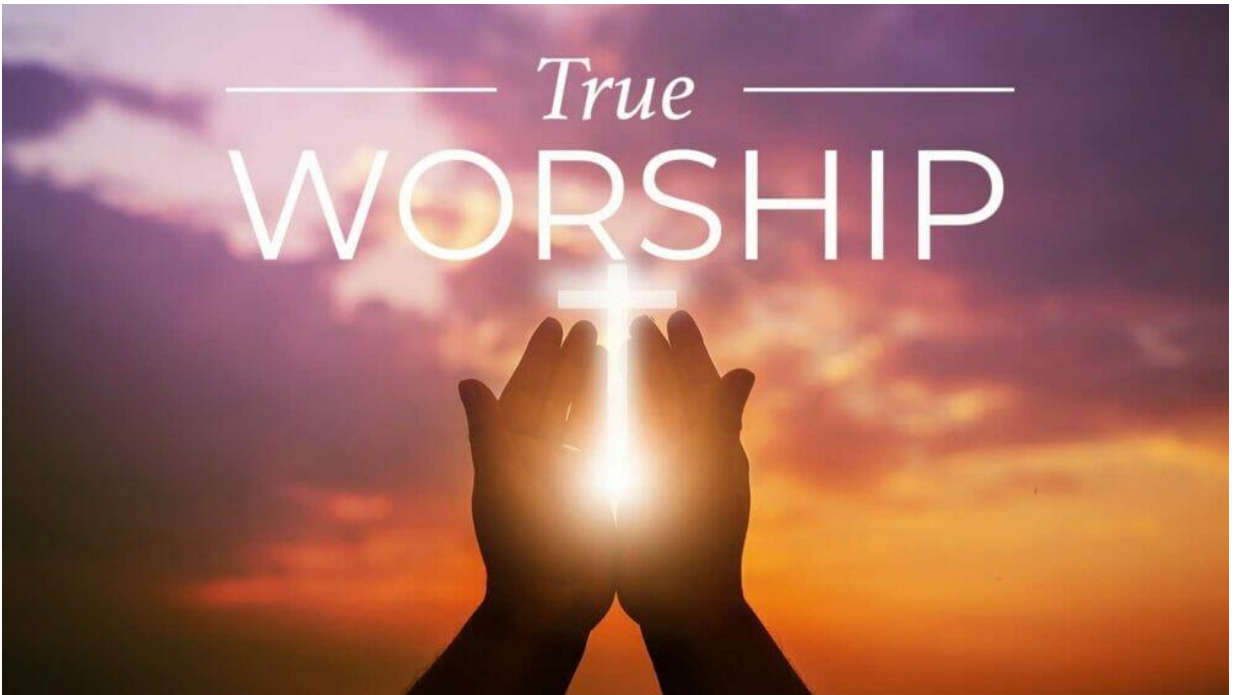


Gloria Dei Lutheran Church

(The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod)



"True Worship"

Order of Worship December 22, 2024 | 10:00 AM
Pastor Matthew Cephus

3014 McKinley Street NE, Minneapolis, MN 55418
612-781-1989

www.gloriadeilcms.org

email: info@gloriadeilcms.org

Pianist: Karrie Kikeh

Welcome to God's House!

The Mission of Gloria Dei is Caring. Sharing. Serving. Reaching.

We strive to be the local church in the community of Northeast Minneapolis, who are here to help people come to KNOW Jesus, GROW in their faith and GO into the world equipped to SERVE others. GLORY TO GOD!

Today's Topic: The Christmas story provides profound and inclusive accounts of worship. Jesus was worshipped by the lowly (shepherds) and the prominent (Magi). Both came to celebrate and honor the newborn king. The Magi recognized the differences between Godly kingship (Jesus) and worldly kingship (Herod), which is why they did not honor Herod's instructions to tell him the exact birthplace of the child they sought.

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 assistance to you, please speak with the Pastor after the service or via the church office. We pray you will feel God's love for you and be empowered to live as God's child this week. We look forward to seeing you again.

Is there something you'd like us to pray for today? If you have family members or friends who require our prayers, please use the prayer request cards found in each pew. They will be added to the Prayer list. You can hand your request to an usher before the service or during the offering. They will be given to the Pastor to be included in the prayers for today. ***Other prayer requests can be made by contacting the church office at 612.781.1989.***

Children are welcome in worship!

