

Gloria Dei Lutheran Church

(The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod)



Biblical Images of God: Part II— "THE FAITHFUL FARMER"

Order of Worship Sunday July 27, 2025 – 10 AM
Pastor 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!

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: A lot of us grow up with distorted ideas about who God is, and part of following Jesus is unlearning those false images and discovering the truth. In this episode, we're diving into the beautiful picture of God as a **Faithful Farmer**—someone who plants, nurtures, and invests deeply in what He's growing. This image shows us just how patient and committed God is, working tirelessly to see His creation—and you—flourish. As people created in His image, we're invited to reflect His heart by caring for the world and those around us with the same kind of love and intention. This teaching will remind you of God's relentless care for you and inspire you to do the same for others!

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.

Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

AS WE GATHER: See God as a **"Faithful Farmer."** This phrase emphasizes God's active involvement in all aspects of life, from basic needs to spiritual transformation and righteousness. God is a faithful and loving God who cares deeply and desires human flourishing.

+ *CONNECT* +

WELCOME

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING HYMN

"Take My Life and Let it Be"

LSB 783 v. 1-4

Text and Tune: Public Domain

Take my life, and let it be, Consecrated, Lord, to Thee;
Take my moments and my days; Let them flow in ceaseless praise.

Take my hands and let them move at the impulse of Thy love;
Take my feet and let them be swift and beautiful for Thee.

Take my voice and let me sing always, only for my King;
Take my lips and let them be filled with messages from Thee.

Take my silver and my gold, Not a mite would I with-hold;
Take my intellect, and use, Ev'ry pow'r as Thou shalt choose.

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 our Heavenly Father who truly loves us and is ready to forgive.
- 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* +

SONG OF PRAISE

"We Praise You, O God"

LSB 785

Text & tune: Public domain

We praise You, O God, our Redeemer, Creator;
In grateful devotion our tribute we bring.
We lay it before You, we kneel and adore You;
We bless Your holy name, glad praises we sing.

We worship You, God of our fathers, we bless You;
Through trial and tempest our guide You have been.
When perils o'er-take us, You will not forsake us,
And with Your help, O Lord, our struggles we win.

With voices united our praises we offer,
And gladly our songs of thanksgiving we raise.
With You, Lord, beside us, Your strong arm will guide us;
To You, our great Redeemer, forever be praise!

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Genesis 2:8-15

And the Lord God planted a garden in Eden, in the east, and there he put the man whom he had formed. And out of the ground the Lord God made to spring up every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. The tree of life was in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

A river flowed out of Eden to water the garden, and there it divided and became four rivers. The name of the first is the Pishon. It is the one that flowed around the whole land of Havilah, where there is gold. And the gold of that land is good; bdellium and onyx stone are there. The name of the second river is the Gihon. It is the one that flowed around the whole land of Cush. And the name of the third river is the Tigris, which flows east of Assyria. And the fourth river is the Euphrates.

The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God!**

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 5:1-7

The Vineyard of the Lord Destroyed

Let me sing for my beloved my love song concerning his vineyard: My beloved had a vineyard on a very fertile hill. He dug it and cleared it of stones, and planted it with choice vines; he built a watchtower in the midst of it, and hewed out a wine vat in it; and he looked for it to yield grapes, but it yielded wild grapes.

And now, O inhabitants of Jerusalem and men of Judah, judge between me and my vineyard. What more was there to do for my vineyard, that I have not done in it? When I looked for it to yield grapes, why did it yield wild grapes?

And now I will tell you what I will do to my vineyard. I will remove its hedge, and it shall be devoured; I will break down its wall, and it shall be trampled down. I will make it a waste; it shall not be pruned or hoed, and briers and thorns shall grow up; I will also command the clouds that they rain no rain upon it.

For the vineyard of the Lord of hosts is the house of Israel, and the men of Judah are his pleasant planting; and he looked for justice, but behold, bloodshed; for righteousness, but behold, an outcry!

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God!**

HOLY GOSPEL

John 15:1-6

L: The Holy Gospel according to John.

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

I Am the True Vine

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you.

Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned.

L: This is the Gospel of our Lord.

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

HYMN OF THE DAY

"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

MESSAGE

Matthew Cephus

Biblical Images of God: Part II – "The Faithful Farmer"

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

"Almighty Father, Bless the Word"

LSB 923

Text and Music: Public Domain

Almighty Father, bless the Word
Which through Your grace we now have heard.
Oh, may the precious seed take root, Spring up and bear abundant fruit!

We praise You for the means of grace
As homeward now our steps we trace.
Grant, Lord, that we who worshiped here May all at last in heav'n appear.

