

# Gloria Dei Lutheran Church

*(The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod)*



## **ARMOR OF GOD: "THE BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS"**

**Order of Worship March 2, 2025 | 10:00 AM  
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:** The breastplate that God gives us protects our hearts from evil and deception—just like a coat of mail protects the heart from the weapons of an enemy. As we continue to wear Christ's breastplate, we develop a heart of purity like His, which leads to righteous actions (1 Peter 1:15). In fact, (Isaiah 59:17) describes GOD as wearing a breastplate of righteousness, so when we put on *our* breastplate, we are following in His steps.

*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 Transfiguration of Our Lord

AS WE GATHER: In spiritual battles, Christ's breastplate ensures my heart remains guarded. It guarantees that deceitful tactics find no entry point. This act of guarding becomes crucial in our battle against temptations and evils that seek to pierce our core values and integrity.

*+ CONNECT +*

WELCOME

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING HYMN

**"I Need Thee Every Hour"**

I need Thee ev'ry hour, Most gracious Lord;  
No tender voice like Thine Can peace afford.

Refrain

I need Thee, oh, I need Thee; Ev'ry hour I need Thee;  
Oh, bless me now, my Savior, I come to Thee.

I need Thee ev'ry hour, Stay Thou nearby;  
**Temptations lose their pow'r When Thou art nigh.**

Refrain

I need Thee ev'ry hour, In joy or pain;  
Come quickly and abide, Or life is vain.

Refrain

I need Thee ev'ry hour, Teach me Thy will;  
And Thy rich promises In me fulfill.

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 our Heavenly Father who truly cares and is ready to forgive.

C: Merciful Lord, we confess that with us there is an abundance of sin, but in you there is the fullness of righteousness and abundance of mercy. We are spiritually poor, but you are rich and in Jesus Christ came to be merciful to the poor. Strengthen our faith and trust in you. We are empty vessels that need to be filled; fill us. We are weak in faith; strengthen us. We are cold in love; warm us and make our hearts fervent for you that our love may go out to one another and to our neighbors. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

## FORGIVENESS IS ANNOUNCED

### + *NURTURE* +

## HYMN 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

ISAIAH 59:16-21

He saw that there was no man, and wondered that there was no one to intercede; then his own arm brought him salvation, and his righteousness upheld him. He put on righteousness as a breastplate, and a helmet of salvation on his head; he put on garments of vengeance for clothing, and wrapped himself in zeal as a cloak. According to their deeds, so will he repay, wrath to his adversaries, repayment to his enemies; to the coastlands he will render repayment. So they shall fear the name of the Lord from the west, and his glory from the rising of the sun; for he will come like a rushing stream, **which the wind of the Lord drives. "And a Redeemer will come to Zion, to those in Jacob who turn from transgression," declares the Lord.**

**"And as for me, this is my covenant with them," says the Lord: "My Spirit that is upon you, and my words that I have put in your mouth, shall not depart out of your mouth, or out of the mouth of your offspring, or out of the mouth of your children's offspring," says the Lord, "from this time forth and forevermore."**

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

MATTHEW 5:6, 20

L: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

C: Glory to You, O Lord!

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied. For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of 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

Pastor Matthew Cephus

**ARMOR OF GOD: “THE BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS”**

**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'ful 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 +***

+ + +



## OUR WEEKLY CALENDAR

3/02 Sun		The Transfiguration of Our Lord
	10:00 am	Worship Service w/Holy Communion w/Pastor Matthew Cephus
	11:45 am	Royal Family Worship
	6:00 pm	NA
3/03 Mon	7:00 pm	Beginners AIAnon (downstairs)
	7:00 pm	AIAnon (upstairs)
3/05 Wed		NO Bible Study
	5:30 pm	Ash Wednesday Service w/Imposition of Ashes
3/07 Fri	5:00 pm	Living Word Music Rehearsal
3/08 Sat	10:00 am	Living Word Worship & Fellowship
	6:00 pm	Living Word Prayer Night
3/09 Sun		The First Sunday in Lent
	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: Jason Matasovsky  
Ushers: Tom and Patty Lyrenmann  
Altar Care: Tom and Patty Lyrenmann  
Counters: Sandy Westling and Tom Harris  
Attendance: 2/23/2025: 26

