

Gloria Dei Lutheran Church

(The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod)



Biblical Images of God: Part VII- "ROCK OF REFUGE"

Order of Worship Sunday August 31, 2025 – 10 AM
Rev. Dr. Matthew Cephus

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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: When David was fleeing from Saul, he found such a place in one of Israel's most breathtaking and iconic locations—Masada! As we trace the biblical connections to David and the rich imagery of God being a fortress throughout Scripture, you'll discover the powerful invitation to find a place of refuge to daily experience His presence, settle your soul, and remember who you are.

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.

Gloria Dei's mid-day bible study starts again Wednesday,
September 17 at 11 am, featuring The Chosen, Part 5.

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

AS WE GATHER: In a world that rarely slows down, many of us carry a constant undercurrent of anxiety, restlessness, and fatigue. Deep down, we long for more—for peace, stability, and a place of refuge where our souls can breathe and find rest. Always remember that in Christ, we are safe and secure.

+ *CONNECT* +

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING HYMN

"Jesus, Refuge of the Weary"

LSB 423

Text & Tune: Public domain

Jesus, refuge of the weary, blest Redeemer, Whom we love,
Fountain in life's desert dreary, Savior from the world above;
Often have Your eyes, offended, gazed upon the sinner's fall;
Yet upon the cross extended, You have borne the pain of all.

Do we pass that cross unheeding, breathing no repentant vow,
Though we see You wounded, bleeding, see Your thorn-encircled brow?
Yet Your sinless death has brought us life eternal, peace, and rest;
Only what Your grace has taught us calms the sinner's deep distress.

Jesus, may our hearts be burning, with more fervent love for You;
May our eyes be ever turning to behold Your cross anew
Till in glory, parted never from the blessed Savior's side,
Graven in our hearts forever, dwell the cross, the Crucified.

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

"Great is Thy Faithfulness"

LSB 809

Text & Music: © 1923, renewed 1951 Hope Publishing Co.

Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father;
There is no shadow of turning with Thee.
Thou changest not; Thy compassions, they fail not;
As Thou hast been, Thou forever wilt be.

Refrain: Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided;
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord unto me!

Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,
Sun, moon, and stars in their courses above
Join with all nature in manifold witness
To Thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love.

Refrain

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!

Refrain

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Psalm 62:1-8,11

For God alone my soul waits in silence; from him comes my salvation. He alone is my rock and my salvation, my fortress; I shall not be greatly shaken.

How long will all of you attack a man to batter him, like a leaning wall, a tottering fence? They only plan to thrust him down from his high position. They take pleasure in falsehood. They bless with their mouths, but inwardly they curse. *Selah*

For God alone, O my soul, wait in silence, for my hope is from him. He only is my rock and my salvation, my fortress; I shall not be shaken. On God rests my salvation and my glory; my mighty rock, my refuge is God.

Trust in him at all times, O people; pour out your heart before him; God is a refuge for us. *Selah*

Once God has spoken; twice have I heard this: that power belongs to God.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

Epistle Reading

Philippians 4:1-8, 20, 23

Therefore, my brothers, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm thus in the Lord, my beloved.

Exhortation, Encouragement, and Prayer

I entreat Euodia and I entreat Syntyche to agree in the Lord. Yes, I ask you also, true companion, help these women, who have labored side by side with me in the gospel together with Clement and the rest of my fellow workers, whose names are in the book of life.

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.

To our God and Father be glory forever and ever. Amen.

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 11:28-30

L: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

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

Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

L: This is the Gospel of our Lord.

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

HYMN OF THE DAY

"Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me"

LSB 761

Text & Tune: Public domain

Rock of Ages, cleft for me, let me hide myself in Thee;
Let the water and the blood, from Thy riven side which flowed,
Be of sin the double cure: Cleanse me from its guilt and pow'r.

Not the labors of my hands, can fulfill Thy Law's demands;
Could my zeal no respite know, could my tears forever flow,
All for sin could not atone; Thou must save, and Thou alone.

Nothing in my hand I bring; simply to Thy cross I cling.
Naked, come to Thee for dress; helpless, look to Thee for grace;
Foul, I to the fountain fly; wash me, Savior, or I die.

