

Ibaraki Kasugaoka Church in Ibaraki, Japan, which is known as the Church of the Light because of the cruciform-shaped opening in the concrete wall behind the altar, designed by architect Tadao Ando.

Georgetown Lutheran Church
1556 Wisconsin Avenue N.W.
Washington, DC 20007

Welcome to Georgetown Lutheran Church!

We welcome you in the name of Jesus. We love welcoming visitors and invite you to make yourself at home - **restrooms** are located down the hall on the left.

If you're interested in learning more about our congregation, have questions, or are looking for a church home, speak with Pastor Brett or church members. Information, brochures, free devotionals, and other materials are available to take in the hallway near the entrance.

You are invited to join in all parts of worship. Everything you need is printed in this worship bulletin. We participate by singing, speaking, and praying together in worship - all join in portions printed in **bold print**. We stand to sing and during different parts of the service, but feel free to remain seated if you need or like. We share in Holy Communion at every worship service - all are welcome, but none should feel forced.

We love having **children in worship** and welcome their active presence. Kids love to be able to see and know what's going on in worship, and we love to help them learn! Under the window at front right there is a **kids' area**, for our littlest ones (and parents) to engage and be welcomed in worship. Come color, play, and worship at kid-level! Feel free at any time to use our nursery, located down the hall, where a changing table is available.

Our worship is rooted in the ancient pattern of the church – gathering, word, meal, sending. The shape of this liturgy and much of the actual words/prayers come directly from scripture. Though we make seasonal shifts, the constancy of our worship reflects God's constant love and promises through forgiveness, scripture, and the sacraments of baptism and communion. Following this liturgical pattern, as well as the Revised Common Lectionary, a three-year cycle of scripture readings, we are connected through our worship with Christians around the world and throughout time.

For more including contact information and Sunday worship schedule, see the back cover.

Worship with Holy Communion

Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 19, 2023

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as people of God

*Interested in the
“why?” Follow
the notes in this
column.*

PRELUDE

WELCOME

*Some make the
sign of the cross,
marked at
baptism, as the
pastor does, but
no one should
feel forced.*

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

We worship as we live: in the name of the Father, Son, and + Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Most merciful God,

we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves.

**We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done and by what we have left undone.**

We have not loved you with our whole heart;

we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.

For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us.

Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

We continue the rest of worship forgiven for all that came before, with courage for what's ahead.

GATHERING HYMN

God Whose Almighty Word

ELW#673

This greeting is from scripture, 2 Cor. 13:13.

Kyrie (pronounced KEE-ree-ay) is the Greek word for Lord. "Kyrie eleison" means "Lord, have mercy," sung for centuries as a prayer litany of repentance.



1 God, whose al - might - y word cha - os and dark - ness heard
2 Christ, who once came to bring, on your re - deem - ing wing,
3 Spir - it of truth and love, life - giv - ing, ho - ly dove,
4 Ho - ly and bless - ed three, glo - ri - ous Trin - i - ty,



and took their flight: hear us, we hum - bly pray, and where the
heal - ing and sight; health to the trou - bled mind, sight where il -
speed forth your flight; move on the wa - ter's face bear - ing the
Wis - dom, Love, Might: bound - less as o - cean's tide, roll - ing in



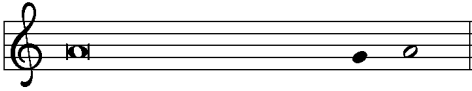
gos - pel day sheds not its glo - rious ray, let there be light.
lu - sions blind; oh, now to hu - man-kind let there be light.
lamp of grace, and in earth's dark - est place let there be light.
full - est pride, through the earth, far and wide, let there be light.

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

KYRIE

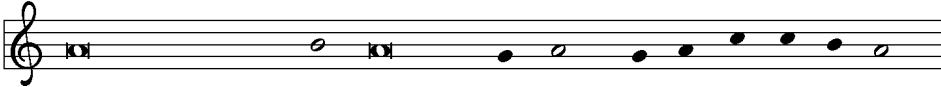
Note: Leader sings the lighter print; congregation responds singing the bold text.



