

Gloria Dei Lutheran Church

(The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod)



“Mission Accomplished!”

**Order of Worship
Easter Sunday April 5, 2026 – 10:00 AM
Rev. Dr. Matthew Cephus**

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

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: Do you ever feel like you just can't get everything finished in your life? Maybe you don't have enough time, energy, or money to get it all done. In this message, I'll talk about "**Mission Accomplished**" on the cross when he said, "It is finished." You will learn five things he finished through his death, and how the cross can bring you new life.

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. e.

Gloria Dei's will be taking a short break from Bible Study while Pastor Matthew travels to Liberia on a Mission trip. No Bible Study during the month of April, we will resume on May 6.

See you then!

Festival of Easter Sunday

AS WE GATHER: Because Jesus lives, there is hope. This is the best news we could ever get. That hope allows us to face life every day knowing that God is in control.

+ *CONNECT* +

WELCOME

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING SOLO

"He is Alive"

Karmon Christopherson

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.**

SONG OF PRAISE

"Jesus Christ is Risen Today, Alleluia!"

LSB 457

Text and Tune: Public Domain

Jesus Christ is ris'n today, Alleluia!
Our triumphant holy day, Alleluia!
Who did once upon the cross, Alleluia!
Suffer to redeem our loss. Alleluia!

Hymns of praise then let us sing, Alleluia!
Unto Christ, our heavenly king, Alleluia!
Who endured the cross and grave, Alleluia!
Sinners to redeem and save. Alleluia!

But the pains which He endured, Alleluia!
Our salvation have procured; Alleluia!
Now above the sky He's king, Alleluia!
Where the angels ever sing. Alleluia!

Sing we to our God above, Alleluia!
Praise eternal as His love; Alleluia!
Praise Him, all you heavenly host, Alleluia!
Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Alleluia!

CONFESSION OF OUR SINS

L: Let us confess our sins to our Heavenly Father who truly loves us and is ready to forgive.

(Silence for personal confession and reflection)

C: **Heavenly Father, we confess that too often we think that we know best. We insist on charting our own course, and we don't feel we can completely trust anyone but ourselves. But we are wrong. You are the Way, the Truth, and the Life. You are the hope of nations. You are our King. You are our resurrected Lord. You are the one who forgives our sins. You are the one who loves us more deeply than we can ever imagine. Teach us to live like You. Amen.**

FORGIVENESS IS ANNOUNCED

HYMN OF PRAISE "I Know That My Redeemer Lives" LSB 461 v. 1-4
Text and Tune: Public Domain

I know that my Redeemer lives; What comfort this sweet sentence gives!
He lives, He lives, who once was dead; He lives, my ever-living head!

He lives triumphant from the grave; He lives eternally to save;
He lives all glorious in the sky; He lives exalted there on high.

He lives to bless me with His love; He lives to plead for me above;
He lives my hungry soul to feed; He lives to help in time of need.

He lives to grant me rich supply; He lives to guide me with His eye;
He lives to comfort me when faint; He lives to hear my soul's complaint

+ NURTURE +

OLD TESTAMENT

Isaiah 53:1-12

Who has believed what he has heard from us? And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed? For he grew up before him like a young plant, and like a root out of dry ground; he had no form or majesty that we should look at him, and no beauty that we should desire him. He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief; and as one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not.

Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—everyone—to his own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he opened not his mouth. By oppression and judgment he was taken away; and as for his generation, who considered that he was cut off out of the land of the living, stricken for the transgression of my people? And they made his grave with the wicked and with a rich man in his death, although he had done no violence, and there was no deceit in his mouth.

Yet it was the will of the Lord to crush him; he has put him to grief; when his soul makes an offering for guilt, he shall see his offspring; he shall prolong his days; the will of the Lord shall prosper in his hand. Out of the anguish of his soul he shall see and be satisfied; by his knowledge shall the righteous one, my servant, make many to be accounted righteous, and he shall bear their iniquities. Therefore I will divide him a portion with the many, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong, because he poured out his soul to death and was numbered with the transgressors; yet he bore the sin of many, and makes intercession for the transgressors.

L: The Word of the risen Lord.

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

EPISTLE LESSON

Colossians 2:9-15

For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, and you have been filled in him, who is the head of all rule and authority. In him also you were circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the powerful working of God, who raised him from the dead. And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross. He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him.

L: The Word of the risen Lord.
C: **Thanks be to God! Alleluia!**

HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 24:1-8

L: The Holy Gospel according to Luke.
C: **Glory to You, O Lord!**

But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they went to the tomb, taking the spices they had prepared. And they found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they went in they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. While they were perplexed about this, behold, two men stood by them in dazzling apparel. And as they were frightened and bowed their faces to the ground, the men said to them, "Why do you seek the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen. Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, that the Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men and be crucified and on the third day rise." And they remembered his words.

L: This is the Gospel of our risen Lord.
C: **Praise to You, O Christ! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

HYMN OF THE DAY **"I Know That My Redeemer Lives"** **LSB 461 v. 5-8**
Text and Tune: Public Domain

He lives to silence all my fears; He lives to wipe away my tears;
He lives to calm my troubled heart; He lives all blessings to impart.

He lives my kind wise heav'nly friend; He lives and loves me to the end;
He lives, and while He lives, I'll sing; He lives my Prophet, Priest, and King.

