

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



The psalmist calls on the natural world, celestial bodies, fire and earth, creatures, and all humanity, to praise God. The voices of Simeon and 84-year-old Anna join the chorus today, recognizing what God is doing in Jesus. Simeon's song is often sung after communion, for we have seen God's salvation in the assembled community and have held Jesus in our hands in the bread. Then, like the prophet Anna, we tell of Jesus to all who look for the healing of the world.

First Sunday of Christmas Sunday, December 27th, 2020

Gustaf Adolf Lutheran Church—E.L.C.A.

First Sunday of Christmas

Sunday, December 27th, 2020

Ministers:

You, All Members of G.A.

Intern Pastor:

Jaime Decker

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Prelude Music

Gathering

Call to Worship

L: Here on the heels of Christmas,

C: We speak of love.

L: We speak of joy.

C: We speak of candle light and fireside.

L: We speak of dreams being fulfilled.

C: We speak of "glorias" and angel choruses.

L: We speak the words, "Do not be afraid."

C: Here on the heels of Christmas, We are called to speak, for the world needs a light.

L: A light shines in the darkness, and the darkness does not overcome it.

C: Let us worship and listen. Then, let us speak. Amen.

Prayer of Confession

L: When I was in seventh grade, my youth pastor asked the group the question, "Where have you seen God today?" Thinking that this must be a trick question, I began mentally racing through my day, trying to imagine what he could possibly mean. Where had I seen God today? We had spent the day on a hiking trail! All I had seen were people and nature. As my panic settled into my gut and I was unable to answer the question, one of my peers began speaking. She spoke of the beauty of the sunrise and how the gift of another day felt holy. Then another friend spoke of the little girl we passed on the trail who had given her a wildflower, an act of random kindness to a complete stranger. Another peer mentioned David, who had helped pick Josh up when he slipped in the mud, showing only genuine concern. And on and on they went, until I began to see that God was everywhere, and it was not enough to keep it inside. Seeing God in your midst is one thing. Speaking it out loud for all to hear, that's entirely different. The world needs this good news. We are not called to be silent. So family of faith, please repeat after me our prayer of confession: **C: God of today and tomorrow, We know that your fingerprints are all over this world. And we know That those who dream cannot keep silent. So today we pray, Give us eyes to see you. Give us courage to trust you. And give us lips to speak of you in our midst. Gratefully we pray, Amen.**

*Gathering Hymn

Go Tell It On The Mountain

Verse 1 (Insert)

Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere; go tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is Born! While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night, behold throughout the heavens there shone a holy light. Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere; go tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is Born!

*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

L: Divine Voice, **In the beginning, It was you who spoke over the water and brought forth creation. And then it**

was you who asked, “Cain, where is your brother?” It was you who spoke to Elijah in a still, small, voice. And it was you, through angels, Who spoke to Mary and Joseph and the shepherds. You have always been speaking—In words, in memories, in songs, and in dreams. So today, as we prepare to hear your word read aloud, We ask that you would speak to us once again—as only you can— So that we might speak this same good news to others. We are listening. We are grateful. Amen

Word

First Reading

Isaiah 61:10--62:3

I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. ¹¹For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations. For Zion’s sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem’s sake I will not rest, until her vindication shines out like the dawn, and her salvation like a burning torch. ²The nations shall see your vindication, and all the kings your glory; and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the LORD will give. ³You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the LORD, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God. R: The Word of the Lord C: **Thanks be to God**

Psalm

(Please Read Responsively)

Psalm 148

¹Hallelujah! Praise the LORD from the heavens; praise God in the heights.

²**Praise the LORD, all you angels; sing praise, all you hosts of heaven.**

³Praise the LORD, sun and moon; sing praise, all you shining stars.

