

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



In Isaiah the one God who sits above the earth and numbers the stars also strengthens the powerless. So in Jesus' healing work we see the hand of the creator God, lifting up the sick woman to health and service (diakonia). Like Simon's mother-in-law, we are lifted up and healed to serve. Following Jesus, we strengthen the powerless; like Jesus, we seek to renew our own strength in quiet times of prayer.

Fifth Sunday After Epiphany Sunday, February 7th, 2021

Gustaf Adolf Lutheran Church—E.L.C.A.

Fifth Sunday After Epiphany

Sunday, February 7th, 2021

Ministers:

You, All Members of G.A.

Intern Pastor:

Jaime Decker

+++++

Prelude Music

Welcome/Announcements

Gathering

*Confessions and Forgiveness

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

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, whose voice is upon the waters, whose mercy is poured out upon all people, whose goodness cascades over all creation.

C: Amen

P: Let us confess our sin, trusting in the abundant grace of God.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Holy One, C: you search us and know us. You are acquainted with all our ways. We confess that our hearts are burdened by sin our own sins and the broken systems that bind us. We turn inward, failing to follow your outward way of love. We distrust those who are not like us. We exploit the earth and its resources and fail to consider generations to come. Forgive us, gracious God, for all we have done and left undone. Even before the words are on our tongues, you know them; receive them in your divine mercy. Amen.

P: How vast is God's grace! Through the power and promise of ☩ Christ Jesus, our sins are washed away and we are claimed as God's own beloved. Indeed, we are forgiven. In the wake of God's forgiveness, we

are called to be the beloved community living out Christ’s justice and the Spirit’s reconciling peace. **C: Amen.**

*Gathering Hymn (Sing) *I Love To Tell The Story* (Verse 1)
I Love to tell the story of unseen things above, of Jesus and his glory, of Jesus and his love. I love to tell the story, because I know it’s true; it satisfies my longings as nothings else would do. I love to tell the story; twill be my theme in glory to tell the old, old story of Jesus and his love.

*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 of the Day
C: Everlasting God, you give strength to the weak and power to the faint. Make us agents of your healing and wholeness, that your good news may be made known to the ends of your creation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Word

First Reading **Isaiah 40:21-31**
Have you not known? Have you not heard? Has it not been told you from the beginning? Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth? ²² It is he who sits above the circle of the earth, and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers; who stretches out the heavens like a curtain, and spreads them like a tent to live in; ²³ who brings princes to naught, and makes the rulers of the earth as nothing. ²⁴ Scarcely are they planted, scarcely sown, scarcely has their stem taken root in the earth, when he blows upon them, and they wither, and the tempest carries them off like stubble. ²⁵ To whom then will you compare me, or who is my equal? says the Holy One. ²⁶ Lift up your eyes on high and see: Who created these? He who brings out their host and numbers them, calling them all by name; because he is great in strength, mighty in power, not one is missing. ²⁷ Why do you say, O Jacob, and speak, O Israel, “My way is hidden from the LORD, and my right is disregarded by my God”? ²⁸ Have you not known? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable. ²⁹ He gives power to the faint, and strengthens the powerless. ³⁰ Even youths will faint and be weary, and the young will fall exhausted; ³¹ but those who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.
R: The word of the Lord **C: Thanks be to God**

Psalm **(Read Responsively)** **Psalm 147:1-11, 20**
Praise the LORD! How good it is to sing praises to our God; for he is gracious, and a song of praise is fitting.
² **The LORD builds up Jerusalem; he gathers the outcasts of Israel.**
³ He heals the brokenhearted, and binds up their wounds.
⁴ **He determines the number of the stars; he gives to all of them their names.**
⁵ Great is our Lord, and abundant in power; his understanding is beyond measure.
⁶ **The LORD lifts up the downtrodden; he casts the wicked to the ground.**
⁷ Sing to the LORD with thanksgiving; make melody to our God on the lyre.
⁸ **He covers the heavens with clouds, prepares rain for the earth, makes grass grow on the hills.**
⁹ He gives to the animals their food, and to the young ravens when they cry.
¹⁰ **His delight is not in the strength of the horse, nor his pleasure in the speed of a runner;**
¹¹ but the LORD takes pleasure in those who fear him, in those who hope in his steadfast love.
²⁰ **He has not dealt thus with any other nation; they do not know his ordinances. Praise the LORD!**
R: Holy Wisdom. Holy Word.

Second Reading **1 Corinthians 9:16-23**
¹⁶ If I proclaim the gospel, this gives me no ground for boasting, for an obligation is laid on me, and woe to me if I do not proclaim the gospel! ¹⁷ For if I do this of my own will, I have a reward; but if not of my own will, I am entrusted with a commission. ¹⁸ What then is my reward? Just this: that in my proclamation I may make the gospel free of charge, so as not to make full use of my rights in the gospel. ¹⁹ For though I am free with respect to all, I have made myself a slave to all, so that I might win more of them. ²⁰ To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews. To those under the law I became as one under the law (though I myself am not under the law) so that I might win those under the law. ²¹ To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (though I am not free from God’s law but am under Christ’s law) so that I might win those outside the law. ²² To the weak I became weak, so that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that I might by all means save some. ²³ I do it all for the sake of the gospel, so that I may share in its blessings.

R: The Word of the Lord **C: Thanks be to God**

Gospel Acclamation (Sing)
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.

²⁹ As soon as they^[a] left the synagogue, they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. ³⁰ Now Simon’s mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told him about her at once. ³¹ He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up. Then the fever left her, and she began to serve them. ³² That evening, at sunset, they brought to him all who were sick or possessed with demons. ³³ And the whole city was gathered around the door. ³⁴ And he cured many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him. ³⁵ In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed. ³⁶ And Simon and his companions hunted for him. ³⁷ When they found him, they said to him, “Everyone is searching for you.” ³⁸ He answered, “Let us go on to the neighboring towns, so that I may proclaim the message there also; for that is what I came out to do.” ³⁹ And he went throughout Galilee, proclaiming the message in their synagogues and casting out demons.

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

Message

Hymn of the Day (Sing) *I Love To Tell The Story* (Verse 2)
I love to tell the story: how pleasant to repeat what seems, each time I tell it, more wonderfully sweet! I love to tell the story, for some have never heard the message of salvation from God’s own holy word. I love to tell the story; twill be my theme in glory to tell the old, old story of Jesus and his love.

*The Creed
I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.* On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

*Prayers of Intercession Response: **Have Mercy, O God.**

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

* Offering Prayer
C: O God, receive these gifts as you receive us: like a mother receives her child, with arms open wide. Nourish us anew in your tender care, and empower us in faithful service to tend to others with this same love, through Jesus Christ, our saving grace. Amen.

*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

Sending

*Benediction

*Sending Hymn (Sing) *I Love To Tell The Story* (Verse 3)
I love to tell the story, for those who know it best seem hungering and thirsting to hear it like the rest. And when, in scenes of glory, I sing the new, new song, I’ll sing the old, old story that I have loved so long. I love to tell the story; twill be my theme in glory to tell the old, old story of Jesus and his love.

*Dismissal
P: Go in peace. Be the light of Christ. **C: Thanks be to God.**

*Postlude

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.

From Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2021 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #35904. CCLI# 3138595

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.