# The First Sunday in Advent December 3, 2023



# **Welcome to Gloria Dei!**

The name *Gloria Dei* is a Latin phrase meaning *God's glory*. We pray that here you will find his glory and love chiefly revealed in our Savior Jesus. May your time in worship be edifying and enable you to focus on Jesus as the solution to your sin and as the certainty of eternal life in heaven.

Should you need a **restroom** during the service, you will find them in the Fellowship Hall directly beneath the sanctuary. Exit the sanctuary by the main doors, turn right and head down the stairs, turn right at the bottom of the stairs and enter the first door.

If you need anything during the service, please speak to one of the ushers.

# To Those Visiting with Children

The members of Gloria Dei believe that families should be able to worship together. It is clear that some amount of noise will come with children being in worship. Any noise children make in worship is the sound of families doing what God has told them to do: bringing their children to sit at Jesus' feet. Should your family need a few moments away from the sanctuary, the Fellowship Hall located directly beneath the sanctuary is open and equipped with a closed circuit TV of the service.

#### **Our Communion Practice**

If you are a visitor with us today, we are glad that you're here! We are celebrating the Lord's Supper in worship today. If you would like to receive the Lord's Supper today, we ask that you speak with Pastor Shrimpton or one of the ushers before doing so.

God requires that we only commune with those with whom we share complete agreement in God's Word (1 Corinthians 10:16-17) and makes us responsible for ensuring that those whom commune know exactly what God teaches lest people commune to their spiritual harm (1 Corinthians 11:27-30). Because of this, we ask that any visitors who are not a member of one of our sister congregations give us the opportunity to compare what we teach with your faith to ensure that we are in complete agreement before you commune with us. Please speak with Pastor Shrimpton after worship for more information.

## The Theme of Today's Worship

Rulers plan and administrate and govern. They typically do not save. If your house is on fire, it will not be the mayor who shows up to save you from the flames. If America were attacked, the President would serve as the commander in chief of the armed forces. The President would not pick up a weapon, go to the front lines, and fight to save you from the enemy.

Jesus is different. He is both infinitely greater than all other rulers, yet also infinitely humbler. He does not consider it beneath his rank as King to risk his life for his subjects. He is willing to fight for us. He is willing to die for us. For King Jesus came into our world for one reason—to save us. Keep watch! His return his imminent!

# **Serving Today**

Presiding Minister & Preacher	Pastor Timothy Shrimpton
Organ Assistant	Alex Shrimpton
Ushers	Rick Huntington and Jasen Higgins
Communion Assistant	Mark Baushke
Sunday School Teacher	Janet Powers
Altar Preparation	Leslie Donovan
Coffee Hour Host	Donna DaSanBiagio

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# **Opening Hymn**

309 The Advent of Our King





and we must hymns of wel-come sing in strains of ho - lv jov. him - self ser-vant's form puts on to set his ser-vants free. faith-less heart de-spise the peace he comes to bring. let and his true mem-bers u - nite with him in heav'n to all reign.

5 Before the dawning day
let sin's dark deeds be gone,
the old self all be put away,
the new self now put on.

Text: tr. John Chandler, 1806–1876, alt.; Charles Coffin, 1676–1749 Tune: Aaron Williams, 1731–1776 Text and tune: Public domain 6 All glory to the Son, who comes to set us free, with Father, Spirit, ever one through all eternity.

Please stand

#### **Invocation**

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

#### Confession\*

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.†

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

Holy God, gracious Father,

I am sinful by nature

and have sinned against you in my thoughts, words, and actions.

I have not loved you with my whole heart;

I have not loved others as I should.

I deserve your punishment both now and forever.

But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins

with his innocent suffering and death.

Trusting in him, I pray: God, have mercy on me, a sinner.

Silence for meditation and reflection

#### **Absolution**

Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning<sup>‡</sup> sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.§

Amen.

<sup>\*</sup> We are born into this world with a deep need for confession. We come as sinners before the holy God who demands perfection from us. We come asking for his forgiveness, trusting in his promises to forgive us for the sake of Jesus' life and death in our place.

<sup>† 1</sup> John 1:8-9

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>‡</sup> To "atone" is to put to separated parties back "at one" with each other. By his death, Jesus covered over our sin and put sinful mankind back at one with our Creator. See **1 John 2:2**.