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,

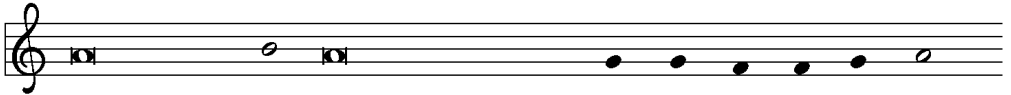


and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

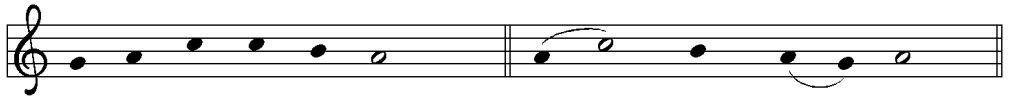
What do you want or need mercy for today? For you, anyone else, or the world?



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. **Lord have mer - cy.**



Help, save, comfort, and de-fend us, gra-cious Lord. **A - men.**

The prayer of the day collects the themes from today's scripture readings.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Bend your ear to our prayers, **Lord Christ, and come among us. By your gracious life and death for us, bring light into the darkness of our hearts, and anoint us with your Spirit, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching and song

1 SAMUEL 16:1-13

¹The LORD said to Samuel, “How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons.” ²Samuel said, “How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me.” And the LORD said, “Take a heifer with you, and say, ‘I have come to sacrifice to the LORD.’” ³Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you.” ⁴Samuel did what the LORD commanded, and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling, and said, “Do you come peaceably?” ⁵He said, “Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the LORD; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice.” And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

⁶When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, “Surely the LORD’s anointed is now before the LORD.” ⁷But the LORD said to Samuel, “Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the LORD does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart.” ⁸Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. He said, “Neither has the LORD chosen this one.” ⁹Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, “Neither has the LORD chosen this one.” ¹⁰Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, “The LORD has not chosen any of these.” ¹¹Samuel said to Jesse, “Are all your sons here?” And he said, “There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep.” And Samuel said to Jesse, “Send and bring him; for we will not sit down until he comes here.” ¹²He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and had beautiful eyes, and was handsome. The LORD said, “Rise and anoint him; for this is the one.” ¹³Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the presence of his brothers; and the spirit of the LORD came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

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

Samuel anointed David even though he was the eighth-oldest son of Jesse and did not match his brothers in height or other physical characteristics. With the anointing came endowment with the Spirit of the LORD, designating David as the LORD’s chosen successor to Saul.

PSALM 23

¹The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not be in want.

²The LORD makes me lie down in green pastures and leads me beside still waters.

³You restore my soul, O LORD, and guide me along right pathways for your name's sake.

⁴Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil;
for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

⁵You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

⁶Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

*We stand because
we believe our
Lord is
particularly
present with us in
the gospel reading.
These words are
from Joel 2:13*

(We stand to welcome the gospel.)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and mer - ci - ful,



slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

The holy gospel, according to John, the 9th chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

*Jesus heals a man
born blind,
provoking a
hostile reaction
that he regards as
spiritual blindness
to the things of
God.*

JOHN 9:1-41

¹As [Jesus] walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. ²His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" ³Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him. ⁴We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. ⁵As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." ⁶When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes, ⁷saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able

to see. ⁸The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, “Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?” ⁹Some were saying, “It is he.” Others were saying, “No, but it is someone like him.” He kept saying, “I am the man.” ¹⁰But they kept asking him, “Then how were your eyes opened?” ¹¹He answered, “The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, ‘Go to Siloam and wash.’ Then I went and washed and received my sight.” ¹²They said to him, “Where is he?” He said, “I do not know.”

¹³They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. ¹⁴Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. ¹⁵Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, “He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see.” ¹⁶Some of the Pharisees said, “This man is not from God, for he does not observe the sabbath.” But others said, “How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?” And they were divided. ¹⁷So they said again to the blind man, “What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened.” He said, “He is a prophet.”

¹⁸The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight ¹⁹and asked them, “Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?” ²⁰His parents answered, “We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; ²¹but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself.” ²²His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. ²³Therefore his parents said, “He is of age; ask him.”

²⁴So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, “Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner.” ²⁵He answered, “I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.” ²⁶They said to him, “What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?” ²⁷He answered them, “I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?” ²⁸Then they reviled him, saying, “You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. ²⁹We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from.” ³⁰The man answered, “Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. ³¹We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. ³²Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. ³³If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.” ³⁴They answered him, “You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?” And they drove him out.

