

# Gloria Dei Lutheran Church

*(The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod)*



## Biblical Images of God: Part VI- "THE GENEROUS BEDOUIN HOST"

**Order of Worship Sunday August 24, 2025 – 10 AM**  
**Pastor Matthew Cephus**

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

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**Pianist: Karrie Kikeh**

# **Welcome to God's House!**

*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:** In Psalm 23, Isaiah 42, and the life of Jesus, we see a God who prepares a table, offers provision, and extends protection—even in the presence of our enemies. This episode explores how God's hospitality redefines belonging and how Jesus models a love that welcomes without compromise. Discover how embracing this divine invitation can transform the way you see God, yourself, and the people around you.

*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.

# Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

**AS WE GATHER:** Many people struggle to feel truly welcomed, accepted, and secure—especially in a world that often feels isolating and adversarial. The truth is, God is not distant or indifferent; He is a gracious host, inviting us into His presence with radical hospitality.

+ *CONNECT* +

## WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

### OPENING HYMN

**“What a Friend We Have in Jesus”**

**LSB 770**

*Text and Tune: Public Domain*

What a friend we have in Jesus, All our sins and griefs to bear!  
What a privilege to carry Ev'rything to God in prayer!  
Oh, what peace we often forfeit; Oh, what needless pain we bear—  
All because we do not carry Ev'rything to God in prayer!

Have we trials and temptations? Is there trouble anywhere?  
We should never be discouraged-- Take it to the Lord in prayer.  
Can we find a friend so faithful Who will all our sorrows share?  
Jesus knows our ev'ry weakness-- Take it to the Lord in prayer.

Are we weak and heavy-laden, Cumbered with a load of care?  
Precious Savior, still our refuge--- Take it to the Lord in prayer.  
Do your friends despise, forsake thee? Take it to the Lord in prayer.  
In His arms He'll take and shield thee; Thou wilt find a solace there.

### 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 to our Heavenly Father who truly loves us and is ready to forgive.

**C: Merciful Father, we confess that we are in bondage 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 hearts; 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.**

## **FORGIVENESS IS ANNOUNCED**

*+ NURTURE +*

## **SONG OF PRAISE "Holy God, We Praise Thy Name" LSB 940 vs. 1, 2, 4, 5**

*Text & Tune: Public Domain*

Holy God, we praise Thy name; Lord of all, we bow before Thee.  
All on earth Thy scepter claim, all in heav'n above adore Thee.  
Infinite Thy vast domain, everlasting is Thy reign.

Hark! The glad celestial hymn angel choirs above are raising;  
Cherubim and seraphim, in unceasing chorus praising,  
Fill the heav'ns with sweet accord: Holy, holy, holy Lord!

Thou art King of Glory Christ; Son of God, yet born of Mary  
For us sinners sacrificed, as to death a Tributary,  
First to break the bars of death, Thou hast opened heav'n to faith.

Holy Father, holy Son, Holy Spirit, three we name Thee.  
Though in essence only one, undivided God we claim Thee.  
And adoring, bend the knee, while we own the mystery.

## **OLD TESTAMENT READING**

## **Psalm 23:1-6**

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters. He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

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

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God!**

### **Epistle Reading**

**Ephesians 1:1-10**

Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, to the saints who are in Ephesus, and are faithful in Christ Jesus: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

#### ***Spiritual Blessings in Christ***

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who had blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in Christ, things in heaven and things on earth in him.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God!**

### **HOLY GOSPEL**

**Luke 15:1-2, 11-24**

L: The Holy Gospel according to Luke.

C: **Glory to You, O Lord!**

#### ***The Parable of the Lost Sheep***

Now the tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to hear him. And the Pharisees and the scribes grumbled, saying, "This man receives sinners and eats with them."

#### ***The Parable of the Prodigal Son***

And he said, "There was a man who had two sons. And the younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of property that is coming to me.' And he divided

his property between them. Not many days later, the younger son gathered all he had and took a journey into a far country, and there he squandered his property in reckless living. And when he had spent everything, a severe famine arose in that country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed pigs. And he was longing to be fed with the pods that the pigs ate, and no one gave him anything.

