

# Gloria Dei Lutheran Church

*(The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod)*



## THE CHURCH: "THE BENEFITS OF BELONGING" Part 2

**Order of Worship May 3, 2026 | 10:00 AM**  
**Rev. Dr. Matthew Cephus**

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

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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:** Christ loves the church—defined as the community of believers or his "bride"—with a sacrificial, proactive, and purifying love. According to Ephesians 5:25-32, this love is modeled by his self-giving sacrifice on the cross to sanctify, cleanse, and ultimately present the church to himself as a radiant, holy, and unblemished body, prioritizing its care above all else.

*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 will be resuming Bible Study at 11 am on Wednesday, May 6. Hope to see you then!***

# The Fifth Sunday in Lent

**AS WE GATHER:** Belonging to a church body provides spiritual accountability, helping individuals stay true to their faith and providing support during difficult times.

*+ CONNECT +*

## WELCOME

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

## OPENING HYMN

**"I Need Thee Every Hour"**

**vs. 1, 2, 3**

I need Thee ev'ry hour, Most gracious Lord;  
No tender voice like Thine Can peace afford.

### **Refrain**

I need Thee, oh, I need Thee; Ev'ry hour I need Thee;  
Oh, bless me now, my Savior, I come to Thee.

I need Thee ev'ry hour, Stay Thou nearby;  
Temptations lose their pow'r When Thou art nigh.

**Refrain**

I need Thee ev'ry hour, In joy or pain;  
Come quickly and abide, Or life is vain.

**Refrain**

## 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 ready to forgive.

**C: Heavenly Father, we confess that too often we think that we know best. We insist on charting our own course, and we don't feel we can completely trust anyone but ourselves. But we are wrong. You are the Way, the Truth, and the Life. You are the hope of nations. You are our King. You are our resurrected Lord. You are the one who forgives our sins. You are the one who loves us more deeply that we can ever imagine. Teach us to live like You. Amen.**

## **FORGIVENESS IS ANNOUNCED**

*+ NURTURE +*

### **HYMN 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**

**Exodus 19:1-6**

On the third new moon after the people of Israel had gone out of the land of Egypt, on that day they came into the wilderness of Sinai. They set out from Rephidim and came into the wilderness of Sinai, and they encamped in the wilderness. There Israel encamped before the mountain, while Moses went up to God. The Lord called to him out of the mountain, saying, "Thus you shall say to the house of Jacob, and tell the people of Israel: "You yourselves have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I

bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself. Now therefore, if you will indeed obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession among all peoples, for all the earth is mine; and you shall be to me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.' These are the words that you shall speak to the people of Israel."

L: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God!**

### **EPISTLE READING**

### **1 Corinthians 12:12-27**

For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit. For the body does not consist of one member but of many. If the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. And if the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would be the sense of hearing? If the whole body were an ear, where would be the sense of smell? But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. If all were a single member, where would the body be? As it is, there are many parts, yet one body.

The eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you," nor again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you." On the contrary, the parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, and on those parts of the body that we think less honorable we bestow the greater honor, and our unpresentable parts are treated with greater modesty, which our more presentable parts do not require. But God has so composed the body, giving greater honor to the part that lacked it, that there may be no division in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another. If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together. Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.

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!**

**HYMN OF THE DAY "The Church's One Foundation" LSB 644 vs. 1, 2, 4**

*Text and Tune: Public Domain*

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.

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.

**MESSAGE**

**Rev. Dr. Matthew Cephus**

**The Church: "The Benefits of Belonging" 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**

### **"To God Be the Glory"**

*Text and Music: Public Domain*

To God be the glory, great things He has done;  
So loved He the world that He gave us His Son,  
Who yielded His life an atonement for sin,  
And opened the life gate that all may go in.

**Refrain:** Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, Let the earth hear His voice!  
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, Let the people rejoice!  
O come to the Father, through Jesus the Son,  
And give Him the glory, great things He has done.

O perfect redemption, the purchase of blood,  
To every believer the promise of God;  
The vilest offender who truly believes,  
That moment from Jesus a pardon receives.

**Refrain**

Great things He has taught us, great things He has done,  
And great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son;  
But purer, and higher, and greater will be  
Our wonder, our transport, when Jesus we see.

**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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## **Continue Donating to Our Cart!**

In the month of April, an additional 44 pounds of food were donated to the Salvation Army Food Shelf. This contribution helps support our ongoing efforts to assist those in need within our community. Thank you!

### **May/June Spring Offering**

The 2026 May/Spring Offering will go to **Trinity First Lutheran School** located at 1115 East 19th Street, Minneapolis. **Use your "May Mission Offering"** envelopes to make a donation.

