



*I am the vine.
You are
the branches.
John 15:5-8*

Order of Worship

**April 29, 2018
10:00 am**

Gloria Dei Lutheran Church

(The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod)

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Welcome to God's House today!!!

A special welcome to visitors and guests; we are pleased that you have joined us today! If you have no church family, and if we can be of any help to you, please speak with the pastor after the service. We invite all guests to sign the Guest Register. We pray you will feel God's love for you and be empowered to live as God's child this week.

Today's Focus – Jesus Christ Is the True Vine

“God is love,” and He has manifested Himself to us by sending **“His only Son into the world, so that we might live through Him”** (1 John 4:9, 16). By the ministry of the Gospel, **“He has given us of His Spirit,”** so that we also believe and confess **“that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh.”** In this way, we **“abide in Him and He in us,”** and we **“love one another”** (1 John 4:2,7,13). Such divine love is exemplified in Philip's preaching of **“the good news about Jesus”** to the Ethiopian eunuch. At His baptism, the Ethiopian was thereby grafted into **“the true vine,”** Jesus Christ (John 15:1), just as we are. Already we are clean because of the Word that Christ has spoken to us and by the washing of water with His Word. We now abide in Him by faith in His forgiveness. As He abides in us, both body and soul, with His own body and His blood, He **“bears much fruit”** in us (John 15:3–5).

Children are welcome in worship! If childcare is needed, an unattended nursery is open during worship services. It is located across from the restrooms next to the Church Offices.

Is there something you'd like us to pray for today? ***“Prayer Request”*** cards are in each pew. Please hand your request to an usher before the service or during the offering. They will give them to the pastor to include in the prayers for today.

The Lord's Supper is celebrated on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of each month. We joyfully share our conviction that this is The Lord's Table. We receive the true Body and Blood of Jesus Christ, together with the bread and wine in a manner our human reason cannot understand. (Real Presence) By communing together with our Lord:

- we express the belief that Jesus is the Son of God and Son of Man;
- that Jesus is our Savior and only way for salvation;
- that Jesus offers us His Body and Blood in a mysterious yet real way;
- that Christ's sacrificial death grants the forgiveness of our sins;
- and that God is strengthening us in this Sacrament to live a more godly; life and to amend with the help of the Holy Spirit, those areas not in conformity with God's will.

We declare these statements because it is our concern for people to not be hypocritical between their faith and celebrate the blessings of God's Table at the Altar. Persons unable to approach the Altar may be communed in the pew, please notify the Pastor or Elder if you wish this service.

The white wine is denatured (alcohol removed)

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

AS WE GATHER: As the season of Easter continues, we discover that the risen Christ now lives in the baptized. It is as if we have been joined to His risen body, drawing life from Him like a living branch connected to a living vine. The result is bearing fruit for the kingdom of God. As we live by the promise of our Baptism and by the life-giving Word of God, so we invite and lead others to discover eternal life through God's Word and Sacraments. As Philip was led to preach the Gospel to an Ethiopian, so God blesses our witness one person at a time.

✠ WE ENTER TO WORSHIP AND BE BLESSED ✠

PRESERVICE MUSIC

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP *"Lift Up Your Heads Ye Mighty Gates"* LSB 341

INVOCATION

OUR CONFESSION OF SIN

GOD'S DECLARES - WE ARE FORGIVEN

RESPONSE OF PRAISE

Psalm 150

PRAYER OF THE DAY

✠ THE LORD COMES TO US IN HIS WORD ✠

FIRST READING

Acts 8:26-40

ESV

EPISTLE READING

1 John 4:7-21

ESV

GOSPEL ANTHEM

"To God Be the Glory"

ViW 44

HOLY GOSPEL

John 15:1-8

ESV

THE APOSTLES CREED

HYMN OF THE DAY

"There is A Redeemer"

LSB 971

SERMON

"God is Love"

1 John 4:7-21

✠ OUR RESPONSE TO THE WORD ✠

OFFERTORY

"Create in Me"

Hopkins

OFFERING OF GOD'S PEOPLE

OFFERING PRAYER

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

BENEDICTION

CLOSING SONG

"A Thankful Heart"

Ken Bible

+ Silent Prayer +

ANNOUNCEMENTS / POSTLUDE

✠ WE DEPART TO SERVE ✠

TODAY'S LUTHERAN HOUR

April 29 "The Answer to Unhappiness" (Acts 8:26-40)

Guest Speaker: Rev. Michael Newman

What do you really want? What does your heart yearn for most? A blogger recently asked her readers the question: "If you could say in one word what you want more of in life, what would that be?" Can you guess the number one answer? It was happiness.

