

# Gloria Dei Lutheran Church

*(The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod)*



## **“WHY WE CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS”** **Christmas Day Service**

**Order of Worship December 25, 2025 | 10:00 AM**  
**Rev. Dr. Matthew Cephus**

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

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# 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:** Our focus today is on the real reason why we celebrate Christmas.

*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.

# "Why We Celebrate Christmas" Christmas Day Service

**AS WE GATHER:** The Season of Christmas reminds us of the birth of the Savior Jesus Christ. As we gather here today, let us make room in our hearts and express our gratitude to God for what He did. Remember, The King deserves our worship.

*+ CONNECT +*

## **WELCOME**

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **OPENING HYMN**

**"Joy to the World"**

**LSB 387**

*Text & Tune: Public domain*

Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King;  
Let ev'ry heart prepare Him room  
And heav'n and nature sing, and heav'n and nature sing,  
And heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.

Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let men their songs employ,  
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains  
Repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat, repeat, the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow nor thorns infest the ground;  
He comes to make His blessings flow  
Far as the curse is found, far as the curse is found  
Far as, far as, the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the nations prove  
The glories of His righteousness  
And wonders of His love, and wonders of His love,  
And wonders, wonders, of His love.

## **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.**

## **CONFESSTION OF OUR SINS**

**L:** Let us confess our sins to God our Heavenly Father who truly loves us.

**C:** **Father in Heaven, we confess that we never knew you had come down. We confess that we were in the dark as to your light among us. Though the world was created through your Word, we could not grasp the reality that he had entered into our neighborhood and taken up residence. We could not receive him whom we did not see. In all his humility, in his appearance in unexpected places, we were blind. We have only ourselves to blame for not opening our eyes of faith and ears of understanding. May You forgive us and once again on this Nativity of Christ's birth proclaim the good news of your comfort and redemption to us, so that all the ends of the earth may see the salvation of our God. Amen.**

## **FORGIVENESS IS ANNOUNCED**

*+ NURTURE +*

## **SONG OF PRAISE**

**"Silent Night, Holy Night"**

**LSB 363**

*Text & Tune: Public Domain*

Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright  
Round yon virgin mother and child. Holy Infant, so tender and mild,  
Sleep in heavenly peace, Sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight;  
Glories stream from heaven afar, Heav'nly hosts sing, Alleluia!  
Christ, the Savior, is born! Christ, the Savior, is born!

Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love's pure light  
Radiant beams from your holy face, With the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord, at your birth, Jesus, Lord, at your birth.

## OLD TESTAMENT READING

ISAIAH 9:2-7

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone. You have multiplied the nation; you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as they are glad when they divide the spoil. For the yoke of his burden, and the staff for his shoulder, the rod of his oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult and every garment rolled in blood will be burned as fuel for the fire. For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God!**

## EPISTLE READING

ROMANS 15:8-12

For I tell you that Christ became a servant to the circumcised to show God's truthfulness, in order to confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written, *"Therefore I will praise you among the Gentiles, and sing to your name."*

And again it is said, *"Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people."*

And again, *"Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples extol him."*

And again Isaiah says, *"The root of Jesse will come, even he who arises to rule the Gentiles; in him will the Gentiles hope."*

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God!**

## HOLY GOSPEL

LUKE 2:1-11

L: The Holy Gospel according to Luke.

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

### ***The Birth of Jesus Christ***

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. And all went to be registered, each to his own town. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be registered with Mary, his

betrothed, who was with child. And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

### ***The Shepherds and the Angels***

And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

**L:** This is the Gospel of our Lord.

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

**HYMN OF THE DAY**

**"Angels We Have Heard on High"**

**LSB 368**

*Text & Tune: Public Domain*

Angels we have heard on high, Sweetly singing o'er the plains;  
And the mountains in reply, Echoing their joyous strains.  
Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?  
What the gladsome tidings be; Which inspire your heav'nly song?  
Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Come to Bethlehem and see, Him whose birth the angels sing;  
Come adore on bended knee, Christ the Lord, the newborn King.  
Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

**MESSAGE**

**"Why We Celebrate Christmas"**

**Rev. Dr. Matthew Cephus**

### **CONFESION 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**

**"Go Tell It on The Mountain"**

**LSB 388**

*Text & music: Public domain*

**Refrain:** Go tell it on the mountain, Over the hills and every-where;  
Go tell it on the mountain, That Jesus Christ is born.

While shepherds kept their watching, O'er silent flocks by night,  
Behold, throughout the heavens, There shone a holy light. **Refrain**

The shepherds feared and trembled, When, lo, above the earth  
Rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Savior's birth. **Refrain**

Down in a lonely manger the humble Christ was born;  
And God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn. **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.