<sup>§ [</sup>Jesus said,] "Whenever you forgive people's sins, they are forgiven. Whenever you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven.... Amen I tell you: Whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven" (John 20:23, Matthew 18:18).

In peace let us pray to the Lord.

#### Lord, have mercy.

For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

#### Lord, have mercy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

#### Lord, have mercy.

For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

#### Lord, have mercy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

#### Amen.

#### This Is the Feast\*



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>\*</sup> During the Advent season, "This Is the Feast" replaces the *Gloria in Excelsis* as the *Gloria* focuses on the arrival of Christ at Christmas, and the Advent season is one of preparation for his arrival.



Text: Richard W. Hillert, 1923–2010; John W. Arthur, 1922–1980 | Tune: Richard W. Hillert, 1923–2010 | Text: © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship, admin. Augsburg Fortress. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 706345 | Tune: © 1975, 1988 Richard W. Hillert. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 706345

# **The Word**

#### **Salutation**

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

# **Prayer of the Day**

Let us pray.

Stir up your power, O Lord, and come. Protect us by your strength, and save us from the threatening dangers of our sins; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Be seated

# First Reading Isaiah 64:1-9

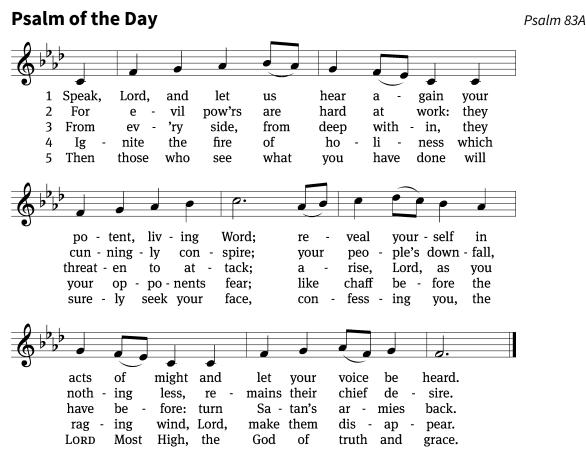
Oh, that you would rip open the heavens and come down. Mountains then would quake because of your presence. <sup>2</sup>As fire ignites stubble and as fire makes water boil, make your name known to your adversaries. Then nations would quake in your presence. <sup>3</sup>You did amazing things that we did not expect. You came down. Mountains quaked because of your presence. <sup>4</sup>From ancient times no one has heard. No ear has understood. No eye has seen any god except you, who goes into action for the one who waits for him. <sup>5</sup>You meet anyone who joyfully practices righteousness, who remembers you by walking in your ways! But you were angry because we sinned. We have remained in our sins for a long time. Can we still be saved? <sup>6</sup>All of us have become like something unclean, and all our righteous acts are like a filthy cloth. All of us have withered like a leaf, and our guilt carries us away like the wind. <sup>7</sup>There is no one who calls on your name, who rouses himself to take hold of you. So you hid your face from us.

You made us melt by the power of our guilt.

<sup>8</sup>But now, LORD, you are our father. We are the clay, and you are our potter. All of us are the work of your hand. <sup>9</sup>Do not be angry, LORD, without limit. Do not remember our guilt forever. Please look closely. All of us are your people.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.



Text: Martin E. Leckebusch

Tune: Repository of Sacred Music, Part Second, 1813, ed. John Wyeth Text: © 1970 Kevin Mayhew Ltd. Used by permission: License no. 130019051

Tune: Public domain

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ!

<sup>4</sup>I always thank my God for you because of the grace of God given to you in Christ Jesus. <sup>5</sup>You were enriched in him in every way, in all your speaking and all your knowledge, <sup>6</sup>because the testimony about Christ was established in you. <sup>7</sup>As a result you do not lack any gift as you eagerly wait for the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>8</sup>He will also keep you strong until the end, so that you will be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>9</sup>God is faithful, who called you into fellowship with his Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Please stand\*

# **Gospel Acclamation**

Revelation 22:20









He who testifies to these things says, "Yes, I am com - ing soon."



