The Fourth Sunday in Lent March 10, 2024



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

While not every religion uses the word "sin," they all embrace the concept. Every religion acknowledges that mankind's flawed attitudes or misguided actions are a source of pain, both now and potentially in eternity. So, every religion offers a solution: a set of laws, a moral code, a path to more enlightened behavior. What do they have in common? We are to solve sin through human effort. Be better! Try harder! This is the heart of every false religion. Those who correctly understand they will never overcome their sin are crushed by guilt. Those who ludicrously believe they have defeated their sin are killed by pride.

True religion offers a better way—one that frees us from guilt and has no room for pride. Jesus teaches that the solution to our sin is not to work harder. It is to trust in the work he has done for us. Salvation comes through Spirit-wrought faith in Christ.

Serving Today

Presiding Minister & Preacher	Pastor Timothy Shrimpton
Accompanist	Kathy Lee
Ushers	Jasen Higgins and Rick Huntington
Communion Assistant	Mark Baushke
Altar Preparation	Leslie Donovan
Sunday School Teacher	Kathy Lee
Coffee Hour Host	Kathy Lee

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The Service

Opening Hymn

653 Lord, to You I Make Confession



Text: tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.; Johann Franck, 1618–1677, abr. Tune: Johann Crüger, 1598–1662, 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

^{*} 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.

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.

Lord, Have Mercy

Kyrie

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.

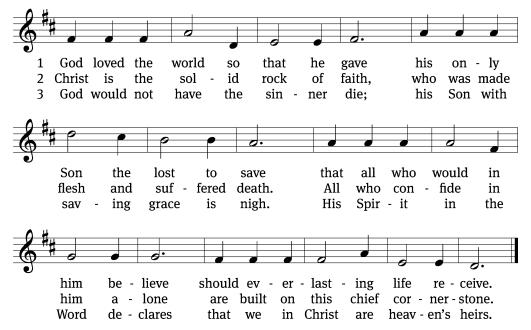
Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord. **Amen.**

^{*} 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).

Song of Response

570 God Loved the World So That He Gave, sts. 1–3*



Text: tr. August Crull, 1845–1923, alt.; Heiliges Lippen- und Hertzens- Opffer, Stettin, c. 1778 | Tune: George J. Elvey, 1816–1893 | Text and tune: Public domain

The Word

Salutation

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

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

^{*} During the solemn season of Lent, the church has historically set aside its most joyous songs and words of praise Thus during these Sundays, the traditional *Gloria in Excelsis* is replaced by a more solemn reminder of God's love and forgiveness.

Grant, O merciful Lord, to your faithful people pardon and peace that they may be cleansed from all their sins and serve you with a quiet mind; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Be seated

First Reading

Numbers 21:4-9

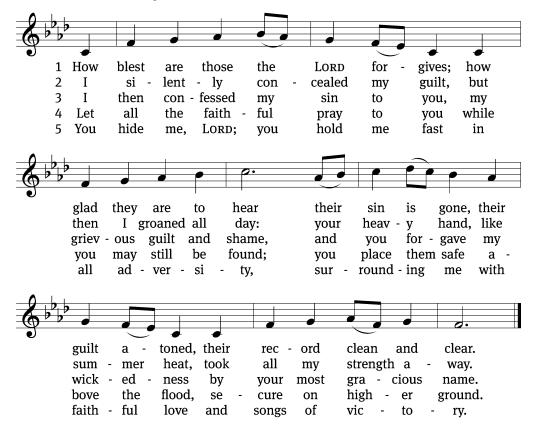
The LORD promised a solution for the bite of venomous snakes. That solution perhaps seemed nonsensical. Yet, all those who trusted God's promise lived.

hey set out from Mount Hor along the road to the Red Sea to go around the land of Edom, but the people became very impatient along the way. ⁵The people spoke against God and against Moses, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? Look, there is no food! There is no water! And we are disgusted by this worthless food!"