But when he came to himself, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have more than enough bread, but I perish here with hunger! I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Treat me as one of your hired servants."' And he arose and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son. But the father said to his servants, 'Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet. And bring the fattened calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate. For this my son was dead, and is alive again, he was lost, and is found.' And they began to celebrate.

L: This is the Gospel of our Lord.

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

## **HYMN OF THE DAY                    "How Deep the Fathers Love for Us"**

*Stuart Townend, 1995 Thankyou Music; admin. EMI Christian Music CCLI # 1558110*

How deep the Father's love for us, How vast beyond all measure  
That He should give His only Son, To make a wretch His treasure  
How great the pain of searing loss, The Father turns His face away  
As wounds which mar the chosen One, Bring many sons to glory

Behold the Man upon a cross, My sin upon His shoulders  
Ashamed I hear my mocking voice, Call out among the scoffers  
It was my sin that left Him there, Until it was accomplished  
His dying breath has brought me life, I know that it is finished

I will not boast in anything, No gifts, no power, no wisdom  
But I will boast in Jesus Christ, His death and resurrection  
Why should I gain from His reward? I cannot give an answer  
But this I know with all my heart, His wounds have paid my ransom

## MESSAGE

Matthew Cephus

### Biblical Images of God: Part VI – “The Generous Bedouin Host”

## 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**

**"Almighty Father, Bless the Word"**

**LSB 923**

*Text and Tune: Public Domain*

Almighty Father, bless the Word  
Which through Your grace we now have heard.  
Oh, may the precious seed take root, Spring up and bear abundant fruit!



We praise You for the means of grace  
As homeward now our steps we trace.  
Grant, Lord, that we who worshiped here May all at last in heav'n appear.

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Him, all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host: Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

## **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 +*

+ + +

*Scripture quotations are from The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®, copyright © 2001 by Crossway Bibles, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. Hymns are copied with permission: CCLI # 689918*

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## **Thank You, Merci, Danke, Gracias, Grazie**

Thank you to those who contributed to the Lift Fund. The lift is now fully paid for and the account has been closed. If you'd like to support ongoing needs, please consider donating to the Building Maintenance Fund, as our aging building requires several restorations and repairs. Recent work included a new sump pump, cleaned drain tiles, and a replaced front downspout (which included new warming coils). The next major project, exterior painting, will start in three to six weeks. Contributions are appreciated.

<p>Gloria Dei donated 88.2 pounds of food to the Northeast Salvation Army Food Shelf. Thanks everyone!</p>
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## **OUR WEEKLY CALENDAR**

**8/24 Sun**

### **Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost**

**10:00 am**     **Worship with Holy Communion,  
w/Pastor Matthew Cephus**

11:45 am     Royal Family Worship

6:00 pm     NA

**8/25 Mon**

7:00 pm     Beginners AIAnon (downstairs)

7:00 pm     AIAnon (upstairs)

**8/27 Wed**

7:30 pm     SLAA Group Meeting

**8/29 Fri**

5:00 pm     Living Word Music Rehearsal

**8/30 Sat**

10:00 am     Living Word Worship & Fellowship

6:00 pm     Living Word Prayer Night

**8/31 Sun**

### **Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost**

**10:00 am**     **Worship with Holy Communion,  
w/Pastor Matthew Cephus**

11:45 am     Royal Family Worship

6:00 pm     NA

## **SERVING TODAY**

**Elder: Karmon Christopherson**

**Reading: Julie Cross**

**Ushers: Morelli's**

**Altar Care: Morelli's**

**Counters: Sandy Westling and Tom Harris**

**Attendance: 8/17/2025: 37**

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## **You're Invited**

Please join us in celebrating the 65th Wedding Anniversary of our beloved Karmon and Meridel Christopherson—a rare and beautiful milestone! To honor this special occasion, we will gather for an afternoon of joy, gratitude, and memories.