Tune: © 2002, 2021 Kermit G. Moldenhauer, admin. Northwestern Publishing House. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 706345

 $<sup>{}^{\</sup>star}$  We stand out of respect for the words and account of the life of our Savior and King, Jesus.

Gospel Mark 13:26–37

Then you will see the Son of Man coming on clouds with great power and glory. <sup>27</sup>At that time he will send out his angels and gather his elect from the four winds, from the farthest end of the earth to the farthest end of the sky.

<sup>28</sup>"Learn from this illustration of the fig tree: Whenever its branch becomes tender and sprouts leaves, you know that summer is near. <sup>29</sup>So also when you see these things happening, you will know that he is near—at the doors! <sup>30</sup>Amen I tell you: This generation will certainly not pass away until all these things happen. <sup>31</sup>Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.

<sup>32</sup>"No one knows about that day or hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. <sup>33</sup>Watch! Be alert and pray, because you do not know when the time will come. <sup>34</sup>It is like a man going away on a journey. When he left his home, he put his servants in charge and assigned what each one was to do. He also commanded the door-keeper to keep watch. <sup>35</sup>Therefore keep watch, because you do not know when the owner of the house is coming: whether in the evening, or at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or early in the morning. <sup>36</sup>If he comes suddenly, do not let him find you sleeping. <sup>37</sup>What I say to you, I say to everyone: Keep watch!"

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated

# Children's Message

The children are invited forward to sit in the first pew on the left-hand side of the sanctuary. Parents may join them for this special message.





Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788, alt. Tune: Thomas Olivers, 1725–1799 Text and tune: Public domain

#### Sermon

#### Grace and Peace Enrich Us Until Jesus' Advent

1 Corinthians 1:3-9

Please stand

## **Nicene Creed\***

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made,
of one being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary, and became truly human.

<sup>\*</sup> The Nicene Creed was originally adopted by the Council of Nicea in 325 AD and has been a widely used confession of faith throughout Christendom since that time. Its chief purpose was to confess the Christian faith while defending the truth of Jesus' divinity against the teachings of Arianism which claim that Jesus is not true God.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate.

He suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures.

He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who in unity with the Father and the Son
is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Be seated

# **Prayer of the Church**

Gracious Lord, you sent your Son into our world to destroy the power of Satan and restore the human race as your children and heirs. Work in us during this Advent season so that we may rejoice in the coming of our Savior and long for his coming again.

Make us eager to receive the King who comes to save us.

Use the preaching of your holy law to rid us of all delusions that we can gain your love with our own efforts. Move us to realize how hopeless we are because of sin and to feel sorrow for what we have done wrong.

Lead us to be honest about our sinful status in your sight.

Lift up our hearts to see the King who comes to save. Reveal to us his willingness to take on our human form and stand in our place. Show us the power he extends in his Word

and sacraments to make us your children and keep us in faith. Thrill us with his promise to come and take us to our eternal home to live with you forever.

Open our eyes to see and believe the wonders of the Savior's love.

As we live with Christ and trust in him, move us to turn away from sin day after day with the strength your Holy Spirit provides. When we fall, forgive us and renew us to love and serve you and all people.

Empower us and guide us to walk with Christ by faith.

Protect us from the distractions that come at this time of the year. Even in gift-giving and celebrating, keep our hearts focused on Christ and his forgiving love.

Give us joy at his coming at Christmas, his coming in the gospel, and his coming again.

Move us to share with others the most important gift of this season, the truth about Jesus. Even in busy times lead us to pray for those whose joy is diminished because of sickness, pain, or loss. Give us opportunities to provide help to those in need.

May others see the love of Christ in our words and actions.

Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

Silent prayer

Loving Lord, work in us during this Advent season so that our joy may be genuine and may rest in the promises of the King who comes to save.

Come, Lord Jesus. Amen.

# Offering

The members of Gloria Dei give their offerings out of thanks to God for his unending love. These offerings are used to support our work locally and around the world. Our guests may give, but should not feel compelled to do so. If you wish to give a gift electronically, please visit <a href="www.gdluth.org/giving">www.gdluth.org/giving</a> or scan the code to the right.



If you are a guest with us today, please fill out the "Connection Card" in the racks at the end of each pew and leave the card with an usher, in the offering plate, or with the pastor.

As the offering plates are brought forward, please stand for prayer.

