

Gloria Dei Lutheran Church

(The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod)



THE BOOK OF RUTH: "FAMINE IN BETHLEHEM" – Part 2

Order of Worship September 27, 2026 | 10:00 AM

Rev. Dr. Matthew Cephus

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Pianist: Karrie Kikeh

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 of Ruth, Elimelech's family were real people who experienced what it was to be hungry. So hungry in fact that the head of the household made what could have been a difficult decision to make, which was to leave his homeland in Bethlehem the House of Bread, for Moab the House of Idolatry.

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.

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

AS WE GATHER: Throughout our lives we will encounter seasons of drought and famine in our spiritual walk. They are inevitable and unavoidable. What is our response and interaction with God when all seems hopeless and lost?

+ *CONNECT* +

WELCOME

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING HYMN "In Christ Alone" Keith Getty/Stuart Townend

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In Christ alone my Hope is found, He is my Light, my Strength, my Song;
This Cornerstone, this solid Ground, Firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, What depths of peace,
When fears are stilled, When strivings cease!
My Comforter, my All in All, Here in the love of Christ I stand.

In Christ alone! Who took on flesh. Fullness of God in helpless babe!
This gift of love and righteousness, Scorned by the ones He came to save:
Till on that cross as Jesus died, The wrath of God was satisfied –
For every sin on Him was laid; Here in the death of Christ I live.

There in the ground His body lay, Light of the world by darkness slain:
Then bursting forth in glorious Day. Up from the grave He rose again!
And as He stands in victory. Sin's curse has lost its grip on me,
For I am His and He is mine - Bought with the precious blood of Christ.

No guilt in life, no fear in death, This is the power of Christ in me;
From life's first cry to final breath. Jesus commands my destiny.
No power of hell, no scheme of man, Can ever pluck me from His hand;
Till He returns or calls me home, Here in the power of Christ I'll stand.

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 God our Heavenly Father who truly loves 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

"Oh How He Loves You and Me"

Oh, how He loves you and me, Oh how He loves you and me.
He gave His life, what more could He give?
Oh, how He loves you; Oh, how He loves me; Oh, how He loves you and me.

Jesus to Calvary did go, His love for sinners to show.
What He did there brought hope from despair.
Oh, how He loves you; Oh, how he loves me; Oh, how He loves you and me.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Ruth 1:1-5

In the days when the judges ruled there was a famine in the land, and a man of Bethlehem in Judah went to sojourn in the country of Moab, he and his wife and his two sons. The name of the man was Elimelech and the name of his wife Naomi, and the names of his two sons were Mahlon and Chilion. They were Ephrathites from Bethlehem in Judah. They went into the country of Moab and remained there.

But Elimelech, the husband of Naomi, died, and she was left with her two sons. These took Moabite wives; the name of the one was Orpah and the name of the other Ruth. They lived there about ten years, and both Mahlon and Chilion died, so that the woman was left without her two sons and her husband.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

EPISTLE READING

Romans 8:22-28

For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 11:28-30

L: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

C: Glory to You, O Lord!

Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

L: This is the Gospel of our Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ!

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

Message

Rev. Dr. Matthew Cephus

The Book of Ruth: "Famine in Bethlehem" – Part 2

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

"When Peace Like a River"

LSB 763

Text & Music: Public domain

When peace, like a river, attendeth my way;
When sorrows, like sea billows, roll;
Whatever my lot, Thou has taught me to say,
It is well, it is well, with my soul.

Refrain: It is well with my soul. It is well, it is well with my soul,
It is well with my soul.

Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come,
Let this blest assurance control,
That Christ hath regarded my helpless estate
And hath shed His own blood for my soul

Refrain

He lives, oh, the bliss of this glorious thought;
My sin, not in part but the whole,
Is nailed to His cross, and I bear it no more,
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!

Refrain

And, Lord, haste the day when our faith shall be sight,
The clouds be rolled back as a scroll,
The trumpet shall sound and the Lord shall descend;
Even so, it is well with my soul

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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BIBLE STUDY IS BACK!

Gloria Dei is excited to welcome back Wednesday midday bible study. Join us every Wednesday at 11 am as we wrap up with the book of Ephesians, exploring Chapters 5, which deals with walking in love and in the light of Christ through Chapter 6, a call to spiritual battle using the Amor of God. See you there!

ST. JOHN'S FALL FESTIVAL

St. John's Byzantine Catholic Church, 2215 Third Street NE, will hold a Fall Festival, Saturday, **October 3, 11 am-4 pm**. Food, silent raffles, bingo, kids' games, church tours.

