

Gloria Dei Lutheran Church

(The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod)



PART II: "GOOD NEWS FOR ALL PEOPLE"

Order of Worship December 29, 2024 | 10:00 AM
Pastor Matthew Cephus

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

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Pianist: Sue Cvek

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: Christmas is about the birth of God's Son – Jesus. It is about how he came to give us love, hope, peace, and joy. That message doesn't change from year to year. With so much bad news and devastation in the world, this is good news worth celebrating!

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.

Bible Study Updates

Wednesday bible study is on holiday break. We will resume on January 15.

After January 2, 2025, the Thursday evening bible study will be taking a hiatus. Thank you to all who attended. Watch the monthly newsletter for more information on a return date!

The First Sunday after Christmas

AS WE GATHER: God Himself invaded human history on a search and rescue mission for you and me. That's why Jesus had to come. And that's why we have to trust Him as our Savior.

+ *CONNECT* +

WELCOME

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING SONG

"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

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: Father in Heaven, we confess that we never knew you had come down. We confess that we were in the dark as to your light among us. Though the world was created through your Word, we could not grasp the reality that he had entered into our neighborhood and taken up residence. We could not receive him whom we did not see. In all his humility, in his appearance in unexpected places, we were blind. We have only ourselves to blame for not opening our eyes of faith and ears of understanding. May You forgive us and once again on this Nativity of Christ's birth proclaim the good news of your comfort and redemption to us, so that all the ends of the earth may see the salvation of our God. Amen.

FORGIVENESS IS ANNOUNCED

+ *NURTURE* +

HYMN OF PRAISE

"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!

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 11:1-4, 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!

EPISTLE READING

Romans 15:8-13

For I tell you that Christ became a servant to the circumcised to show God's truthfulness, in order to confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written, *"Therefore I will praise you among the Gentiles, and sing to your name."*

And again it is said, *"Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people."*

And again, *"Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples extol him."*

And again Isaiah says, *"The root of Jesse will come, even he who arises to rule the Gentiles; in him will the Gentiles hope."*

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 2:8-14

L: The Holy Gospel according to Luke.

C: Glory to You, O Lord!

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, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!"

L: This is the Gospel of our Lord.

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

SONG OF THE DAY

"Joy to the World"

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.

No more let sins and sorrows grow nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make His blessings flow
Far as the curse is found, far as the curse is found
Far as, far as, the curse is found.

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.

MESSAGE Part II: "Good News for All People" 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.

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

"To God Be the Glory"

Text and Music: Public Domain

To God be the glory, great things He has done;
So loved He the world that He gave us His Son,
Who yielded His life an atonement for sin,
And opened the life gate that all may go in.

Refrain: Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, Let the earth hear His voice!
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, Let the people rejoice!
O come to the Father, through Jesus the Son,
And give Him the glory, great things He has done.

O perfect redemption, the purchase of blood,
To every believer the promise of God;
The vilest offender who truly believes,
That moment from Jesus a pardon receives.

Refrain

Great things He has taught us, great things He has done,
And great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son;
But purer, and higher, and greater will be
Our wonder, our transport, when Jesus we see.

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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Donations Due by December 31st!

Friendly reminder about year-end giving: 2024 mailed donations must be postmarked by December 31, 2024 to be allocated to your 2024 contributions.
Thank you for your generous support.

Join 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

New Year's Eve family skate party

Monday, **December 30, 4-6 pm**, Windom Park, 2251 Hayes Street NE. Free. Ages 5 and older. Celebrate the last night of the year a day early with popcorn, lemonade, music and a fire pit with a s'mores station. Loaner skates and sleds will be available. Registration not required.

OUR WEEKLY CALENDAR

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

12/30 Mon

7:00 pm Beginners AlAnon (downstairs)

7:00 pm AlAnon (upstairs)

1/01 Wed

Happy New Year!

1/02 Thurs

5:30 pm **Thursday Evening Bible Study** (*last one before break*)

1/03 Fri

5:00 pm Living Word Music Rehearsal

1/04 Sat

10:00 am Living Word Worship & Fellowship

6:00 pm Living Word Prayer Night

1/05 Sun

Second 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

SERVING TODAY

Elder: Karmon Christopherson

Reading: Katie Beth Carlson

Ushers: Dale Raschke and Wade Billmeyer

Altar Care: OPEN

Counters: Sandy Westling and Tom Harris

Attendance: 12/22/2024: 31

With Our Sincerest Thank You!

Thank you to everyone at Gloria Dei for the cards, gifts and prayers we received during Christmas. Your thoughtfulness is appreciated! It is great to work with such a wonderful congregation with never-ending support.

Prayers for a successful 2025! HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Pastor Matthew, Jeni, Matt

BIRTHDAYS: 29th Lyle Payette; 31st Katie Beth Carlson

ANNIVERSARIES: None

ETERNAL CANDLE: Shirley Holzinger – In memory of Ruby and his birthday (December 27)

FLOWERS: Poinsettias

PRAYER CONCERNS

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

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

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 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.

NEXT WEEK ON THE LUTHERAN HOUR

January 5 **"In the Beginning Was Dialogue"** **(John 1:1)**

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

Do you need more faith? Then you need the Word. Faith comes from hearing the Word of Christ.

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: *Christmas I - Luke 2:38*

"And coming up at that very hour she began to give thanks to God and to speak of him to all who were waiting for the redemption of Jerusalem." Notice here how giving thanks to God leads to good works (speaking about Jesus, in this case). Thankfulness towards God for all He has done for us is the foundation of a Christian life lived in godliness. For if we know all that the Lord has done for us, how can we not strive to honor Him with what we think, say and do?

LUTHERANS FOR LIFE:

"We long to hear those words from the master, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! Come! Share your master's happiness!' Someday you will hear them as He welcomes you into eternal dwellings. But for now, there is much to do for Jesus. So, as you go to live for Him, let those words echo in your mind and spur you on to be faithful and fruitful servants in His kingdom." *Rev. Peter Sulzle, St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church, Redwood Falls – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*