

# Gloria Dei Lutheran Church

*(The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod)*



*"Destroying the High Places"*

**Order of Worship Sunday September 7, 2025 – 10 AM**  
**Rev. Dr. Matthew Cephus**

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

**[www.gloriadeilcms.org](http://www.gloriadeilcms.org)**

**email: [info@gloriadeilcms.org](mailto:info@gloriadeilcms.org)**

**Pianist: Susan Cvek**

# **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:** Too often, we live with divided hearts. On the one hand, our hearts are devoted to God. We want God's best for our lives. We want God's kingdom to come. On the other hand, we continue to allow places in our lives where evil and sin persist. This episode explores the life of King Asa and our deeply human tendency to be devoted to God without tearing down the high places in our lives. By the end of this episode, you'll know how to identify the high places in your life and begin the process of demolishing them for good.

*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.

# Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

**AS WE GATHER:** As Christians, we need to examine our personal lives for self-focus, pride, unhealthy coping mechanisms, or anything that compromises one's wholehearted devotion to God, and actively work to tear them down through repentance and a renewed commitment to God's word.

+ *CONNECT* +

## WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

### OPENING HYMN

**"My Faith Looks Up to Thee"**

**LSB 702 v. 1,2,3**

*Text and Music: Public Domain*

My faith looks up to Thee, Thou Lamb of Calvary, Savior divine.  
Now hear me while I pray, take all my guilt away;  
O let me from this day be wholly Thine!

May Thy rich grace impart strength to my fainting heart; my zeal inspire!  
As Thou has died for me, Oh, may my love to Thee  
Pure, warm and changeless be, a living fire!

While life's dark maze I tread and griefs around me spread,  
Be Thou my guide; Bid darkness turn to day, wipe sorrow's tears away,  
Nor let me ever stray from Thee aside.

### 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 God our Heavenly Father who truly loves us.

**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**

**"We Praise You, O God"**

**LSB 785**

*Text & tune: Public domain*

We praise You, O God, our Redeemer, Creator;  
In grateful devotion our tribute we bring.  
We lay it before You, we kneel and adore You;  
We bless Your holy name, glad praises we sing.

We worship You, God of our fathers, we bless You;  
Through trial and tempest our guide You have been.  
When perils o'er-take us, You will not forsake us,  
And with Your help, O Lord, our struggles we win.

With voices united our praises we offer,  
And gladly our songs of thanksgiving we raise.  
With You, Lord, beside us, Your strong arm will guide us;  
To You, our great Redeemer, forever be praise!

## **OLD TESTAMENT READING**

**1 Kings 15:9-15**

In the twentieth year of Jeroboam king of Israel, Asa began to reign over Judah, and he reigned forty-one years in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Maacah the daughter of Abishalom. And Asa did what was right in the eyes of the Lord, as David his father had done. He put away the male cult prostitutes out of the land and removed all the idols that his fathers had made. He also removed Maacah his mother from being queen mother because she had made an abominable image for Asherah. And Asa cut down her image and burned it at the brook Kidron. But the high places were not taken away. Nevertheless, the heart of Asa was wholly true to the Lord all his days. And he brought into the house of the Lord the sacred gifts of his father and his own sacred gifts, silver, and gold, and vessels.

L: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God!**

### **Epistle Reading**

**Ephesians 4:17-27**

Now this I say and testify in the Lord, that you must no longer walk as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their minds. They are darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, due to their hardness of heart. They have become callous and have given themselves up to sensuality, greedy to practice every kind of impurity. But that is not the way you learned Christ!—assuming that you have heard about him and were taught in him, as the truth is in Jesus, to put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.

Therefore, having put away falsehood, let each one of you speak the truth with his neighbor, for we are members one of another. Be angry and do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, and give no opportunity to the devil.

L: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God!**

### **HOLY GOSPEL**

**Matthew 15:17-20**

L: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

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

Do you not see that whatever goes into the mouth passes into the stomach and is expelled? But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this defiles a person. For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false witness, slander. These are what defile a person. But to eat with unwashed hands does not defile anyone.”

L: This is the Gospel of our Lord.

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

## HYMN OF THE DAY

## "Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus"

*Public Domain*

'Tis so sweet to trust in Jesus,  
Just to take Him at His Word;  
Just to rest upon His promise,  
Just to know, "Thus saith the Lord!"

Jesus, Jesus, how I trust Him!  
How I've proved Him o'er and o'er;  
Jesus, Jesus, precious Jesus!  
Oh, for grace to trust Him more!

I'm so glad I learned to trust Him,  
Precious Jesus, Savior, Friend;  
And I know that He is with me,  
Will be with me to the end.

Jesus, Jesus, how I trust Him!  
How I've proved Him o'er and o'er;  
Jesus, Jesus, precious Jesus!  
Oh, for grace to trust Him more!

Jesus, Jesus, how I trust Him!  
How I've proved Him o'er and o'er;  
Jesus, Jesus, precious Jesus!  
Oh, for grace to trust Him more!  
Oh, for grace to trust Him more!

## MESSAGE

## "Destroying the High Places"

**Rev. Dr. Matthew Cephus**

## 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**

### **"Guide Me, O Thou Great Redeemer"**

**LSB 918**

*Text and Music: Public Domain*

Guide me, O Thou great Redeemer, pilgrim through this barren land.  
I am weak, but Thou art mighty; hold me with Thy pow'rful hand.  
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven, feed me till I want no more;  
Feed me till I want no more.

