

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



The mustard seed becomes a great shrub that shelters the birds, recalling ancient images of the tree of life. We'd expect a cedar or a sequoia, but Jesus finds the power of God better imaged in a tiny, no-account seed. It's not the way we expect divine activity to look. Yet the tree of life is here, in the cross around which we gather, the tree into which we are grafted through baptism, the true vine that nourishes us with its fruit in the cup we share. It may not appear all that impressive, but while nobody's looking it grows with a power beyond our understanding.

## Third Sunday after Pentecost

Sunday, June 13<sup>th</sup>, 2021

Gustaf Adolf Lutheran Church—E.L.C.A.

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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*

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, the God of manna, the God of miracles, the God of mercy. **C: Amen.**

P: Drawn to Christ and seeking God's abundance, let us confess our sin.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P: God, our provider, help us. **C: It is hard to believe there is enough to share. We question your ways when they differ from the ways of the world in which we live. We turn to our own understanding rather than trusting in you. We take offense at your teachings and your ways. Turn us again to you. Where else can we turn? Share with us the words of eternal life and feed us for life in the world. Amen.**

P: Beloved people of God: in Jesus, the manna from heaven, you are fed and nourished. By Jesus, the worker of miracles, there is always more than enough. Through Jesus, † the bread of life, you are shown God's mercy: you are forgiven and loved into abundant life. **C: Amen.**

\*Gathering Hymn

*We Walk By Faith*

Verse 1&2

We walk by faith and not by sight; with gracious words draw near, O Christ, who spoke as none e'er spoke: "My peace be with you here."

We may not touch your hands and side, nor follow where you trod; but in your promise we rejoice, and cry, "My Lord and God!"

\*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: O God, you are the tree of life, offering shelter to all the world. Graft us into yourself and nurture our growth, that we may bear your truth and love to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

## Word

First Reading

Ezekiel 17:22-24

Thus says the Lord GOD: I myself will take a sprig from the lofty top of a cedar; I will set it out. I will break off a tender one from the topmost of its young twigs; I myself will plant it on a high and lofty mountain. <sup>23</sup> On the mountain height of Israel I will plant it, in order that it may produce boughs and bear fruit, and become a noble cedar. Under it every kind of bird will live; in the shade of its branches will nest winged creatures of every kind. <sup>24</sup> All the trees of the field shall know that I am the LORD. I bring low the high tree, I make high the low tree; I dry up the green tree and make the dry tree flourish. I the LORD have spoken; I will accomplish it.

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

Psalm

(Please Read Responsively)

Psalm 92:1-4, 12-15

It is a good thing to give thanks to the LORD, to sing praise to your name, O Most High;

**to herald your love in the morning and your faithfulness at night;**

on the psaltery, and on the lyre, and to the melody of the harp.

**For you have made me glad by your acts, O LORD; and I shout for joy because of the works of your hands.**

The righteous shall flourish like a palm tree, and shall spread abroad like a cedar of Lebanon.

**Those who are planted in the house of the LORD shall flourish in the courts of our God;**

they shall still bear fruit in old age; they shall be green and succulent;

**that they may show how upright the LORD is, my rock, in whom there is no injustice.**

R: Holy Wisdom. Holy Word.

**Second Reading**

**2 Corinthians 5:6-17**

So we are always confident; even though we know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord—<sup>7</sup> for we walk by faith, not by sight. <sup>8</sup> Yes, we do have confidence, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. <sup>9</sup> So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him. <sup>10</sup> For all of us must appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each may receive recompense for what has been done in the body, whether good or evil. <sup>11</sup> Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we try to persuade others; but we ourselves are well known to God, and I hope that we are also well known to your consciences. <sup>12</sup> We are not commending ourselves to you again, but giving you an opportunity to boast about us, so that you may be able to answer those who boast in outward appearance and not in the heart. <sup>13</sup> For if we are beside ourselves, it is for God; if we are in our right mind, it is for you. <sup>14</sup> For the love of Christ urges us on, because we are convinced that one has died for all; therefore all have died. <sup>15</sup> And he died for all, so that those who live might live no longer for themselves, but for him who died and was raised for them. <sup>16</sup> From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. <sup>17</sup> So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!

R: The Word of the Lord

**C: Thanks be to God**

**Gospel Acclamation**

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**

**Mark 4:26-34**

P: The Holy Gospel according to \_\_\_\_\_

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

<sup>26</sup> He also said, "The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground, <sup>27</sup> and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how. <sup>28</sup> The earth produces of itself, first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head. <sup>29</sup> But when the grain is ripe, at once he goes in with his sickle, because the harvest has come." <sup>30</sup> He also said, "With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable will we use for it? <sup>31</sup> It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; <sup>32</sup> yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade." <sup>33</sup> With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it; <sup>34</sup> he did not speak to them except in parables, but he explained everything in private to his disciples.

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

Message

Help then, O Lord, our unbelief; and may our faith abound to call on you when you are near and seek where you are found:

For you, O resurrected Lord, are found in means divine: beneath the water and the word, beneath the bread and wine.

\*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: Hear our prayer.**

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

\* Offering Prayer

**C: Jesus, Bread of life, you have set this table with your very self, and called us to the feast of plenty. Gather what has been sown among us, and strengthen us in this meal. Make us to be what we receive here, your body for the life of the world. 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: Christ has set the table with more than enough for all. Come!

\*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: Jesus, Bread of life, we have received from your table more than we could ever ask. As you have nourished us in this meal, now strengthen us to love the world with your own life. In your name we pray. **C: Amen.**

### Sending

\*Benediction

\*Sending Hymn *We Walk By Faith* Verse 5

And when our life of faith is done, in realms of clearer light may we behold you as you are, with full and endless sight.

\*Dismissal

P: Go in peace. You are the body of Christ.  
**C: Thanks be to God.**

\*Postlude

Bulletin Donated: Happy Birthday Tanner!

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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