Trinity First School is in the heart of Minneapolis and provides a Christ-based education to children through the eighth grade.

The School works to be known as a high-quality educational center for children, their families, and the community. Trinity First is 100% faith focused and faith is integrated into everything they do. 70% of their students are on full scholarships. With class sizes averaging 15 students, they strive to meet each students' needs while supporting and encouraging learners to become productive citizens here on earth, and ultimately fellow citizens of Heaven!

## OUR WEEKLY CALENDAR

**5/03 Sun**

**Fifth Sunday of Easter**

**10:00 am**    **Worship Service**  
                  **w/Rev. Dr. Matthew Cephus**  
11:45 am    Royal Family Worship  
6:00 pm     NA

**5/04 Mon**

7:00 pm    Beginners AlAnon (downstairs)  
7:00 pm    AlAnon (upstairs)

**5/05 Tues**

7:30 pm    SLAA Group Meeting

**5/06 Wed**

**11:00 am**    **Bible Study**

**5/08 Fri**

5:00 pm    Living Word Music Rehearsal

**5/09 Sat**

10:00 am    Living Word Worship & Fellowship  
6:00 pm     Living Word Prayer Night

**5/10 Sun**

**Sixth Sunday of Easter - Happy Mother's Day**

**10:00 am**    **Worship Service**  
                  **w/Rev. Dr. Matthew Cephus**  
11:45 am    Royal Family Worship  
6:00 pm     NA

### SERVING TODAY

**Elders: Daniel Carlson and Jason Matasovsky**

**Reading: Julie Cross**

**Ushers: Al, Pam and Aaron Morelli**

**Altar Care: Al, Pam and Aaron Morelli**

**Counters: Al, Pam and Aaron Morelli**

**Attendance: 4/26/2026: 34**

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### Flower sale at Mt. Carmel Lutheran Church

Mt. Carmel Lutheran Church, 1701 St. Anthony Parkway, will hold its Annual Flower Sale over Mother's Day weekend, **Thursday, May 7, 12-7 pm; Friday, May 8, 9 am-7 pm; Saturday, May 9, 10 am-4 pm** and **Sunday, May 10, 10 am-2 pm**. Plants supplied from Pletschers Greenhouse. Saturday will feature "Family Fun Day on Ulysses" with hot dogs, sodas and fun activities for kids while you shop. Portion of proceeds go to Little Kitchen Food Shelf. Info: [mountcarmelmpls.org](http://mountcarmelmpls.org).

**BIRTHDAYS:** 3<sup>rd</sup> Kevin Morelli  
**ANNIVERSARIES:** 3<sup>rd</sup> Mike & Deb Panning

**ETERNAL CANDLE:** OPEN

**FLOWERS:** OPEN

### **PRAYER CONCERNS**

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

**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

**Jennifer** (Amy Rich's sister) recently treated for breast cancer, recovering

**Marie Padmore** (Roselyn's sister) prayers for positive test results

**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

**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**

**May 3**

**"Planning Is Everything"**

**Psalm 146:3-4**

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

Offer up your plans to God in prayer and see what God does with them. Let your plans become prayers that lead you to praise.

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

**May 10**

**"The King Who Reigns"**

**Luke 24:36-53**

Guest Speaker: Rev. Dr. Jason Broge

If Easter tells us that Jesus the King has won, then Ascension tells us the King is reigning, and His reign is good.

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:** *Fifth Sunday of Easter - 1 Peter 2:9*

"But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light." God has called us to be His own. He has chosen us out of love, out of mercy, out of sheer, divine joy. The apostle Peter says that God chose us so that we might share in His glory and "proclaim the excellencies of Him" who has made us His own. And truly, this is our delight! His joy brings joy to our hearts as well.

## **LUTHERANS FOR LIFE:**

"When Jesus returns, all who believe in Him will be raised up from death to live in His presence forever. That is the promise of His enduring, steadfast love: 'I am sure of this, that He who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ' (Philippians 1:6). The purpose of God for us will be fulfilled!" *Dr. Carol Geisler, Lutheran Hour Ministries – 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 **"Song of the Night."** A son's accident causes his family to question everything. The worship service begins at 9:30 am with Rev. Martin Schoenfeld from Rose of Sharon Lutheran Church in Cottage Grove, MN, presenting a message titled, **"Abundant Life,"** based on **John 10:1-10**. For more information or to watch the program, go to [www.mainstreetliving.com](http://www.mainstreetliving.com) select the "Twin Cities" tab.