

Gloria Dei Lutheran Church

(The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod)



ARMOR OF GOD: "THE SHIELD OF FAITH"

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

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Pianist: Carol Blase

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: Shields are another useful item for protection. Ephesians 6:16, we are to protect ourselves from the "flaming darts of the evil one." The Romans had a tactic to mitigate flaming arrows from setting their wooden shields on fire. Flaming arrows that Christians face, include seducing temptations, pride, and greed that lead us into disobedience to God. **The Shield of Faith** can not only protect us from these arrows, but also extinguish them. Have you picked up your **shield** today?

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 Second Sunday in Lent

AS WE GATHER: Faith is a protective barrier between us and the schemes of Satan. When we believe God and take Him at His word, we remain grounded in truth, the lies of the enemy lose their power, and we become overcomers. In that way, faith is our shield.

+ CONNECT +

WELCOME

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING SONG **"Just as I Am, Without One Plea"** LSB 570 v. 1, 2, 3
Text & Tune: Public Domain

Just as I am without one plea, But that Thy blood was shed for me
And that Thou bids't me come to Thee, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am and waiting not, To rid my soul of one dark blot,
To Thee, whose blood can cleanse each spot. O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am, though tossed about, With many a conflict, many a doubt,
Fightings and fears within, without, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

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 loves and cares for 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

"'Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus"

William James Kirkpatrick / Canzetta Staton / Louisa M. Stead

Lyrics © Universal Music Publishing Group, Essential Music Publishing, Capitol Christian Music Group, O/B/O Capasso

'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.

Oh, how sweet to trust in Jesus, Just to trust His cleansing blood
And in simple faith to plunge me 'Neath the healing, cleansing flood!

Yes, 'tis sweet to trust in Jesus, Just from sin and self to cease
Just from Jesus simply taking Life and rest, and joy and peace.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Psalm 18:2, 30-36

The Lord is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer, my God, my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold. This God—his way is perfect; the word of the Lord proves true; he is a shield for all those who take refuge in him.

For who is God, but the Lord? And who is a rock, except our God?— the God who equipped me with strength and made my way blameless. He made my feet like the feet of a deer and set me secure on the heights. He trains my hands for war, so that my arms can bend a bow of bronze. You have given me the shield of your salvation, and your right hand supported me, and your gentleness made me great. You gave a wide place for my steps under me, and my feet did not slip.

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

John 3:14- 17

L: The Holy Gospel according to John.

C: Glory to You, O Lord!

And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

For God So Loved the World

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

L: This is the Gospel of our Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ!

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 **ARMOR OF GOD: "The Shield of Faith"** 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

"Almighty Father, Bless the Word"

LSB 923

Text and Music: Public Domain

Almighty Father, bless the Word
Which through Your grace we now have heard.
Oh, may the precious seed take root, Spring up and bear abundant fruit!

We praise You for the means of grace
As homeward now our steps we trace.
Grant, Lord, that we who worshiped here May all at last in heav'n appear.

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host: Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

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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OUR WEEKLY CALENDAR

3/16 Sun		The Second 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
3/17 Mon	7:00 pm	Beginners AIAnon (downstairs)
	7:00 pm	AIAnon (upstairs)
3/18 Tues	5:00 am	GDLC Council Meeting
3/19 Wed	11:00 am	Bible Study
3/21 Fri	5:00 pm	Living Word Music Rehearsal
3/22 Sat	10:00 am	Living Word Worship & Fellowship
	6:00 pm	Living Word Prayer Night
3/23 Sun		The Third 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: Julie Cross
Ushers: Tom and Patty Lyrenmann
Altar Care: Open
Counters: Pat Scott and Shirley Slagle
Attendance: 3/09/2025: 29



BIRTHDAYS: 18th Shirley Holzinger, 21st Bruce Cross, 21st Dale Raschke
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

Chris Hadtrath hip replacement scheduled for March 21, prayers for quick recovery
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

NOTE: Those "in our extend prayers" are removed from the list after eight weeks. If there is someone you would like to keep on the list for another eight weeks, please contact the church office.