If you would like to take a Poinsettia plant (or two or three)  
**after today's service, please help yourself!**

BIRTHDAYS: None  
ANNIVERSARIES: None

ETERNAL CANDLE: OPEN  
FLOWERS: Open

### PRAYER CONCERNS

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

**Nanc Rixe's mom, Doris, was** called home to the Lord on Thursday, February 20, after a brief hospitalization. We send our prayers and sympathy to Nanc at this time of grief. We pray the Lord gives her entire family strength and healing with His infinite blessings and comfort.

Doug and Alec Schwandt (**Pam's Brother and Nephew**) health issues  
**Gwen Johnson's sister**, prayers as she undergoes tests. She was hospitalized on Tuesday, February 4 with severe stomach pain.

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

March 2

"It's Best to Be with Jesus"

(Luke 9:28-36)

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Gregory Seltz

Life was not meant to be a do-it-yourself project. We need God's help, His strength, His gifts.

## NEXT WEEK ON THE LUTHERAN HOUR

March 9

"Unless a Grain of Wheat Dies"

(John 12:24)

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

Do you want a life that amounts to more than a hill o' beans? Hear how Christ's death and resurrection gives us life with God that can't be measured.

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: *Transfiguration - Luke 9:36*

**"And when the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone."** Moses and Elijah point to Jesus, speak about Jesus and His sacrifice, and then are happy to fade into the background. They know that what we need is Jesus. With our eyes focused on Him and Him alone, the rest of our lives comes into focus. He is primary, all else secondary. **When that order is right in our lives, things truly fall into place. Or as Jesus Himself said, "Seek first the kingdom of God ... and all these things will be added unto you" (Matt. 6:33).**

LUTHERANS FOR LIFE:

**"God sent His Son to save us, not because we asked, but because He loves us. God wants you to call on Him, not because He needs the information, and not just because He wants to rescue you from distress. He wants to rescue you for a new life, for a life of trusting that He wants to hear from you, of living with His Word inside you, a life responding with God's love to others in their distress, even before they call."** *Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler, The Lutheran Hour – 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 "A Friend in Deed"** - the Christian's duty to forgive. The worship service begins at 9:30 am with Rev. Shawn Ethridge from **St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church in Fulda, MN, presenting a message titled "One Greater than Moses"** based on Hebrews 3:1-6. 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](http://www.mainstreetliving.com) select the "Twin Cities" tab.

*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)*

Everyone is invited to help with the annual Kitchen Clean-up.  
Tuesday, March 11 at 9:30 am.

Coffee will be on if you need extra motivation! 😊

### **Vital Fitness**

East Side Neighborhood Services, 1700 2nd Street NE  
Registration: 612-787-4086 or [VitalLiving@esns.org](mailto:VitalLiving@esns.org).

Weekly Thursdays, 10:30-11:30 am, in person. A wide variety of balance, strength and flexibility movements will be incorporated into this fun and social group class. No cost. Pre-registration is helpful for planning purposes but not required. All abilities are encouraged to come. Movements can be done seated or standing.

Lake Wobegon Brass Band concert - March 8 @ 7 — 9 pm

The Lake Wobegon **Brass Band** will present its annual “Winter Into Spring” concert Saturday, March 8, First Lutheran Church, 1555 40<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE. Admission to this concert is \$10 for adults at the door, and free for students with ID.

### **“Frozen” at Northeast Middle School**

Project Success, Community ED Beacons and Northeast Middle School Performing Arts are in their fourth year collaborating during after-school programming, bringing musicals to life. “Frozen” will be presented Friday, March 7, and Saturday, March 8, at 7 pm. \$5 suggested donation at the door. Northeast Middle School, 1830 St. Anthony Pkwy.

### DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME

Begins at 2 am on Sunday, March 9<sup>th</sup>

REMEMBER TO “**SPRING AHEAD**” BY SETTING YOUR CLOCKS  
AHEAD BY ONE HOUR

**(It’s Ok to set them ahead when you go to bed on Saturday night)**