Open now the crystal fountain whence the healing stream doth flow;  
Let the fiery, cloudy pillar lead me all my journey through.  
Strong deliv'rer, strong deliv'rer, be Thou still my strength and shield;  
Be Thou still my strength and shield.

When I tread the verge of Jordan, bid my anxious fears subside;  
Death of death and hell's destruction, land me safe on Canaan's side.  
Songs of praises, songs of praises I will ever give to Thee.  
I will ever give to Thee.



## **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*

---

Gloria Dei has established a fund for Youth Care International, supporting Royal Family's children's mission in Liberia. Contributions help build schools, provide meals and school supplies, support bible camps, and contribute towards Pastor Matthew's spring mission trip. To contribute, please note this on your envelope.

### **FREE Community Dinner at St. Timothy's**

Join St. Timothy's and the local community on Tuesday, September 9, from 5 pm to 6 pm (or until the food is gone) for their drive thru community dinner. All are welcome so spread the word! St. Timothy's Lutheran Church is located at 825 51st Avenue NE, Columbia Heights.

### **Free Community Meal, September 11 @ 5:00 pm - 6:00 pm**

Faith United Methodist Church, 2708 33<sup>rd</sup> Avenue NE, holds a free Community dinner every second Thursday of the month, from 5-6 pm. Everyone is welcome. Upcoming dates **Sept. 11, Oct. 9, Nov 13 and Dec. 11.**

### **St. Maron Lebanese Festival - September 13 - 14**

St. Maron Catholic Church will hold its annual Lebanese Festival Saturday, September 13, 12–7 pm, and Sunday, September 14, 11 am–6 pm. 602 University Avenue NE, Minneapolis. Authentic Lebanese cuisine, beer & wine and live music. Fun for all ages. [www.festival.stmaron.com](http://www.festival.stmaron.com), 612-379-2758.

## **OUR WEEKLY CALENDAR**

**9/07 Sun**

### **Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

**10:00 am**     **Worship with Holy Communion,  
w/Rev. Dr. Matthew Cephus**

11:45 am     Royal Family Worship

6:00 pm     NA

**9/08 Mon**

7:00 pm     Beginners AIAnon (downstairs)

7:00 pm     AIAnon (upstairs)

**9/10 Wed**

7:30 pm     SLAA Group Meeting

**9/12 Fri**

5:00 pm     Living Word Music Rehearsal

**9/13 Sat**

10:00 am     Living Word Worship & Fellowship

6:00 pm     Living Word Prayer Night

**9/14 Sun**

### **Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

**10:00 am**     **Worship with Holy Communion,  
w/Rev. Dr. Matthew Cephus**

11:45 am     Royal Family Worship

6:00 pm     NA

## **SERVING TODAY**

**Elder: Karmon Christopherson**

**Reading: Julie Cross**

**Ushers: Dale Raschke and Wade Billmeyer**

**Altar Care: Tom and Patty Lyrenmann**

**Counters: Dale Raschke and Wade Billmeyer**

**Attendance: 8/31/2025: 21**

---

It takes multiple contributors to make a Sunday run smoothly at Gloria Dei. This requires the assistance of multiple volunteers to ensure Sunday activities proceed efficiently and visitors are welcomed. Those interested in volunteering on Sunday mornings, please use the signup sheets on the lobby bulletin board OR contact Jeni in the church office at 612-781-1989. Volunteer roles include ushering, altar care, reading and bringing treats. Thank you!

**BIRTHDAYS:** None

**ANNIVERSARIES:** Karmon and Meridel Christopherson

**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

**Roger Kropelniki** (Ken Biebighauser's BnL) underwent esophagus surgery and is suffering from lung issues

**Al Morelli** underwent surgery on August 27 to implant a stent in his carotid artery

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

**Danielle Ohnstad** is 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**

**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.

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

**September 14**

**"It's All on God; It's All on Us"**

**(Deuteronomy 1:31)**

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

A paradox doesn't make sense, mathematically. But it can be an accurate description of real-life experience.

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 14:33*

"So therefore, any one of you who does not renounce all that he has cannot be my disciple." None of what we have is ours. It all belongs to God. That is the foundation of Christian stewardship. What we have been given is to be used for God's purposes according to our callings in home, Church, and society. As we learn to live generously in these callings, we renounce our ownership of our wealth. It's not "ours," it's His. God owns everything, and we manage it for the furtherance of His goals.

### **LUTHERANS FOR LIFE:**

"Difficult situations like surprise pregnancy and terminal diagnosis can tempt us to forget our Savior's presence and power. Comfort comes not from making deals with death but from the gifts He wrings and the privileges He brings even in and through hardship. An everlasting, unchanging, and all-sufficient Creator and Keeper not only provides life, He protects it as well!" *Pastor Michael Salemink, Lutherans For Life – 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 **"Harriett's Wedding Day"** — A groom nearly cancels wedding plans due to fear of the unknown. The worship service begins at 9:30 am with Rev. Peter Adelsen from Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in West Salem, WI, presenting a message titled **"The Call of Discipleship"** based on **Luke 14:25-35**. For more information or to watch the program, go to [www.mainstreetliving.com](http://www.mainstreetliving.com) select the "Twin Cities" tab.