The Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Octobeer 1, 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 to worship today who are not members of one of our sister congregations in the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS) or the Evangelical Lutheran Synod (ELS) refrain from taking the Lord's Supper today.

The Theme of Today's Worship

You have maybe heard the accusation or perhaps even made it yourself: "He's so fake!" That charge claims someone's friendliness or kindness is a sham. Such insincerity bothers us. We would generally rather someone be honest about how they feel about us than be fake.

Through a story Jesus teaches us that God feels the same. God doesn't want us to simply go through religious motions like some sort of show. He sees right through that. God's desire is that our repentance would demonstrate sincere sorrow over sin. God wants us to see the grace and forgiveness he has shown us in Christ, and in response, to love him back deeply and sincerely.

Serving Today

Presiding Minister & Preacher	Pastor Timothy Shrimpton
Organ Assistant	Oliver Shrimpton
Ushers	Steve Hansen and Jasen Higgins
Communion Assistant	Jasen Higgins
Altar Preparation	Mirna Hansen
Sunday School Teacher	Paul Mueller
Coffee Hour Host	Janet Powers

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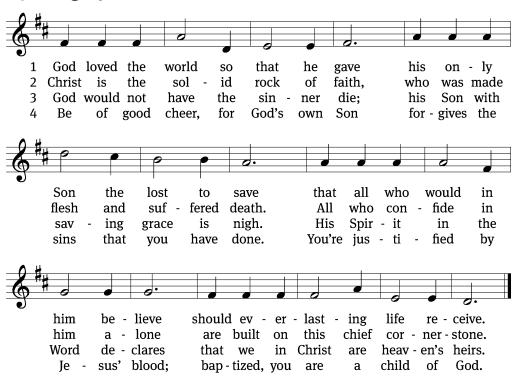


The Service

American Hymn Tunes

Opening Hymn

570 God Loved the World So That He Gave



- 5 If you are sick, if death is near, this truth your troubled heart can cheer: Christ Jesus saves my soul from death; this is the anchor of my faith!
- Glory to God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, Three in One! To you, O blessèd Trinity, be praise now and eternally!

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

Invocation

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

Amen.

Confession

Blessed are they whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered. **Blessed are they whose sin the Lord does not count against them.***

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

Almighty and merciful Father,

we have strayed from your ways like lost sheep.

We have followed what we have devised and desired in our hearts.

We have offended you and sinned against your holy law.

We have done those things that we should not have done, and we have not done those things that we should have done.

Have mercy on us, Lord!

Spare us, forgive us, and restore us, according to your promises in Christ Jesus.

Silence for meditation and reflection

Declaration of Grace

God, our merciful Father, has forgiven all our sins. He sent his Son, Jesus Christ, to be our Redeemer and Savior. Jesus paid the penalty for our guilt by his death on the cross and freed us from death by his resurrection from the grave. We have peace with God now and forever.

Amen.

^{*} Psalm 32:1-2

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.

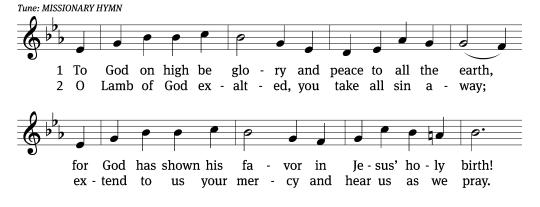
Lord, have mercy.

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

Amen.

Glory to God in the Highest

Gloria in Excelsis*



^{*} This song borrows the words of the angels as they proclaimed the birth of the Savior to the shepherds (**Luke 2:14**). This song's traditional name, *Gloria in Excelsis*, is a Latin phrase meaning glory in the highest.



Al - might-y God and Fa - ther, our hum-ble thanks we bring; With God the Ho - ly Spir - it, at God the Fa - ther's throne,



we wor-ship you, we bless you, Lord God, our heav'n-ly King. you reign, O Christ, for - ev - er, for you are Lord a - lone!

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The Word

Salutation

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

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

Mercifully grant, O God, that your Holy Spirit may in all things direct and rule our hearts, for without your help we are unable to please you; 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 Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32

The word of the LORD came to me.

²What do you mean, you who keep repeating this proverb concerning the soil of Israel, "Fathers eat sour grapes, and their sons' teeth are set on edge"? ³As surely as I live, declares the LORD God, you will never again use this proverb in Israel. ⁴Indeed, all souls are mine. The soul of the father is mine just like the soul of the son. The soul who sins is the one who will die.