³⁵Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?” ³⁶He answered, “And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him.” ³⁷Jesus said to him, “You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he.” ³⁸He said,

“Lord, I believe.” And he worshiped him. ³⁹Jesus said, “I came into this world for judgment so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind.” ⁴⁰Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him, “Surely we are not blind, are we?” ⁴¹Jesus said to them, “If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, ‘We see,’ your sin remains.”

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

Pastor Brett Wilson

HYMN OF THE DAY

Let My Spirit Always Sing

ACS #1020

This hymn reflects on the themes of the day, the people's chance to "preach back" in song.



1 Let my spir - it al - ways sing, though my heart be
 2 Though my bod - y be con - fined, let your word en -
 3 Let your wis - dom grace my years, choose my words and
 4 Let my spir - it al - ways sing, to your Spir - it



win - ter - ing, though the sea - son of de - spair
 gage my mind, let the in - ner eye dis - cern
 chase my fears, give me wit to wel - come change,
 an - swer - ing, through the si - lence, through the pain



give no sign that you are there, God to whom my
 how much more there is to learn, see a world be -
 to ac - cept, and not es - trange, let my joy be
 know my hope is not in vain, like a feath - er



days be - long, let there al - ways be a song.
 com - ing whole through the win - dow of the soul.
 full and deep in the knowl - edge that I keep.
 on your breath trust your love, through life and death.

APOSTLES' CREED

Together, let us confess our faith:

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.
On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

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

*The creeds
(statements of faith)
date back to the 4th
century, containing
the basics of what
Christians hold to
be true.*

*The use of the non-
capitalized word
"catholic" here
means simply
worldwide or
universal.*

INTERCESSORY PRAYERS

*The pastor leads prayer petitions, each ending "... Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**"*

*The pastor
"intercedes" on
behalf of all to God
in prayer. We add
our own prayers
silently, trusting
God hears.*

SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**
We greet one another and offer a blessing of peace, like "peace be with you."

*More than a
pleasant greeting –
we do this to
proclaim God's
promise of peace to
one another.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

GIVING THANKS

Offerings support the mission of the church, including care for those in need. Giving (time, talents, money) is a faith practice that sustains us and our work together. You can leave your gift in the offering plate by the sanctuary entrance, scan at right to give online, or set up automatic giving at www.georgetownlutheran.com/donate, or mail checks to the church.



OFFERING PRAYER

God of all creation, all you have made is good and your love endures forever. You bring forth bread from the earth and fruit from the vine. Nourish us with these gifts, that we may be for the world signs of your gracious presence in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The Great Thanksgiving is an ancient part of worship that proclaims our thanks for the gifts of God in the meal.

(The pastor continues with the preface:) It is indeed...join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,



heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.



Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes



in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

The "Holy, Holy, Holy" echoes Isaiah 6:3 and Mark 11:9. Some make the sign of the cross at the announcement of God's presence: "Blessed is he..."

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

On the night before he died,
Jesus took bread, and gave thanks,
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:
Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,

Eucharist is the Greek word for thanks. These are the commands and promises of Jesus at the last supper with his disciples in scripture: 1Cor. 11:23-26 Matt. 26:26-29 Luke 22:15-20

Jesus taught his disciples this prayer. In this prayer, all our needs and concerns are addressed. See ELW page 1163 for Martin Luther's explanation of this prayer in the Small Catechism.

**thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the
power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.**

COMMUNION

All are welcome to receive God's real presence in holy communion today, and none should feel forced. The pastor will first invite those online and who picked up individual elements to receive at their seats. Then all who wish to receive come forward down the center aisle and up to the altar rail to receive first the wafer from the pastor and then dip the wafer in the cup (silver = wine, earthenware = grape juice). As you receive, hear the words: "the body of Christ given for you; the blood of Christ shed for you." then return to your seat by the side aisle. Gluten-free wafers are available: ask the pastor.

