



GLORIA DEI LUTHERAN CHURCH
Grace changes everything.

Dana Point, California

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ASH WEDNESDAY

February 18, 2026 + 12:00pm and 6:30pm

WELCOME to worship! Ash Wednesday begins the Season of Lent. Today, we receive the "Imposition of Ashes" on our foreheads - an ancient sign of repentance. We also begin the series "**Healing Hands.**" We will study the healing stories in the Gospel of Mark as we journey with Jesus to the cross for the healing of the world. Thank you for joining us on the journey!

PRELUDE

Micaela Lum, Organist/Pianist

THE GREETING AND INVOCATION

ORDER OF CONFESSION (Psalm 51)

(People read/sing **bold** words.)

Have mercy on me, O God,
according to Your steadfast love;

according to Your abundant mercy
blot out my transgressions.

Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and put a new and right spirit within me.

Do not cast me away from Your presence,
and do not take Your Holy Spirit from me.

Restore to me the joy of Your salvation,
and sustain in me a willing spirit. Amen.

(Moment of silence. The forgiveness will be pronounced later in the service.)

THE GATHERING HYMN: All Are Welcome

#641 vv. 1-2,4

**Let us build a house where love can dwell
and all can safely live,
a place where saints and children tell
how hearts learn to forgive.
Built of hopes and dreams and visions,
rock of faith and vault of grace;
here the love of Christ shall end divisions:**

Refrain:

All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.

**Let us build a house where prophets speak
and words are strong and true,
where all God's children dare to seek
to dream God's reign a-new.
Here the cross shall stand as witness
and as symbol of God's grace;
here as one we claim the faith of Jesus: (Refrain.)**

**Let us build a house where hands will reach
beyond the wood and stone
to heal and strengthen, serve and teach,
and live the Word they've known.
Here the outcast and the stranger**

bear the image of God's face;
let us bring an end to fear and danger: (Refrain.)

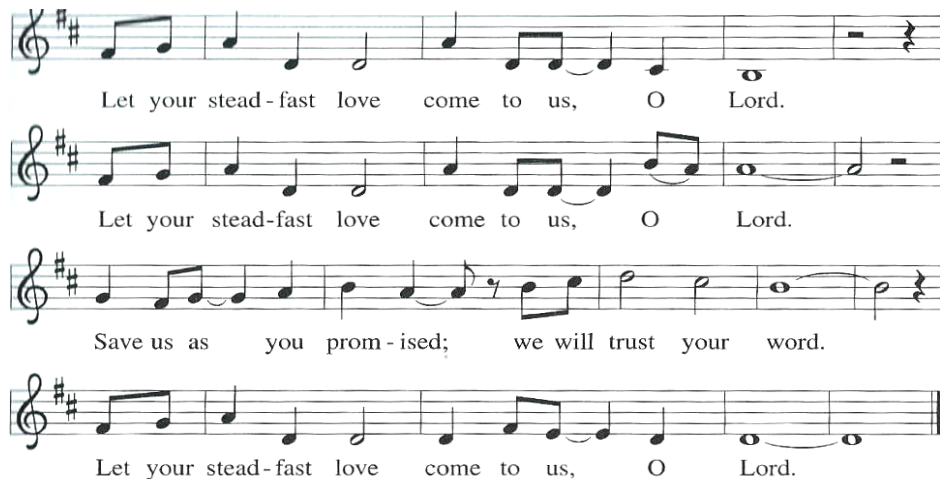
PRAYER OF THE DAY (The Lord be with you. **And also with you.** Let us pray...)

THE LESSON: 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10

We entreat you on behalf of Christ: be reconciled to God. For our sake God made the one who knew no sin to be sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. As we work together with him, we retreat you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. For he says, "At an acceptable time I have listened to you, and on a day of salvation I have helped you." Look, now is the acceptable time; look, now is the day of salvation! We are putting no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: in great endurance, afflictions, hardships, calamities, beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; in purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors and yet are true, as unknown and yet are well known, as dying and look--we are alive, as punished and yet not killed, as sorrowful yet always rejoicing, as poor yet making many rich, as having nothing and yet possessing everything. (Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (Please stand.)

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Let your stead-fast love come to us, O Lord.

Let your stead-fast love come to us, O Lord.

Save us as you prom-ised; we will trust your word.

