

# Gloria Dei Lutheran Church

*(The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod)*



## The Church – “The Benefits of Belonging”

**Order of Worship March 15, 2026 | 10:00 AM**

**Rev. Dr. Matthew Cephus**

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

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**Pianist: Carol Blase**

# 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:** It's easy to assume that our faith in Jesus is only about ourselves—our own assurance, growth, and sanctification. Have you ever been tempted to believe this? Yes, Christ saved us individually, but in doing so, He also united us to one another (Ephesians 4:15–16). True Christian faith is designed to be lived out within the Body of Christ—a community of believers walking together in love, service, and encouragement.

*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 for Wednesday Bible Study, each Wednesday at 11 am  
Featuring the Book of Ephesians*

# The Fourth Sunday in Lent

**AS WE GATHER:** We're not meant to live the Christian life alone. Salvation through Jesus Christ brought us into a family—a living, breathing body where Christ is the head. Being part of a church isn't just an option for Christians; it's an essential part of our faith journey.

+ *CONNECT* +

**WELCOME**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**OPENING HYMN SOLO      "The Family of God"      Karmon Christopherson**

*Bill Gaither*

**Congregation joins in with Refrain**

For I'm part of the family    The family of God

You will notice we say brother    And sister 'round here  
It's because we're a family    And these folks are so near  
When one has a heartache    We all share the tears  
And rejoice in each victory    In this family so dear

**Refrain:** I'm so glad I'm a part    Of the family of God  
I've been washed in the fountain    Cleansed by His blood  
Joint heirs with Jesus    As we travel this sod  
For I'm part of the family    The family of God

From the door of an orphanage    To the house of the King  
No longer an outcast    A new song I sing  
From rags unto riches    From the weak to the strong  
I'm not worthy to be here    But, praise God, I belong

**Refrain:** I'm so glad I'm a part    Of the family of God  
I've been washed in the fountain    Cleansed by His blood  
Joint heirs with Jesus    As we travel this sod  
For I'm part of the family    The family of God  
Yes I'm part of the family    The family of God

## 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 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* +

## SONG OF PRAISE

### "There is a Redeemer"

*Melody Green-Sievright © 1982 Birdwing Music, BMG Songs, Inc. EMI Christian Music Publishing, CCLI # 11483*

There is a Redeemer, Jesus, God's own Son  
Precious Lamb of God, Messiah, Holy One.

### Refrain:

Thank You, O my Father, for giving us Your Son;  
And leaving Your Spirit 'til the work on earth is done.

Jesus, my Redeemer, Name above all names,  
Precious Lamb of God, Messiah, Hope for sinners slain.

**Refrain**

When I stand in glory I will see His face, and  
There I'll serve my King forever, in that holy place.

**Refrain**

## **OLD TESTAMENT READING**

**Deuteronomy 26:5-9**

"And you shall make response before the Lord your God, 'A wandering Aramean was my father. And he went down into Egypt and sojourned there, few in number, and there he became a nation, great, mighty, and populous. And the Egyptians treated us harshly and humiliated us and laid on us hard labor. Then we cried to the Lord, the God of our fathers, and the Lord heard our voice and saw our affliction, our toil, and our oppression. And the Lord brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with great deeds of terror, with signs and wonders. And he brought us into this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey.

L: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God!**

## **EPISTLE READING**

**Ephesians 2:18-22**

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

L: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God!**

## **GOSPEL READING**

**Matthew 16:13-18**

L: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

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

Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" And they said, "Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" Simon Peter replied, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

L: This is the Gospel of our Lord.

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

The Church's one foundation, Is Jesus Christ, her Lord;  
She is His new creation, By water and the Word.  
From heav'n He came and sought her, To be His holy bride;  
With His own blood He bought her, And for her life He died.

Elect from every nation, yet one o'er all the earth;  
Her charter of salvation: One Lord, one faith, one birth.  
One holy name she blesses, Partakes one holy food,  
And to one hope she presses, With every grace endued.

Though with a scornful wonder The world sees her oppressed,  
By schisms rent asunder, By heresies distressed,  
Yet saints their watch are keeping; Their cry goes up: "How long?"  
And soon the night of weeping Shall be the morn of song.

Through toil and tribulation, And tumult of her war,  
She waits the consummation, Of peace forevermore;  
Till with the vision glorious, Her longing eyes are blest,  
And the great Church victorious, Shall be the Church at rest.

Yet she on earth has union, With God, the Three in One,  
And mystic sweet communion, With those whose rest is won.  
O blessed heav'nly chorus! Lord, save us by Your grace,  
That we, like saints before us, May see You face to face.

**MESSAGE The Church – "The Benefits of Belonging" 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**

*(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 SONG**

#### **"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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**EASTER GARDEN**

The deadline to order flowers for the Easter Garden is **Sunday, March 15**, with Easter on April 5! If you wish to contribute to the Easter Garden, below is a list of available flowers. You can also bring in your own too! Please use the sign-up sheet on the entryway bulletin board.

Easter Lily	\$10.99
Calla Lily (Yellow, White, Pink, Assorted)	\$22.99
Azaleas (Pink, White, Red, Assorted)	\$24.99
Hydrangea (Blue, Pink, White, Assorted)	\$22.99
Mums (White, Yellow, Lavender, Assorted)	\$15.99



Do you have pictures from past church services, holidays or special events you can share? GDLC is collecting photos for the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration on May 17<sup>th</sup>. Please bring your pictures to church and either place them in the Secretary’s mailbox OR give them directly to Tom Harris by **March 15**. Make sure your name is written on the back of each photo so they can be returned.

Invitation to GDLC’s 75th Anniversary Celebration – May 17, 2026  
Our planning committee is actively organizing Gloria Dei’s 75<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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!