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
Amen.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Blessed Jesus, **in this rich meal of grace, you have fed us with your body, the bread of life. Now send us forth to bear your life-giving hope to a world in need. Amen.**

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world

SENDING HYMN

O Living Bread from Heaven

ELW #542



- 1 O liv - ing Bread from heav - en, how well you feed your guest!
- 2 My Sav - ior, you have led me with - in your ho - liest place,
- 3 You gave me all I want - ed; this food can death de - stroy.
- 4 Oh, grant me then, well-strength - ened with heav'n-ly food, while here



The gifts that you have giv - en have filled my heart with rest.
and here your - self have fed me with trea - sures of your grace;
And you have free - ly grant - ed the cup of end - less joy.
my course on earth is length - ened, to serve you, free from fear;



O won - drous food of bless - ing! O cup that heals our woes!
for you have free - ly giv - en what earth could nev - er buy,
My Lord, I do not mer - it the fa - vor you have shown,
and bring me home to praise you where none can peace de - stroy,



My heart, this gift pos - sess - ing, in thank - ful song o'er - flows!
the bread of life from heav - en, that now I shall not die.
and all my soul and spir - it bow down be - fore your throne.
where I will ev - er raise you glad songs in end - less joy.

BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace. **Amen.**

The "Aaronic Blessing" from Numbers 6:23-27.

SENDING

Go in peace, serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Our worship concludes and our service to our neighbors and world begins!

POSTLUDE

Feel free to stay and listen to the music, depart, or join us for fellowship.

Worship Participants

Pastor Brett Wilson, guest organist Laura Henderson and the GLC Community!

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We share updates and ways to serve and connect in our weekly Friday email! Subscribe at glconline.net, or fill in a yellow “Welcome” card found in the pews to join our email list or share a prayer concern.

Little Lutherans and Sunday School

Welcome all littles and kids for activities, **Sundays from 9:00-9:45** in the fellowship hall. Sunday school for grade school kids meets on the 1st and 3rd Sundays (**today!**), and Little Lutherans, for infants-PreK and parents on the 2nd Sunday of each month. See you then!

Getting Connected, Today!

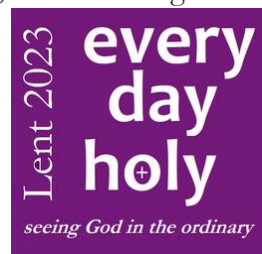
If you're new to the GLC community, or would like to meet people who are, come join in for Getting Connected, **11:15-12:30 in the fellowship hall, today!**

Getting Connected is a gathering to learn more about GLC and each other. It's open to any who are curious, and especially those considering church membership. Come if you've been before, are interested in joining, or a current member wanting to welcome others! Pastor Brett has redesigned the content, and we'll share a bit about GLC, what it means to be a Lutheran Christian and a member of our church community. For those interested in joining, we'll celebrate welcoming you as members in the context of worship sometime soon. Questions? Interested? Talk with Pastor Brett (contact info on back of bulletin)!

Lent at GLC

Our theme for Lent 2023 is **every day holy: seeing God in the ordinary**, shared through:

- a daily devotional compiled by GLC folks' submissions - in print or by email - sign up today at church or online (below) to receive it, or pick up a paper copy next Sunday!
- book discussion: read with us [Liturgy of the Ordinary: Sacred practices in everyday life](#) by Tish Harrison Warren - an engaging read that reflects on how parts of the day, from brushing your teeth to sitting in traffic, are spiritual practices. **Join us on zoom – Tuesday, 3/28 at 7:30pm.** Link in email or at the link below.
- weekly Wednesday videos: a bite-size faith connection. They'll be posted each week starting Ash Wednesday, Feb 22, on our social media accounts, shared in the weekly email, and also found at the link below. Check out this and other inspiration for a meaningful season at glconline.net/lent



This Sunday (3/19):

8:30: Brief, spoken worship
9:00: Choir practice
9:00: Sunday School for kids
10:00: Worship
11:15-12:30, Getting Connected

Next Sunday (3/26)

8:30: Brief, spoken worship
9:00: Choir practice
10:00: Worship

Thursdays 7:30pm: Bible Study, Zoom
Link/details glonline.net/social--learning.html



Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America



Reconciling
in Christ

Sunday Worship

8:30 and 10:00 AM Worship Service
Onsite (both) and on Zoom/Livestreamed (10:00am)
Holy Communion is celebrated every Sunday morning worship service.

Pastor Brett Wilson: pastor@georgetownlutheran.com * (202) 681-7421
Call the above number to reach Pastor Wilson for any emergency pastoral care need.

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<http://www.glonline.net>

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