⁶The LORD sent venomous snakes among the people, and the snakes bit the people. As a result many people from Israel died. ⁷The people went to Moses and said, "We have sinned, because we have spoken against the LORD and against you. Pray to the LORD to take the snakes away from us." So Moses prayed on behalf of the people.

⁸The LORD said to Moses, "Make a venomous snake and put it on a pole. If anyone who is bitten looks at it, he will live." ⁹Moses made a bronze snake and put it on the pole. If a snake had bitten anyone, if that person looked at the bronze snake, he lived.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.** **Psalm of the Day**



Text: Michael D. Schultz | Tune: Repository of Sacred Music, Part Second, 1813, ed. John Wyeth | Text: © 2021 Northwestern Publishing House. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 706345 | Tune: Public domain

Second Reading

Ephesians 2:1-10

God's solution to sin is offered by grace and received through faith.

ou were dead in your trespasses and sins, ²in which you formerly walked when you followed the ways of this present world. You were following the ruler of the domain of the air, the spirit now at work in the people who disobey.

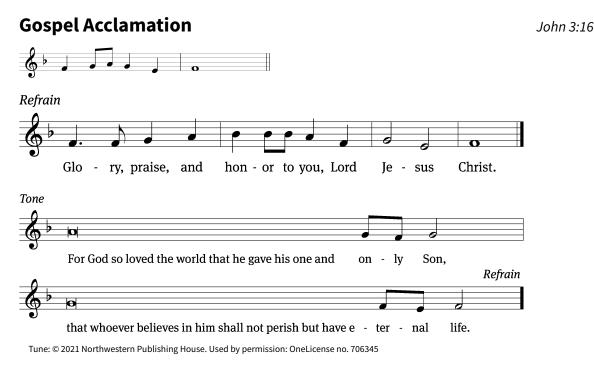
³Formerly, we all lived among them in the passions of our sinful flesh, as we carried out the desires of the sinful flesh and its thoughts. Like all the others, we were by nature objects of God's wrath.

⁴But God, because he is rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, ⁵made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in trespasses. It is by grace you have been saved! ⁶He also raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus. ⁷He did this so that, in the coming ages, he might demonstrate the surpassing riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. ⁸Indeed, it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—⁹not by works, so that no one can boast.

¹⁰For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared in advance so that we would walk in them.

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Please stand*



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

Gospel

Christ is the solution to sin. Whoever believes in Christ shall not perish but have eternal life.

ust as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, ¹⁵so that everyone who believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

¹⁶"For God so loved the world that he gave his only-begotten Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish, but have eternal life. ¹⁷For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. ¹⁸The one who believes in him is not condemned, but the one who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only-begotten Son of God. ¹⁹This is the basis for the judgment: The light has come into the world, yet people loved the darkness rather than the light, because their deeds were evil. ²⁰In fact, everyone who practices wicked things hates the light and does not come toward the light, or else his deeds would be exposed. ²¹But the one who does what is true comes toward the light, in order that his deeds may be seen as having been done in connection with God."

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

409 Jesus, Refuge of the Weary



Text: tr. Jane F. Wilde, 1826–1896, alt.; Girolamo Savonarola, 1452–1498 Tune: Erbaulicher Musicalischer Christen-Schatz, Basel, 1745 Text and tune: Public domain

Forgiveness Is Relief

Sermon

ow blessed is the person whose rebellion is forgiven, whose sin is covered. ²How blessed is the person whose guilt the LORD does not charge against him, in whose spirit there is no deceit. ³When I kept silent, my bones wasted away as I groaned all day long. ⁴For day and night your hand was heavy on me. My moisture was dried up by the droughts of summer. Interlude ⁵I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not cover up my guilt. I said, "I will confess my rebellion to the LORD," and you forgave the guilt of my sin. Interlude ⁶Because of this, let everyone who receives favor pray to you at a time when you may be found. Surely when the mighty waters overflow, they will not reach him. ⁷You are my hiding place. You will protect me from distress. You will surround me with shouts of deliverance.

Please stand

Confession of Faith

Nicene Creed*

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

^{*} 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.

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, 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

Heavenly Father, you loved the world and gave your Son to free us from sin and death by his obedient death on the cross.

