

# Gloria Dei Lutheran Church

*(The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod)*



## "THE PARABLE OF THE RICH FOOL"

Part II: "We Don't Own It"

**Order of Worship Sunday November 30, 2025 – 10 AM**

**Rev. Dr. Matthew Cephus**

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

**[www.gloriadeilcms.org](http://www.gloriadeilcms.org)**

**email: [info@gloriadeilcms.org](mailto:info@gloriadeilcms.org)**

**Pianist: Karrie Kikeh**

# **Welcome to God's House!**

*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:** One of the biggest mistakes we make is believing that what we have, we actually own. In God's eyes, we don't own anything. Everything we have – our accomplishments, our possessions, even our lives – all belong to God. We're simply called to steward what we have on God's behalf. The rich man in this parable failed to see this, and many of us do as well. Until we recognize this, we'll struggle with our possessions, and we'll fail to live as generously as God would like.

*A special welcome to visitors and guests; we are pleased that you have joined us today! 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.

Join us for Wednesday bible study on December 3.  
Featuring a Special "Christmas" Edition. See you there!

# First Sunday of Advent

**AS WE GATHER:** God owns everything and we are nothing but stewards. Recognizing that all gifts come from a higher power encourages gratitude and a sense of responsibility to use them wisely for the benefit of others and for the glory of God.

*+ CONNECT +*

**WELCOME**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**OPENING HYMN**

**"Grace Greater Than Our Sin"**

Marvelous grace of our loving Lord,  
Grace that exceeds our sin and our guilt!  
Yonder on Calvary's mount out-poured,  
There where the blood of the Lamb was spilled.

**Refrain:** Grace, grace, God's grace,  
Grace that will pardon and cleanse within;  
Grace, grace, God's grace,  
Grace that is greater than all our sin!

Sin and despair, like the sea waves cold,  
Threaten the soul with infinite loss;  
Grace that is greater— yes, grace untold—  
Points to the refuge, the mighty cross.

**Refrain**

Dark is the stain that we cannot hide;  
What can we do to wash it away?  
Look! There is flowing a crimson tide,  
Brighter than snow you may be today.

**Refrain**

Marvelous, infinite, matchless grace,  
Freely bestowed on all who believe!  
You that are longing to see His face,  
Will you this moment His grace receive?

**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 to God our Heavenly Father who truly loves us.
- C: **We thank you, oh God for the manifold gifts you have given us. And yet we confess to you that we have often taken for granted your grace and your goodness toward us. We have delighted in the gifts rather than the Giver. We have praised ourselves for what we have accomplished rather than acknowledging that all good things come from you. Forgive us in your mercy, Lord, and grant that we might be truly grateful for all that you have given to us through Jesus Christ, our Lord, Amen.**

## FORGIVENESS IS ANNOUNCED

+ *NURTURE* +

## SONG OF PRAISE

**"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**

**OLD TESTAMENT READING**

**1 Chronicles 29:10-17**

***David Prays in the Assembly***

Therefore David blessed the Lord in the presence of all the assembly. And David said: "Blessed are you, O Lord, the God of Israel our father, forever and ever. Yours, O Lord, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the victory and the majesty, for all that is in the heavens and in the earth is yours. Yours is the kingdom, O Lord, and you are exalted as head above all. Both riches and honor come from you, and you rule over all. In your hand are power and might, and in your hand it is to make great and to give strength to all. And now we thank you, our God, and praise your glorious name.

"But who am I, and what is my people, that we should be able thus to offer willingly? For all things come from you, and of your own have we given you. For we are strangers before you and sojourners, as all our fathers were. Our days on the earth are like a shadow, and there is no abiding. O Lord our God, all this abundance that we have provided for building you a house for your holy name comes from your hand and is all your own. I know, my God, that you test the heart and have pleasure in uprightness. In the uprightness of my heart I have freely offered all these things, and now I have seen your people, who are present here, offering freely and joyously to you.