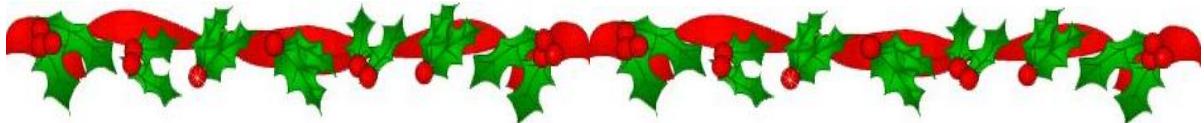
*+ Silent Prayer +*

## **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: Tom and Patty Lyrenmann**

*The beautiful poinsettias throughout the church were donated by:*

Wade Billmeyer, Pastor Matthew & Patience and Family; Karmon & Meridel Christopherson; Julie Cross; Derald & Chris Hadrath (Loved Ones), Shirley Holzinger (Mom and Dad, Husband Rudy and Brother-in-law Greg); Gwen Johnson (My Friends and Loved Ones); Tom & Patty Lyrenmann; Barb McDonald; The Morelli's; Roselyn Norman, Verlayne Sather (Jim Sather); Shirley Slagle (Loved Ones); Sandy Westling (Loved ones)



**BIRTHDAYS:** None

**ANNIVERSARIES:** None

**ETERNAL CANDLE:** Sandy Westling – Blessed Immanuel

**FLOWERS:** Christmas Poinsettias

## **PRAYER CONCERNS**

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

**Nanc Rixe** recovering from recent shoulder surgery

**Jennifer** (Amy Rich's sister) recently treated for breast cancer, recovering

**Danielle Ohnstad** continued prayers as she struggles with 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 Sharbino** 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

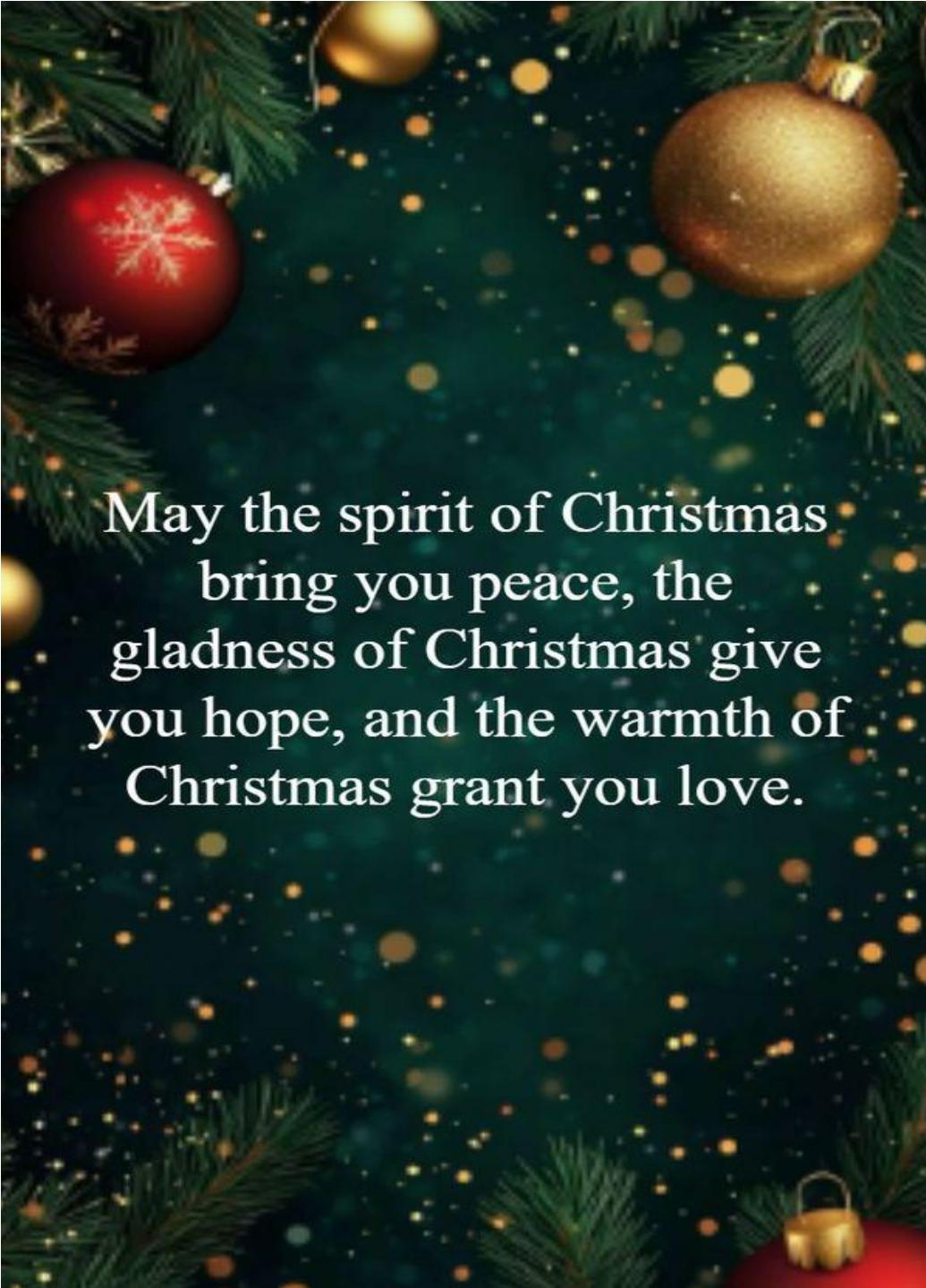
**Bruce** (Wenda Schwoch's BnL) has stage 4 prostate cancer and **Ashley** (Wenda's niece) continued prayers

**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**



May the spirit of Christmas  
bring you peace, the  
gladness of Christmas give  
you hope, and the warmth of  
Christmas grant you love.