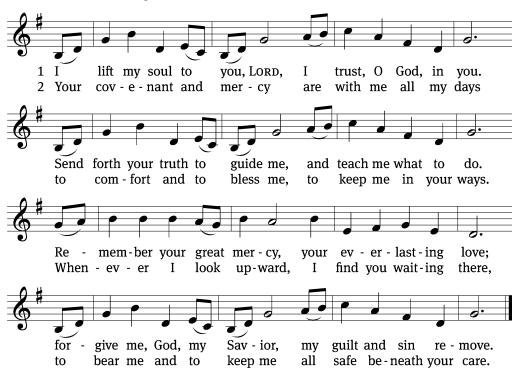
²⁵But you say, "The LORD's way is not fair." Listen now, house of Israel. Is it my way that is not fair? Is it not your ways that are not fair? ²⁶If a righteous man turns away from his righteousness and practices unrighteousness, he will die because of it. Because of the unrighteousness that he has practiced, he will die.

²⁷But if a wicked man turns from his wickedness that he has done and practices justice and righteousness, he will preserve his life. ²⁸Because he has seen and turned away from all the rebellious acts that he had committed, he will surely live, and he will not die. ²⁹But the house of Israel says, "The LORD's way is not fair." Is it really my ways that are not fair, O house of Israel? Is it not your ways that are not fair?

³⁰Therefore, I will judge each one of you according to his ways, O house of Israel, declares the LORD God. Repent and turn away from all your rebellious acts, so that you will not set out a stumbling block that makes you guilty. ³¹Throw off from yourselves all your rebellious actions by which you have rebelled, and obtain a new heart and a new spirit for yourselves. Why should you die, O house of Israel? ³²For I take no pleasure in the death of anyone who dies, declares the LORD God. So repent and live!

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.



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Tune: Swedish

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Second Reading

Philippians 2:1-11

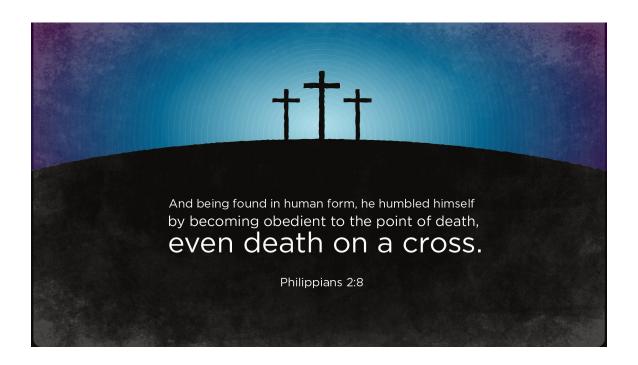
So if there is any encouragement in Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any fellow-ship with the Spirit, if any affection and compassion, ²then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being united in spirit, and having one mind. ³Do nothing out of selfish ambition or empty conceit, but in humility consider one another better than yourselves. ⁴Let each of you look carefully not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.

⁵Indeed, let this attitude be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus. ⁶Though he was by nature God, he did not consider equality with God as a prize to be displayed, ⁷but he emptied himself by taking the nature of a servant. When he was born in human likeness, and his appearance was like that of any other man, ⁸he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross. ⁹Therefore God also highly

exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰so that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹and every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.



Please stand

Gospel Matthew 21:23-32

When Jesus went into the temple courts, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him while he was teaching and said, "By what authority are you doing these things?" and "Who gave you this authority?"

²⁴Jesus answered them, "I will also ask you one question. If you answer it, I will tell you by what authority I do these things. ²⁵The baptism of John, where was it from? From heaven or from men?"

They discussed it among themselves, saying, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Then why did you not believe him?' ²⁶But if we say, 'From men,' we are afraid of the

crowd, since they all regard John as a prophet." ²⁷So they answered Jesus, "We do not know."

He said to them, "Then I will not tell you by what authority I do these things."

²⁸"What do you think? A man had two sons. He went to the first and said, 'Son, go work today in my vineyard.' ²⁹He answered, 'I will not,' but later he changed his mind and went. ³⁰He came to the second and said the same thing. The second son answered, 'I will go, sir,' but he did not go. ³¹Which of the two did the will of his father?"

They said to him, "The first."

Jesus said to them, "Amen* I tell you: The tax collectors and the prostitutes are entering the kingdom of God ahead of you. ³²For John came to you in the way of righteousness, but you did not believe him. However, the tax collectors and prostitutes did believe him. Even when you saw this, you did not change your mind and believe him."

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.