⁴**Praise the LORD, heaven of heavens, and you waters above the heavens.**

⁵Let them praise the name of the LORD, who commanded, and they were created,

⁶**who made them stand fast forever and ever, giving them a law that shall not pass away.**

⁷Praise the LORD from the earth, you sea monsters and all deeps;

⁸**fire and hail, snow and fog, tempestuous wind, doing God’s will;**

⁹mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars;

¹⁰**wild beasts and all cattle, creeping things and flying birds;**

¹¹sovereigns of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the world;

¹²**young men and maidens, old and young together.**

¹³Let them praise the name of the LORD, whose name only is exalted, whose splendor is over earth and heaven.

¹⁴**The LORD has raised up strength for the people and praise for all faithful servants, the children of Israel, a people who are near the LORD. Hallelujah!**

R: Holy Wisdom. Holy Word.

Second Reading

Galatians 4:4-7

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, ⁵in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. ⁶And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!” ⁷So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God. 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 2:22-40

P: The Holy Gospel according to _____ C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

²²When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present

him to the Lord ²³ (as it is written in the law of the Lord, “Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord”), ²⁴ and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, “a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons.” ²⁵ Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. ²⁶ It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Messiah. ²⁷ Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, ²⁸ Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying, ²⁹ “Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; ³⁰ for my eyes have seen your salvation, ³¹ which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, ³² a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.” ³³ And the child’s father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. ³⁴ Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, “This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed ³⁵ so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.” ³⁶ There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, ³⁷ then as a widow to the age of eighty- four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. ³⁸ At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem. ³⁹ When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. ⁴⁰ The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him. P: The Gospel of our Lord. **C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

Message

Hymn of the Day

Go Tell It On The Mountain

Verse 2 (Insert)

Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere; go tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is Born!
The shepherds feared and trembled when, lo, above the earth rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Savior’s birth. Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere; go tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is Born!

*Affirmation of Faith

Insert

L: We believe in telling the story—

C: The story of a loving and merciful God, Who will not let God’s people go; The story of a baby who grew up and changed the world; The story of our faith.

L: We believe in speaking up—

C: For our neighbors, For the oppressed, For the overlooked and marginalized.

L: We believe in speaking out—

C: Against violence, Greed, Abuse, Fear, Scarcity mindset, And bigotry.

L: We believe in passing the mic—

C: So that we are not the only ones speaking, So that we can lift up the voices of those around us, So that we too might listen and learn.

L: We believe in the good news of the gospel.

C: We believe that this good news is too good to keep to ourselves. We believe that those who dream cannot keep silent.

L: Speak to us, Holy God.

C: Speak through us, Holy God. May it be so, amen.

*Prayers of Intercession

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

* Offering Prayer

C: Gracious God, you came to us as one unknown, bringing joy and salvation to the earth. Nourish us at your banquet table, that with all who welcome your birth

we may proclaim your peace, revealed in Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

Meal

Holy Communion

*Great Thanksgiving

Insert

P: The Lord be with you, **C: and also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts, **C: we lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

*Holy, Holy, Holy

Insert

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosana in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosana in the highest, hosana in the highest.

*Words of Institution

*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

*Invitation to Communion

P: The Word is revealed in a manger, in simple bread and wine. Come meet Christ in this meal.

*Lamb of God

Insert

O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world away; you suffered death our lives to save: have mercy now we pray.

O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world away; you set us free from guilt and grave: have mercy now, we pray.

O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world away; eternal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

Communion Distribution (All Are Welcome to Receive Communion Here at GA Church)

*Post Communion Blessing

* Post Communion Prayer

P: We give you thanks, gracious God, that you have once again fed us from your very self with the body and blood of Christ. Through this mystery, send us forth to proclaim your promise to a world in need, through the same Jesus Christ, our Savior. **C: Amen.**

Sending

*Benediction

*Sending Hymn

Go Tell It On The Mountain

Verse 3(Insert)

Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere; go tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is Born!
Down in a lonely manger the humble Christ was born; and God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn.
Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere; go tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is Born!

*Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Share the gift of Jesus.

C: Thanks be to God.

*Postlude

Bulletin Donated:

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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