**Youth Care International Fund**

Gloria Dei helps to support Royal Family’s children’s mission in Liberia via the **Youth Care International** fund. Donations help build schools, provide meals and supplies, run Bible camps, and back Pastor Matthew’s spring trip. Pastor Matthew and Patience will be in Liberia from April 6 to April 30, 2026 supporting this great project. To donate, mark your envelope with "*Youth Care International*."

## OUR WEEKLY CALENDAR

**3/15 Sun**

### **Fourth Sunday in Lent**

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

11:45 am Royal Family Worship

6:00 pm NA

**3/16 Mon**

7:00 pm Beginners AIAnon (downstairs)

7:00 pm AIAnon (upstairs)

**3/17 Tues**

### **Happy St. Patrick's Day**

7:30 pm SLAA Group Meeting

**3/18 Wed**

**11:00 am** **Bible Study featuring the Book of Ephesians**

**3/20 Fri**

5:00 pm Living Word Music Rehearsal

**3/21 Sat**

10:00 am Living Word Worship & Fellowship

4:00 pm Living Word Board Meeting

6:00 pm Living Word Prayer Night

**3/22 Sun**

### **Fifth Sunday in Lent**

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

11:45 am Royal Family Worship

6:00 pm NA

## SERVING TODAY

**Elders: Daniel Carlson and Jason Matasovsky**

**Reading: Verlayne Sather**

**Ushers: Tom Harris and Wade Billmeyer**

**Altar Care: Tom and Patty Lyrenmann**

**Counters: Sandy Westling and Tom Harris**

**Attendance: 3/08/2026: 28**

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### *Easter Holiday Services Dates and Times*

**Palm Sunday**, March 29 | 10 am Worship Service, w/Distribution of Palm Branches

**Maundy Thursday**, April 2 | 5 pm Worship Service

**Good Friday**, April 3 | 5 pm Worship Service

**Easter Sunday**, April 5 | 10 am Worship Service

**BIRTHDAYS:** 18<sup>th</sup> Shirley Holzinger; 21<sup>st</sup> Bruce Cross; 21<sup>st</sup> Dale Raschke  
**ANNIVERSARIES:** None

**ETERNAL CANDLE:** Vicki Henderson – for Shirley Holzinger’s birthday (3/18)  
**FLOWERS:** OPEN

### **PRAYER CONCERNS**

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

**For all our Neighbors who are taking turns on Community Watch Walks**  
**Maude Jacomet** (Roselyn’s sister) recently lost her husband, keep in prayer for God to comfort her and her bereaved family  
**Larry Derksen** (Shirley & Vicki’s brother) going through treatment at VA for seizures  
**Greg** (Wade’s friend) heart valve replacement, prayers for strength and recovery  
**Alec Schwandt** (Morelli’s nephew) upcoming procedure to remove heart fibulator, prayers for success and healing  
**Nanc Rixe** recovering from shoulder replacement surgery  
**Jennifer** (Amy Rich’s sister) recently treated for breast cancer, recovering  
**Danielle Ohnstad** continued prayers as she struggles with breast cancer  
**Marie Padmore** (Roselyn’s sister) prayers for positive test results  
**Aaron Morelli** upcoming testing  
**Pastor Martin Cornes**’ father-in-law, Dan, recovering from cancer surgery, future treatment discussion are forthcoming  
**Roger Kropelniki** (Ken Biebighauser’s BnL) underwent esophagus surgery and is suffering from lung issues  
**Karen Charpentier** (Ken Biebighauser’s sister) going through cancer treatment  
**Diane Sharbono** undergoing cancer treatment  
**Dorie** (Shirley Holzinger’s sister-in-law) addressing unexpected issues.  
**Roxie Johnson** (Morelli’s niece) heart issues (pacemaker), prayers as she gets stronger  
**Kim Morelli and Amy Rich** (Morelli’s DnLs) continued prayers for good health after cancer treatments  
**Mudy Mason** dealing with an autoimmune disease. Pray for strength, peace, hope, believing in God, Family, Mindset.  
**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**

**March 15, 2026**

**No Command from the Lord"**

**1 Corinthians 7:6-7**

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

Jesus is the only way to God, but there are many adventures with Jesus. Which ones will you pick?

## **NEXT WEEK ON THE LUTHERAN HOUR**

**March 22, 2026**

**"Meeting You Where You Are"**

**1 Corinthians 9:19-23**

Guest Speaker: Rev. Gregory Manning

Jesus meets you where you are, not where you should have been.

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](http://www.lutheranhour.org)

**STEWARDSHIP:** *Fourth Sunday in Lent - Psalm 142:5*

"I cry to you, O LORD; I say, "You are my refuge, my portion in the land of the living." The Lord is our portion, our refuge, our everything. His mercy preserves us through all our days in the land of the living. This confidence frees us from the fear that so often leads to sins of greed and coveting. We have the Lord, we have a Father, He is in control, so we can follow His Word in confidence.

## **LUTHERANS FOR LIFE:**

"Never will a time come when the most marvelous recent invention is as marvelous as a newborn baby." *Carl Sandburg – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • [lutheransforlife.org](http://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 "**Flames of Hate.**" Betty Blackwood (Angie Dickenson) is stuck between the man she loves, Art (Ed Kemmer), and her obsessive father Nate (Edger Dearing) who disapproves of Art. The worship service begins at 9:30 am with Rev. Ed Borchardt from Zion Lutheran Church in Hardwick, MN, presenting a message titled, "**All I Know,**" based on **John 9:1-41**. For more information or to watch the program, go to [www.mainstreetliving.com](http://www.mainstreetliving.com) select the "Twin Cities" tab.

