

# **Gustaf Adolf Lutheran Church - ELCA**

## **Wednesday, March 10<sup>th</sup>, 2021**



### **Again & Again, We are Created for Community: A Midweek Lenten Series**

**The invitation to Lent spoken on Ash Wednesday reminds us that we enter this season together “with the whole church.” It goes on to state that “we are created for communion with God, to love one another, and to live in harmony with creation.”**

**Though many common Lenten practices rightly invite us to individual acts of “repentance, prayer and fasting, sacrificial giving and works of love,” Lent is also a time for deepening of community.**

**During this pandemic, our hearts have yearned for a deeper community that extends beyond the walls of the church and into our homes and hearts. Using readings from Mark’s gospel, this series invites the assembly to reflect on what it means to be in community with one another, with the world, with creation, and with God.**

## **Call To Worship**

L: Again and again, **C: We come to this space.**

L: Again and again, **C: We gather as a community.**

L: Again and again, **C: We move closer to God.**

L: And again and again, **C: God is here.**

L: We are met. **C: We are heard.**

L: We are shown the way. **C: So again and again, Let us worship holy God.**

## **Gathering Hymn**

*Lord, Whose Love In Humble Service*

**Verse 1**

Lord, whose love in humble service bore the weight of human need, who upon the cross, forsaken, worked your mercy's perfect deed: we, your servants, bring the worship not of voice alone, but heart; consecrating to your purpose every gift which you impart.

## **Prayer of illumination**

L: Creator God, **C: We don't just want to listen. We want to hear you. We want to read scripture aloud and Know that you are as close as you have always been. We want to read scripture aloud and Feel your word resonating inside our bones. We want to read scripture aloud and Have your words stuck in our heads like a melody, Falling off our lips like a love song. Creator God, We don't just want to listen, We want to hear you. So turn our hearts toward you, Just as you turned strangers into disciples. Turn our ears toward you, Just as you turned tables in the temple. We are listening. Amen.**

## **Scripture:**

### **Exodus 20:1-17**

Then God spoke all these words: <sup>2</sup> I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; <sup>3</sup> you shall have no other gods before me. <sup>4</sup> You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. <sup>5</sup> You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I the LORD your God am a jealous God, punishing children for the iniquity of parents, to the third and the fourth generation of those who reject me, <sup>6</sup> but showing steadfast love to the thousandth generation of those who love me and keep my commandments. <sup>7</sup> You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not acquit anyone who misuses his name. <sup>8</sup> Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy. <sup>9</sup> Six days you shall labor and do all your work. <sup>10</sup> But the seventh day is a sabbath to the LORD your God; you shall not do any work—you, your son or your daughter, your male or female slave, your livestock, or the alien resident in your towns. <sup>11</sup> For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but rested the seventh day; therefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day and consecrated it. <sup>12</sup> Honor your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you. <sup>13</sup> You shall not murder. <sup>14</sup> You shall not commit adultery. <sup>15</sup> You shall not steal. <sup>16</sup> You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor. <sup>17</sup> You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

### **Mark 2:1-12**

When he returned to Capernaum after some days, it was reported that he was at home. <sup>2</sup> So many gathered around that there was no longer room for them, not even in front of the door; and he was speaking the word to them. <sup>3</sup> Then some people came, bringing to him a paralyzed man, carried by four of them. <sup>4</sup> And when they could not bring him to Jesus because of the crowd, they removed the

roof above him; and after having dug through it, they let down the mat on which the paralytic lay. <sup>5</sup> When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, "Son, your sins are forgiven." <sup>6</sup> Now some of the scribes were sitting there, questioning in their hearts, <sup>7</sup> "Why does this fellow speak in this way? It is blasphemy! Who can forgive sins but God alone?" <sup>8</sup> At once Jesus perceived in his spirit that they were discussing these questions among themselves; and he said to them, "Why do you raise such questions in your hearts? <sup>9</sup> Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Stand up and take your mat and walk'? <sup>10</sup> But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins"—he said to the paralytic— <sup>11</sup> "I say to you, stand up, take your mat and go to your home." <sup>12</sup> And he stood up, and immediately took the mat and went out before all of them; so that they were all amazed and glorified God, saying, "We have never seen anything like this!"

## Message

### Hymn of The Day

*Lord, Whose Love In Humble Service*

**Verse 2&3**

Still your children wander homeless; still the hungry cry for bread; still the captives long for freedom; still in grief we mourn our dead. As you, Lord, in deep compassion healed the sick and freed the soul, by your Spirit send your power to our world to make it whole.

As we worship, grant us vision, till your loves revealing light in its height and depth and greatness dawns upon our quickened sight, making known the needs and burdens your compassion bids us bear, stirring us to ardent service, your abundant life to share.

### Affirmation of Faith

**L: We believe in a God who knows holy rage— C: A God who stands with the underdog, Who passionately protects the suffering, And who overturns systems of corruption. We believe in a God who leads by example— Feeding the hungry, Welcoming the children, Offering water to the Samaritan, Eating with the tax collector, Healing the sick, Preaching from the mountaintop, And offering second chances. We believe in a God who knew that we would lose our way, And still said, "This is my body broken for you." We believe in a God who knew our capacity for mistakes, And still said, "I'm going to prepare a place for you." And because of this love, We believe that God shows us the way, Again and again and again. Thanks be to God. Amen.**

## Prayers

### Offering

### Lord's Prayer

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

### Benediction

As you leave this space, May your mouth speak of God's goodness. May your arms hold those in need. May your feet walk toward justice. May your heart trust its worth. May your soul dance in God's grace. And may this be your rhythm— Again and again and again, Until God's promised day. In the name of the Lover, the Beloved, and Love itself, Go with courage, go with heart, go in peace. **Amen**

**Sending Hymn**

*Lord, Whose Love In Humble Service*

**Verse 4**

Called by worship to your service, forth in your dear name we go, to the child, the youth, the aged,  
love in living deeds to show; hope and health, good will and comfort, counsel, aid, and peace we give,  
that your servants, Lord, in freedom may your mercy know and live.

**Dismissal**

Go in peace, joined together in Christ. **Thanks be to God.**

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