

Gustaf Adolf Lutheran Church-E.L.C.A.



God keeps the promise made to David to give him an everlasting throne. The angel tells Mary that God will give David's throne to her son Jesus. She is perplexed by Gabriel's greeting and by the news of her coming pregnancy, but she is able still to say, "Count me in." We who know that Jesus is called king only as he is executed still find it a mystery hard to fathom, but with Mary today we hear the news of what God is up to and say, "Count us in."

Fourth Sunday of Advent Sunday, December 20th, 2020

Gustaf Adolf Lutheran Church—E.L.C.A.

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Sunday, December 20th, 2020

Ministers:

You, All Members of G.A.

Intern Pastor:

Jaime Decker

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Prelude Music

Gathering

*Confessions and Forgiveness

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the minister begins

L: I knew joy, but when I heard the laugh of my child, **All: Suddenly, joy was overflowing.**

L: I knew love, but when you held my hand, **All: Suddenly, love was overflowing.**

L: I knew God, but when you showed me grace, when you forgave me, when you loved me, when you raised me, **All: Suddenly, God was overflowing.**

L: So, let us worship Holy God together As a reminder that God is here and we are never alone. **All: This is community.** L: This is the body of Christ. **All: Welcome home.**

Candle Lighting

A: I dream of music that makes my heart swell. **B: I dream of trees that take my breath away.** A: I dream of sunrises that wrap me in light. **B: I dream of family dinners that feel like home.** A: I dream of church services that give me hope. **B: I dream of love as the default.**

A: So today, as we draw near to Christmas day, we light the candle of love. (*Light candle.*)

B: May this light burn bright as a reminder that God is here and God is love. A: We are not alone. Thanks be to God for a love like that. Amen.

Hymn

Light One Candle To Watch for Messiah

Verse 4 (Insert)

Light four candles to watch for Messiah: let the light banish darkness. He is coming, tell the glad tidings. Let your lights be shining!

P: God of Good News, You say to me, "You are highly favored," but I struggle to see how that could be. You say to me, "Do not be afraid," but I am afraid all the time. You say to me, "Even the impossible is possible, just look at Elizabeth!" But hope slips through my hands like water. The impossible still feels impossible.

So today I pray, Today we pray: **C: Teach us to sing like Mary. Teach us to laugh like Elizabeth. Teach us to trust like the angels. Forgive us when we can only do one at a time, or none at all. Amen.**

*Gathering Hymn

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Verse 1 (Insert)

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel, that mourns in lonely exile here until the son of God appear. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

*Greeting

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **C: And also with you.**

*Prayer For Illumination

P: Holy God, Before you could speak, you were speaking **C: Leaping in wombs, kicking, stretching, jumping for joy. You have always found a way to show up in our midst, Particularly on our fearful or lonely days. So today, as we crack open our Bibles, Fluttering through these old beloved pages, We ask that you would move again. Stir in us. Speak to us. Fill us with the Holy Spirit. And if we are not able to hear your**

Word clearly, Then give us Elizabeths Who will point out your presence in delight and joy. Before you could speak, you were speaking, So here and now, Creator God, we are listening. Amen.

Word

First Reading

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16.

Now when the king was settled in his house, and the LORD had given him rest from all his enemies around him, ² the king said to the prophet Nathan, “See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent.” ³ Nathan said to the king, “Go, do all that you have in mind; for the LORD is with you.” ⁴ But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan: ⁵ Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the LORD: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? ⁶ I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. ⁷ Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, “Why have you not built me a house of cedar?” ⁸ Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the LORD of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; ⁹ and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. ¹⁰ And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, ¹¹ from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover the LORD declares to you that the LORD will make you a house. ¹⁶ Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me; your throne shall be established forever. R: The Word of the Lord C: Thanks be to God

Psalm

(Please Read Responsively)

Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26

Your love, O LORD, forever will I sing; from age to age my mouth will proclaim your faithfulness. ³ **For I am persuaded that your steadfast love is established forever; you have set your faithfulness firmly in the heavens.** ³⁴ “I have made a covenant with my chosen one; I have sworn an oath to David my servant: ⁴⁴ **I will establish your line forever, and preserve your throne for all generations.’ ”**

¹⁹ You spoke once in a vision and said to your faithful people: “I have set the crown upon a warrior and have exalted one chosen out of the people. ²⁰ **I have found David my servant; with my holy oil have I anointed him.** ²¹ My hand will hold him fast and my arm will make him strong. ²² **No enemy shall deceive him, nor shall the wicked bring him down.** ²³ I will crush his foes before him and strike down those who hate him. ²⁴ **My faithfulness and steadfast love are with him, and he shall be victorious through my name.** ²⁵ I will set his hand on the sea, and his right hand on the rivers.