Let your stead-fast love come to us, O Lord.

The Holy Gospel according to Saint Mark, the 1st chapter. **Glory to You, O Lord.**

THE GOSPEL: Mark 1:12-15

And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. He was in the wilderness forty days, tested by Satan, and he was with the wild beasts, and the angels waited on him. Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee proclaiming the good news of God and saying, "The time

is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news." (The Gospel of our Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**)

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE HYMN: O Sacred Head, Now Wounded

#351

**O sacred head, now wounded,
with grief and shame weighed down,
now scornfully surrounded
with thorns, thine only crown;
O sacred head, what glory,
what bliss till now was thine!
Yet, though despised and gory,
I joy to call thee mine.**

**How art thou pale with anguish,
with sore abuse and scorn;
How does that visage languish,
which once was bright as morn!
Thy grief and bitter Passion,
were all for sinners' gain;
Mine, mine was the transgression,
but thine the deadly pain.**

**What language shall I borrow
to thank thee, dearest friend,
for this thy dying sorrow,
thy pity without end?
Oh, make me thine forever,
and should I fainting be,
Lord, let me never, never
outlive my love to thee.**

**Lord, be my consolation;
Shield me when I must die;
Remind me of thy Passion
When my last hour draws nigh.
These eyes, new faith receiving,
From thee shall never move;
For he who dies believing
Dies safely in thy love.**

THE MESSAGE: *Wilderness Wonderings*

Pastor David R. Mattson

OFFERING & OFFERTORY MUSIC:

How Beautiful by Twila Paris

Art & Music Minister Michelle Lum (12pm)

How Beautiful arr. Mary McDonald

Sanctuary Choir (6:30pm)

**OFFERTORY RESPONSE: Take O Take Me As I Am (2x)
Take, oh, take me as I am; summon out what I shall be;
set your seal upon my heart and live in me.**

#814

OFFERTORY PRAYER

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH (After each prayer - Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**)

THE LORD'S PRAYER

THE BLESSING OF THE ASHES

THE IMPOSITION OF THE ASHES

(We invite you to come forward for the imposition of ashes. The ushers will guide you down the center aisle and then return down the side aisle.)

He Will Hold Me Fast (Getty)

**When I fear my faith will fail
Christ will hold me fast
When the tempter would prevail
He will hold me fast
I could never keep my hold
Through life's fearful path
For my love is often cold
He must hold me fast
He will hold me fast
He will hold me fast
For my Saviour loves me so
He will hold me fast**

**Those He saves are His delight
Christ will hold me fast
Precious in His holy sight
He will hold me fast
He'll not let my soul be lost
His promises shall last
Bought by Him at such a cost
He will hold me fast
He will hold me fast
He will hold me fast
For my Saviour loves me so
He will hold me fast**

**For my life He bled and died
Christ will hold me fast
Justice has been satisfied**

**He will hold me fast
Raised with Him to endless life
He will hold me fast
'Til our faith is turned to sight
When He comes at last!
He will hold me fast
He will hold me fast
For my Saviour loves me so
He will hold me fast**

**He will hold me fast
He will hold me fast
For my Saviour loves me so
He will hold me fast**

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

#803

**When I survey the wondrous cross
on which the prince of glory died,
my richest gain I count but loss
and pour contempt on all my pride.**

**Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast
save in the death of Christ, my God;
all the vain things that charm me most,
I sacrifice them to his blood.**

**See, from his head, his hands, his feet,
sorrow and love flow mingled down.
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet,
or thorns compose so rich a crown?**

**Were the whole realm of nature mine,
that were a present far too small;
love so amazing, so divine,
demands my soul, my life, my all.**

THE ABSOLUTION (Please stand)

Through the cross of Christ, God has mercy on you, pardons you and sets you free! Know that you are forgiven and be at peace. May God strengthen you in all goodness and keep you in eternal life, in the name of Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen!**

THE BLESSING

SENDING HYMN: Jesus Keep Me Near the Cross

#335

**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, a trembling soul, love and mercy found me;
there the bright and morning star sheds its beams around me.** (Refrain.)

**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.)

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

POSTLUDE:

Micaela Lum

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS to the Gloria Dei family: Klara Baker, Kristopher and Lisa Cowan and Jim Plevney. Their photos will be at the Welcome Table and in the next directory.

