

Gloria Dei Lutheran Church

(The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod)



THE BOOK OF RUTH: "THE PATH OF BLESSING"

Order of Worship October 11, 2026 | 10:00 AM

Rev. Dr. Matthew Cephus

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

www.gloriadeilcms.org

email: info@gloriadeilcms.org

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: Despite having arrived in Bethlehem, Naomi, and Ruth are still vulnerable widows dependent upon the generosity of others to meet their needs. And in a time when everyone is doing what's right in their own eyes, that doesn't bode well for them. But as we'll see, Ruth's humility and work ethic caught the attention of a man whose empathy and integrity will change the course of her and Naomi's life. By looking at these early encounters between Ruth and Boaz, we'll learn how to place ourselves in a path of blessing for God to do what He desires.

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 Gloria Dei on Wednesdays at 11 am for mid-day bible study, featuring the book of Ephesians. We will be wrapping up Chapter 5 walking in love and in the light of Christ and moving on to Chapter 6 a call to spiritual battle using the Armor of God.

Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

AS WE GATHER: To obey God's commandments in times of trouble is not always easy, especially when the whole world seems to be going in a different direction. The truth is choosing to obey God will lead to blessing; however, we may not receive our full reward until Heaven.

+ *CONNECT* +

WELCOME

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING HYMN **"Seek Ye First the Kingdom of God"** **LSB 712**
Text & Tune: © 1972 Maranatha! Music; admin. Music Services (ASCAP)

Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness.
And all these things shall be added unto you! Allelu, alleluia!

Ask and it shall be given unto you, seek and ye shall find,
Knock and the door shall be opened unto you, Allelu, alleluia!

Man does not live by bread alone, but by ev'ry word
That proceeds from the mouth of the Lord, Allelu, alleluia!

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 "How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds" LSB 524 vs. 1-4

Text & Music: Public Domain

How sweet the name of Jesus sounds in a believer's ear!
It soothes our sorrows, heals our wounds, and drives away our fear.

It makes the wounded spirit whole and calms the heart's unrest;
'Tis manna to the hungry soul and to the weary rest.

Dear name! The rock on which I build, my shield and hiding place;
My never-failing treasury filled with boundless stores of grace.

O Jesus, shepherd, guardian, friend, my Prophet, Priest and King,
My Lord, my life, my way, my end, accept the praise I bring.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Ruth 2:1-6, 14-18

Now Naomi had a relative of her husband's, a worthy man of the clan of Elimelech, whose name was Boaz. And Ruth the Moabite said to Naomi, "Let me go to the field and glean among the ears of grain after him in whose sight I shall find favor." And she said to her, "Go, my daughter." So she set out and went and gleaned in the field after the reapers, and she happened to come to the part of the field belonging to Boaz, who was of the clan of Elimelech. And behold, Boaz came from Bethlehem. And he said to the reapers, "The Lord be with you!" And they answered, "The Lord bless you." Then Boaz said to his young man who was in charge of the reapers, "Whose young woman is this?" And the servant who was in charge of the reapers answered, "She is the young Moabite woman, who came back with Naomi from the country of Moab.

And at mealtime Boaz said to her, "Come here and eat some bread and dip your morsel in the wine." So she sat beside the reapers, and he passed to her roasted grain. And she ate until she was satisfied, and she had some left over. When she rose to glean, Boaz instructed his young men, saying, "Let her glean even among the sheaves, and do not reproach her. And also pull out some from the bundles for her and leave it for her to glean, and do not rebuke her."

So she gleaned in the field until evening. Then she beat out what she had gleaned, and it was about an ephah of barley. And she took it up and went into the city. Her mother-in-law saw what she had gleaned. She also brought out and gave her what food she had left over after being satisfied.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God!**

EPISTLE READING

Ephesians 1:3-12

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in Christ, things in heaven and things on earth in him.

In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God!**

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 6:25-33

L: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

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

"Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life? And why are you anxious about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is alive and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little

faith? Therefore do not be anxious, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

L: This is the Gospel of our Lord.

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

HYMN OF THE DAY "He Leadeth Me O Blessed Thought"

He leadeth me, O blessed thought!
O words with heav'nly comfort fraught!
Whate'er I do, where'er I be
Still 'tis God's hand that leadeth me.

Refrain: He leadeth me, He leadeth me,
By His own hand He leadeth me;
His faithful foll'wer I would be,
For by His hand He leadeth me.

Lord, I would clasp thy hand in mine,
Nor ever murmur nor repine;
Content, whatever lot I see,
Since 'tis my God that leadeth me.

Refrain

And when my task on earth is done,
When by Thy grace the vict'ry's won,
E'en death's cold wave I will not flee,
Since God through Jordan leadeth me.