²⁶ **He will say to me, ‘You are my father, my God, and the rock of my salvation.’**

R: Holy Wisdom. Holy Word.

Second Reading

Romans 16:25-27

Now to God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages ²⁶ but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith— ²⁷ to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever! Amen.

R: The Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God

Gospel Acclamation

Insert

Alleluia! Lord and savior: open now your saving word. Let it burn like fire within us; speak until our hearts are stirred. Alleluia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

Gospel Reading

Luke 1:26-38

P: The

Holy Gospel according to _____

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷ to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin’s name was Mary. ²⁸ And he came to her and said, “Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you.” ²⁹ But she was much perplexed by his words and

pondered what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰ The angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹ And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³² He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. ³³ He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.” ³⁴ Mary said to the angel, “How can this be, since I am a virgin?” ³⁵ The angel said to her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born^[c] will be holy; he will be called Son of God. ³⁶ And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. ³⁷ For nothing will be impossible with God.” ³⁸ Then Mary said, “Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.” Then the angel departed from her.

P: The Gospel of our Lord. **C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

Message

Hymn of the Day *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* Verse 2&3 (Insert)

O come, O come, wisdom from on high, embracing all things far and nigh: in strength and beauty come and stay; teach us your will and guide our way. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

O come, O come, O Lord of might, as to your tribes on Sinai’s height in ancient times you gave the law in cloud, and majesty, and awe. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

*Affirmation of Faith Insert

We believe that this world is hard, harder than it has to be. When the world falls apart around us, We believe in listening for the angels that say, “Do not be afraid,” And in seeking out the Elizabeths in our lives. Those who laugh with joy at our arrival and throw open the doors to their homes. We believe that healthy relationships can offer healing, Through the laughter of cousins, the joy shared between siblings, and the home found in partnership. Therefore, we believe in church families, in chosen families, and in the love that extends beyond family. We believe in friendships, in neighbors, and in leaning on each other when the going gets tough. We believe in the Triune God, Lover, Beloved, and Love itself. Inherently relational, always connected, and never alone. We believe that that same belovedness exists for us. We believe that we are loved and claimed, never alone. Thanks be to God for a love like that.

*Prayers of Intercession

Offering (Offering Plates are in the back of the Sanctuary, please drop offering there)

* Offering Prayer

C: Generous God, you have created all that is, and you provide for us in every season. Bless all that we offer, that through these gifts the world will receive your blessing. In the name of Jesus, Emmanuel, we pray. Amen.

*Lord’s Prayer Insert

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

Sending

*Benediction

*Sending Hymn

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Verse 4 (Insert)

O come, O Branch of Jesse, free your own from Satan’s tyranny; from depths of hell your people save, and give them victory o’er the grave. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

*Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

*Postlude

Bulletin Donated: By Jeannette Beckstrom in Memory of Gerald Beckstrom

Mission Statement of Gustaf Lutheran Church

(Adopted in 1984)

Our congregation wishes to achieve unity of living guided by the word of God and encouraged by rural community spirit.

Our goals include:

- 1. The education of both young and old to carry out the Proclamation of God’s Word and for all human kind through worship and witness.
- 2. Mutual social occasions, loving and caring for all human beings and reaching out to others with justice and peace.
- 3. Responsible stewardship of human material resources.

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We celebrate weekly Holy Communion. We welcome all who believe in the Risen Christ and who find in the sacrament our Lord’s real presence for the forgiveness of sins and the renewal of life. If you receive communion in your home congregation, you are invited to receive it here at G.A. Red wine and white grape juice will be offered to you in Christ’s name. You may choose your preference. If you are unable to receive wheat bread, or wine, be sure that in a single element you receive the Presence and all the gifts of the sacrament.

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