# The Sacrament

#### Preface\*

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord, whose way John the Baptist prepared when he called people to repentance and pointed to Jesus as the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

# Holy, Holy, Holy

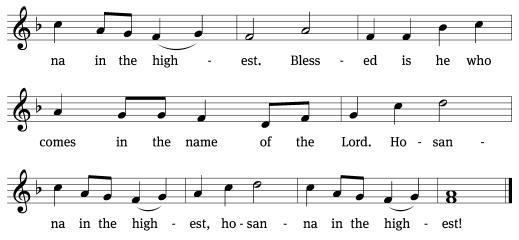
Sanctus<sup>†</sup>



<sup>\*</sup> The words of the Preface are the least changed liturgical text of the Christian church, dating back to at least 200 AD. They are spoken as joyous words that anticipate the forthcoming reception of the Lord's Supper.

 $<sup>^\</sup>dagger$  We join the saints in the triumph song of the holy God who has rescued us. We sing, "Hosanna!" which means,

<sup>&</sup>quot;Please save us!" The traditional name for this song, Sanctus, is the Latin word for Holy.



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# **Prayer of Thanksgiving**

Blessed are you, O Lord of heaven and earth. We praise and thank you for sending your Son, Jesus Christ, and we remember the great acts of love through which he has ransomed us from sin, death, and the devil's power.

By his incarnation, he became one with us.

By his perfect life, he fulfilled your holy will.

By his innocent death, he overcame hell.

By his rising from the grave, he opened heaven.

Invited by your grace and instructed by your Word, we approach your table with repentant and joyful hearts. Strengthen us through Christ's body and blood, and preserve us in the true faith until we feast with him and all his ransomed people in glory everlasting. **Amen.** 

# Lord's Prayer

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. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

#### **Words of Institution\***

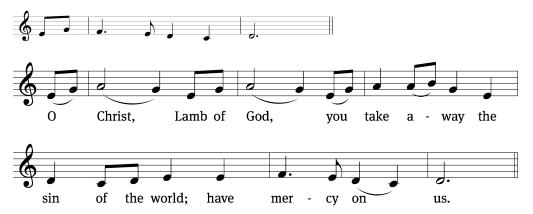
Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my + body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my + blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **Amen.** 

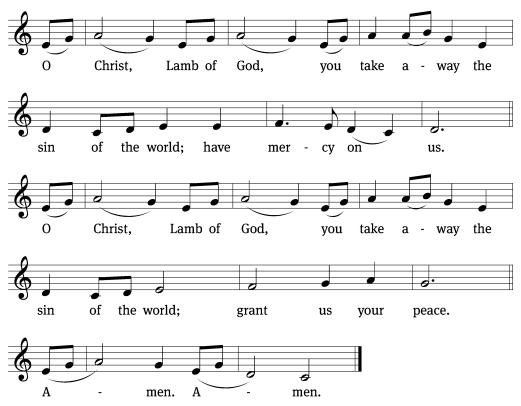
# O Christ, Lamb of God

Agnus Dei†



<sup>\*</sup> This is no symbolic meal nor were Jesus' directions a parable. As his last will and testament, Jesus' direction on the Lord's Supper is clear: in a miraculous way, his true body and true blood are present with the bread and wine in the Sacrament. Through it we receive the forgiveness of our sins won for us by his death on the cross.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>†</sup> John the Baptist called Jesus the **"Lamb of God" (John 1:29)**, the long-promised, perfect sacrifice for sin. The traditional name of this song, *Agnus Dei*, is the Latin phrase *Lamb of God*.



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Be seated

## **Distribution**

**To our guests:** please review "Our Communion Practice" on p. 2 of this worship folder before communing with us. If you have any questions, please speak with Pastor after the service.

Those communing with us today should follow the ushers' direction to come forward via the center aisle and return to their seats by the side aisles.

