

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



The prophet Jeremiah speaks of the incurable wound of his suffering yet finds in God's words the delight of his heart. When Peter doesn't grasp Jesus' words about suffering, Jesus tells the disciples they will find their lives in losing them. Such sacrificial love is described by Paul when he urges us to associate with the lowly and not repay evil with evil. In worship we gather as a community that we might offer ourselves for the sake of our suffering world.

Fourteenth Sunday After Pentecost  
Sunday, September 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2023

Bulletin Donated By: Torey & Kirstin Kempel in Honor of Grandson Jack's Birthday!

**Gustaf Adolf Lutheran Church—E.L.C.A.**  
**Fourteenth Sunday After Pentecost**  
**Sunday, September 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2023**

Ministers:

*You, All Members of G.A.*

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 God, the one who forms us, † Jesus who bears the cross, the Spirit who makes our joy complete.

**C: Amen.**

P: Let us bow before God in humility, confessing our sin. *(Silence is kept for reflection.)*

Steadfast and faithful God,

**C: you have revealed the ways of justice, yet we fail to follow you. We are overwhelmed by the world's violence and suffering. We are afraid to risk what we have for the sake of others. For the harm we have caused, known and unknown, forgive us. For the unjust demands we place on others and your creation, forgive us. For the ways we turn away from you and our neighbor, forgive us. Lead us back to you and set us on the right path; in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.**

L: Beloved in Christ, God's justice stretches beyond all understanding. God's compassion is beyond compare.

In Jesus, God is always making a new way for us. In † Christ, you are already and always forgiven. **C: Amen.**

**\*Gathering Hymn**

*For The Beauty Of The Earth*

Insert

**\*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, we thank you for your Son, who chose the path of suffering for the sake of the world. Humble us by his example, point us to the path of obedience, and give us strength to follow your commands, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

**Word**

**First Reading**

**Jeremiah 15:15-21**

O LORD, you know; remember me and visit me, and bring down retribution for me on my persecutors. In your forbearance do not take me away; know that on your account I suffer insult. <sup>16</sup>Your words were found, and I ate them, and your words became to me a joy and the delight of my heart; for I am called by your name, O LORD, God of hosts. <sup>17</sup>I did not sit in the company of merry-makers, nor did I rejoice; under the weight of your hand I sat alone, for you had filled me with indignation. <sup>18</sup>Why is my pain unceasing, my wound incurable, refusing to be healed? Truly, you are to me like a deceitful brook, like waters that fail. <sup>19</sup>Therefore thus says the LORD: If you turn back, I will take you back, and you shall stand before me. If you utter what is precious, and not what is worthless, you shall serve as my mouth. It is they who will turn to you, not you who will turn to them. <sup>20</sup>And I will make you to this

people a fortified wall of bronze; they will fight against you, but they shall not prevail over you, for I am with you to save you and deliver you, says the LORD. <sup>21</sup>I will deliver you out of the hand of the wicked, and redeem you from the grasp of the ruthless.

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

**Psalm**

**(Please Read Responsively)**

**Psalm 26:1-8**

Give judgment for me, O LORD, for I have lived with integrity; I have trusted in the LORD and have not faltered.

**Test me, O LORD, and try me; examine my heart and my mind.**

For your steadfast love is before my eyes; I have walked faithfully with you.

**I have not sat with the worthless, nor do I consort with the deceitful.**

I have hated the company of evildoers; I will not sit down with the wicked.

**I will wash my hands in innocence, O LORD, that I may go in procession round your altar,** singing aloud a song of thanksgiving and recounting all your wonderful deeds.

**LORD, I love the house in which you dwell and the place where your glory abides.**

R: Holy Wisdom. Holy Word.

**Second Reading**

**Romans 12:9-21**

<sup>9</sup>Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; <sup>10</sup>love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. <sup>11</sup>Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. <sup>12</sup>Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. <sup>13</sup>Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers. <sup>14</sup>Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. <sup>15</sup>Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. <sup>16</sup>Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. <sup>17</sup>Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. <sup>18</sup>If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. <sup>19</sup>Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God; for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." <sup>20</sup>No, "if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink; for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads." <sup>21</sup>Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

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

Gospel Acclamation

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**Gospel Reading**

**Matthew 16:21-28**

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

<sup>21</sup>From that time on, [after Peter confessed that Jesus was the Messiah,] Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. <sup>22</sup>And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you." <sup>23</sup>But he turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things." <sup>24</sup>Then Jesus told his disciples, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. <sup>25</sup>For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. <sup>26</sup>For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life? <sup>27</sup>"For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. <sup>28</sup>Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not

taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom.”

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

### Message

#### **\*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: **Receive Our Prayer**

#### **Sharing the Peace**

#### **Offering**

\*Offering Song

*Give Thanks*

Gray #170

#### **\* Offering Prayer**

**C: God of power, God of plenty, all things belong to you. We bring your gifts to the table, that all might be fed. Form us into the body of your Beloved, Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.**

### **Meal**

#### **Holy Communion**

\*Great Thanksgiving

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\*Holy, Holy, Holy

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\*Words of Institution

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\*Lord's Prayer

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#### **\*Invitation to Communion**

P: Jesus invites you to this table. Come, eat and live.

#### **\*Lamb of God**

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

\*Post Communion Blessing

#### **\* Post Communion Prayer**

P: Blessed be your name, O God, for we have feasted on your Word, Christ Jesus, the joy and delight of our hearts. Strengthened by this food, send us to gather the world to your banquet, where none are left out and all are satisfied. In Jesus' name we pray. **C: Amen.**

### **Sending**

\*Benediction

#### **\*Sending Hymn**

*Shine, Jesus, Shine*

Insert

**\*Dismissal**

P: Go in peace. God is at work in you.

**C: Share the Good News of God’s Word and serve the community and the world.**

**Thanks be to God.**

\*Postlude

Mission Statement of Gustaf Lutheran Church (Adopted in 2022)  
**To share the Good News of God’s Word and to serve the community and the world.**  
*Matthew 22:39* ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’  
*Matthew 28:19* Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name  
of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

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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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**Shine, Jesus, Shine**

**Refrain:** Shine, Jesus, shine, fill this land with the Father's glory; Blaze, Spirit, blaze, set our hearts on fire. Flow, river, flow, flood the nations with grace and mercy; Send forth your Word, Lord, and let there be light!

Lord, the light of your love is shining, In the midst of the darkness, shining; Jesus, Light of the world, shine upon us, Set us free by the truth you now bring us. Shine on me, shine on me. **(Refrain)**

As we gaze on your kingly brightness, So our faces display your likeness, Ever changing from glory to glory, Mirrored here, may our lives tell your story. Shine on me, shine on me. **(Refrain)**

## **For the Beauty of the Earth**

1 For the beauty of the earth,  
for the beauty of the skies,  
for the love which from our birth  
over and around us lies:

### **Refrain:**

**Christ, our God, to thee we raise  
this our sacrifice of praise.**

2 For the wonder of each hour  
of the day and of the night,  
hill and vale and tree and flow'r,  
sun and moon and stars of light: **[Refrain]**

3 For the joy of ear and eye,  
for the heart and mind's delight,  
for the mystic harmony  
linking sense to sound and sight: **[Refrain]**

4 For the joy of human love,  
brother, sister, parent, child,  
friends on earth, and friends above;  
for all gentle thoughts and mild: **[Refrain]**

5 For each perfect gift of thine,  
peace on earth and joy in heav'n;  
for thyself, best gift divine,  
to our world so freely giv'n: **[Refrain]**