FREE COMMUNITY MEAL

Faith United Methodist Church, 2708 33rd Avenue NE, holds a free Community dinner every second Thursday of the month from 5-6 pm. Everyone is welcome. Upcoming dates are **October 8**, November 12 and December 10.

Help yourself to a free night lite compliments of Xcel Energy. Limit two boxes per household, please. Lights are in the Fireside Room on the side table.



OUR WEEKLY CALENDAR

9/27 Sun

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

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

11:45 am Royal Family Worship

6:00 pm NA

9/28 Mon

7:00 pm Beginners AlAnon (downstairs)

7:00 pm AlAnon (upstairs)

9/29 Tues

7:30 pm SLAA Group Meeting

9/30 Wed

11:00 am **GDLC Bible Study**

10/02 Fri

5:00 pm Living Word Music Rehearsal

10/03 Sat

10:00 am Living Word Worship & Fellowship

6:00 pm Living Word Prayer Night

10/04 Sun

Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

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

11:45 am Royal Family Worship

6:00 pm NA

SERVING TODAY

Elders: Daniel Carlson and Jason Matasovsky

Reading: Jason Matasovsky

Ushers: Tom and Patty Lyrenmann

Altar Care: Tom and Patty Lyrenmann

Counters: Tom and Patty Lyrenmann

Attendance: 9/20/2026: 26

Well, another successful Fall Garage Sale has ended. We put up with rain, wind, cold, and some sunshine. We got through it with smiles and laughter. Thank you,

Mary Piper, for all your hard work and for hosting our tenth sale and to all who helped:

Dan and Vicki Moore for feeding us every day, yum.

Verlayne, Jimmy, Pam, Aaron, Julie, Dale, Tom, Patty, Kay, Jeni & Michael.

Also, for all who donated items to sell.

Again, thank you to all and see you in June 2027.

Shirley

BIRTHDAYS: Oct 3 Pastor Matthew Cephus
ANNIVERSARIES: None

ETERNAL CANDLE: Sandy Westling – Birthdays: Tricia, Daughter-in-Law & Grace, Granddaughter

FLOWERS: Open

PRAYER CONCERNS

KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS: Wade Billmeyer, Karmon & Meridel Christopherson, Robert & Dolores Kluwe, Larry Schlais, Pat Scott, Verlayne Sather and all our shut-ins

Evelyn Cummings (Roselyn's family) breast cancer, double mastectomy and treatment pending

Allie Pierce, her cancer has returned

James Norman His cancer and pain have worsened. He is also losing weight fast.

Larry Derksen (Shirley & Vicki's brother) going through treatment at VA for seizures

Alec Schwandt (Morelli's nephew) heart surgery procedure successful, thank you for all the prayers

Jennifer (Amy Rich's sister) recovering from recent breast cancer treatments

Roxie Johnson (Morelli's niece) ongoing heart issues, upcoming surgery to replace small valve on August 24

Trent Johnson (Roxie's son) liver cancer, now in hospice

Kim Morelli and Amy Rich (Morelli's DnLs) both doing well with current cancer treatments, thank you for your continued prayers

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 at 612-781-1989.



TODAY'S LUTHERAN HOUR

September 27, 2026

"Teachable"

Matthew 21:31

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

To be a disciple is to be a learner. Jesus loves you enough to make you teachable.

NEXT WEEK ON THE LUTHERAN HOUR

October 4, 2026

"Embrace Life"

John 10:10-11

Guest Speaker: Rev. Germán Novelli Oliveros

Jesus offers His abundant life to people plagued by pain and problems.

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: 18th Sunday after Pentecost - Matthew 21:26

"But if we say, 'From man,' we are afraid of the crowd..." Foolish Pharisees! They fear men more than they fear God, and so they miss out on the great blessing of knowing Jesus and His love. All our sins are like this: we fear something more than we fear God. And how foolish that is! Just think of the blessings we miss out on whenever we place our fear or trust in something other than God.

LUTHERANS FOR LIFE:

"Grief is not a sign of weak faith; it is the natural response to love and loss. But for those in Christ, grief is always shaped by hope. We do not mourn as those who have no future, no promise, no Savior (1 Thessalonians 4:13). We mourn with the certainty that our loved ones in the faith are with the Lord and that we will see them again." *Rev. M.L. Smith, Director of International Missions of Lutheran Church-Canada (LCC) – 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, **"The Cup."** The dilemma a trucker must face when a good friend dies trying to protect him. The worship service begins at 9:30 with Rev. Herbert Mueller from Immanuel Lutheran Church in Lewiston, MN, presenting a message titled, **"Trust in the Lord,"** based on **Matthew 16:21-28**. For more information or to watch the program, go to www.mainstreetliving.com and select the "Twin Cities' tab.