

Gloria Dei Lutheran Church

(The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod)



Biblical Images of God: Part III- "THE GOOD SHEPHERD"

Order of Worship Sunday August 3, 2025 – 10 AM
Pastor Matthew Cephus

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Pianist: Rebecca Tredray

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: In this episode, we explore the depth of this image, from the rugged realities of shepherding in the ancient world to Jesus's bold declaration, "I am the Good Shepherd." This isn't a passive or distant role; a true shepherd is both savvy and sacrificial—navigating harsh landscapes, fighting off danger, and laying down their life for the flock. By the end of this episode, you'll see that trusting God isn't wishful thinking—it's a response to His skillful care and reliable voice.

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.

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

AS WE GATHER: Many of us struggle to trust that God is actively leading our lives, especially when things feel uncertain or difficult. But the Scriptures constantly liken God to a Good Shepherd who skillfully guides, protects, and provides for His people.

+ *CONNECT* +

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING HYMN

"My Faith Looks Up to Thee"

LSB 702 v. 1,2,4

Text and Music: Public Domain

My faith looks up to Thee, Thou Lamb of Calvary, Savior divine.
Now hear me while I pray, take all my guilt away;
O let me from this day be wholly Thine!

May Thy rich grace impart strength to my fainting heart; my zeal inspire!
As Thou has died for me, Oh, may my love to Thee
Pure, warm and changeless be, a living fire!

When ends life's transient dream, when death's cold sullen stream
Shall o'er me roll, Blest Savior, then, in love, fear and distrust remove;
O bear me safe above, a ransomed soul!

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.

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

"My Jesus, I Love Thee"

My Jesus, I love thee, I know thou art mine; for thee all the follies of sin I resign;
My gracious Redeemer, my Savior art thou; if ever I loved thee, my Jesus, 'tis now.

I love thee because thou hast first loved me and purchased my pardon on Calvary's tree;
I love thee for wearing the thorns on thy brow; if ever I loved thee, my Jesus, 'tis now.

In mansions of glory and endless delight, I'll ever adore thee in heaven so bright;
I'll sing with the glittering crown on my brow: If ever I loved thee, my Jesus, 'tis now.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Ezekiel 34:11-16,23, 25-30

The Lord God Will Seek Them Out

"For thus says the Lord God: Behold, I, I myself will search for my sheep and will seek them out. As a shepherd seeks out his flock when he is among his sheep that have been scattered, so will I seek out my sheep, and I will rescue them from all places where they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. And I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them into their own land. And I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the ravines, and in all the inhabited places of the country. I will feed them with good pasture, and on the mountain heights of Israel shall be their grazing land. There they shall lie down in good grazing land, and on rich pasture they shall feed on the mountains of Israel. I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I myself will make them lie down, declares the Lord God. I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, and the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them in justice.

And I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them: he shall feed them and be their shepherd.

"I will make with them a covenant of peace and banish wild beasts from the land, so that they may dwell securely in the wilderness and sleep in the woods. And I will make them and the places all around my hill a blessing, and I will send down the showers in their season; they shall be showers of blessing. And the trees of the field shall yield their fruit, and the earth shall yield its increase, and they shall be secure in their land. And they shall know that I am the Lord, when I break the bars of their yoke, and deliver them from the hand of those who enslaved them. They shall no more be a prey to the

nations, nor shall the beasts of the land devour them. They shall dwell securely, and none shall make them afraid. And I will provide for them a renowned place for planting so that they shall no more be consumed with hunger in the land, and no longer suffer the reproach of the nations. And they shall know that I am the Lord their God with them, and that they, the house of Israel, are my people, declares the Lord God.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

Psalm 23:1-6

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters. He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

HOLY GOSPEL

John 10:11-16

L: The Holy Gospel according to John.

C: Glory to You, O Lord!

I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. He who is a hired hand and not a shepherd, who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees, and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. He flees because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep. And I have other sheep that are not of this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd.

L: This is the Gospel of our Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ!

HYMN OF THE DAY “Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us” LSB 711 v.1, 3, 4

Text and Tune: Public Domain

Savior, like a shepherd lead us, much we need Your tender care.
In Your pleasant pastures feed us, for our use Your fold prepare.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, You have bought us; we are Yours.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, You have bought us; we are Yours.

You have promised to receive us, poor and sinful though we be;
You have mercy to relieve us, grace to cleanse, and pow’r to free.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, early let us turn to You.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, early let us turn to You.

Early let us seek Your favor, early let us do Your will;
Blessed Lord and only Savior, with Your love our spirits fill.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, You have loved us, love us still.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, You have loved us, love us still.

