

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



Conflict is a part of relationships and life in community. Jesus' words in today's gospel are often used in situations having to do with church discipline. The prophet Ezekiel tells of warning the wicked to turn from their ways, and Paul reminds us that love is the fulfilling of the law. We gather in the name of Christ, assured that he is present among us with gifts of peace and reconciliation.

Fifteenth Sunday After Pentecost  
Sunday, September 10<sup>th</sup>, 2023

Bulletin Donated By:

**Gustaf Adolf Lutheran Church—E.L.C.A.**  
**Fifteenth Sunday After Pentecost**  
**Sunday, September 10<sup>th</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.)*

P: 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**

*Earth and All Stars!*

ELW #731

**\*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 Lord God, enliven and preserve your church with your perpetual mercy. Without your help, we mortals will fail; remove far from us everything that is harmful, and lead us toward all that gives life and salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

**Word**

**First Reading**

**Ezekiel 33:7-11**

<sup>7</sup>So you, mortal, I have made a sentinel for the house of Israel; whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. <sup>8</sup>If I say to the wicked, "O wicked ones, you shall surely die," and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but their blood I will require at your hand. <sup>9</sup>But if you warn the wicked to turn from their ways, and they do not turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but you will have saved your life.

<sup>10</sup>Now you, mortal, say to the house of Israel, Thus you have said: "Our transgressions and our sins weigh upon us, and we waste away because of them; how then can we live?" <sup>11</sup>Say to them, As I live,

says the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from their ways and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways; for why will you die, O house of Israel?

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

**Psalm**

**(Please Read Responsively)**

**Psalm 119:33-40**

<sup>33</sup>Teach me, O LORD, the way of your statutes, and I shall keep it to the end.

<sup>34</sup>**Give me understanding, and I shall keep your teaching; I shall keep it with all my heart.**

<sup>35</sup>Lead me in the path of your commandments, for that is my desire.

<sup>36</sup>**Incline my heart to your decrees and not to unjust gain.**

<sup>37</sup>Turn my eyes from beholding falsehood; give me life in your way.

<sup>38</sup>**Fulfill your promise to your servant, which is for those who fear you.**

<sup>39</sup>Turn away the reproach that I dread, because your judgments are good.

<sup>40</sup>**Behold, I long for your commandments; by your righteousness enliven me.**

R: Holy Wisdom. Holy Word.

**Second Reading**

**Romans 13:8-14**

<sup>8</sup>Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. <sup>9</sup>The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet"; and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, "Love your neighbor as yourself." <sup>10</sup>Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law. <sup>11</sup>Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; <sup>12</sup>the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; <sup>13</sup>let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. <sup>14</sup>Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

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

Gospel Acclamation

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**Gospel Reading**

**Matthew 18:15-20**

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

[Jesus said to the disciples:] <sup>15</sup>"If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. <sup>16</sup>But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. <sup>17</sup>If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. <sup>18</sup>Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. <sup>19</sup>Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. <sup>20</sup>For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them."

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

Pg. 206

\*Holy, Holy, Holy

Pg. 207

\*Words of Institution

Pg. 207

\*Lord's Prayer

Pg. 208

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

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

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

Pg. 208

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**

*Go, My Children, With My Blessing*

ELW #543

### **\*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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