While I draw this fleeting breath, when mine eyelids close in death,
When I soar to worlds unknown, see Thee on Thy judgment throne,
Rock of Ages, cleft for me, let me hide myself in Thee.

MESSAGE

Rev. Dr. Matthew Cephus

Biblical Images of God: Part VII – "Rock of Refuge"

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

"My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less"

LSB 575

Text & Music: Public Domain

My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus blood and righteousness
No merit of my own I claim but wholly lean on Jesus' name.

Refrain: On Christ the solid rock I stand;
All other ground is sinking sand.

When darkness veils His lovely face, I rest on His unchanging grace;
In ev'ry high and stormy gale my anchor holds within the veil.

Refrain

His oath, His covenant and blood support me in the raging flood;
When ev'ry earthly prop gives way, He then is all my hope and stay.

Refrain

When He shall come with trumpet sound, Oh, may I then in Him be found,
Clothed in His righteousness alone, Redeemed to stand before His throne!

Refrain

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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You're Invited

Please join us in celebrating the 65th Wedding Anniversary of Karmon and Meridel Christopherson. To honor this special occasion, we will gather for an afternoon of joy, gratitude, and memories.

Saturday, September 6 the festivities will begin with a special music program at 4 pm featuring cherished hymns and favorite songs. Following the program, dinner will be served in the Fellowship Hall (at approximately 5 pm) and all are invited.

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

OUR WEEKLY CALENDAR

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

9/01 Mon

Happy Labor Day

7:00 pm Beginners AIAnon (downstairs)

7:00 pm AIAnon (upstairs)

9/03 Wed

7:30 pm SLAA Group Meeting

9/05 Fri

5:00 pm Living Word Music Rehearsal

9/06 Sat

10:00 am Living Word Worship & Fellowship

4:00 pm **Christopherson 65th Anniversary Celebration**

5:00 pm **Reception – Fellowship Hall**

6:00 pm Living Word Prayer Night

9/07 Sun

Thirteenth 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: Verlayne Sather

Ushers: Ken Biebighauser

Altar Care: Tom and Patty Lyrenmann

Counters: Shirley Holzinger and Verlayne Sather

Attendance: 8/24/2025: 36

Catholic Eldercare – Age Well Resource Fair

September 4 from 11:30 am – 1:30 pm

River Village East, 2919 Randolph Street

20+ Senior Vendors; Music and Free Food; Food Shelf Drive;
Blood Pressure Screenings; Hand Massages; Tour the New Facilities
Bring a food shelf donation for a chance to win a \$50 gift card!

Call Robin at 612-277-2909 for more information

BIRTHDAYS: None
ANNIVERSARIES: None

ETERNAL CANDLE: OPEN
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

The families impacted by the tragic mass shooting at Annunciation Catholic Church, as well as the first responders who provided aid

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.

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 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."

NEXT WEEK ON THE LUTHERAN HOUR

September 7

"Dying, We Live"

(Numbers 14:19-20)

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

God's love finds His people in the wilderness, the place where God gives bread from heaven, water from a rock, and streams in the desert.

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: *Luke 14:11*

"For whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted." "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom" (Psalm 111:10). That's called humility. The Lord is God and we are not. With that in mind, how could we not seek to follow His Word in all aspects of life? He knows what He is talking about and we don't. If you believe that, then striking out on a path of faithfulness in the realm of stewardship is a lot easier: it just makes sense.

LUTHERANS FOR LIFE:

"God created every one of us to shine brightly in the world He made for us. Each person is a candle, sustaining His light to share with others. When a baby is aborted, his or her candle is extinguished. Clearly, that is not what God wants for us. None of us is unimportant to God; He cares about all of us, no matter our size, age, parents, gender, or disabilities. Every candle has a special purpose God designed." *Christina, Missouri, Lutherans For Life Essay Contest – 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 **"The Reluctant Witness"** — A man's fishing trip is interrupted when he becomes a witness to crime and struggles with the aftermath. The worship service begins at 9:30 am with Rev. Jeff Williams from Trinity Lutheran Church in Slayton, MN, presenting a message titled **"Remember the Sabbath Day"** based on **Luke 14:1-11**. For more information or to watch the program, go to www.mainstreetliving.com select the "Twin Cities" tab.