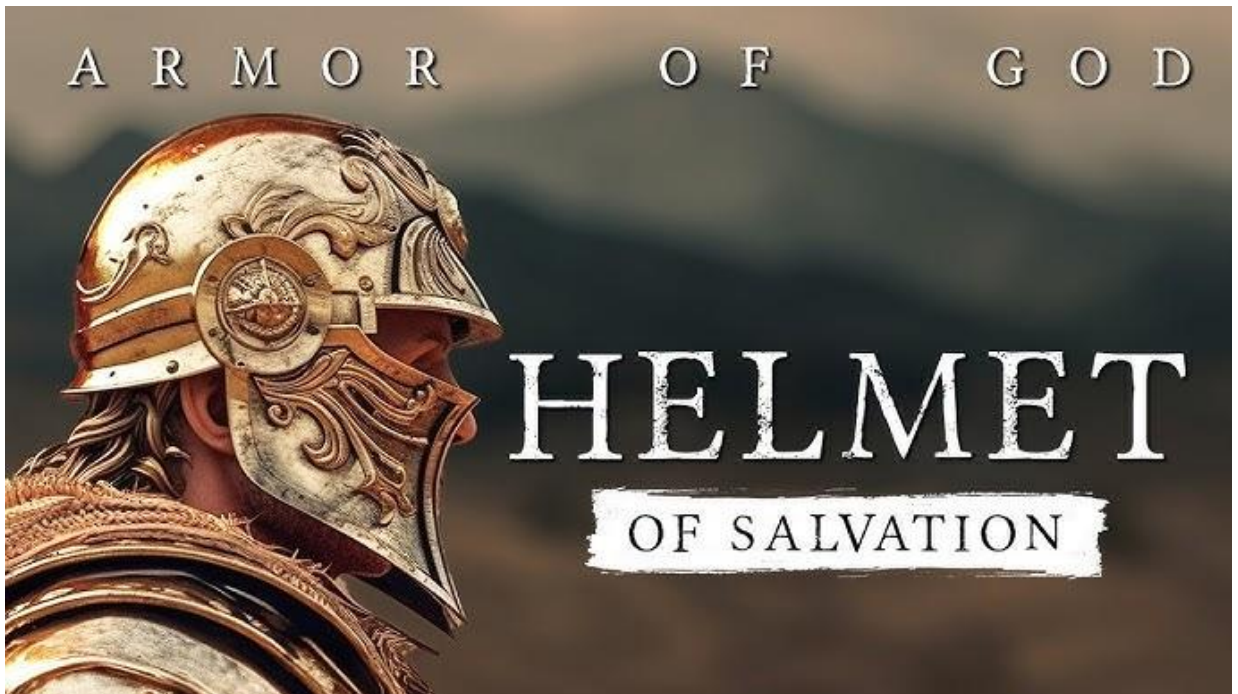


Gloria Dei Lutheran Church

(The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod)



ARMOR OF GOD: "THE HELMET OF SALVATION"

Order of Worship March 23, 2025 | 10:00 AM
Pastor Matthew Cephus

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

www.gloriadeilcms.org

email: info@gloriadeilcms.org

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: The assurance of salvation is our impenetrable defense against anything the enemy throws at us. Jesus said, "Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather, be afraid of the One who can destroy both soul and body in hell" (Matthew 10:28). The idea in this verse is that, as we prepare for Satan's attacks, we must grab that helmet and buckle it on tightly. It is for our daily protection and deliverance from Satan's schemes.

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 Third Sunday in Lent

AS WE GATHER: Put on the full armor including the helmet of salvation. Doing so will insulate our minds more against the suggestions, desires, and traps the enemy lays for us.

+ CONNECT +

WELCOME

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING SONG

"Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me"

LSB 761 v. 1, 2, 3

Text & Tune: Public domain

Rock of Ages, cleft for me, let me hide myself in Thee;
Let the water and the blood, from Thy riven side which flowed,
Be of sin the double cure: Cleanse me from its guilt and pow'r.

Not the labors of my hands, can fulfill Thy Law's demands;
Could my zeal no respite know, could my tears forever flow,
All for sin could not atone; Thou must save, and Thou alone.

Nothing in my hand I bring; simply to Thy cross I cling.
Naked, come to Thee for dress; helpless, look to Thee for grace;
Foul, I to the fountain fly; wash me, Savior, or I die.

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

"My Jesus, I Love Thee"

My Jesus, I love thee, I know thou art mine; for thee all the follies of sin I resign;
My gracious Redeemer, my Savior art thou; if ever I loved thee, my Jesus, 'tis now.

I love thee because thou hast first loved me and purchased my pardon on Calvary's tree;
I love thee for wearing the thorns on thy brow; if ever I loved thee, my Jesus, 'tis now.

In mansions of glory and endless delight, I'll ever adore thee in heaven so bright;
I'll sing with the glittering crown on my brow: If ever I loved thee, my Jesus, 'tis now.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 59:15-17, 19-20

Truth is lacking, and he who departs from evil makes himself a prey.

The Lord saw it, and it displeased him that there was no justice. 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.

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.

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 10:17-20

L: The Holy Gospel according to Luke.

C: Glory to You, O Lord!

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

"Standing on the Promises of God"

Standing on the promises of Christ, my King,
Through eternal ages let his praises ring;
Glory in the highest, I will shout and sing,
Standing on the promises of God.

