

Gloria Dei Lutheran Church

(The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod)



"INTRODUCTION: "THE ARMOR OF GOD""

Order of Worship February 16, 2025 | 10:00 AM
Pastor Matthew Cephus

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

www.gloriadeilcms.org

email: info@gloriadeilcms.org

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: The Armor of God as many of us may know is a popular Sunday School lesson that we don't always get right. Paul was writing to an audience that would have seen this armor on a daily basis. There are more details in Ephesians 6:10-17 than just a quirky metaphor for spiritual warfare. This introduction will lay the foundation for this teaching series and help you look for these important details that make all the difference when applying scripture to your daily life.

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.

The Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany

AS WE GATHER: The Spiritual Battle is Real. When we're fully aware of this and equip ourselves by putting on the **Armor of God**, we can respond effectively and also **stand firm** against every evil.

+ CONNECT +

WELCOME

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING SOLO "Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing" John Kleinwolterink

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: **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 +

HYMN OF PRAISE

"Oh, How He Loves You and Me"

Oh, how He loves you and me, Oh how He loves you and me.
He gave His life, what more could He give?

Oh, how He loves you; Oh, how He loves me; Oh, how He loves you and me.

Jesus to Calvary did go, His love for sinners to show.
What He did there brought hope from despair.

Oh, how He loves you; Oh, how he loves me; Oh, how He loves you and me.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Psalm 91:1-8

He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will abide in the shadow of the Almighty.
I will say to the Lord, "My refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust."

For he will deliver you from the snare of the fowler and from the deadly pestilence. He will cover you with his pinions, and under his wings you will find refuge; his faithfulness is a shield and buckler. You will not fear the terror of the night, nor the arrow that flies by day, nor the pestilence that stalks in darkness, nor the destruction that wastes at noonday.

A thousand may fall at your side, ten thousand at your right hand, but it will not come near you. You will only look with your eyes and see the recompense of the wicked.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God!**

EPISTLE READING

Ephesians 6:10-17

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm. Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace. In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God!**

HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 10:1-3; 16-20

L: The Holy Gospel according to Luke.

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

After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them on ahead of him, two by two, into every town and place where he himself was about to go. And he said to them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest. Go your way; behold, I am sending you out as lambs in the midst of wolves.

"The one who hears you hears me, and the one who rejects you rejects me, and the one who rejects me rejects him who sent me."

The Return of the Seventy-Two

The seventy-two returned with joy, saying, "Lord, even the demons are subject to us in your name!" And he said to them, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. Behold, I have given you authority to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall hurt you. Nevertheless, do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven."

L: This is the Gospel of our Lord.

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

SONG OF THE DAY

"Stand up, Stand up for Jesus"

LSB 660 v.1, 2, 4

Text & music: Public domain

Stand up, stand up for Jesus; ye soldiers of the cross.
Lift high His royal banner; it must not suffer loss.
From vict'ry unto vict'ry His army He shall lead
Till ev'ry foe is vanquished, and Christ is Lord indeed.

Stand up, stand up for Jesus; the trumpet call obey;
Stand forth in mighty conflict in this His glorious day.
Let all His faithful serve Him against unnumbered foes;
Let courage rise with danger and strength to strength oppose.

Stand up, stand up for Jesus; the strife will not be long;
This day the din of battle, the next the victor's song.
The soldiers, overcoming, their crown of life shall see
And with the King of Glory shall reign eternally.

MESSAGE INTRODUCTION: "The Armor of God" 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

"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**

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 with permission. Hymns are copied with permission: CCLI # 689918

OUR WEEKLY CALENDAR

2/16 Sun

Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany

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

11:45 am Royal Family Worship

6:00 pm NA

2/17 Mon

7:00 pm Beginners AIAnon (downstairs)

7:00 pm AIAnon (upstairs)

2/18 Tues

5:00 pm **GDLC Council Meeting**

2/19 Wed

11:00 am **Bible Study, The Book of Ruth**

2/21 Fri

5:00 pm Living Word Music Rehearsal

2/22 Sat

10:00 am Living Word Worship & Fellowship

6:00 pm Living Word Prayer Night

2/23 Sun

Seventh Sunday after the Epiphany

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: Verlayne Sather

Ushers: Morelli's

Altar Care: Morelli's

Counters: Pat Scott and Shirley Slagle

Attendance: 2/09/2025: 23

BIRTHDAYS: 16th Tim Harris, 16th Tom Harris

ANNIVERSARIES: None

ETERNAL CANDLE: Sandy Westling, Grandson Chris' birthday

FLOWERS: Open

Our deepest sympathies to Gwen on the passing of her sister Connie, who died on February 2. May the Lord bless the entire family and bring them peace as they grieve this sudden loss. The funeral was held on February 8.