The Lord's Supper is celebrated.

When we receive the true Body and Blood of Jesus Christ,

- 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.



The Fourth Sunday of Advent

AS WE GATHER: Christmas reminds us of the birth of the Savior. As we prepare, let us make room in our hearts to worship and express our gratitude to God for what He did. The King deserves our best worship.

+ *CONNECT* +

WELCOME

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING SONG **"It Came Upon the Midnight Clear"** **LSB 366 v. 1, 3, 4**
Text & music: Public domain

It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old
From angels bending near the earth, to touch their harps of gold:
"Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heaven's all gracious King"
The world in solemn stillness lay, to hear the angels sing.

All you, beneath your heavy load, by care and guilt bent low,
Who toil along a dreary way with painful steps and slow:
Look up, for golden is the hour, come swiftly on the wing,
The Prince was born to bring you peace; of Him the angels sing.

For lo, the days have come to pass by prophets seen of old,
When down into the circling years came Christ as was foretold.
His word of peace shall to the earth God's ancient promise bring,
And all who take this gift will hear the song the angels sing.

INVOCATION

L: Our worship begins the way our lives in Christ begin in baptism: In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

CONFESSION OF OUR SINS

L: Let us confess our sins unto God our Heavenly Father who truly loves us.

C: Lord Jesus, we have sinned times without number, and been guilty of pride and unbelief, and of neglect to seek you in our daily lives. Our sins and shortcomings present us with a list of accusations, but we thank you that they will not stand against us, for all have been laid on Christ. Deliver us from every evil habit, everything that dims the brightness of your grace in us, and everything that prevents us taking delight in you. This is our prayer in Jesus' name. Amen.

FORGIVENESS IS ANNOUNCED

+ *NURTURE* +

HYMN OF PRAISE

"Joy to the World"

v. 1, 2, 4

Text & Tune: Public Domain

Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King;
Let ev'ry heart prepare Him room
And heav'n and nature sing, and heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.

Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let men their songs employ,
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
Repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat, the sounding joy.

He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness
And wonders of His love, and wonders of His love,
And wonders, wonders, of His love.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Micah 5:2-4

But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose coming forth is from of old, from ancient days.

Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has given birth; then the rest of his brothers shall return to the people of Israel. And he shall stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And they shall dwell secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

EPISTLE READING

Revelation 5:7-14

And he went and took the scroll from the right hand of him who was seated on the throne. And when he had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each holding a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. And they sang a new song, saying,

"Worthy are you to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation, and you have made them a kingdom and priests to our God, and they shall reign on the earth."

Then I looked, and I heard around the throne and the living creatures and the elders the voice of many angels, numbering myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands, saying with a loud voice,

"Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!"

And I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, saying,

"To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!"

And the four living creatures said, "Amen!" and the elders fell down and worshiped.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 2:1-12

L: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

C: Glory to You, O Lord!

Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, saying, "Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him."

When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet:

"And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel."

Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship him." After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. And going into the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

L: This is the Gospel of our Lord.

C: **Praise to You, O Christ!**

SONG OF THE DAY

"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

LSB 380

Text & music: Public domain

Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King;
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations, rise, join the triumph of the skies;
With the angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

Christ, by highest heav'n adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord,
Late in time behold Him come, Offspring of a virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see! Hail, the incarnate Deity!
Pleased as Man with man to dwell, Jesus, our Immanuel!
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King."

Hail, the heav'n-born Prince of Peace! Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings, ris'n with healing in His wings.
Mild He lays His glory by, born that man no more may die,
Born to raise the sons of earth, born to give them second birth.
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King."

CONFESSION OF FAITH: Apostles' Creed

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

And 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 sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence 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.

GATHERING OF THE OFFERINGS

+ EMPOWER +

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

(Prayer response – P: Lord, in your mercy, C: Hear our prayer.)

P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

C: **Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, 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.**

PREFACE TO HOLY COMMUNION

L: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

L: Lift up your hearts.