^{*} Usually, people say Amen at the end of a prayer. But Jesus used this Hebrew word at the beginning of a statement, which was unique. The inspired writer simply transliterated the Hebrew word that Jesus spoke, instead of using a Greek term. This translation does the same in English. The basic meaning is I solemnly tell you the truth. For more information about this, see FAQ #1 at wartburgproject.org/ faqs



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

Tune: Johann Crüger, 1598-1662, alt.

Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon

What Motivates Our Words and Actions?

Matthew 21:23-32

Please stand

Apostles' Creed*

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended into hell.
The third day he rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Be seated

Prayer of the Church

Almighty God and Father, we thank you for all your mercies, especially for the gift of your Son, through whom you have revealed your gracious will. We praise you for the Holy Spirit and his working through the means of grace.

Plant your Word in our hearts, and cause it to produce fruit in our lives.

Strengthen and defend your Church, that by your Word and sacraments faith may grow and love toward all may increase.

Support all who spread the light of your truth throughout the world.

^{*} The Apostles' Creed is an ancient confession of faith in the Christian church and is one of three nearly-ubiquitous confessions throughout Christendom. While not written by the apostles, it serves as a summary of their teaching.

Keep our children in the grace of their baptisms. Enable their parents to train them in lives of faith.

Raise up Christians to serve you in the ministry of the Word and in all godly walks of life.

Preserve our nation in justice and honor. Guide and bless all who make, administer, and judge our laws.

Give them wisdom that they may promote justice and hinder evil.

Let your blessing rest on planting and harvest, commerce and industry, medicine and science, the arts and culture. Protect all who travel, and care for those whose work is difficult or dangerous.

Be with all who devote themselves to any useful task.

Comfort all who are in sorrow or need, sickness or adversity. Remember those who suffer persecution for the faith. Have mercy on those for whom death draws near.

Grant them your love, and take them into your tender care.

Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

Silent prayer

We remember with thanksgiving those who have loved and served you, who now rest from their labors. Console those who are mourning or living with sadness.

Keep us in the true faith, and bring us at last to the joys of heaven.

Grant us these things, Father, for the sake of Jesus, who died and rose again. **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.

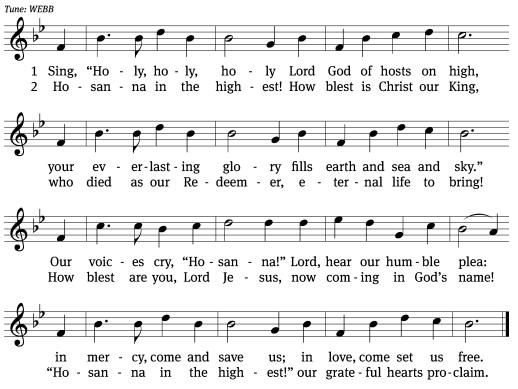
We lift them up to the Lord.

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 promised that wherever two or three come together in his name, there he is with them to shepherd his flock until he comes again in glory. 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.



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Prayer of Thanksgiving

Blessed are you, Lord God, eternal King and gracious Father. In love you made us the crown of your creation. In mercy you planned our salvation. In grace you sent your Son to redeem us from sin.

We remember and give you thanks that your eternal Son, Jesus Christ, became flesh and made his dwelling among us, that he willingly placed himself under law to redeem those under law, that he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death on a cross, that he has destroyed death and has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.

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

[&]quot;Please save us!" The traditional name for this song, Sanctus, is the Latin word for Holy.

Bless us as we receive your Son's body and blood in this Sacrament. Forgive our sins, increase our faith, strengthen our fellowship, and deepen our longing for the day when Christ will welcome us to his eternal feast. Praise and thanks and honor and glory be to you, O God our Father, and to your Son and to 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*

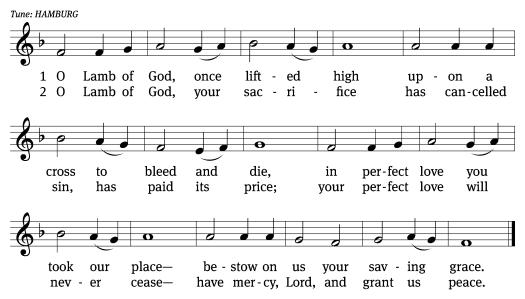
Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my + body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

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.



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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.

^{*} 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*.

Hymn of Thanksgiving

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



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



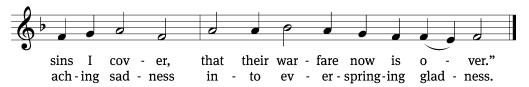
says our God. "Com - fort those who sit in dark - ness, groan - ing dark mis - deed; all that well de-served his an - ger he no



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



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

Thanksgiving

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.

