



GLORIA DEI LUTHERAN CHURCH

Grace changes everything.

Dana Point, California

gloriadei@mygloriadei.org Mygloriadei.org 949-493-3414



LENT 2025
Where Grace is Served

ASH WEDNESDAY

March 5, 2025 + 12:00pm and 7:00pm

WELCOME to worship! Ash Wednesday begins the Season of Lent, preparing our hearts, minds, and lives for Easter. Today, we receive the "Imposition of Ashes" on our foreheads - an ancient sign of repentance and desire to start anew. We also begin the series on *The Beatitudes* - Jesus' words on the way of blessing. (Matthew 5:1-12) Thank you for joining us on the journey!

PRELUDE: *Pange Lingua* by Charles Callahan

Micaela Lum, Organist/Pianist

THE WELCOME AND INVOCATION

ORDER OF CONFESSION (Psalm 51)

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

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love;
according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.

Against you, you alone, have I sinned, and done what is evil in your sight,
so that you are justified in your sentence and blameless when you pass judgment.

Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities.
Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me.

Do not cast me away from your presence, and do not take your Holy Spirit from me.
Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and sustain in me a willing spirit. Amen.

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

THE GATHERING HYMN: *All Are Welcome*

#641 vv. 1-3

THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

(The Lord be with you. **And also with you.** Let us pray.)

Gracious God, out of your love and mercy you breathed into dust the breath of life, creating us to serve you and our neighbors. Call forth our prayers and acts of kindness, and strengthen us to face our mortality with confidence in the mercy of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

THE FIRST LESSON: Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

Blow the trumpet in Zion; sound the alarm on my holy mountain! Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble, for the day of the LORD is coming, it is near- a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness! Like blackness spread upon the mountains, a great and powerful army comes; their like has never been from of old, nor will be again after them in ages to come. Yet even now, says the LORD, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; rend your hearts and not your clothing. Return to the LORD your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, abounding in steadfast love, and relenting from punishment. Who knows whether he will not turn and relent and leave a blessing behind him, a grain offering and a drink offering for the LORD your God? Blow the trumpet in Zion; consecrate a fast; call a solemn assembly; gather the people. Consecrate the congregation; assemble the aged; gather the children, even infants at the breast. Let the bridegroom leave his room, and the bride her canopy. Between the vestibule and the altar, let the priests, the ministers of the LORD, weep. Let them say, "Spare your people, O LORD, and do not make your heritage a mockery, a byword among the nations. Why should it be said among the peoples, 'Where is their God?'" (Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**)

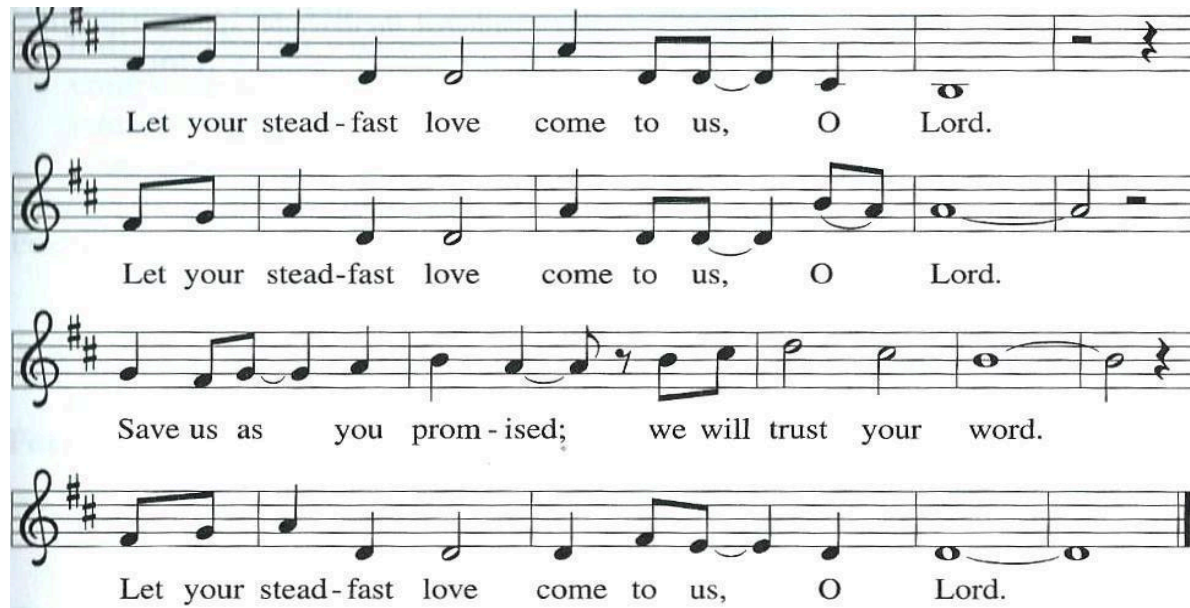
THE SECOND LESSON: 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10