C: **We lift them to the Lord.**

L: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

PROPER PREFACE

L: It is our duty and delight at all times and everywhere to give thanks to You, O Lord, Holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, for You have enlightened us

by the working of the Holy Spirit. Grant that the Spirit, who has called and gathered us, would guide us in all things, that we be enabled to speak the Gospel to others and rejoice in sharing the gift of salvation that is our treasure. This we ask through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who, with You and the Holy Spirit, is one God, through whom with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take this, eat; this is My body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the New Testament in My blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you, Amen.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

P: Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy, You would strengthen us through the same, in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

"Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee"

LSB 803

Text & Music: Public Domain

Joyful, joyful we adore Thee, God of glory, Lord of love!
Hearts unfold like flow'rs before Thee, Praising Thee, their sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness, drive the gloom of doubt away.
Giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day.

All Thy works with joy surround Thee, earth and heav'n reflect Thy rays,
Stars and angels sing around Thee, center of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain, flow'ry meadow, flashing sea,
Chanting bird, and flowing fountain call us to rejoice in Thee.

Thou art giving and forgiving, ever blessing, ever blest,
Well-spring of the joy of living, ocean-depth of happy rest!
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, fountain-head of love divine:
Joyful, we Thy heav'n inherit! Joyful, we by grace are Thine!

BENEDICTION

The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

+ Silent Prayer +

POSTLUDE

+ WE DEPART TO SERVE +

+ + +

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OUR WEEKLY CALENDAR

12/22 Sun		Fourth Sunday in Advent
	10:00 am	Worship Service w/Holy Communion w/Pastor Matthew Cephus
	11:45 am	Royal Family Worship
	6:00 pm	NA
12/23 Mon	7:00 pm	Beginners AIAnon (downstairs)
	7:00 pm	AIAnon (upstairs)
12/24 Tues	3:00 pm	GDLC Christmas Eve Service w/Holy Communion w/Pastor Matthew Cephus
12/25 Wed	10:00 am	GDLC The Nativity of our Lord Christmas Day Service w/Holy Communion
12/27 Fri	5:00 pm	Living Word Music Rehearsal
12/28 Sat	10:00 am	Living Word Worship & Fellowship
	6:00 pm	Living Word Prayer Night
12/29 Sun		First Sunday after Christmas
	10:00 am	Worship Service w/Holy Communion w/Pastor Matthew Cephus
	11:45 am	Royal Family Worship
	6:00 pm	NA

BIRTHDAYS: None

ANNIVERSARIES: None

ETERNAL CANDLE: Open

FLOWERS: Open

PRAYER CONCERNS

KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS: Meridel Christopherson, Robert & Delores Kluwe, Tom Lyrenmann, Larry Schlais, Pat Scott and all our shut-ins

Amy Rich's mom (Morelli's DnL) Kathy Rich, passed away 12/17 after a brief battle with pancreatic cancer. Praying the Heavenly Father's Spirit will be with her family as they grieve. We send prayers of healing and comfort during this time of loss.

Amanda (Sandy Westling's niece) a recent car accident irritated old injuries from a previous car accident. Suffering extreme pain, back problems and headaches, all while taking care of her family. Prayers she finds relief from her pain.

Gwen Johnson strength and prayers as she recovers from recent surgery to repair an abdominal aortic aneurysm. This type of aneurysm is hereditary and runs in her family.

Kim Morelli upcoming surgery, prayers for successful surgery and healing

Roselyn Norman lower back surgery (11/19). Continued prays for recovery in Jesus' name.

Mudy Mason dealing with an autoimmune disease. Pray for strength, peace, hope, believing in God, Family, Mindset.

Roselyn Norman's college friend and sister Famata Kamara and her two sons, Eric Golafaie, and Naide Davis, for deliverance

Roselyn Norman's neighbor and friend, Tom, was recently diagnosed with State 3 kidney and liver cancer

James Norman, Sr. (James' dad) Continued prayers, prostate cancer seems to be getting worse, hi is having increasing pain and decreased mobility

Jim (Gwen Johnson's brother) reoccurring issues due to his time in the Service

Nonie Wakeman (Shirley Slagle's SnL) diagnosed with Lung Cancer

Karen (Karmon's sister) Recently diagnosed with cancer (Warren's wife)