He lives and grants me daily breath; He lives, and I shall conquer death;
He lives my mansion to prepare; He lives to bring me safely there.

He lives all glory to His name! He lives, my Jesus, still the same;
Oh, the sweet joy this sentence gives: I know that my Redeemer lives!

SERMON **"Mission Accomplished!"** **Rev. Dr. 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

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 SONG

"Alleluia, Alleluia! Hearts to Heaven"

LSB 477

Text (st. 1,3) and music: Public domain; (st 2); © 1982 Jubilate Hymns Ltd., admin. Hope Publishing Co.

Alleluia, alleluia! Hearts to heav'n and voices raise:
Sing to God a hymn of gladness, sing to God a hymn of praise;
He who on the cross is victim for the world's salvation bled –
Jesus Christ, the King of Glory, now is risen from the dead.

Alleluia, Christ is risen! Death at last has met defeat:
See the ancient pow'rs of evil in confusion and retreat;
Once He died, and once was buried: Now He lives forevermore,
Jesus Christ, the world's Redeemer, whom we worship and adore.

Alleluia, alleluia! Glory be to God on high:
Alleluia to the Savior who has gained the victory;
Alleluia to the Spirit, fount of love and sanctity!
Alleluia, alleluia to the triune Majesty!

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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Invitation to GDLC's 75th Anniversary Celebration – May 17, 2026

Our planning committee is actively organizing Gloria Dei's 75th Anniversary Celebration and they need your help to make this event memorable. If you know someone who would like to attend this special event, you are encouraged to let us know. To do so, call the office at 612-781-1989 OR email info@gloriadeilcms.org with their contact information. This will help us extend invitations and ensure all interested guests are invited. Your help in connecting with our extended community is greatly appreciated!

OUR WEEKLY CALENDAR

The Resurrection of Our Lord Easter Sunday

4/05 Sun

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

11:45 am Royal Family Worship

6:00 pm NA

4/06 Mon

7:00 pm Beginners AlAnon (downstairs)

7:00 pm AlAnon (upstairs)

4/07 Tues

7:30 pm SLAA Group Meeting

4/08 Wed

11:00 am **NO Bible Study**

4/10 Fri

5:00 pm Living Word Music Rehearsal

4/11 Sat

10:00 am Living Word Worship & Fellowship

6:00 pm Living Word Prayer Night

4/12 Sun

Second Sunday after Easter

10:00 am **Worship with Holy Communion,
Elder Daniel Carlson Preaching**

11:45 am Royal Family Worship

6:00 pm NA



Thank You

Wade Billmeyer, Katie Beth & Daniel Carlson, Pastor Matthew & Family, Karmon & Meridel Christopherson, Julie Cross, Chris Hadrath, Vicki Henderson, Robin & Keven Henslin, Shirley Holzinger, Gwen Johnson, Tom & Patty Lyrenmann, Barb McDonald, Al, Pam & Aaron Morelli, Verlayne Sather, Shirley Slagle, Sandy Westling for their generous donation of blooming plants for our Easter Garden. Our altar looks amazing! Also, a special thank you to Patty and Tom Lyrenmann for making all the arrangements.

Thank You, Thank You, Thank You!



TODAY'S LUTHERAN HOUR

April 5, 2026

"You Don't Know What You Have Till It's Gone"

1 Corinthians 15:26

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

Death is the enemy of life, but in Jesus, God made death become life's servant.

NEXT WEEK ON THE LUTHERAN HOUR

April 12, 2026

"Early Adopters"

1 Corinthians 15:20

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

The risen Jesus is the "display model" of what we will be, through faith in Him.

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: *Easter - John 20:16*

"Jesus said to her, 'Mary.'" Jesus is risen from the dead, is the Victor over sin, and even calls us by name. He still calls us His friends and brothers and means to bring us through death to join Him in His resurrection. Christ is risen, He is risen indeed!

LUTHERANS FOR LIFE:

"As Christians, we rejoice in the Savior who shines light on our lives when we only expected inky blackness. May God's strong Word remind us that the fullness of life is meant to be lived in the light. In our weakness, may the Lord bring alongside us faithful brothers and sisters to proclaim that God is light and life to us, and let us walk in the light as He is in the light (1 John 1:7). In Jesus we have light, and to have light is to have life. May we rejoice in proclaiming the message of Jesus as the Apostle John did. Thanks be to God that He is light, and He shines in the darkness." *Rev. Dennis Norby, Grace Free Lutheran Church, Valley City, North Dakota – 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 **"A Child's Easter Sermon."** A child shares the joy of Easter with an old shoemaker. The worship service begins at 9:30 am with Rev. Randy Sturzenbecher, President of the South Dakota District LCMS in Sioux Falls, SD, presenting a message titled, **"Helpless, Fearful and Hopeless no more, Christ Is Risen!"** For more information or to watch the program, go to www.mainstreetliving.com select the "Twin Cities" tab.

The Resurrection of Our Lord (Easter Sunday, April 5)

*O day of joy, our hearts are filled with Easter praise.
You overcame my shame and strife; You chose this day to win
my life. Though Your eyes did shut and close, as You
promised, You arose! I thank Thee, O may risen King, that life
eternal You did bring! No stone, no seal, no plan could keep
You from gloriously rising from the dead! Amen.*