Refrain

Message

Rev. Dr. Matthew Cephus

The Book of Ruth: "The Path of Blessing"

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

"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

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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Community Blood Drive

Thursday, Oct. 15, 11 am-5 pm, at Pritzker Hageman Law Firm, 100 University Ave. SE. Pritzker Hageman is partnering with Memorial Blood Centers to host a community blood drive. The Memorial Blood Centers Bloodmobile will be parked in the firm's parking lot, and therapy dog teams from North Star Therapy Animals will be onsite. Appointments: pritzlaw.us/donateblood. More information: blooddonation@pritzkerlaw.com.

Northeast Community Band Fall Concert

The Northeast Community Band kicks off its 29th season with a concert on **Thursday, October 15, 7 pm**, at **Edison High School**, 700 22nd Avenue NE. The music of Minnesota composer John Zdechlik will be featured. Free, but a \$5 donation is suggested.

Spooktacular Pumpkin Walk

The HeightsNEXT annual Spooktacular Pumpkin Walk is a family-friendly event at Kordiak Park, 1845 49th Avenue NE. Friday, October 16, 4:30-8 pm. Free admission. Free hot apple cider in the Pavillion. Free s'mores at the bonfire. Coffee on Wheels food truck on site. A police squad car and a fire truck will be on view in the parking lot. Costumes and pets welcome.

OUR WEEKLY CALENDAR

10/11 Sun

Twentieth 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

10/12 Mon

7:00 pm Beginners AIAnon (downstairs)

7:00 pm AIAnon (upstairs)

10/13 Tues

7:30 pm SLAA Group Meeting

10/14 Wed

11:00 am **GDLC Bible Study**

10/16 Fri

5:00 pm Living Word Music Rehearsal

10/17 Sat

10:00 am Living Word Worship & Fellowship

4:00 pm Living Word Board Meeting

6:00 pm Living Word Prayer Night

10/18 Sun

Twenty-first 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: Sandy Westling

Ushers: Tom Harris

Altar Care: Pam Morelli and Tom & Patty Lyrenmann

Counters: Sandy Westling and Tom Harris

Attendance: 10/04/2026: 34

Gloria Dei is honored to have received a legacy gift on behalf of the **McReavy Family Fund**, a charitable fund established by Bill and Kay McReavy and the entire McReavy family. Bill and Kay were visionary leaders, devoted philanthropists and deeply caring community members.

BIRTHDAYS: None
ANNIVERSARIES: None

ETERNAL CANDLE: Open

FLOWERS: Open

PRAYER CONCERNS

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

Roselyn Norman (John & Mary, Neighbors) Loss their 16-year-old daughter, Danielle, to an aneurysm. Pray for acceptance and peace.

Trent Johnson (Roxie's son) passed away on Sunday, September 25 (liver cancer).

Michelle (Shirley H's friend) suffering with vertigo and doctors just found a lesion on her brain.

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

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

October 11, 2026

"Covered"

Matthew 22:11-12

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

Proper Attire Required: how God covers us with the robe of Christ's perfect righteousness.

NEXT WEEK ON THE LUTHERAN HOUR

October 18, 2026

"The Heart of the Matter"

Matthew 22:15-22

Guest Speaker: Pastor Ryan Tinetti

How do you respond to tough questions about God and faith? Hear how Jesus delivers us from the tightest of tight spots and keeps us from falling into a trap.

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: *20th Sunday after Pentecost - Matthew 22:5*

"But they paid no attention and went off, one to his farm, another to his business." The invitation to join God in His feast and in His work is easily ignored. The rest of life seems so much more pressing, and we always think that there will be another time when we can catch back up with God. But what joys are we missing when we set aside God's invitation to join Him in His plans and purposes? What inheritance are we trading for the world's bowl of pottage?

LUTHERANS FOR LIFE:

"Whether the sin of aborting one's child or the sin of remaining silent and not speaking on behalf of our unborn children, whether the sin of neglecting an aging parent or even—God forbid—encouraging them to consider physician-assisted suicide as an option, whether the sin of apathy toward the gross evil and immorality in the world—turn to Jesus! There is forgiveness to be found for every sin, but it is only found in Jesus. Only in that holy blood, shed for us on the cross, do we find the antidote for the poison of sin." *Rev. Paul Clark, Lutherans For Life of Michigan – 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, **"Return Trip."** The fourth commandment, human guilt and divine forgiveness are the themes of this story. The worship service begins at 9:30 with Rev. James Gimbel from St. John's Lutheran Church in Kimball, MN, presenting a message for the 20th Sunday after Pentecost. For more information or to watch the program, go to www.mainstreetliving.com and select the "Twin Cities" tab.