**L:** The Word of the Lord.

**C:** **Thanks be to God!**

**EPISTLE READING**

**1 Timothy 6:6-10, 13-19**

But godliness with contentment is great gain, for we brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world. But if we have food and clothing, with these we will be content. But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation, into a snare, into many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs. I charge you in the presence of God, who gives life to all things, and of Christ Jesus, who in his testimony before Pontius Pilate made the good confession, to keep the commandment unstained and free from reproach until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ, which he will display at the proper time—he who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords, who alone has immortality, who dwells in unapproachable light, whom no one has ever seen or can see. To him be honor and eternal dominion. Amen.

As for the rich in this present age, charge them not to be haughty, nor to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly provides us with everything to enjoy. They are to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, thus storing up treasure for themselves as a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is truly life.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God!**

## **HOLY GOSPEL**

**Luke 12:13-21**

L: The Holy Gospel according to Luke.

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

### ***The Parable of the Rich Fool***

Someone in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me." But he said to him, "Man, who made me a judge or arbitrator over you?" And he said to them, "Take care, and be on your guard against all covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions." And he told them a parable, saying, "The land of a rich man produced plentifully, and he thought to himself, 'What shall I do, for I have nowhere to store my crops?' And he said, 'I will do this: I will tear down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I will say to my soul, "Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry."' But God said to him, 'Fool! This night your soul is required of you, and the things you have prepared, whose will they be?' So is the one who lays up treasure for himself and is not rich toward God."

L: This is the Gospel of our Lord.

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

## **HYMN OF THE DAY**

**"I Love Your Kingdom, Lord"**

**LSB 651**

*Text & music: Public domain*

I love Your kingdom, Lord, the place of Your abode,  
The Church our blest Redeemer saved with His own precious blood.

Beyond my highest joy I prize its heav'nly ways,  
Its sweet communion, solemn vows, its hymns of love and praise.

I love Your Church, O God, Your saints in ev'ry land,  
Dear as the apple of Your eye and graven on Your hand.

For them my tears shall fall; for them my prayers ascend;  
For them my cares and toils be giv'n till toils and cares shall end.

Sure as Your truth shall last, to Zion shall be giv'n  
The brightest glories earth can yield and brighter bliss of heav'n.

## MESSAGE

**Rev. Dr. Matthew Cephus**

**"The Parable of The Rich Fool" – Part II: "We Don't Own It"**

## 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

## "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee"

LSB 803

*Text & Music: Public Domain*

Joyful, joyful we adore Thee, God of glory, Lord of love!  
Hearts unfold like flow'rs before Thee, Praising Thee, their sun above.  
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness, drive the gloom of doubt away.  
Giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day.

All Thy works with joy surround Thee, earth and heav'n reflect Thy rays,  
Stars and angels sing around Thee, center of unbroken praise.  
Field and forest, vale and mountain, flow'ry meadow, flashing sea,  
Chanting bird, and flowing fountain call us to rejoice in Thee.

Thou art giving and forgiving, ever blessing, ever blest,  
Well-spring of the joy of living, ocean-depth of happy rest!  
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, fountain-head of love divine:  
Joyful, we Thy heav'n inherit! Joyful, we by grace are Thine!

## 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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## **Order Poinsettias for the Christmas Season**

If you would like to provide a Poinsettia for the Altar display at Christmas, please sign-up before **NOVEMBER 30<sup>th</sup>**! Plants will be ordered through Pletscher's Greenhouse and are \$21.99 each OR you may bring your own. Colors are Red, Pink or White.

## **OUR WEEKLY CALENDAR**

**11/30 Sun**

### **First Sunday of Advent**

**10:00 am**     **Worship with Holy Communion,  
w/Rev. Dr. Matthew Cephus**

11:45 am     Royal Family Worship

6:00 pm     NA

**12/01 Mon**

7:00 pm     Beginners AIAnon (downstairs)

7:00 pm     AIAnon (upstairs)

