

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



God promises Jeremiah that a “new covenant” will be made in the future: a covenant that will allow all the people to know God by heart. The church sees this promise fulfilled in Christ, who draws all people to himself when he is lifted up on the cross. Our baptismal covenant draws us to God’s heart through Christ and draws God’s love and truth into our hearts. We join together in worship, sharing in word, song, and meal, and leave strengthened to share God’s love with all the world.

## Fifth Sunday In Lent Sunday, March 21<sup>st</sup>, 2021

**Gustaf Adolf Lutheran Church—E.L.C.A.**

**Fifth Sunday in Lent**

**Sunday, March 21<sup>st</sup>, 2021**

Ministers:

*You, All Members of G.A.*

Intern Pastor:

**Jaime Decker**

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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*

### **Call To Worship**

L: Every week is a new week, Another chance to say: **C: “Here I am. Use me.”**

L: Every day is a new day, Another chance to say: **C: “Thank you for yesterday. Thank you for tomorrow.”**

L: Every hour is a new hour, Another chance to say, **C: “Again and again, make me new.”**

L: We do not come to this place to stay the same. **C: We come to this place to be changed.**

L: So let us worship holy God, Who created yesterday, will create tomorrow, and even now is creating something new.

**C: Thanks be to God. Amen.**

### Call To Confession

L: In the gospel of John, a group of Greek people approach the disciples and say, "We would like to see Jesus." It's a brief, beautiful moment that the text doesn't spend a lot of time on, And yet, it always catches my eye. It catches my eye, because the phrase, "I want to see Jesus," Feels like it should be my constant prayer. Help me see Jesus. I'd like to see Jesus. Bring me closer to Jesus. In the prayer of confession, We take a moment to recognize how much space exists between us and those words, Trusting that even when we forget to seek out God, God is seeking us out. So join me in the prayer of confession today as we take one step closer to the Divine . . .

### Prayer of Confession

L: Gracious God, **C: We want to see you. We want to be known as the people who looked for Jesus; But not only that, we want to be people who have your covenant written on our hearts. Why do we feel so far away from that at times? What went wrong? Where did we lose our way? Could you, would you, once again, write on our fragile hearts? We would be so grateful. Amen.**

### Words of Forgiveness

L: Friends, despite our wonderings, Despite our distractions, Despite wrong turns time and time again, We are known and loved by God. Like a lighthouse keeper by the sea, God will never stop waving us home. So hear and believe the good news of the gospel:

**C: Our fragile bones are held by the Great Creator. Our fragile hearts are loved by the Great Creator. Our tender spirits are forgiven by the Great Creator.**

L: Today is a new day.

**C: Again and again, we are forgiven; Again and again, we are reformed. Thanks be to God. Amen.**

### Gathering Hymn

*Jesus, Keep Me Near The Cross*

Verse 1

Jesus, keep me near the cross, there's a precious fountain: free to all, a healing stream flows from Calvary's mountain. In the cross, in the cross be my glory ever; till my ransomed soul shall find rest beyond the river.

### \*Prayer For Illumination

L: Holy God, **C: Scripture tells us that your word is written on our hearts, But we struggle to hear it. Is it possible that we have covered up your words with our own self-narratives? Is it possible that we have erased your truth to write our own? Is it possible that we have forgotten your words entirely? Take us back to the beginning. Remove the self-talk that distracts. Clear away the cobwebs of doubt. Show us how to look inside ourselves for your truth, And then write on our hearts once more. We are listening. We are hopeful. We are here. Speak now. Amen.**

## Word

### First Reading

### Jeremiah 31:31-34

<sup>31</sup>The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. <sup>32</sup>It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD. <sup>33</sup>But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. <sup>34</sup>No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, "Know the LORD," for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more. R: The Word of the Lord **C: Thanks be to God**

### Psalm

**(Please Read Responsively)**

### Psalm 51:1-12

<sup>1</sup>Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; in your great compassion blot out my offenses.

