

The Third Sunday in Advent

December 17, 2023



Gloria Dei
Lutheran Church
gdluth.org

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

The historic Christian Church gave Latin titles to each Sunday. They titled the Third Sunday in Advent "Gaudete," which means "Rejoice!" As we reach the midway point of Advent, we remember that when the King shall come, he will bring us perfect and everlasting joy.

Joy is not the same thing as happiness. Happiness is an emotion. Joyfulness is a condition. Happiness comes from your circumstances. Joyfulness comes from your King entering into your heart and assuring you of his abiding love and your glorious future. Therefore, happiness is fleeting. Joyfulness is enduring.

Serving Today

Presiding Minister & Preacher	Pastor Timothy Shrimpton
Accompanist	Kathy Lee
Ushers	Rick Huntington and Tim Mann
Communion Assistant	Jasen Higgins
Altar Preparation	Janet Powers
Sunday School Teacher	Kathy Lee
Coffee Hour Host	Karen Shrimpton

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The Service

Setting Four

Opening Hymn

313 Hark the Glad Sound! The Savior Comes



1 Hark the glad sound! The Sav - ior comes, the Sav - ior
2 He comes the pris - 'ners to re - lease, in Sa - tan's
3 He comes the bro - ken heart to bind, the bleed - ing
4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of Peace, your wel - come



prom - ised long; let ev - 'ry heart pre -
bond - age held; the gates of brass be -
soul to cure, and with the trea - sures
shall pro - claim, and heav'n's e - ter - nal



pare a throne and ev - 'ry voice a song.
fore him burst, the i - ron fet - ters yield.
of his grace to en - rich the hum - ble poor.
arch - es ring with your be - lov - ed name.

Text: Philip Doddridge, 1702–1751, abr., alt.

Tune: Thomas Haweis, 1734–1820, alt.

Text and tune: Public domain

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‡ 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.

* 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.

† **1 John 1:8-9**

‡ 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**.

§ [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).



1 ̇ Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose
 2 Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and strength, and
 3 Sing with all the peo - ple of God, and
 4 Bless - ing, hon - or, glo - ry, and might be to
 5 For the Lamb _____ who was slain has be -



blood set us free _____ to be peo - ple of God. *Refrain*
 hon - or, _____ bless - ing, and glo - ry are his. *Refrain*
 join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: *v. 4*
 God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men. *Refrain*
 gun his _____ reign. _____ Al - le - lu - ia! *Final Refrain*



This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

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.

Hear our prayers, Lord Jesus Christ, and come with the good news of your mighty deliverance. Drive the darkness from our hearts, and fill us with your light; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Be seated

First Reading

Isaiah 61:1-3, 10-11

Through the prophet Isaiah, the Savior-King proclaims good news of great joy for all those who are brokenhearted.

The Spirit of the LORD God is upon me,
because the LORD has anointed me
to preach good news to the afflicted.
He sent me to bind up the brokenhearted,
to proclaim freedom for the captives
and release for those who are bound,
²to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor
and the day of vengeance for our God,
to comfort all who mourn,
³to provide for those who mourn in Zion,
to give them a crown of beauty instead of ashes,
the oil of joy instead of mourning,
a cloak of praise instead of a faint spirit,
so that they will be called oaks of righteousness,
a planting of the LORD to display his beauty.

¹⁰I will rejoice greatly in the LORD.

My soul will celebrate because of my God,
for he has clothed me in garments of salvation.

With a robe of righteousness he covered me,
like a bridegroom who wears a beautiful headdress like a priest,
and like a bride who adorns herself with her jewelry.

¹¹For as the earth produces its growth,

and as a garden causes what has been sown to sprout up,
so God the LORD will cause righteousness and praise to sprout up
in the presence of all the nations.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm of the Day

Psalm 71A

Refrain



God is my strong sal - va - tion; what foe have I to fear?

Tone



In you, LORD, I have taken / refuge;
let me never be / put to shame.

In your righteousness, rescue me and de- / liver me;
turn your ear to me and / save me.

Be my rock of / refuge,
to which I can / always go. *Refrain*

Since my youth, God, you have / taught me,
and to this day I declare your / marv'lous deeds.

Even when I am / old and gray,
do not forsake / me, my God,
till I declare your power to the next gener- / ation,
your mighty acts to all who / are to come.

**Glory be to the Father and / to the Son
and to the Holy / Spirit,
as it was in the be- / ginning,**

is now, and will be forever. / Amen. *Refrain*

Tune: Melchior Vulpius | Setting: Hal H. Hopson | Tune: Public domain | Setting: © 1988 Hope Publishing Co. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 706345

Second Reading

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

The promises of the coming King let us live with joy, regardless of present circumstances.