**12/02 Tues**

**9:30 am**     **Decorate the Church for the Holidays**

**12/03 Wed**

**11:00 am**     **Bible Study – *Christmas Edition***

7:30 pm     SLAA Group Meeting

**12/05 Fri**

5:00 pm     Living Word Music Rehearsal

**12/06 Sat**

10:00 am     Living Word Worship & Fellowship

**4:30 pm**     **Lantern Walk through the Bible, Self-Guided Tour**

6:00 pm     Living Word Prayer Night

**12/07 Sun**

### **Second Sunday of Advent**

*Last Day for Salvation Army Gift Tree Donations*

**10:00 am**     **Worship with Holy Communion,  
w/Rev. Dr. 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

**Altarcare:** Tom and Patty Lyrenmann

**Counters:** Shirley Holzinger and Verlayne Sather

**Attendance: 11/23/2025: 24**

**Offerings:** Loose Plate \$0; Regular \$900; Thanksgiving Holiday \$300; Flowers \$22;  
Rent \$180 Total \$1,402

**Needed each week for 2025: \$2,742**

### **HELP DECORATE THE CHURCH**

Assistance is needed to help decorate the church for the holiday season. Please plan to join us on Tuesday, December 2, starting at 9:30 am. All volunteers are welcome, and refreshments will be provided. Thank you!

**BIRTHDAYS:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Shirley Slagle

**ANNIVERSARIES:** None

**ETERNAL CANDLE:** Shirley Holzinger – Nephew, Adam’s birthday (12/05)

**FLOWERS:** OPEN

### **PRAYER CONCERNS**

**KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS:** Meridel Christopherson, Tom Farrell, Robert & Dolores Kluwe, Al Morelli, Roselyn Norman, Larry Schlais, Pat Scott, Alec Schwandt and all our shut-ins

**Danielle Ohnstad** continued prayers as she struggles through breast cancer

**Marie Padmore** (Roselyn’s sister) prayers for positive test results

**Aaron Morelli** upcoming testing

**Pastor Martin Cornes’** father-in-law, Dan, recently diagnosed with cancer; has undergone surgery. He is now staying in a transitional care facility; discussions regarding future treatment options are forthcoming

**Roger Kropelniki** (Ken Biebighauser’s BnL) underwent esophagus surgery and is suffering from lung issues

**Karen Charpentier** (Ken Biebighauser’s sister) going through cancer treatment

**Diane Sharbono** undergoing cancer treatment

**Dorie** (Shirley Holzinger’s sister-in-law) addressing unexpected issues.

**Roxie Johnson** (Morelli’s niece) heart issues (pacemaker), prayers as she gets stronger

**Kim Morelli and Amy Rich** (Morelli’s DnLs) continued prayers for good health after cancer treatments

**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, he 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) continued prayers as he continues treatment for Non-Hodgkin Lymphoma

**Amy Price** (Morelli’s niece) dealing with continued health concerns

**For First Responders/Health Care Workers**, including James Norman, an ICU nurse

**THOSE SERVING OUR COUNTRY IN DANGEROUS AREAS**

## **TODAY'S LUTHERAN HOUR**

**November 30**

**"Rise and Shine"**

**(Romans 13:11)**

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

Belief in the resurrection of Jesus is no siesta. It's a 5am wake-up call, a jolt out of bed that will turn your world upside down.

## **NEXT WEEK ON THE LUTHERAN HOUR**

**December 7**

**"Chosen for What?"**

**(Romans 15:7)**

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

God calls believers to trust and follow Jesus--chosen, but chosen for what?

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:** *Advent 1 - Matthew 21:3*

"If anyone says anything to you, you shall say, 'The Lord needs them,' and he will send them at once." Just a colt and her foal. How significant could they be? Could they really be used by the Lord for some great, heavenly purpose? This is one facet of stewardship we often forget: the blessing it is to us to be of service in the Lord's Kingdom. What honor the Lord bestows upon us by using our gifts for His goals!

## **LUTHERANS FOR LIFE:**

"As we prepare to celebrate Jesus' first Advent, His birth in Bethlehem, we also look forward to the day of His return, His second Advent. On the Last Day, we will see Jesus returning in glory as King and Judge. The Good Shepherd will come again to gather His flock to Himself forever." *Dr. Carol Geisler, Lutheran Hour Ministries – 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 **"Puzzle Club Christmas."** The Puzzle Club must solve a missing person mystery before Christmas. The worship service begins at 9:30 am with Rev. Jeffrey Williams from Trinity Lutheran Church in Slayton, MN, presents a message titled **"Blessed Is He Who Comes in the Name of the Lord"** based on **Matthew 21:1-9**. For more information or to watch the program, go to [www.mainstreetliving.com](http://www.mainstreetliving.com) select the "Twin Cities" tab.