

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



The third covenant in this year's Lenten readings is the central one of Israel's history: the gift of the law to those God freed from slavery. The commandments begin with the statement that because God alone has freed us from the powers that oppressed us, we are to let nothing else claim first place in our lives. When Jesus throws the merchants out of the temple, he is defending the worship of God alone and rejecting the ways commerce and profit-making can become our gods. The Ten Commandments are essential to our baptismal call: centered first in God's liberating love, we strive to live out justice and mercy in our communities and the world.

Third Sunday In Lent Sunday, March 7th, 2021

Gustaf Adolf Lutheran Church—E.L.C.A.

Third Sunday in Lent

Sunday, March 7th, 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: 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.**

Call To Confession

L: Science tells us that a person makes about 35,000 choices in a day. 35,000 choices each and every day! In the prayer of confession, we pause to take a moment to think and to ask: How many of our decisions are choices God would have us make? How many are not? So let us pray together, knowing that we need guidance, and trusting that even if we fall, God is showing us the way.

Prayer of Confession

L: God of Justice, We are guilty of building tables.

C: We have built tables that oppression dines on, Sexism thrives on, and racism lives on.

L: God of Justice, We are guilty of forgetting where we are,

C: Of turning faith into a negotiation tool and the church into a place for insiders.

L: God of Justice, We are guilty of ignoring the point;

C: For you taught that the temple was for worship and your message was for all.

L: God of our hearts, **C: Be in our decision making.**

L: Draw near to our choices. **C: Forgive our mistakes.**

L: And as you do, **C: Flip every table, habit, belief, or point of view that needs adjusting.**

L: With hope we pray for a better day. **Amen.**

Words of Forgiveness

Family of faith, The good news is that God took on flesh and walked this earth to show us the way. God took on flesh so that we could see what it looks like to disrupt and overturn systems of corruption. God took on flesh to teach us another way. God took on flesh to point us to restoration. God took on flesh so that we might be forgiven. Friends, we are held, loved, and forgiven by a just and merciful God. Thanks be to God for a love like that.

Gathering Hymn

Lift High The Cross

Verse 1

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim till all the world adore his sacred name. Come, Christians, follow where our captain trod, our king victorious, Christ, the Son of God. Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim till all the world adore his sacred name.

*Prayer For 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.

Word

First Reading

Exodus 20:1-17

Then God spoke all these words: ²I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; ³you shall have no other gods before me. ⁴You 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. ⁵You 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, ⁶but showing steadfast love to the thousandth generation of those who love me and keep my commandments. ⁷You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not acquit anyone who misuses his name. ⁸Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy. ⁹Six days you shall labor and do all your work. ¹⁰But 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. ¹¹For 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. ¹²Honor your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you. ¹³You shall not murder. ¹⁴You shall not commit adultery. ¹⁵You shall not steal. ¹⁶You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor. ¹⁷You 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.

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

Psalm

(Please Read Responsively)

Psalm 19

¹The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky proclaims its maker's handiwork.

²**One day tells its tale to another, and one night imparts knowledge to another.**

³Although they have no words or language, and their voices are not heard,

⁴**their sound has gone out into all lands, and their message to the ends of the world, where God has pitched a tent for the sun.**

⁵It comes forth like a bridegroom out of his chamber; it rejoices like a champion to run its course. ⁶**It goes forth from the uttermost edge of the heavens and runs about to the end of it again; nothing is hidden from its burning heat.**

⁷The teaching of the LORD is perfect and revives the soul; the testimony of the LORD is sure and gives wisdom to the simple. ⁸**The statutes of the LORD are just and rejoice the heart; the commandment of the LORD is clear and gives light to the eyes.**

⁹The fear of the LORD is clean and endures forever; the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether.

¹⁰**More to be desired are they than gold, more than much fine gold, sweeter far than honey, than honey in the comb.**

¹¹By them also is your servant enlightened, and in keeping them there is great reward.

¹²**Who can detect one's own offenses? Cleanse me from my secret faults.**

¹³Above all, keep your servant from presumptuous sins; let them not get dominion over me; then shall I be whole and sound, and innocent of a great offense.

¹⁴**Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O LORD, my strength and my redeemer.** R: Holy Wisdom. Holy Word.

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 1:18-25

¹⁸For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹For it is written, "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart." ²⁰Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? ²¹For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. ²²For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, ²³but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and

foolishness to Gentiles, ²⁴ but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵ For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

R: The Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God

Gospel Reading

John 2:13-22

P: The Holy Gospel

according to _____ **C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹³ The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. ¹⁴ In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money changers seated at their tables. ¹⁵ Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. ¹⁶ He told those who were selling the doves, "Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father's house a marketplace!" ¹⁷ His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for your house will consume me." ¹⁸ The Jews then said to him, "What sign can you show us for doing this?" ¹⁹ Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." ²⁰ The Jews then said, "This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?" ²¹ But he was speaking of the temple of his body. ²² After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this; and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

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

Message

Hymn of the Day

Lift High The Cross

Verse 2&3

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim till all the world adore his sacred name. All newborn servants of the Crucified bear on their brows the seal of him who died. Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim till all the world adore his sacred name. O, Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree, as thou hast promised, draw us all to thee. Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim till all the world adore his sacred name.

*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 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.

*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

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

Lift High The Cross

Verse 4

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim till all the world adore his sacred name. So shall our song of triumph ever be: praise to the Crucified for victory! Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim till all the world adore his sacred name.

*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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