Please also keep her other sister in your thoughts and prayers as she undergoes tests in the hospital. She was hospitalized on Tuesday, February 4 with severe stomach pain.

PRAYER CONCERNS

KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS: Meridel Christopherson, Gwen Johnson, Robert & Dolores Kluwe, Roselyn Norman, Larry Schlais, Pat Scott and all our shut-ins

Trent Johnson (Roxie's son) undergoing cancer treatment for diaphragm cancer

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

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.

Kim Morelli prayers for healing from recent surgery

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, 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

February 16

"The Bread of Our Lives"

(John 6:35)

Guest Speaker: Rev. Dr. Daniel Paavola

Jesus gives us Himself as the Bread of Life so that everything we need can be filled by Him and His gifts.

NEXT WEEK ON THE LUTHERAN HOUR

February 23

"Need to Know"

(John 7:28-29)

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

If you don't need God, you won't know God.

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 6:20-21*

"Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God. Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you shall be satisfied." The Beatitudes are largely about emptiness: if you're poor, your pockets are empty. If you are hungry, your stomach is empty. If you are mourning, there's an emptiness in your heart that used to be filled with the presence of a loved one. Jesus assures us in each case that the Lord will fill our emptiness. That assurance gives us not only peace, but also courage to follow the Lord faithfully.

LUTHERANS FOR LIFE:

"I love reminding them that the first diagnosis is, 'It's a baby,' and no other diagnosis ever negates diagnosis number one. The baby is inherently valuable and worthy of our love." *Dr. Robin Pierucci – 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 True Abundance."** A tale of misunderstanding and forgiveness. The worship service begins at 9:30 am with Rev. David Petrich from St. James Lutheran Church in Holland, MN, presents a message titled, **"The Misery and Blessing of Resurrection"** based on **1 Corinthians 15:12-20**. This program is interpreted and closed captioned for the deaf and hard of hearing. For more information or to watch the program, go to www.mainstreetliving.com select the "Twin Cities" tab.

Please add to your Calendar:

*Ash Wednesday is March 5, 2025. Gloria Dei will host a 5:30 pm
Ash Wednesday Service with the Imposition of Ashes.*

This service will not include Holy Communion.

(No 11 am bible study that day)

Gloria Dei recently donated 71 pounds of food to the Central Avenue Salvation Army. Thanks to all who helped with this mission!

Movies Made (Right) Here: The "Grumpy Old Men" Edition

Sunday, February 16. Doors: 3 pm, Movie: 3:30 pm, Nicollet Island Pavilion, free parking. Free admission. Laugh along with this Minnesota classic! *Grumpy Old Men*—a hilarious, heartwarming comedy was filmed right here in our snowy backyard. Admission is free, and snacks and beverages will be available for purchase from Mintahoe.

Wrestling at Murzyn Hall

Action-packed, family-friendly entertainment can be yours Saturday, February 22, when the Columbia Heights Lions host AWF professional wrestling at Murzyn Hall, 530 Mill Street NE. Doors open at 6 pm and bell-time is 7 pm. Tickets are \$10 at the door. Cash bar.

Alzheimer's Workshop

Minneapolis Parks & Recreation is offering a new workshop, "I Was Just Diagnosed with Alzheimer's (AD), Now What the Heck Do I Do?" Presented by an ex-teacher who was diagnosed with AD 18 months ago. There is almost no support for people who are newly diagnosed with AD; support from the medical community or insurance companies typically doesn't begin until 3-5 years after diagnosis. This workshop is for people who have an actual diagnosis of AD or Mild Cognitive Impairment. Topics to be covered include: basic FAQs about AD, tips and tricks for living with the disease and concrete work-arounds to stave off the impact of the most common AD symptoms, for as long as possible. **Tuesday, Feb. 25, 9:30-11 am**, Northeast Recreation Center, 1530 Johnson Street NE.