Refrain:

Standing, standing, standing on the promises of God, my Savior;
Standing, standing, I'm standing on the promises of God.

Standing on the promises that cannot fail,
When the howling storms of doubt and fear assail,
By the living Word of God I shall prevail,
Standing on the promises of God.

Refrain

Standing on the promises of Christ, the Lord,
Bound to him eternally by love's strong cord,
Overcoming daily with the Spirit's sword,
Standing on the promises of God.

Refrain

Standing on the promises I cannot fall,
List'ning ev'ry moment to the Spirit's call,
Resting in my Savior as my all in all,
Standing on the promises of God.

Refrain

MESSAGE **ARMOR OF GOD: "The Helmet of Salvation"** 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

"A Mighty Fortress Is Our God"

LSB 657 v. 1, 2, 4

Text: © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship, Music: Public domain

A mighty fortress is our God, a sword and shield victorious;
He breaks the cruel oppressor's rod and wins salvation glorious.

The old satanic foe has sworn to work us woe
With craft and dreadful might he arms himself to fight.
On earth he has no equal.

No strength of ours can match his might we would be lost, rejected.

But now a champion comes to fight, whom God Himself elected.

You ask who this may be? The Lord of hosts is He,

Christ Jesus, mighty Lord, God's only Son, adored.

He holds the field victorious.

God's Word forever shall abide, no thanks to foes, who fear it;

For God Himself fights by our side with weapons of the Spirit.

Were they to take our house, goods, honor, child or spouse,

Though life be wrenched away, they cannot win the day.

The Kingdom's ours forever!

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

3/23 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
3/24 Mon	7:00 pm	Beginners AIAnon (downstairs)
	7:00 pm	AIAnon (upstairs)
3/25 Tues	10:00 am	Pastor's Winkle at GDLC
3/26 Wed	11:00 am	Bible Study
3/27 Fri	5:00 pm	Living Word Music Rehearsal
3/28 Sat	10:00 am	Living Word Worship & Fellowship
	6:00 pm	Living Word Prayer Night
3/29 Sun		The Fourth 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: Verlayne Sather
 Ushers: Morelli's
 Altar Care: Morelli's
 Counters: Pat Scott and Shirley Slagle
 Attendance: 3/16/2025: 31



BIRTHDAYS: 23rd Sandy Westling; 28th Robin Henslin
ANNIVERSARIES: None

ETERNAL CANDLE: Sandy Westling – **Grandma & Mom’s birthdays**
FLOWERS: OPEN

PRAYER CONCERNS

KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS: Meridel Christopherson, 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

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

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 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.

NEXT WEEK ON THE LUTHERAN HOUR

March 30 "The Difference Between Anger and Contempt" (John 11:35)

Lutheran Hour Speaker: [Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler](#)

God gets angry at sin, but behind that anger, God is love. We believe this only because of Jesus.

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 3 - Luke 13:3*

"No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish." The season of Lent is all about repentance: turning back to the Lord, away from our sins, in faith. We know that it is only in the Lord that we can find salvation. So, we do well in this season of **repentance to examine ourselves, asking questions like, "What is trying to keep me away from Jesus?" "What is a temptation I face?" "What is a sin I need to repent of and leave behind?"** Then we turn to the Lord for the strength to leave these sins behind, and for the courage to follow Him in faith and faithful living.

LUTHERANS FOR LIFE:

"Think of how important we as human beings must be in the eyes of God, if He—as the almighty creator and Lord of the entire universe—was willing to take on human flesh and become one of us. God loves the human race so much He decided to become our brother."
Thomas P. Nass, CELC President – 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 "Hand of God"** - Making opportunities from problems. The worship service begins at 9:30 am with Rev. Jeffrey Williams from Trinity Lutheran Church in Slayton, MN, presenting a message titled **"But I'm Not as Bad as He Is"** based on Luke 13:1-9. 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). 😊

BIRDING WITH URBAN BIRD COLLECTIVE

Wednesday, March 26, 5:30 pm at Kordiak Park, 1845 49th Avenue NE.

Join Monica Bryand of Urban Bird Collective to learn about the spring bird migration, what types of birds you might see in the area and how you can help. Bring your own binoculars (a limited number of extra binoculars will be on hand).

Orchestra Concert at Holy Cross

Holy Cross Catholic Church, 1621 University Avenue NE, will host a **free** concert by the **Orchestra of the College of Saint Benedict and Saint John's University** on Saturday, March 29, 2 pm. The concert features works by Bach, Elga, Bartok and other living composers. The program runs less than one hour in length, making it an ideal program for a Saturday afternoon. A \$10 donation is encouraged.

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.

Minnesota's charitable food system (food shelves and food banks, meal programs, etc.) continues to run at capacity. Increased food prices, growing inflation rates and slowing wage growth have put a significant financial strain on Minnesotans, making it increasingly difficult to maintain food security throughout the year. Though the state has taken measures to decrease hunger, massive leaps in food shelf attendance over the last five years suggest emergency food assistance providers will continue to be a critical resource to communities across the state.

You can help by filling Gloria Dei's grocery cart with donations for the **Salvation Army's** food shelf. This small gesture can make a significant difference in the lives of our neighbors. 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.

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