NEXT WEEK ON THE LUTHERAN HOUR

May 6 "Love One Another as I Have Loved You" (John 15:9-17)

Guest Speaker: Rev. Dr. Dale A. Meyer

Jesus calls His followers to be different as they deal with difficult people.

On Sunday mornings, listen on 830 AM WCCO AM at 6:05 am, or 1110 AM, Omaha, at 6:30 am, or XM 170 Satellite Radio on Sundays at noon or listen anytime at www.lutheranhour.org

LUTHERANS FOR LIFE: **April 29** "When we see the unborn ... vulnerable, helpless, destined for destruction—we are compelled to speak and defend and help. And not because it is the right thing to do or the moral thing to do, but because it is the *Christ* thing to do. His hands that were pierced and His body that died and rose again were formed in a womb, giving value to all who have resided there." *Rev. Dr. James I. Lamb, former executive director of Lutherans For Life • www.lutheransforlife.org*

STEWARDSHIP: **April 29: Easter 5**

John 15:2 – "Every branch of mine that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit." God is interested in the fruit that we bear in good works, and He even prunes us so that we may bring forth more fruit. Trusting in our Lord's work for us, being grafted by grace into His vine, we desire to be more like Him, to grow into His image. That's growth in fruit bearing...and it always comes with some pruning.

WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY

1 Thessalonians

SUNDAY BIBLE STUDY

DISCIPLESHIP

A MEMORIAL SERVICE for Rosalina Ehnes will be held on Monday, May 7th at 10:30 am. A light luncheon will follow and a private family inurnment at Fort Snelling after the luncheon.

OUR WEEKLY CALENDAR

4/29 Sun	Fifth Sunday of Easter
	8:45 am Education Hour
	10:00 am Worship
	6:00 pm NA
4/30 Mon	6:30 pm Bowling Banquet
	6:30 pm AIAnon 1
	8:00 pm AA/AIAnon 2
5/02 Wed	10:00 am BIBLE STUDY
	6:30 pm TLWCC Bible Study
5/04 Fri	5:00 pm TLWCC Music Practice
	8:00 pm AA/AIAnon
5/05 Sat	10:00 am TLWCC Worship
	6:00 pm TLWCC Worship & Fellowship
5/06 Sun	The Ascension of Our Lord
	8:45 am Education Hour
	10:00 am Worship w/HC
	6:00 pm NA

SERVING TODAY

Elder: Karmon Christopherson

Ushers: The Panning Family

Counters: Dale Raschke and Wade Billmeyer

Altar Care: Morellis and Lyrenmanns

Attendance: 4/22/2018: 51

**Offerings -- Regular \$2,140; Loose Plate \$97; Kayla Hoem
(Mission) \$50; Flowers \$119.50 Total: \$2,406**

Needed each week for 2018: \$3,477.59



NE Kiwanis 64th Annual Pancake Breakfast

No One Goes Home Hungry!

TODAY -- April 29th | Serving 7 am – 1 pm

NE Armory & Community Center

1025 Broadway Ave NE, Minneapolis

(One block off Central Avenue)

BIRTHDAYS: None

ANNIVERSARIES: None

ETERNAL CANDLE: None

FLOWERS: None

IN OUR PRAYERS: Jean Brede, Karmon Christopherson, Millie Demcho, Millie Eckhardt, Deb Forsberg, Harriet Harris, Robert and Delores Kluwe, Margaret Maxwell, Ada Samson, Dorothy Woll

REQUESTED PRAYERS:

Larry Derksen (Shirley's brother) – recovery from surgery

Dr. Lori Ongeri (Debra Forsberg's niece) – for a baby boy

Jeffrey Lucero (Debra Fosberg's nephew) – Ulcer

Vera Gade (Pastor's mother) recovering at home in Shakopee

John Gillund (Patty & Meridel's brother) medical issues

Dick Gillund (Patty & Meridel's brother) medical issues

Elaine Gillund – surgery and radiation

Brandon Johnson (son of Lori Sharbono) continued good results

Roxie Johnson (Morelli's niece) heart issues

Steve Kaiser (friend of Patty Lyrenmann's brother) – COPD

Amy Price (Morelli's niece) – treatments for stage 4 cancer

Jimmy Royal & Dave (friends of Dick Gillund)