The festivities will begin with a special music program at 4 pm featuring cherished hymns and favorite songs that have marked their journey together. Following the program, dinner will be served in the Fellowship Hall (at approximately 5 pm) and all are invited.

Let us come together on Saturday, September 6 as a community to reflect on a legacy of steadfast love and to wish many more years of happiness.

Please RSVP to Lisa at 320-288-6743 before September 1 if you plan to attend.

**BIRTHDAYS:** 26<sup>th</sup> James Norman, Jr.

**ANNIVERSARIES:** None

**ETERNAL CANDLE:** Shirley Holzinger, In Memory of Dad's birthday (27th)

**FLOWERS:** OPEN

### **PRAYER CONCERNS**

**KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS:** Meridel Christopherson, Tom Farrell, Gwen Johnson, Robert & Dolores Kluwe, Al Morelli, Larry Schlais, Pat Scott, Alec Schwandt and all our shut-ins

**Al Morelli** will have a stent placed in his Carotid Artery. Scheduled for Wednesday, Aug 27. Prayers for a successful procedure.

**Karen Charpentier** (Ken Biebighauser's sister) going through cancer treatment

**Danielle Ohnstad** currently undergoing treatment for breast cancer

**Diane Sharbono** undergoing cancer treatment

**Dorie** (Shirley Holzinger's sister-in-law) recovering from successful bypass heart surgery and is now in rehabilitation, plus addressing some unexpected issues.

**Nanc Rixe** knee replacement surgery June 16

**Karen** (Shirley H's neighbor) diagnosed with CML cancer and young friend **Allie Piercer** with Leukemia

**Trent Johnson** (Roxie's son) recovering from cancer surgery (stomach)

**Roxie Johnson** (Morelli's niece) heart issues (pacemaker), prayers as she gets stronger

**Kim Morelli and Amy Rich** (Morelli's DnLs) continued prayers for good health after cancer treatments

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

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

**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) dealing with continued health concerns

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

**THOSE SERVING OUR COUNTRY IN DANGEROUS AREAS**

## **TODAY'S LUTHERAN HOUR**

**August 24**

**"Gideon, the Farmer General"**

**(Judges 6:1-8:27)**

Guest Speaker: Dr. Oswald Hoffmann

Archives August--Dr. Oswald Hoffmann recounts the story of Gideon, an unlikely military leader.

## **NEXT WEEK ON THE LUTHERAN HOUR**

**August 31**

**"Life Narrows Down"**

**(John 1:6-8, 19-28)**

Guest Speaker: Rev. Dr. Dale A. Meyer

"Life narrows down and crisis comes. There, in the narrow place stands Jesus."

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](http://www.lutheranhour.org)

### **STEWARDSHIP:** *Luke 13:26*

"Then you will begin to say, 'We ate and drank in your presence, and you taught in our streets.'" Proximity to Jesus and the things of faith is not faith itself. Many Pharisees heard His Word but ignored it and refused to believe in it. We want to be not only hearers, but also doers of Jesus' Word. We want not only proximity to Jesus, but true communion with Him. We want to hear Him, follow Him, praise Him and return thanks.

### **LUTHERANS FOR LIFE:**

"We stand together, one in mind and heart, and with one voice, in defense of the lives of our unborn children—God's precious little ones. Yet, what we stand for is not only the lives of these precious unborn children but also the moms, the dads, the grandmas and grandpas, the young and the old, the healthy and the sick and dying. What we stand for is the very value—the very gift—of life itself." *Pastor Paul Clark, LFL of Michigan – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • [lutheransforlife.org](http://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 **"House of Sand"** — This classic Fisher family episode explores the difference between a moral and Christian life. The worship service begins at 9:30 am with Rev. Timothy Moe from St. Matthew Lutheran Church in Eau Claire, WI, presenting a message titled **"The Many Few"** based on **Luke 13:20-22**. For more information or to watch the program, go to [www.mainstreetliving.com](http://www.mainstreetliving.com) select the "Twin Cities" tab.