Rejoice always. ¹⁷Pray without ceasing. ¹⁸In everything give thanks. For this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. ¹⁹Do not extinguish the Spirit. ²⁰Do not treat prophecies with contempt. ²¹But test everything. Hold on to the good. ²²Keep away from every kind of evil.

²³May the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do it.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

*Please stand**

Gospel Acclamation

Matthew 11:10



Refrain



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Tone



I will send my messenger a - head of you,



who will prepare your way be - fore you.

Refrain

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

* We stand out of respect for the words and account of the life of our Savior and King, Jesus.

Gospel

John 1:6-8, 19-28

John the Baptist teaches the infinite superiority of Christ Jesus. John was only a witness to the light. Jesus is the light who gives life and perfect joy.

There was a man, sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as an eyewitness to testify about the light so that everyone would believe through him. ⁸He was not the light, but he came to testify about the light.

¹⁹This is the testimony John gave when the Jews from Jerusalem sent priests and Levites to ask him, “Who are you?”

²⁰He confessed and did not deny. He confessed, “I am not the Christ.”

²¹And they asked him, “Who are you then? Are you Elijah?”

He said, “I am not.”

“Are you the Prophet?”

“No,” he answered.

²²Then they asked him, “Who are you? Tell us so we can give an answer to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?”

²³He said, “I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, ‘Make straight the way of the Lord,’ just as Isaiah the prophet said.”

²⁴They had been sent from the Pharisees. ²⁵So they asked John, “Why then do you baptize, if you are not the Christ, or Elijah, or the Prophet?”

²⁶“I baptize with water,” John answered. “Among you stands one you do not know. ²⁷He is the one coming after me, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to untie.”

²⁸These things happened in Bethany beyond the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

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.

Hymn of the Day

324 O Lord, How Shall I Meet You



1 O Lord, how shall I meet you, how wel - come you a - right?
2 Love caused your in - car - na - tion; love brought you down to me.
3 Re - joice, then, you sad-heart - ed, who sit in deep-est gloom,
4 Sin's debt, that fear - ful bur - den, let not your souls dis - tress;
5 He comes to judge the na - tions, a ter - ror to his foes,



Your peo - ple long to greet you, my hope, my heart's de - light.
Your thirst for my sal - va - tion pro-cured my lib - er - ty.
who mourn o'er joys de - part - ed and trem - ble at your doom.
your guilt the Lord will par - don and cov - er by his grace.
a light of con - so - la - tion and bless - ed hope to those



O Je - sus, let your Word be a lamp to light my way,
Oh, love be - yond all tell - ing that led you to em-brace
De - spair not; he is near you, he's stand - ing at the door
He comes, for you pro - cur - ing the peace of sin for - giv'n,
who love the Lord's ap - pear - ing. O glo - rious Sun, now come,



to show me how to please you, to guide me ev - 'ry day.
in love, all love ex - cel - ling, our lost and fall - en race!
who best can help and cheer you and bids you weep no more.
his chil - dren thus se - cur - ing e - ter - nal life in heav'n.
send forth your beams most cheer - ing, and guide us safe - ly home.

Text: tr. composite; Paul Gerhardt, 1607–1676, D. M. Luther's ... Geistliche Lieder, Berlin, 1653, abr. | Tune: Johann Crüger, 1598–1662, alt. | Text and tune: Public domain

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.**

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,**

* 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.

**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

Eternal Father, throughout the centuries you repeated and affirmed your promise to send the offspring of the woman to crush the serpent's head. Through your prophets of old, you continually directed the eyes of your people to the advent of their Savior.

We praise you, O Lord, for keeping your promise and sending your Son to destroy the works of the devil.

As we prepare to celebrate the birth of our King, use your mighty Word to shatter our pride and to rouse us from spiritual slumber and apathy.

Move us to take to heart the words of John: "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near."

You sent your Son to redeem us from sin. Let this good news be our joy and strength. Use it to cheer the lonely, encourage the fearful, and give hope to the despairing. In these days before Christmas, spare us from the stress of deadlines and the frenzy of commercialism.

Fill our lives with the message of your peace and the music of your grace.

Direct our eyes not only to the manger but also to the skies, where we will see your Son coming again, not as a lowly child but as the Lord of lords.

Lift up our hearts in joyful anticipation of that day.