Kurt Nowacki (Bruce & Julie Cross' Brother-in-Law) recently diagnosed with 'myopathy,' a degenerative muscle disease

Bruce (Wenda Schwoch's BnL has stage 4 prostate cancer and **Ashley** (Wenda's niece) continued prayers

Warren (Karmon's BnL) Receiving chemo and radiation for Non-Hodgkin Lymphoma

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

For First Responders/Health Care Workers, including James Norman, an ICU nurse

THOSE SERVING OUR COUNTRY IN DANGEROUS AREAS

TODAY'S LUTHERAN HOUR

December 22 **"Does It Matter If Jesus Is God?"** **(Luke 2:10-11)**

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

Jesus sets a good example, but good examples can't help dead people. Only God's Son can make us alive again.

NEXT WEEK ON THE LUTHERAN HOUR

December 29 **"No Getting Better Than This"** **(Colossians 3:12-17)**

Guest Speaker: Rev. Dr. Chad Lakies

The Good Life--what is it? Pastor Chad Lakies says life is truly good when it's life the way God meant it to be.

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

STEWARDSHIP: *Advent IV - Luke 1:45*

"And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord." The Lord always fulfills what He promises. We can be certain of that, and He has proven it over and over again. This faith in the Lord's own faithfulness is what gives us the courage to follow the Lord's commands in the face of the world's anger and resistance, just as it gave Mary the courage to carry on in her seemingly embarrassed circumstances.

LUTHERANS FOR LIFE:

"Merry Christmas! And may the certainty of God's love for you in Jesus Christ give you strength, comfort, and confidence this day to face whatever comes tomorrow. For, nothing can overpower the persevering power and blessing of Christmas." *Rev. Dr. Gregory Seltz, Lutheran Center for Religious Liberty – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

Main Street Living airs each Sunday at 9 am on WFTC Channel 29/9-2 with an episode of This Is the Life. This week's episode is "**Christmas on Main Street.**" The Christmas message at a mission brings a grandson and his grandfather together. The worship service begins at 9:30 am with Rev. Dr. Matthew Harrison, President of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, presenting a Christmas message. This program is interpreted and closed captioned for the deaf and hard of hearing. For more information or to watch the program, go to www.mainstreetliving.com select the "Twin Cities" tab.

SERVING TODAY

Elder: Karmon Christopherson

Reading: Jason Matasovsky

Ushers: Dale Raschke and Wade Billmeyer

Altar Care: The Morelli's

Counters: Dale Raschke and Wade Billmeyer

Attendance: 12/15/2024: 51 *(Joint Service with Royal Family)*

Holiday Gift Basket Delivered!

The Social Ministry Committee assembled Holiday Gift baskets, filled with fruit, treats and goodies. Nine baskets were delivered to our dear shut-ins. Each basket also received a handwritten card with holiday greetings and well wishes.



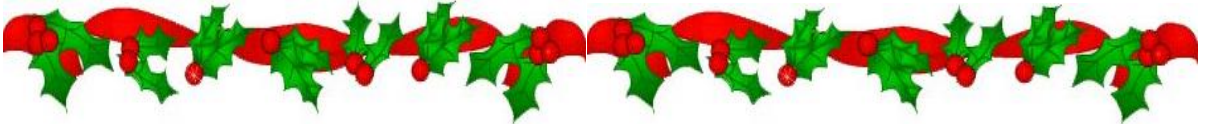
The toys and gifts were delivered to the Salvation Army on Tuesday, December 10th. Thanks to everyone's generosity, Gloria Dei was able to donate \$738 worth of toys and gifts.

Also to note, GDLC donated 140 pounds of food to the Salvation Army Food Shelf in the month of November. Wow!

Bible Study Updates

Wednesday bible study is on holiday break. Please plan to join the 11 am bible study when it resumes on January 15.

The next Thursday evening bible study is January 2, 2025. Plan to attend! There is no bible study on December 26th. After the January 2 session Thursday night bible study will be taking a hiatus. Thank you to all who attended. Watch the monthly newsletter for more information on a return date!



Gloria Dei Invites You to Join Our Christmas Services
Christmas Eve, December 24th, 3 pm *with Holy Communion*
Christmas Day, December 25th, 10am *with Holy Communion*
With Pastor Matthew Cephus