We entreat you on behalf of Christ: be reconciled to God. For our sake God made the one who knew no sin to be sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. As we work together with

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

THE GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (Please stand.)

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

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

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

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

The Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew the 6th chapter. **Glory to You, O Lord.**

THE GOSPEL: Matthew 6: 1-4, 16-18

Jesus said, "Beware of practicing your piety before others in order to be seen by them; for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven. So whenever you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be praised by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. And whenever you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces so as to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so that your fasting may be seen not by others but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you."

(The Gospel of our Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**)

THE HYMN: O Sacred Head, Now Wounded

#351 vv. 1-3

THE VIDEO PRESENTATION

THE MESSAGE: *For Lent, Give Up!*

Pastor David R. Mattson

OFFERING & OFFERTORY MUSIC: *Enough Seed That in Earth Is Dying* arr. Ellingboe

Art & Music Minister Michelle Lum (12pm)
Sanctuary Choir (7pm)

OFFERTORY RESPONSE: Take O Take Me As I Am

OFFERTORY PRAYER

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

THE LORD'S PRAYER

THE BLESSING OF THE ASHES

THE IMPOSITION OF THE ASHES

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

Abide with Me

#629

How Deep the Father's Love for Us

THE ABSOLUTION (Please stand)

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

THE BLESSING

THE SENDING HYMN: Jesus Keep Me Near the Cross

#335 vv. 1-3

THE POSTLUDE: *Fantasia in d-moll* by Pachelbel

Micaela Lum, Organist/Pianist

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THANK YOU to our Sanctuary Choir for singing this evening and thanks to the group who will be leading future Wednesday services. Thanks to readers: Craig Collins, 12pm & Jeff Contestabile, 7pm. Thanks also to our ushers: Dennis Pysz, 12pm & David Warneke, 7pm.

SEASON OF LENT begins this Wednesday with Ash Wednesday, March 5 - there are 3 opportunities to receive imposition of ashes:

- 8am Drive by ashes outside of Bankson Hall;
- 12pm Ash Wednesday Worship in the Sanctuary;
- 7pm Worship in Bankson Hall. (Soup supper begins at 6pm in Bankson Hall.).

LENTEN THEME: *Where Grace is Served.* Each Wednesday, a different member will share their faith story and how hospitality, meals, and Holy Communion are all a part of their journey.

LENTEN OFFERING BOXES available at the Welcome Table. This year offerings will go to Disaster Response (Wildfires) and World Central Kitchen.

FIRST COMMUNION preparation for children is 3 consecutive Wednesdays at 5:15pm: March 12, 19 & 26. Each child & a parent meet with Pastor David in the Sanctuary. See sign-up for details.

LENTEN SOUP SUPPER & WORSHIP will be every Wednesday at 6pm with Lenten worship at 6:30pm from March 12 - April 9. If you want to bring soup to share, sign up at the Welcome Table.

HOLY WEEK begins with Palm Sunday, April 13 (Procession with Palms and Donkey). Worship - 8:30am/10am and pancake breakfast, 11:15am.