Blessing

Amen.

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.

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

^{† 1} Corinthians 11:26



- 1 Hail, O once de spis ed Je sus! Hail, O Gal i le an King!
- 2 Pas-chal Lamb, by God ap-point-ed, all our sins on you were laid;
- 3 Je sus, heav'n-ly hosts a dore you, seat-ed at your Fa-ther's side.
- 4 Wor-ship, hon or, pow'r, and bless-ing you are wor-thy to re-ceive



You have suf-fered to re-lease us, hope to give and peace to bring. by al-might-y love a-noint-ed, you have full a-tone-ment made. Cru-ci-fied this world once saw you; now in glo-ry you a-bide. loud-est prais-es, with-out ceas-ing, right it is for us to give.



Hail, O u - ni - ver - sal Sav - ior, bear - er of our sin and shame; Ev - 'ry sin has been for - giv - en thro' the pow - er of your blood; There for sin-ners you are plead-ing, and our place you now pre - pare, Help, O bright an - gel - ic spir - its, all your no - blest an-thems raise;



by your mer-its we find fa-vor: life is giv-en thro' your name. o-pen is the gate of heav-en, we are rec-on-ciled to God. ev-er for us in - ter-ced-ing till in glo-ry we ap-pear. help to sing our Sav-ior's mer-its, help to chant Im-man-uel's praise.

Text: A Collection of Psalms and Hymns, London, 1760; A Collection of Hymns, London, 1757 Tune: Geist-reiches Gesang-Buch, Halle, 1704, ed. Johann A. Freylinghausen Text and tune: Public domain

Calendar & Announcements

Sunday

Sunday School [Grades PreK-5th] and Bible Class [Genesis]	9:00 am
Worship	10:30 am
Coffee Hour	11:30 am
Catechism Class	12:00pm
Congregational Brainstorming Session	2:00pm
Tuesday In-Person Midweek Bible Class [Luke]	
Online Midweek Bible Class [Luke]	7:30 pm
Thursday	7:30 pm
Thursday	10:00 am
Thursday Senior Care Center Devotional Service [The Abigail, Redwood City]	10:00 am 4:30 pm
Thursday Senior Care Center Devotional Service [The Abigail, Redwood City] Bible Information Class	10:00 am 4:30 pm
Thursday Senior Care Center Devotional Service [The Abigail, Redwood City] Bible Information Class Member Care Committee Meeting Next Sunday Sunday School [Grades PreK-5th] and Bible Class [Genesis]	10:00 am 4:30 pm 7:00 pm 9:00 am
Thursday Senior Care Center Devotional Service [The Abigail, Redwood City] Bible Information Class Member Care Committee Meeting Next Sunday	10:00 am 4:30 pm 7:00 pm 9:00 am 10:30 am

Reading and Congregational Brainstorming

October 1, 2:00pm

Pastor Shrimpton has asked the members of the Church Council, the Evangelism Committee and the Member Care Committee to read through the book *The Gospel-Driven Church* by Jared Wilson this summer. While not a book that we would necessarily agree with every last point made, it emphasizes a Christian congregation's need to keep the gospel—the message of sins forgiven in Jesus—center to everything they do. All the members of Gloria Dei are invited to share in this reading exercise and join in the brainstorming session this afternoon at 2pm. If you have any questions, please speak with Pastor.

Church Picnic at Twin Pines Park

October 15, 2023, 10:30am

Our annual church picnic will be held on Sunday, October 15. We will once again hold our service and potluck picnic meal in the Redwood Picnic Area of Twin Pines Park (1 Twin Pines Lane,

Belmont, CA 94002). Church will provide hamburgers and hotdogs; everyone is encouraged to bring side dishes and desserts to share. If you cannot bring anything to share, please come anyway. There's always plenty of food! We look forward to a day of outdoor worship and picnic fellowship to follow! If you have any questions, please speak with Pastor.

Congregational Voters' Meeting

October 29, 2023, 12pm

Our next congregational voters' meeting will be held on Sunday, October 29, following worship in the sanctuary. If you can, please plan to attend for important updates on our work as a congregation and to discuss and decisions that need to be made at that time. If you have any items you'd like to make sure are discussed at the meeting, please speak with Steve Hansen or Pastor Shrimpton.



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

Pastor Timothy Shrimpton pastor@qdluth.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