TODAY'S LUTHERAN HOUR

March 16

"Light of the World"

(John 8:12)

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

Jesus is the Light of the world. However, He sometimes keeps that light out of the visible range. We can't see it, but it changes what we see.

NEXT WEEK ON THE LUTHERAN HOUR

March 23

"Even Me, Even You"

(John 10:1-21)

Guest Speaker: Rev. Dr. Jason Broge

Jesus the Good Shepherd invites all to be His sheep and find pasture. His words of promise will amaze some but anger others.

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: *Lent 2 - Philippians 3:19*

"Their end is destruction, their god is their belly, and they glory in their shame, with minds set on earthly things." St. Paul does not want us to set our minds on earthly things, for they are passing away. This is similar to what Jesus says about storing up treasures on earth rather than storing them in heaven. Our heart tends to go where we put our treasure. This is why God commands us to live generously: not to spoil our fun, but to help train us in keeping our priorities straight and our minds off earthly things.

LUTHERANS FOR LIFE:

On St. Joseph: "Though Mary's husband did not beget Jesus from his own body, he did father him in the fashion of a foster, adoptive, or step-parent. For this reason, he has received the title of Guardian of Our Lord. His service to God and family not only figures prominently in the Gospel of Jesus Christ but also exemplifies the holy vocation of fatherhood and testifies to the sanctity of marriage, parenting, adoption, and every human life." Pastor Michael Salemink, *Lutherans For Life – 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 "Adrift" — A child's Christian witness.** The worship service begins at 9:30 am with Rev. Paul Sajban from The Lutheran Church of Our Savior in Windom, MN, presents a message titled **"A Prophet-able Life"** based on Luke 13:31-35. 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.

Thank you to everyone who assisted with the annual kitchen and dining room clean-up. What a big accomplishment! Your efforts are greatly appreciated! Special thanks to Verlayne, Dan, Mary, Julie, Tom, Patty, Pam, Aaron, Gwen and Anna from Social Ministry (Shirley Holzinger). 😊

Spring Plant Sale, March 1st - April 3rd at Roseville Lutheran Church

The Lively Landscapers will be sponsoring the Spring Plant Sale as a fundraiser for their work and materials around the Roseville Lutheran Church gardens. Gerten's Nursery supplies the plants and ordering information is found at www.gertensfundraising.com, enter code 1118 and you will be redirected to the Gerten's ordering webpage. Orders are due by end of day April 3rd. All orders can be picked up from Roseville Lutheran Church on May 12 after 3pm. A BLOOMING SPRING is just around the corner!

March is Minnesota FoodShare Month!

The March Campaign is the largest grassroots food and fund drive in the state, bringing together organizations, businesses, faith communities, and individuals to help stock and support the capacity of nearly 300 food shelves. They envision a future where all Minnesotans have access to healthy food and no one struggles with food insecurity. In alignment with the dedication to community support and charity, we encourage everyone to join our efforts in filling our grocery cart with donations for the food shelf. This small gesture can make a significant difference in the lives of those struggling with food insecurity. Non-perishable items such as canned goods, dry pasta, and cereal are greatly appreciated. Let's come together to ensure that no one in our community goes hungry.

Thrivent Choice Dollars Expire March 31!

You can direct your Thrivent Choice Dollars to Gloria Dei Lutheran Church before they expire at the end of the month. With your generosity, GDLC received \$822 for 2024. Only about 1/3 of Thrivent members take advantage of this benefit, which means charities lose 2/3 of the Thrivent Choice Dollars.

You must renew the distribution of your Choice Dollars every year. Your choice of a prior year does not carry over. There are two ways to direct your Choice Dollars. Go to www.thrivent.com and click on Generosity or call 1-800-847-4836 and say "choice dollars," a representative will come on the line to help.

Pick up your April – June 2025 *Portals of Prayer* located on the Ushers Table.