MESSAGE

Matthew Cephus

Biblical Images of God: Part III – “The Good Shepherd”

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

"The Lord's My Shepherd, I'll Not Want"

LSB 710

Text and Tune: Public Domian

The Lord's my Shepherd, I'll not want; He makes me down to lie
In pastures green; He leadeth me, The quiet waters by.

My soul He doth restore again, And me to walk doth make
Within the paths of righteousness, E'en for His own name's sake.

Yea, tho' I walk in death's dark vale, Yet will I fear no ill;
For Thou art with me, and Thy rod, And staff me comfort still.

My table Thou hast furnished, In presence of my foes;
My head Thou dost with oil anoint, And my cup overflows.

Goodness and mercy, all my life, Shall surely follow me;
And in God's house forevermore, My dwelling place shall be.

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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OUR WEEKLY CALENDAR

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

8/04 Mon

7:00 pm Beginners AIAnon (downstairs)

7:00 pm AIAnon (upstairs)

8/05 Tues

5:30 pm **National Night Out**

8/06 Wed

7:30 pm SLAA Group Meeting

8/08 Fri

5:00 pm Living Word Music Rehearsal

8/09 Sat

10:00 am Living Word Worship & Fellowship

6:00 pm Living Word Prayer Night

8/10 Sun

Ninth 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: Katie Beth Carlson

Ushers: Dale Raschke and Wade Billmeyer

Altar Care: OPEN

Counters: Dale Raschke and Wade Billmeyer

Attendance: 7/27/2025: 30

Fellowship following Sunday Services

As we enter a new month, please note an updated process.

If you'd like to bring treats for Fellowship following the service, kindly sign up on the sheet located in the entryway. Only those who have signed up should provide treats for that Sunday. If no one signs up for a particular week, treats will not be available.

Both homemade and store-bought items are acceptable; please contribute as your schedule allows.

Your participation helps foster community and conversation. Whether you bake a family favorite or pick up something on your way, every contribution is appreciated!

St. Anthony Village Fest Schedule

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

National Night Out, Tuesday, August 5

Join Pastor Matthew, his family and our McKinley neighbors between 30th and 31st Streets for National Night Out on **Tuesday, August 5 from 6 – 8 pm**. Stop by the church's front lawn for this annual community-building event that promotes police-community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie. There will be scheduled visits from emergency personnel, including the Minneapolis Police K-9 Unit and a fire truck.

Aladdin Jr. at NE Middle School

Families and theater enthusiasts are invited to come enjoy Disney's Aladdin Jr., presented by Minneapolis Community Education. This elementary and middle school production will be performed at Northeast Middle School, 1830 St. Anthony Parkway, on **Wednesday, Aug. 6 at 6 pm** and **Thursday, Aug. 7 at 2 pm and 6 pm**. Doors open 30 minutes before showtime – Tickets are \$5 at the door.

LUTHERAN NIGHT AT THE TWINS - *Take me out to the ball game!*

The annual LUTHERAN NIGHT AT THE TWINS is on Thursday, August 14 beginning at 6:40 pm. The Twins will be taking on the Detroit Tigers. Lutheran Night at Target Field has been one of the largest group events associated with the Twins for over a decade! Groups will receive:

- Affordable, group discounted tickets seated together, prices range from \$18 – \$51.
- Group welcome message on the scoreboard in the top of the fourth inning.
- Lutheran mass choir will sing the National Anthem.

BIRTHDAYS: 1st Carin Anderson, 1st Roselyn Norman, 6th James Sather,
8th Keven Henslin

ANNIVERSARIES: 8th Keven and Robin Henslin

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

Gwen Johnson extends her appreciation to everyone for their kind words while she was not feeling well and recovering from bronchitis. She is on her way to feeling better every day.

TODAY'S 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.

NEXT WEEK ON THE LUTHERAN HOUR

August 10

"Writing Him Off"

(Luke 4:21-32)

Speaker Emeritus of The Lutheran Hour: Rev. Dr. Ken Klaus

After Jesus claimed the Old Testament was written about Him, the people of His hometown wrote Him off.

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 12:15*

"And he said to them, 'Take care, and be on your guard against all covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions.'" Coveting is the opposite of being content with what God has given us. And the cure for coveting is twofold: thankfulness to God and generosity toward God's purposes. So be on guard against all covetousness. Acknowledge that your Father has given you all that you need, and therefore be free and confident in directing the mammon of this world toward godly purposes.

LUTHERANS FOR LIFE:

"God isn't a page in your book, you're part of His. And He's delighted to have you in the family." *Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler, The Lutheran Hour – 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*. 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 **"Abundant Living—Not Abundant Stuff"** based on **Luke 12:13-21**. For more information or to watch the program, go to www.mainstreetliving.com select the "Twin Cities" tab.