SUNDAY SCHOOL is during morning services (children ages 4-5th grade). Children leave after the Children's Message and return before Holy Communion. Questions - Children's Ministry Director Molly Healey - childrensministry@mygloriadei.org).

OFFERING ENVELOPES available at the Welcome Table. Please pick yours up today.

KERYGMA BIBLE OVERVIEW continues Thursdays, [6:15pm](#) with Pastor David.

LENT 2026 - "*Healing Hands*" - a look at the healing stories in Mark's Gospel. Soup Supper every Wednesday 5:30pm and Worship in Bankson Hall at 6:30pm. Offering for Lent will go to Lutheran World Relief - "Educate Girls, Eradicate Hunger" program.

LENTEN DEVOTIONALS are available at the Welcome Table. These are reflections by Henri Nouwen and others ("The Joy of Salvation").

SERRA'S PANTRY - Next volunteer opportunity, Saturday, February 21, 8:30am-12pm. Email/call the church office with any questions at gloriadei@mygloriadei.org.

LENTEN SOUP SUPPERS: To provide a soup, please sign-up! The Women's Board is providing the first Wednesday soup supper, but there are plenty of opportunities!

LOS ANGELITOS ORPHANAGE - The new 2026 schedule for trips is as follows: March 7, July 18 & October 17. Please join us for a quick meeting to discuss plans on March 1 at 9:40am in the sanctuary.

FIRST COMMUNION CLASSES: Parent & child (age 10 or younger), 3 Wednesdays (5:15pm) beginning March 4. See sign-up for details.

PRIME TIMERS (Seniors): GIA Museum, Carlsbad, Mon., Feb. 23, 1 pm. Sign up.

MEN'S SPRING TRAINING RETREAT SIGN-UP: March 6-8, in Tempe, AZ. "First come, first serve." 30 spots and a waiting list. [Pre-trip meeting today, 9:30am.](#)

POP-UP ORCHESTRA - Do you play an instrument? Join in for a song on March 1, 7:30am-10:30am (a rehearsal and 2 services). Email michellelum@mygloriadei.org or sign up at the Welcome Table for the music.

WOMEN'S ½ DAY RETREAT at Gloria Dei, Saturday, March 14, Bankson Hall, with a breakfast at 8:30am and program beginning at 9am. Writer and popular speaker Kirsten Casillas will present.

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

Palm Sunday - March 29, 8:30am/10am
(First Communion. Procession with Palms. Alice the Donkey.)

Maundy Thursday - April 2, 6pm (Stations of the Cross.)

Good Friday - April 3, noon, 7pm

(Tenebrae. 7 Last Words of Christ. Holy Communion)

Easter/Resurrection Sunday - April 5, 6:30am, 8:30am, 10am

(Special Music - Bells, Trumpet, Choirs. Refreshments. Eggstravaganza, 11am)

SARA GROVES in Concert, Saturday, May 2, 7pm at Gloria Dei. Tickets are available at the Welcome Table on a first-come, first-served basis. (\$25 suggested donation). We will open this event up to the general public in March.

OFFERING - Thank you for supporting Gloria Dei! 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.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

✦ Palm Sunday/First Communion - "Alice the Donkey" (March 29) ✦ Maundy Thursday (April 2, 6pm) ✦ Good Friday (April 3, noon, 7pm) ✦ Resurrection/Easter Sunday (April 5) ✦ Good Shepherd Sunday - Petting Zoo (April 26) ✦ Sara Groves in Concert (May 2, 2026) ✦ Church Campout (June 12-14, 2026) ✦ Vacation Bible School (July 6-10, 2026)

GLORIA DEI STAFF

Rev. David R. Mattson (pastordavid@mygloriadei.org);
Art & Music Minister Michelle Lum (michellelum@mygloriadei.org);
Preschool Director Shelli Parajeckas (preschool@mygloriadei.org);
Administrative Assistant Susie Boland (gloriadei@mygloriadei.org);
Deacon Daneen Pysz (deacondaneen@mygloriadei.org);
Youth Director Paige Gulck (youth@mygloriadei.org);
Children's Ministry Director Molly Healey (childrensministry@mygloriadei.org);
Pianist/Organist Micaela Lum (pianist@mygloriadei.org);
5pm Worship Leader Harrison Michael