We confess that without your love we are lost.

Lord of the Church, we thank you for the treasure of the gospel. By your Spirit, keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith.

Strengthen our determination to do what pleases you, no matter what the danger or the cost.

Guard and guide those who carry a cross in the name of Christ and face ridicule and persecution for the sake of the kingdom: missionaries and chaplains, young people who stand up for what is right in the face of pressure to do what is wrong, and all who pay a high price for their faith and values as Christians.

By your Spirit, O Lord, grant them patience and endurance.

Keep in your care those who carry heavy burdens in life: the sick and the chronically ill, the depressed and the lonely, those torn by conflict in personal relationships, and those victimized by war and injustice. Comfort all who face the terrors of life with a heavy heart.

Grant them peace, O Lord, and in your mercy, be their guardian and friend, their comfort and hope.

Watch over those who care for others: pastors and counselors; physicians and nurses; social workers and caring friends; all who feed the hungry, comfort the hurting, and stand beside the dying.

Strengthen them in their work, O Lord, and do not let them become weary in doing good.

Hear us as we pray in silence.

Silent prayer

Help us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. Keep us faithful even to the point of death, that we may receive the crown of life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **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 <u>www.gdluth.org/giving</u> 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.

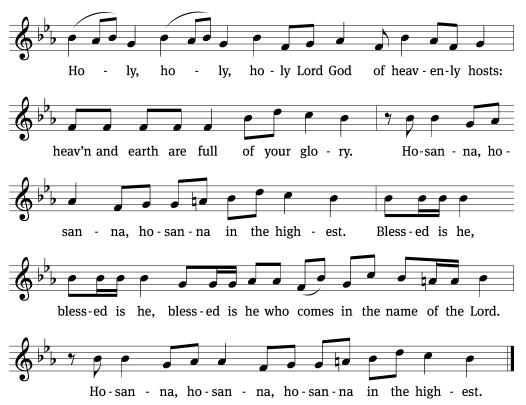
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up to the Lord.**

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, who brought the gift of salvation to all people by his death on the tree of the cross, so that the devil, who overcame us by a tree would in turn by a tree be overcome. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

^{*} 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.

Holy, Holy, Holy



Prayer of Thanksgiving

We give thanks to you, O God, through your dear Son, Jesus Christ, whom you sent to be our Savior, our Redeemer, and the messenger of your grace. Through him you made all things; in him you are well pleased. He is the incarnate Word, conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. To fulfill your promises, he stretched out his hands on the cross and released from eternal death all who believe in you.

As we remember Jesus' death and resurrection, we thank you that you have gathered us together to receive your Son's body and blood. Send us your Spirit, unite us as one, and

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*.

strengthen our faith so that we may praise you in your Son, Jesus Christ. Through him, we glorify and honor you, O God our Father, with the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

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*

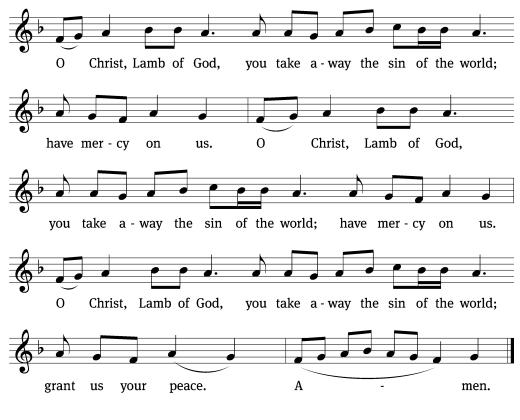
Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my + body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

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.**

^{*} 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.