Marvin & Norma Thor – poor health/stomach cancer

Mary Phillips and Dan Crocker – Chronic Illness

Nancy Tousant (Krystal Kruse's co-worker) – Cancer

"IN OUR PRAYERS" AND "REQUESTED PRAYERS"

If you have family members or friends who require our prayers, please use the prayer request cards found in the pews or at the Ushers' counter and give to the office. They will be added to the Prayer list. Any updates to the current list? Let the office know.

Counter's Training

If you are an active counter and need a refresher on the basics of counting, OR if you have any questions, you're in luck. A refresher course will be held on Monday, May 14 at 2 pm at the church.

If you have any questions, please reach out to Nanc Rixe.

Thrivent Choice Program is Working!

In March, Gloria Dei received **\$50** on behalf of Thrivent Financial's Thrivent Choice(R) program. By directing Choice Dollars through Thrivent Choice, eligible members recommend where Thrivent Financial distributes some of its charitable outreach grant dollars among thousands of participating nonprofit organizations and congregations.

If you have any questions about Thrivent Choice, please call 1-800-847-4836 and when prompted, say, "Thrivent Choice" or email at mail@thrivent.com.

Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat

Andrew Lloyd Webber's musical "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat," will be presented at St. Matthew Lutheran Church, 4101 Washington Street NE, Columbia Heights **April 26-29** and **May 3-6** (evening performances at 7 pm and Sunday matinees at 2 pm). The **Saturday, April 28** performance will be preceded by a dinner starting at 5:45 pm. The **Saturday, May 5** performance will be preceded by a social hour at 5:45 pm. Reserved tickets at \$10 (\$20 for dinner or social hour/show combo) and proceeds will benefit the Church's theater ministry as well as mission trips to Haiti and Panama. Please call 763-788-9427 to reserve your tickets.

Spring Flower Shows at Bachman's

Bachman's Garden Center, 6010 Lyndale Ave S, Minneapolis will host two upcoming flower shows. The Daffodil Society of Minnesota's Spring Daffodil Show running May 4 – 6 will feature more than 500 daffodil blooms – and they not just yellow anymore. Then on May 20, the Daylily Society of Minnesota presents its annual daylily sale. Both events are free.

Comedy that Supports Veterans

Northeast Lions Club will host Comedy For a Cause, a fundraiser to support the troops featuring Mark Knutson & Friends, Saturday, May 5, 6 – 8 pm at the Firefighter Hall and Museum, 664 22nd Ave NE. All the money raised will go to The Mission Project to support the military and veterans. Tickets are \$10 and include a brat, chips and soda. Info: missionproject2005.org.



TOGETHER IN MISSION



Thank you everyone who so graciously donated over \$500 over the last few weeks to our Missionary, Kayla Hoem.

There is still time, if you would like to help Kayla fulfill her funding, she is 94% there, please use the **Together in Mission** envelopes with **your envelope number written** on it so as to get credit on your annual statement.

Minneapolis street sweeping begins April 24

Minneapolis will begin street sweeping Tuesday, April 24. Each spring and fall, Public Works crews sweep every mile of the city's more than 1,100 miles of streets and nearly 400 miles of alleys to help keep neighborhoods clean and livable and to protect waterways. Leaves and other debris on the streets can clog storm drains and pollute our lakes and rivers.

Street sweeping usually takes about four weeks to complete. Drivers should watch for temporary "No Parking" signs to avoid a ticket and tow. For information, including an interactive map that shows when each area is scheduled for sweeping, visit:

minneapolismn.gov/publicworks/streetsweeping/.

"Hinges" Leadership Summit Update

Only 3 of the 11 who signed up were able to make it due to the snow storm. The District will be posting iPods of the sections so hopefully these will be shown at future Bible Study times once they are available.

Join Upworks!