<sup>2</sup>**Wash me through and through from my wickedness, and cleanse me from my sin.**

<sup>3</sup>For I know my offenses, and my sin is ever before me.

<sup>4</sup>**Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight; so you are justified when you speak and right in your judgment.**

<sup>5</sup>Indeed, I was born steeped in wickedness, a sinner from my mother's womb.

<sup>6</sup>**Indeed, you delight in truth deep within me, and would have me know wisdom deep within.**

<sup>7</sup>Remove my sins with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be purer than snow.

<sup>8</sup>**Let me hear joy and gladness; that the body you have broken may rejoice.**

<sup>9</sup>Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my wickedness.

<sup>10</sup>**Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.**

<sup>11</sup>Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me.

<sup>12</sup>**Restore to me the joy of your salvation and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.**

R: Holy Wisdom. Holy Word.

### Second Reading

### Hebrews 5:5-10

<sup>5</sup>So also Christ did not glorify himself in becoming a high priest, but was appointed by the one who said to him, "You are my Son, today I have begotten you"; <sup>6</sup>as he says also in another place, "You are a priest forever, according to the order of Melchizedek." <sup>7</sup>In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications,

with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. <sup>8</sup> Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; <sup>9</sup> and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him, <sup>10</sup> having been designated by God a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.

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

**Gospel Reading**

**John 12:20-33**

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

<sup>20</sup> Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. <sup>21</sup> They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus." <sup>22</sup> Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. <sup>23</sup> Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. <sup>24</sup> Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. <sup>25</sup> Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. <sup>26</sup> Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor. <sup>27</sup> "Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say—'Father, save me from this hour'? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. <sup>28</sup> Father, glorify your name." Then a voice came from heaven, "I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again." <sup>29</sup> The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, "An angel has spoken to him." <sup>30</sup> Jesus answered, "This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. <sup>31</sup> Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. <sup>32</sup> And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself." <sup>33</sup> He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

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

**Message**

**Hymn of the Day**

*Jesus, Keep Me Near The Cross*

Verse 2&3

Near the cross, a trembling soul, love and mercy found me ; there the bright and morning star sheds its beams around me. In the cross, in the cross be my glory ever; till my ransomed soul shall find rest beyond the river.

Near the cross! O Lamb of God, bring its scenes before me; help me walk from day to day with its shadow o'er me. In the cross, in the cross be my glory ever; till my ransomed soul shall find rest beyond the river.

**\*Affirmation of Faith**

**We believe that flowers need the rain. We believe that humans need community. We believe that bodies need rest. We believe that hearts need connection. We believe that mornings need sunrise. We believe that seasons need change. We believe that grief needs space. We believe that change needs time. We believe that love needs security. We believe that pain needs art. We believe that joy needs company. We believe that our spirits need God. Again and again, our spirits need God. Fortunately for us, we trust that God is here. God is at work in our lives. God is a lighthouse keeper that never gives up. Thanks be to God. Amen.**

**\*Prayers of Intercession**

**Response: Your Mercy Is Great**

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

**\* Offering Prayer**

**C: Faithful God, you walk beside us in desert places, and you meet us in our hunger with bread from heaven. Accompany us in this meal, that we may pass over from death to life with Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

**Meal**

**Holy Communion**

**\*Great Thanksgiving**

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**

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**

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: Jesus draws the whole world to himself. Come to this meal and be fed.

**\*Lamb of God**

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: God of steadfast love, at this table you gather your people into one body for the sake of the world. Send us in the power of your Spirit, that our lives bear witness to the love that has made us new in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **C: Amen.**

**Sending**

**\*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**

*Jesus, Keep Me Near The Cross*

Verse 4

Near the cross I’ll watch and wait, hoping, trusting ever, till I reach the golden strand just beyond the river. In the cross, in the cross be my glory ever; till my ransomed soul shall find rest beyond the river.

**\*Dismissal**

P: Go in Peace. Share the good news.

**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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