

Gloria Dei Lutheran Church

(The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod)



"The Nativity of Our Lord" Christmas Eve Service

Order of Worship December 24, 2024 | 3 PM
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!

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: Sometimes, it seems as though hope is just fading away. But the wonderful truth is that God always has a remedy. In the Christmas season, there's no greater hope than the everlasting hope found in our Lord Jesus Christ and the sufficiency of His Word. Hope has a name, and it's Jesus Christ.

A special welcome to visitors and guests; we are pleased that you have joined us today and invite you to worship with us every Sunday at 10 am! 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.



A Blessed Christmas to each of you!

Please join us tomorrow morning, **Christmas Day, at 10 AM** for our continuing celebration of the Christ Child's birth.

THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

AS WE GATHER: Our Hope, Peace, Joy and Love is found in Christ.

+ *CONNECT* +

WELCOME

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PROCESSION OF LIGHT

Pastor Matthew Cephus

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.**

CAROL

"O Come, All Ye Faithful"

LSB 379

Text & Tune: Public Domain

O come, all ye faithful, Joyful and triumphant!
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
Come and behold Him born the King of angels:

Refrain: **Oh, come, let us adore Him,
 Oh, come, let us adore Him,
 Oh, come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!**

Highest, most holy, Light of light eternal,
Born of a virgin, a mortal He comes;
Son of the Father now in flesh appearing!

Refrain

Sing, choirs of angels, Sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God in the highest:

Refrain

Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born this happy morning;
Jesus, to Thee be glory giv'n!
Word of the Father now in flesh appearing!

Refrain

OPENING SENTENCES

L: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;

C: **Those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined.**

L: For to us a child is born,

C: **To us a son is given;**

L: And the government shall be upon His shoulder,

C: **And His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**

CAROL

"Silent Night"

LSB 363 v. 1-3

Text & Tune: Public Domain

Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright
Round yon virgin mother and child. Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace, Sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight;
Glories stream from heaven afar, Heav'nly hosts sing, Alleluia!
Christ, the Savior, is born! Christ, the Savior, is born!

Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from your holy face, With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at your birth, Jesus, Lord, at your birth.

+ NURTURE +

FIRST OLD TESTAMENT

Read by Sandy Westling

Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone. For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God!**

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.

SECOND OLD TESTAMENT Read by Sandy Westling Isaiah 11:1-4a, 6-9

There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit.

And the Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.

And his delight shall be in the fear of the Lord.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide disputes by what his ears hear, but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; and he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.

The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the young goat, and the calf and the lion and the fattened calf together; and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze; their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

The nursing child shall play over the hole of the cobra, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the adder's den.

They shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain; for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God!**

CAROL

"The First Noel"

The first Noel the angel did say was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep, on a cold winter's night that was so deep.

Refrain: Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel.

They looked up and saw a star shining in the east, beyond them far;
And to the earth it gave great light, and so it continued both day and night.

Refrain: Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel.

And by the light of that same star three Wise Men came from country far;
To seek for a king was their intent, and to follow the star wherever it went.

Refrain: Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel.

This star drew nigh to the northwest, O'er Bethlehem it took its rest,
And there it did both stop and stay Right over the place where Jesus lay.

Refrain: Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel.

THIRD SCRIPTURE READING Read by Verlayne Sather Luke 1:26-35, 38

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?"

And the angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God.

And Mary said, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God!**

CAROL

"Angels We Have Heard on High"

LSB 368

Text & Tune: Public Domain

Angels we have heard on high, Sweetly singing o'er the plains;
And the mountains in reply, Echoing their joyous strains.
Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be; Which inspire your heav'nly song?
Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Come to Bethlehem and see, Him whose birth the angels sing;
Come adore on bended knee, Christ the Lord, the newborn King.
Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

FOURTH SCRIPTURE READING Read by Verlayne Sather Luke 2:8-16

And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, "*Glorify to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!*"

When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us." And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God!**

CAROL

"Away in a Manger"

LSB 364

Text & Tune: Public domain

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head.
The stars in the sky looked down where He lay,
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
But little Lord Jesus, no crying He makes.
I love thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky,
And stay by my side until morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask Thee to stay
Close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care,
And take us to heaven to live with Thee there.

MESSAGE

"Hope is Here"

Pastor 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.

SOLO

"O Holy Night"

Bruce Cross

+ EMPOWER +

GATHERING OF THE OFFERINGS

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 truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, whose birth proclaims the fulfillment of Your promises and makes visible Your love for us and all people. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You.

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

A: 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 CAROL

"Joy to the World"

LSB 387 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.

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 are Invited to the RLC Jazz Concert!

Plan to attend on **December 31** for "New Year's Eve with RLC Jazz" at **7:00 PM**. It is their 18th annual performance and will feature an 18 piece big band along with numerous vocalists. This year's program is "Another Big Band Vocal Extravaganza".

Free concert with free-will donations accepted. Bring a friend!

Roseville Lutheran Church | 1215 Roselawn Ave. | Roseville, MN 55113 US

SERVING TODAY

Elder: Karmon Christopherson

Readers: Sandy Westling and Verlayne Sather

Altar Care: Patty Lyrenmann & Pam Morelli

Ushers: Tom and Patty Lyrenmann

Counters: Tom and Patty Lyrenmann

OUR WEEKLY CALENDAR

12/24 Tues

Christmas Eve

**3:00 pm Christmas Eve Worship Service w/Holy Communion
w/Pastor Matthew Cephus**

The Nativity of Our Lord, Christmas Day

12/25 Wed

**10:00 am Christmas Day Worship Service w/Holy Communion
w/Pastor Matthew Cephus**

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

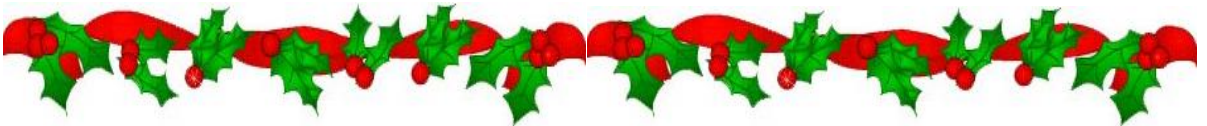
12/29 Sun

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



The beautiful poinsettias throughout the church were graciously given by:

Wade Billmeyer, Pastor Matthew and Patience; Karmon & Meridel Christopherson; Julie Cross; Shirley Holzinger (IMO Mom & Dad, Husband Rudy and Brother-in-law Greg); Gwen Johnson; Tom & Patty Lyrenmann; Barb McDonald (IMO Don McDonald); The Morelli's (Loved ones); Verlayne Sather; Shirley Slagle; Sandy Westling (Loved ones)



ETERNAL CANDLE: Open

FLOWERS: Christmas Poinsettias

PRAYER CONCERNS

KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS: Meridel Christopherson, Robert & Delores Kluwe, 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) recent car accident, irritated old injuries from 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

Amy Rich's mom (Morelli's DnL) Kathy Rich, diagnosed with pancreatic cancer

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