

Gloria Dei Lutheran Church

(The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod)



ARMOR OF GOD: "THE SWORD OF THE SPIRIT"

Order of Worship March 30, 2025 | 10:00 AM
Pastor Matthew Cephus

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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: In the final episode of our series Armor of God Pt 7: **Sword** of the Spirit, we will examine how the Bible is our last line of defense. When the battle was raging, a Roman soldier had one last line of defense. It may have been the short sword which was small but good for stabbing. Or it may have been the dagger that could be used in close quarters. Whether it was the sword or the dagger, Paul's point is clear: God has given us a last line of defense to use in our battle with evil.

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 Fourth Sunday in Lent

AS WE GATHER: While truth, salvation, faith, and righteousness are essential pieces of armor, the **Sword** of the Spirit (Word of God) is depicted as the offensive weapon used in spiritual warfare against the devil, demons, and their schemes.

+ *CONNECT* +

WELCOME

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING SONG

"Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus"

LSB 660

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; stand in His strength alone.
The arm of flesh will fail you, ye dare not trust your own.
Put on the Gospel armor; Each piece put on with prayer.
Where duty calls or danger, be never wanting there.

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.

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

"Holy God, We Praise Thy Name"

LSB 940

Text & Tune: Public Domain

Holy God, we praise Thy name; Lord of all, we bow before Thee.
All on earth Thy scepter claim, all in heav'n above adore Thee.
Infinite Thy vast domain, everlasting is Thy reign.

Hark! The glad celestial hymn angel choirs above are raising;
Cherubim and seraphim, in unceasing chorus praising,
Fill the heav'ns with sweet accord: Holy, holy, holy Lord!

Thou art King of Glory Christ; Son of God, yet born of Mary
For us sinners sacrificed, as to death a Tributary,
First to break the bars of death, Thou hast opened heav'n to faith.

Holy Father, holy Son, Holy Spirit, three we name Thee.
Though in essence only one, undivided God we claim Thee.
And adoring, bend the knee, while we own the mystery.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Psalm 91: 1-12

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.

Because you have made the Lord your dwelling place— the Most High, who is my refuge— no evil shall be allowed to befall you, no plague come near your tent.

For he will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways. On their hands they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone.

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 4:1-11

L: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

C: Glory to You, O Lord!

Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. And after fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. And the tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." But he answered, "It is written, "'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"

Then the devil took him to the holy city and set him on the pinnacle of the temple and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written, "'He will command his angels concerning you,' and "'On their hands they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone.'"

Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, 'You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.'" Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. And he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me." Then Jesus said to him, "Be gone, Satan! For it is written, "'You shall worship the Lord your God and him only shall you serve.'"

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 Sword of The Spirit" 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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SERVING TODAY

Elder: Karmon Christopherson

Reading: Sandy Westling

Ushers: Tom and Patty Lyrenmann

Altar Care: Tom and Patty Lyrenmann

Counters: Shirley Holzinger and Verlayne Sather

Attendance: 3/23/2025: 29

OUR WEEKLY CALENDAR

3/30 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

3/31 Mon

7:00 pm Beginners AAnon (downstairs)

7:00 pm AAnon (upstairs)

4/02 Wed

11:00 am Bible Study

4/04 Fri

5:00 pm Living Word Music Rehearsal

4/05 Sat

10:00 am Living Word Worship & Fellowship

6:00 pm Living Word Prayer Night

4/06 Sun

The Fifth 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



March is Minnesota FoodShare Month!

You can help by filling Gloria Dei's **grocery cart** with donations for the Salvation Army's food shelf. **For the month of March Gloria Dei graciously donated 84 pounds of food!** 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.

Are you Feeling Crafty?

Julie Cross is looking for volunteers to help with a "Welcome" banner that will hang on the outside of the church entrance. If you have an interest in helping with this project, it will require a ½ day commitment, most likely a Tuesday. Please call the church office or connect with Julie. *Thank you!*



BIRTHDAYS: 31st Juliana Morelli; 5th Larry Schlais

ANNIVERSARIES: 1st Bob & Dolores Kluwe; 3rd Richard & Diane Volner

ETERNAL CANDLE: OPEN

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 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.

NEXT WEEK ON THE LUTHERAN HOUR

April 6 **"Better Than I Deserve!"** **(John 12:1-11)**

Guest Speaker: Rev. Keith Haberstock

Jesus didn't deserve to die on a cross, but He died and rose again in order to give us better than we deserve.

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 4 - Luke 15:12*

"And the younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of property that is coming to me.' And he divided his property between them." This prodigal son only sees the father as a source of wealth. "Give me my inheritance now!" he says, which is really to say, "You are better off dead in my eyes." This is the sin at the heart of all greed: valuing things over people. This parable calls us to come to our senses as well, and to see God as the loving Giver of all good, the true Father to be valued above and beyond all the things of this world.

LUTHERANS FOR LIFE:

"Our Lord dwelt among us for quite some time without anyone seeing or meeting Him. Yet in this span, He consecrated and sanctified every human life from its very beginning at the moment of fertilization. And He demonstrated that neither age nor appearance nor ability—nor any lack thereof—improves or impairs anyone's worth. God creates, redeems, and calls each one as His own to start with." *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 **"Point of No Return"** - God's limitless grace. The worship service begins at 9:30 am with Rev. Dennis Brech from Trinity Lutheran Church in Currie MN, presenting a message titled **"Trip to the Lost and Found"** based on **Luke 15:1-3,11-32**. 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.