Discover the joy of being a Christian mentor and walking beside someone looking to change their life. Training is provided for you and a partner to coach and inspire for one hour a week for twelve weeks. The next training is May 5, 9am to 1pm. Contact [Nina Coleman](mailto:nina@upworksmn.org) (nina@upworksmn.org) for more information.

200 pounds of food was donated by Gloria Dei to the Salvation Army Minneapolis NE Central Ave location for the month of March. Thank you for your generous donations!



Catechesis Note for the Week

Why did Jesus stay around for 40 days after He came back from the grave, instead of going immediately into heaven?

One reason Jesus stayed on earth for 40 days after His resurrection instead of ascending immediately into heaven was to demonstrate to His followers that He truly was alive.

For 40 days Jesus showed the world that He lived again. The Sanhedrin had called Jesus a blasphemer, and others claimed His miracles were of the devil... but His 40 days in Jerusalem and surrounding areas, being seen by multitudes, was scarcely disputed. The contemporary Jewish historian Josephus referred to it, as did other writers. Two generations later, the writer Eusebius interviewed many people who had known people who saw Jesus during these days, told of miracles, even cited sermons and letters of the risen Jesus.

In other words, some people might not have joined the Christ-followers – although believers multiplied rapidly, even in the face of persecution soon thereafter – but very few people disputed that He rose from the dead. The number 40 appears 146 times in the Bible, a number of God's significance. We think of Noah, of the years in the wilderness, of the days Moses was on the Mount, of Jonah and Nineveh, and, in Jesus' case, the number of days He was tempted of the devil... and the number of days between the Resurrection and the Ascension.

Usually this number signifies testing, trials, probation, or a provision of prosperity. We must believe the last comes closest to the risen Lord's season before He ascended. They certainly were active days. The last verse of the last gospel's last book (John 21:25) tells us, ***"Jesus also did many other things. If they were all written down, I suppose the whole world could not contain the books that would be written."***

For those to whom Jesus appeared after the resurrection, their lives were changed. The greatest miracle in all history had just taken place: Jesus Christ was alive!

Today's Scripture Readings

ACTS 8:26-40: The Lord had indicated before his ascension that the gospel would be preached in Jerusalem, then in Judea and Samaria; and thence into all the world. The Jerusalem persecution dispersed Christians into the surrounding regions. Philip was involved in consolidating the work in Samaria. At its completion the Spirit directed him to seek out the Ethiopian emissary on the Gaza road on his return to his homeland. Having obtained a Greek language scroll of the Scriptures, the man was reading from Isaiah, chapter 53 vv 7,8. These verses in prophecy sum up Jesus' ministry very nicely. Philip took the opportunity to expound the gospel to the eunuch on their basis. The conviction of faith was followed immediately by baptism upon the eunuch's request. Notice that the new-found faith produced a transparent joy in this new believer. The gospel is seen to be starting to reach now into remoter regions of 'the world'.

1 JOHN 4:1-21: God loves not because people are worthy of his love, but because that is the kind of God he is. To see that love means that we need to see ourselves as the objects of God's wrath, and yet as people for whom Christ died. It is only in seeing his anger averted that we see what real love is. Seeing a God like that means we in turn recognize that we in the same way ought to love one another. Christians need to be growing in this love, for when love is perfected the fear of God disappears. It is in this that the Spirit uses the new life as an inner witness that our lives are changed, that we are the children of God (vv 13-16). Faith and love combine to breed a confidence in God's goodwill over against judgment; which again reinforces the eradication of hatred (vv 19-21).

JOHN 15:1-8: The utter dependence of the Christian on Jesus for all spiritual life with God is brought out here. The picture of the vine brings to mind various Old Testament passages in which Israel is depicted as God's vine. Jesus is productive for the Father as Israel was meant to be but never was. Believers are part of Jesus, as branches are to the vine, in such a way that all nourishment and life flow from him as sap does in the vine. Therefore nourishment ceases when that contact ceases. God, the vinedresser prunes (purifies) the vine in order to maximize production. While the disciples were already cleansed by Jesus' teaching, yet continued pruning would continue to improve the fruit-bearing process. Prayer is both a sign of and an instrument in the energizing process, the fruit-bearing being a proof of that discipleship.

Lessons for Ascension Sunday

Acts 10:34-48; Psalm 98; 1 John 5:1-8; John 15:9-17