

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



"What We Can Do"

Theme: Curiosity to Commitment - We're curious. We want to see Jesus, and yet often our vision is blocked by obstacles and obligations that get in the way. But Jesus seeks us out, meeting us where we are so that we can be moved from curiosity to commitment.

Sunday, November 9th, 2025

Bulletin Donated By:

Gustaf Adolf Lutheran Church—E.L.C.A.

Sunday November 9th, 2025

Ministers:

Pastor:

You, All Members of G.A.

Jaime Decker

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Prelude Music

Welcome/Announcements

Gathering

Call to Worship

L: Come. Wrestle with God, who receives us and welcomes us just as we are.

C: Come, let us worship!

L: Come. Look around with questions, look around with wonder, turning your head in every direction you can find.

C: Come, let us worship!

L: Come. God calls us into renewed relationships with one another.

C: Come, let us worship!

L: Come. God invites us into new beginnings.

C: Come, let us worship!

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be God, the Holy Trinity + the giver of all good, the source of all joy.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

God of all, You have given us all that we need and you ask that we share your abundance.

We confess that we have not responded to your call to be open channels of your grace.

We clench our fists when you ask for open hands; we close our minds when you ask for grace toward our neighbors. Open our hearts to live in the abundance of your creation; loosen our grip and restore our souls, that we may freely give and receive. Amen.

Beloved in Christ, God makes all things new. In the name of Christ, + you are forgiven. Your hearts are unfurled; your grasping is unbound. You are free to live as flowing streams of God's abundant grace. Amen.

***Gathering Hymn**

What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine

ELW #774

Baptism

Arlo William Wrage

pg. 227

***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: God of grace, you seek us when we are lost. Meet us where we are and commit us to a life of generous mercy in you. All this we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

Word

Reading

Isaiah 1:10-18

¹⁰ Hear the word of the LORD, you rulers of Sodom! Listen to the teaching of our God, you people of Gomorrah! ¹¹ What to me is the multitude of your sacrifices? says the LORD; I have had enough of burnt offerings of rams and the fat of fed beasts; I do not delight in the blood of bulls or of lambs or of goats. ¹² When you come to appear before me, who asked this from your hand? Trample my courts no more! ¹³ Bringing offerings is futile; incense is an abomination to me. New moon and Sabbath and calling of convocation—I cannot endure solemn assemblies with iniquity. ¹⁴ Your new moons and your appointed festivals my soul hates; they have become a burden to me; I am weary of bearing them. ¹⁵ When you stretch out your hands, I will hide my eyes from you; even though you make many prayers, I will not listen; your hands are full of blood. ¹⁶ Wash yourselves; make yourselves clean; remove your evil deeds from before my eyes; cease to do evil; ¹⁷ learn to do good; seek justice; rescue the oppressed; defend the orphan; plead for the widow. ¹⁸ Come now, let us argue it out, says the LORD: If your sins are like scarlet, will they become like snow? If they are red like crimson, will they become like wool?

P: The word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

Psalm

(Please Read Responsively)

Psalm 32:1-7

¹ Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven, and whose sin is put away!

² **Happy are they to whom the LORD imputes no guilt, and in whose spirit there is no guile!**

³ While I held my tongue, my bones withered away, because of my groaning all day long.

⁴ **For your hand was heavy upon me day and night; my moisture was dried up as in the heat of summer.**

⁵ Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and did not conceal my guilt. I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD." Then you forgave me the guilt of my sin.

⁶ **Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in time of trouble; when the great waters overflow, they shall not reach them.**

⁷ You are my hiding-place; you preserve me from trouble; you surround me with shouts of deliverance.

Second Reading

2 Thessalonians 1:1-4, 11-12

¹ Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy, To the church of the Thessalonians in God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: ² Grace to you and peace from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. ³ We must always give thanks to God for you, brothers and sisters, as is right, because your faith is growing abundantly and the love of every one of you for one another is increasing. ⁴ Therefore we ourselves boast of you among the churches of God for your steadfastness and faith during all your persecutions and the afflictions that you are enduring. ¹¹ To this end we always pray for you, asking that our God will make you worthy of his call and will fulfill by his power every good resolve and work of faith, ¹² so that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you and you in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

P: The word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Reading

Luke 19:1-10

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

¹ [Jesus] entered Jericho and was passing through it. ² A man was there named Zacchaeus; he was a

chief tax collector and was rich. ³ He was trying to see who Jesus was, but on account of the crowd he could not, because he was short in stature. ⁴ So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore tree to see him, because he was going to pass that way. ⁵ When Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, hurry and come down, for I must stay at your house today." ⁶ So he hurried down and was happy to welcome him. ⁷ All who saw it began to grumble and said, "He has gone to be the guest of one who is a sinner." ⁸ Zacchaeus stood there and said to the Lord, "Look, half of my possessions, Lord, I will give to the poor, and if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I will pay back four times as much." ⁹ Then Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, because he, too, is a son of Abraham. ¹⁰ For the Son of Man came to seek out and to save the lost."

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

Message

Hymn of the Day

For the Fruit of All Creation

ELW #679

Prayers of Intercession

After each prayer petition ending with the words, "Hear us, O God," please respond with **"Your mercy is great."**

Sharing the Peace

Offering

***Offering Song**

Give Thanks

Gray #170

Give thanks with a grateful heart, give thanks to the Holy One; give thanks because he's given Jesus Christ, his Son. (Repeat)

And now let the weak say, "I am strong!" Let the poor say, "I am rich" because of what the Lord has done for us! (Repeat)

Give thanks.

*** Offering Prayer**

C: God of life, You have blessed us with every good gift. Open us to share all that we have been given and to love the world in Jesus' name. Amen.

Meal

Holy Communion

*Words of Institution

Pg. 207

*Lord's Prayer

Pg. 208

***Invitation to Communion**

P: This table is set for you – you who wrestle with God and you who would rather not, you who stand tall in the face of fear and you who turn away, you who are misunderstood and you who are understood all too well. Come. Share in God's meal of new beginnings.

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

*Post Communion Blessing

*** Post Communion Prayer**

P: Abundant God, You have nourished us with life, love, and grace. Fill us to the brim with your care, that we may go into the world with open arms and open hearts to share your peace with the world.
C: Amen.

Sending

Blessing

L: May God bless you and keep you. May God’s mercy flow freely through you. May you be filled with the abundance of God’s love + and held in God’s peace. **C: Amen.**

***Sending Hymn** *Take My Life, that I May Be* ELW #583

***Dismissal**

P: Go now in peace, Love your God, Serve your neighbor.
C: and Share the Good News of God’s Word and serve the community and the world.
Thanks be to God.

*Postlude

Mission Statement of Gustaf Adolf 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. *From Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2025 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted and live streamed by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #35904. CCLI# 3138595 and #21256999*

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