CHRIST IN OUR HOME DEVOTIONAL - Please pick up your copy at the Welcome Table. Large print is also available.

MEN'S SPRING TRAINING RETREAT (March 7-9) in Tempe, AZ. Carpool over on Friday (5:45am), two ball games, great fellowship, return Sunday. This trip is full. Come out next year, March 6-8, 2026!

LOS ANGELITOS ORPHANAGE TRIP - Sat., March 15, 7am - 7pm. If interested, sign up at the Welcome Table. Passport required. If you can't attend, but want to help, contact Eric Houser for donation ideas.

YOUTH SERVICE PROJECT - Jr. & Sr. High youth meet at Serra's Pantry in SJC, 9am - 12pm, March 15. Friends are welcome to join in. Volunteer hours. Contact Paige Gulck at youth@mygloriadei.org.

YOUNG COUPLES WITH KIDS - Sunday, March 30, 11am-1pm. River Street Marketplace (food, fellowship, kid friendly), SJC. Sign-up at the Welcome Table. Questions, please contact the office.

MIRABELL TRIO CONCERT - April 4, 5pm, Sanctuary. Gloria Dei concert series begins with chamber music - Julie Ayer (violin), Karen Follingstad (piano), and Martha Lippi (cello).

SUNDAY SCHOOL (preschool-5th grade) meets during both morning services. Children leave after the Children's Message and return at Holy Communion.

OFFERING - Thank you for supporting Gloria Dei! Please place check/money in donation boxes or give electronically - Venmo app - @GloriaDei-DanaPoint or Zelle - gloriadei@mygloriadei.org. You can also donate via credit/ debit card through Vanco, our secure site: mygloriadei.org/donate.

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY takes place every Wednesday, 10am, Knudson Hall. This study is led by Pastor David or Deacon Daneen. All women are invited to join at any time!

GRIEF HEALING GROUP - Meets on Thursdays at 1pm in Knudson Hall. The group meets weekly on Thursday. All in need are welcome to join at any time. Pick up a flyer at the Welcome Table.

ART GATHERING - Monthly gathering on Friday, March 14, 6:30pm, Bankson Hall. Art & Theology series is looking at stone memorials and found objects. And talking about the Easter art project!

HOSPITALITY - Pacifica Synod Assembly - Offer a room to those attending the assembly who may not be able to afford a hotel, May 15 and 16; or just Friday, May 16. See the sign-up for details..

YOUNG ADULTS BRUNCK - 20s/30s, no kids - brunch, 11:15am, Sunday, March 30, Stacks, Dana Point. Questions, see Lindsey Worok or call the office. (This group meets last Sunday/month)

DEI-LY UPDATES - Gloria Dei provides weekly email news for friends and members. This is church & ministry news only. If you would like to receive updates, go to the website: mygloriadei.org & sign up.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR MARCH 5 - 8, 2025

Wednesday: AA Men (7am); Drop By Ash Imposition (8am - 9am); Ash Wednesday Worship (12pm); Lenten Soup Supper (6pm); Ash Wednesday Worship (7pm); 12 Step Couples (7:30pm)

Thursday: AA Men (7am); AA Women (9:30am); Grief Healing Group (1pm); Al Anon Coed (5:30pm); AA Men (7pm)

Friday: Men's Spring Training Retreat (day 1); Al Anon Meeting (10am)

Saturday: Men's Spring Training Retreat (day 2); AA Men (7am); Women's Board Meeting (9am); ACA Meeting (11:30am); Ukrainian School of OC (1:30pm)

MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

- ❖ Prayer Labyrinth (April 12)
- ❖ Women's Tea (April 26)
- ❖ Blood Drive (May 7)
- ❖ Pacifica Synod Assembly (May 15 - 17)
- ❖ Couples with Young Kids Beach Play Date (May 18)
- ❖ Annual Church Campout (June 6-8)
- ❖ Vacation Bible School (June 16-20)
- ❖ 60th Anniversary of GDLC/Party and Dinner (September 19)
- ❖ Women's Retreat (October 3-5)