O Christ, Lamb of God



Be seated

Distribution of the Lord's Supper

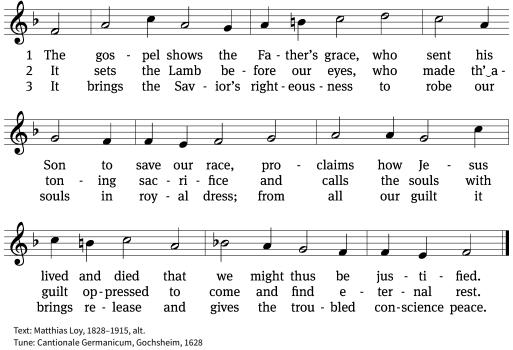
To our guests: please review "Our Communion Practice" on p. 2 of this worship folder before communing with us. If you have any questions, please speak with Pastor after the service.

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

^{*} 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*.

Thanksgiving



Text and tune: Public domain

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his mercy endures forever.*

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.

^{*} These words of praise occur repeatedly in Scripture. For an example, see **Psalm 118:1**.

^{† 1} Corinthians 11:26

Blessing*

The Lord bless you and keep you.

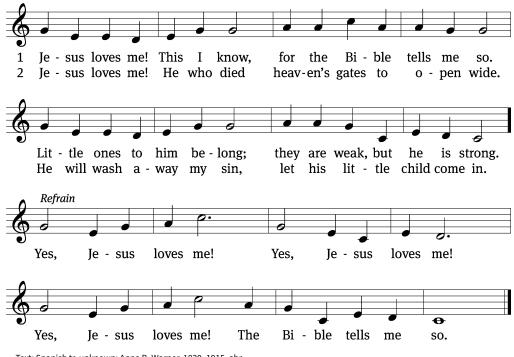
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

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

Amen.

Closing Hymn

584 Jesus Loves Me



Text: Spanish tr. unknown; Anna B. Warner, 1820–1915, abr. Tune: William B. Bradbury, 1816–1868 Text and tune: Public domain

^{*} 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**.

Calendar & Announcements

Sunday

Sunday School [Grades PreK-5th] and Bible Class [Romans]	9:15 am
Worship	10:30 am
Coffee Hour	11:30 am
Choir Practice	12:00 pm
Catechism Class	12:00 pm

Tuesday

In-Person Midweek Bible Class [Luke]	10:30 am
Bible Information Class	4:30 pm
Online Midweek Bible Class [Luke]	7:30 pm

Wednesday

Midweek Lent Worship at Peace Lutheran,	, Santa Clara7	':00 pm
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Next Sunday

Sunday School [Grades PreK-5th] and Bible Class [Romans]	9:15 am
Worship	10:30 am
Coffee Hour	11:30 am
Choir Practice	12:00 pm
Catechism Class	12:00 pm

Pastor Out of Town Next Weekend

March 14-17, 2024

Pastor Shrimpton will be out of town from March 14th through the evening of the 17th. If you have any emergency pastoral concerns at that time, please contact Pastor Paul Chung at Peace Lutheran in Santa Clara at (213) 514-1901 or Pastor Matthew Natsis at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Livermore at (734) 678-4475. Note that we will have Bible Class, worship, and Catechism as normally scheduled on Sunday, March 17. Thank you to all involved in making that work out!

Every Member Visits

Pastor Shrimpton is making a new round of visits and would like to touch base with each member famil in the congregation. These visits can take place in your home, at church, at a coffee shop, or online—whatever would be easiest and best for you and your family. You should have received an email early in the week with a link to schedule these visits, but you can also scan the code at the right to do so from your mobile device. If you have any questions, please speak with Pastor.

Bible Information Classes Available

If you are new to the Christian faith, new to Gloria Dei, or just want to review what the Bible teaches, Pastor Shrimpton offers Bible Information Classes as requested to review the teachings of the Bible. If you would like more information on these classes, please speak with Pastor after worship or email him at pastor@gdluth.org.

Text Messages Reminders from Gloria Dei

We have added the ability to send out brief text message reminders ahead of worship services, classes, or meetings as a light reminder. Those that are already signed up have said they really appreciate it as a way to stay connected to the events of the congregation, and through that, our Savior's Word. To register you can go to this address (<u>http://gdluth.360members.com/opt-in/tex-</u> ting) or scan the code to the right. Let Pastor Shrimpton know if you have any questions.







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Pastor Timothy Shrimpton pastor@gdluth.org

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