# **Hymn of Thanksgiving**

312 Comfort, Comfort All My People, s. 1-2



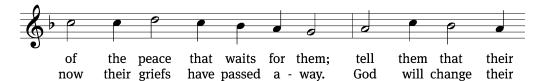
1 "Com - fort, fort all peo - ple; speak of peace," so com my 2 All their sins God will par - don, blot - ting out our

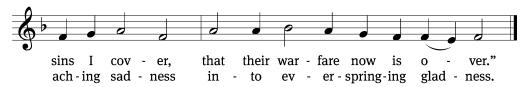


says our God. "Com - fort those who sit in dark - ness, groan - ing dark mis - deed; all that well de-served his an - ger he no



from their sor - rows' load. Speak to all Je - ru - sa - lem more will see or heed. They have suf - fered man-y\_a day;





Text: tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.; Johann G. Olearius, 1611–1684 Tune: Trente quatre Pseaumes de David, Geneva, 1551, ed. Louis Bourgeois Text and tune: Public domain

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;

his mercy endures forever.\*

20

<sup>\*</sup>These words of praise occur repeatedly in Scripture. For an example, see **Psalm 118:1**.

Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.\*

We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us with this saving gift. We pray that through it you will strengthen our faith in you and increase our love for one another. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

# **Blessing**†

The Lord bless you and keep you.

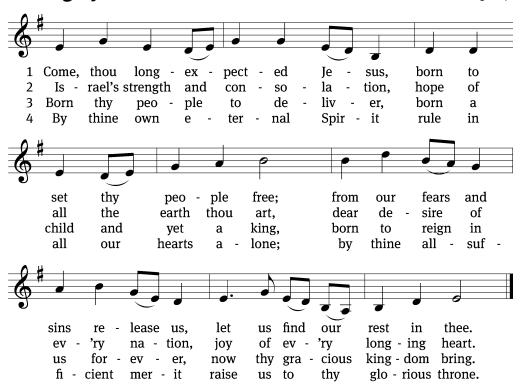
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and + give you peace.

Amen.

<sup>\* 1</sup> Corinthians 11:26

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>†</sup> The closing blessing of the service follows the pattern of the blessing that God gave to his Old Testament people in **Numbers 6:22-27**.



Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, alt.

Tune: Southern Harmony, New Haven, 1835, ed. William Walker

Text and tune: Public domain

# **Calendar & Announcements**

## **Sunday**

Sunday School [Grades PreK-5th] and Bible Class [Life of Abraham]	9:15 am
Worship	10:30 am
Coffee Hour	11:30 am
Church Decorating	12:00 pm
Catechism Class	12:00 pm
Tuesday	
In-Person Midweek Bible Class [Luke]	
Bible Information Class	4:30 pm
Online Midweek Bible Class [Luke]	7:30 pm
Thursday Member Care Committee Meeting	7:00 pm
Saturday Christmas for Kids1:00 -	- 3:30 pm
Next Sunday	
Sunday School [Grades PreK-5th] and Bible Class [Life of Abraham]	9:15 am
Worship	10:30 am
Coffee Hour	11:30 am
Catechism Class	12:00 pm

## **Upcoming Holiday Schedule**

As we make our way through the holiday season, here's an upcoming schedules of events to put on your calendars:

- Sunday, December 3, 12pm: Church Decorating
- Saturday, December 9, 1-3:30pm: Christmas for Kids
- **Sunday, December 24, 10:30am:** Normal Sunday Worship (4th Sunday in Advent)
- Sunday, December 24, 6pm: Christmas Eve Worship
- Monday, December 25, 10:30am: Christmas Day Worship

#### **Hosting Coffee Hour**

It has been a true joy to have more people able to worship with us regularly and to join together in fellowship at coffee hour on Sundays after worsihp. We would love to be able to spread out the joy of hosting coffee hour moving forward. This doesn't need to be an elaborate, fancy spread of things; the goal is to facilitate fellowship time with our brothers and sisters over some coffee and a snack. If you have any questions or would be interested in helping out, please speak with Donna DaSanBiagio or Pastor Shrimpton. Thank you!



(650) 593-3361 | www.gdluth.org 2600 Ralston Avenue, Belmont, CA 94002

Pastor Timothy Shrimpton pastor@gdluth.org

As a family of believers, Gloria Dei proclaims God's glory, the good news of sins forgiven in Jesus. We teach the entirety of God's truth as revealed in the Bible to strengthen the faith of our members, to train those who wish to know more about their Savior, and to proclaim Christ-crucified to all the world.

Gloria Dei is a member congregation of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS). www.wels.net