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host: Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

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 +

+ + +

Scripture quotations are from The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®, copyright © 2001 by Crossway Bibles, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. Hymns are copied with permission: CCLI # 689918

OUR WEEKLY CALENDAR

7/27 Sun

Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

10:00 am **Worship with Holy Communion,
w/Pastor Matthew Cephus**

11:45 am Royal Family Worship

6:00 pm NA

7/28 Mon

7:00 pm Beginners AIAnon (downstairs)

7:00 pm AIAnon (upstairs)

7/30 Wed

7:30 pm SLAA Group Meeting

8/01 Fri

5:00 pm Living Word Music Rehearsal

8/02 Sat

10:00 am Living Word Worship & Fellowship

6:00 pm Living Word Prayer Night

8/03 Sun

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

10:00 am **Worship with Holy Communion,
w/Pastor Matthew Cephus**

11:45 am Royal Family Worship

6:00 pm NA

SERVING TODAY

Elder: Karmon Christopherson

Reading: Sandy Westling

Ushers: Morelli's

Altar Care: Morelli's

Counters: Sandy Westling and Tom Harris

Attendance: 7/20/2025: 34

Salo Park Summer Concert

Enjoy a Thursday evening free concert from **7-8 pm** at the Salo Park Amphitheater located on 39th Avenue NE between Silver Lake Road and Stinson Boulevard. In case of inclement weather, the concerts will be cancelled. Visit www.saloparkconcertseries.com by 3 pm the day of the concert for cancellations.

JULY 31 – THE BACKYARD BAND: The Backyard Band specializes in fun, danceable rock 'n roll and country music drawing on decades of experience playing in rock bands, folk groups, jazz combos and bar ensembles.

Rose Reverie by Regan Golden

In the summer of 2024, as artist-in-residence at the Lyndale Park Rose Garden, Regan Golden photographed over 250 rose species, deeply immersing herself in the symbolism, history and structural complexity of the rose. A mix of lithographs, watercolors and collages will be on display at Kolman & Reeb Gallery, Studio 395, Northrup King Building, 1500 Jackson Street NE through Sept. 20. The gallery will host an artist talk on Saturday, Aug. 2, 2-3:30 pm. A closing reception will be held Saturday, Sept. 20, from 6-8 pm.

Roe Family Singers - July 28 @ 6:00 pm - 10:00 pm

The Roe Family singers celebrate 20 years of entertainment at the 331 Club, 331 13th Avenue NE, Monday, July 28, starting at 8 pm. Pop Wagner is the opener at 6 pm.

St. Anthony Village Fest Schedule

Mark your calendars, St. Anthony Village Fest festivities begin on Friday, August 1, wrapping up on Saturday, August 2nd with fireworks at 9:45pm!!!

BIRTHDAYS: 28th Jason Matasovsky

ANNIVERSARIES: None

ETERNAL CANDLE: OPEN

FLOWERS: OPEN

PRAYER CONCERNS

KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS: Meridel Christopherson, Tom Farrell, Gwen Johnson, Robert & Dolores Kluwe, Al Morelli, Larry Schlais, Pat Scott and all our shut-ins

Pam Eilers (Shirley Slagle's friend) recovering from a brain aneurysm (surgery)

Danielle Ohnstad currently undergoing treatment for breast cancer

Diane Sharbono undergoing cancer treatment

Dorie (Shirley Holzinger's sister-in-law) recovering from successful bypass heart surgery and is now in rehabilitation, plus addressing some unexpected issues.

Nanc Rixe knee replacement surgery June 16

Karen (Shirley H's neighbor) diagnosed with CML cancer and young friend **Allie**

Piercer with Leukemia

Alec Schwandt (Pam's Nephew) continued prayers for health issues

Trent Johnson (Roxie's son) recovering from cancer surgery (stomach)

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

Kim Morelli prayers for healing from recent surgery

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) Receiving chemo and radiation for Non-Hodgkin Lymphoma

Amy Price (Morelli's niece) upcoming procedures related to previous cancer diagnoses

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

THOSE SERVING OUR COUNTRY IN DANGEROUS AREAS

TODAY'S LUTHERAN HOUR

July 27

"Getting the Talk Started"

(Luke 11:1)

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

God's Law-talk prepares us for God's Gospel-talk. Author Tim Carter (The Executioner's Redemption) is featured.

NEXT WEEK ON THE LUTHERAN HOUR

August 3

"Proclaim His Glory"

(John 5:30-47)

Guest Speaker: Rev. Dr. Dale A. Meyer

Of course, we should search the Scriptures, but we search them for Jesus, the One to Whom the Scriptures point.

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: Luke 11:11

"What father among you, if his son asks for a fish, will instead of a fish give him a serpent?" A generous, giving spirit comes from knowing that you have a generous, giving Father. He will care for our needs. We are therefore free to reflect His generosity in our lives. We can be generous in raising our children, supporting the church and serving our neighbor in the community. In these three areas — home, church and society — the Lord has called us to show His grace and generosity to those around us.

LUTHERANS FOR LIFE:

"There is no joy like the joy of welcoming another child into your life. You will marvel anew at how perfectly formed your little one is and over how quickly you will fall head over heels in love with him. You will be enchanted with every tiny aspect of her appearance. The color of her hair, the shape of her nose, and the winsomeness of her smile will occasion endless happy debates about from which side of the family (yours, of course) she got that adorable trait." *Steve Mosher, Population Research Institute, author of "Ten Great Reasons to Have Another Child" – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

Main Street Living 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 Different Way"** — In this Fisher Family episode, Cousin Stanley visits and creates a difficult situation with a neighbor. The worship service begins at 9:30 am with Rev. Dennis Brech, emeritus pastor from Trinity Lutheran Church in Slayton, MN, presenting a message titled **"Lord Teach Us to Pray - And He Does"** based on **Luke 11:1-13**. For more information or to watch the program, go to www.mainstreetliving.com select the "Twin Cities" tab.