8:30am in Knudson Hall. All men are invited for a good meal, Bible study led by Pastor David, and great fellowship.

MISSIONARY DORCAS' VISIT - Come and meet our Missionary who is visiting and on home leave, Sunday, September 15. She will bring a greeting at the morning services and then present at a L&L (Lunch and Learn) in Bankson Hall, 11:30am. Sign-up. (Donation taken for food.)

WOMEN'S RETREAT - September 27-29. The Welk Resort (Escondido). Great opportunity for fellowship, fun, and learning. Sign-up with a non-refundable deposit. Scholarships available. Limited space - first-come, first-served.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

- Oktoberfest sponsored by MGD (October 5)
- Reformation Sunday - Bible Presentation to 3rd Graders (October 27)
- Trick or Trunk Event (October 27, 4pm)
- Gloria Dei Blood Drive (November 1)
- All Saints' Sunday and L&L (Lunch and Learn)
- Thanksgiving Eve Service (November 27)
- Men's Spring Training Retreat (March 7-9, 2025)

OPPORTUNITIES FOR AUGUST 25 - 31, 2024

Today: Worship (8:30am, 10am, & 5pm); Birthday Party for 90+ Gloria Dei Friends & Members (11:15am); NA Meeting (6:30pm)

Monday: Al Anon (5:30pm); Alateen (5:30pm); AA Coed Meeting 7pm

Tuesday: AA Men (7am); Organ Maintenance (11am); Al Anon (7pm)

Wednesday: AA Men (7am); Mission Hospital Alumni AA Group (6pm); 12 Step Couples Group (7:30pm)

Thursday: AA Men (7am); AA Women (9:30am); Al Anon Coed (5:30pm); AA Men (7pm)

Friday: Harrison Michael Concert (6pm)

Saturday: AA Men (7am); ACA Meeting (11:30am); NA Meeting (7pm)

GLORIA DEI STAFF

Pastor David R. Mattson (pastordavid@mygloriadei.org);

Minister of Art and Music Michelle Lum (michellelum@mygloriadei.org);

Preschool Director Shelli Parajekas (preschool@mygloriadei.org);

Administrative Assistant Carol Weinhardt (gloriadei@mygloriadei.org);

Deacon Daneen Pysz (deacondaneen@mygloriadei.org)

Congregational Life Susie Boland (fellowship@mygloriadei.org);

Youth Director Paige Gulck (youth@mygloriadei.org);

5pm Worship Leader Micaela Lum