Hold in your care, Lord, those who are experiencing physical and emotional pain and all who are afflicted by disease or facing death. [Especially bless... *here name the person and the cause of the petition.*] Pour out your compassion on the grieving and comfort the mourners who miss someone they loved.

Move us to pray for these brothers and sisters and to help when we can.

Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

Silent prayer

Come quickly, Lord Jesus, in your grace, in your power, and in your glory.

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 www.gdluth.org/giving 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.

* 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.

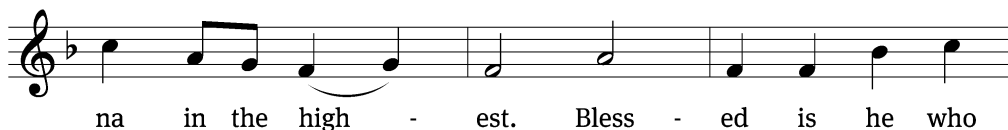
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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**



* We join the saints in the triumph song of the holy God who has rescued us. We sing, "Hosanna!" which means, "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†

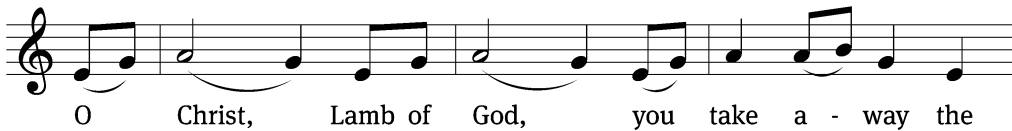
The musical notation consists of four staves of music in G major, 3/4 time. The first staff is a short melodic phrase. The second and third staves contain the lyrics: "O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us." The fourth staff repeats the beginning of the melody. The lyrics are written below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes.

* 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.

† 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*.



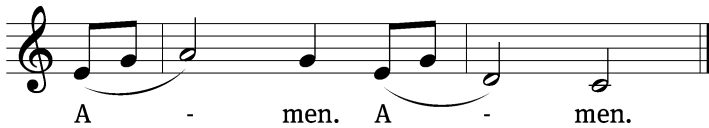
sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.



O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the



sin of the world; grant us your peace.



A - men. A - men.

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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.

Please stand

Thanksgiving

312 Comfort, Comfort All My People



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



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;



of the peace that waits for them; tell them that their
now their griefs have passed a - way. God will change their



sins I cov - er, that their war - fare now is o - ver.”
ach - ing sad - ness in - to ev - er - spring - ing glad - ness.

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.*

* 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.

* **1 Corinthians 11:26**

† 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**.

Closing Hymn

493 Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers



1 Re - joice, re - joice, be - liev - ers, and let your lights ap - pear;
2 The watch - ers on the moun - tain pro - claim the Bride - groom near;
3 You saints, who here in pa - tience your cross and suf - f'ings bore,
4 Our hope and ex - pec - ta - tion, O Je - sus, now ap - pear;



the eve - ning is ad - vanc - ing, and dark - er night is near.
go forth, as he ap - proach - es, with al - le - lu - ias clear.
shall live and reign for - ev - er when sor - row is no more.
a - rise, O Sun so longed for, a - bove this shad - owed sphere.



The Bride - groom is a - ris - ing and soon is draw - ing nigh.
The mar - riage feast is wait - ing; the gates wide o - pen stand.
A - round the throne of glo - ry the Lamb you shall be - hold,
With hearts and hands up - lift - ed we plead, O Lord, to see



Up, pray and watch and wres - tle; at mid - night comes the cry.
A - rise, O heirs of glo - ry; the Bride - groom is at hand.
in tri - umph lay be - fore him your shin - ing crowns of gold.
the day of earth's re - demp - tion that sets your peo - ple free.

Text: tr. Sarah B. Findlater, 1823–1907, alt.; Laurentius Laurenti, 1660–1722, abr.

Tune: Swedish

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
Catechism Class.....	12:00 pm

Monday

Golden Gate Circuit Pastors' Meeting [St. Peter, Modesto]	10:00 am
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Tuesday

In-Person Midweek Bible Class [Luke]	10:30 am
Online Midweek Bible Class [Luke]	7:30 pm

Thursday

Bible Information Class	4:30 pm
Church Council Meeting	7:00 pm

Next Sunday

Worship	10:30 am
Coffee Hour	11:30 am
Christmas Eve Worship	6:00 pm

No Sunday School or Catechism Class

Next Monday

Christmas Day Worship	10:30 am
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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 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
- **Sunday, December 31, 10:30am:** New Year's Eve Worship [No evening 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 worship. 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*



