

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



S is for Salt: Historically, interpreters haven't had much grace for Lot's wife. We've made a lot of assumptions about her, without stopping to ask why she may have looked back. And that's something we can all relate to: a time when we made assumptions about others, without taking the time to dig deeper. But what if we did? We might find we have a lot in common with one another and with characters in Scripture, too. Why did Lot's wife look back? Maybe for the same reasons we do—and maybe her story can be an invitation to move forward.

Theme: Empathy and Compassion
Sunday, June 1st, 2025

Bulletin Donated By:

Gustaf Adolf Lutheran Church—E.L.C.A.

Theme: Empathy and Compassion

Sunday, June 1st, 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 & Forgiveness

L: Gathered into one by God's Spirit, we are bold to confess our sins, our shortcomings, our failures, right here in the open, in the presence of God and of one another.

(silence for reflection)

L: God of grace,

C: We confess that we have failed you, failed ourselves, failed one another.

**We assume the worst about those around us,
rather than giving anyone the benefit of the doubt.**

We do the same to ourselves, and sometimes, even, we do the same to you.

We are stubborn and determined to hold a grudge.

**We fail to exercise our imaginations, fail to recognize your works waiting to be born,
if only we would step up to help, or sometimes, if only we would move out of the way.**

Forgive us, O God, and show us another way forward. Amen.

L: Hear the good news of the risen Christ:

God is making all things new! Your sins are forgiven. God's invitation is to another way of living.

C: Thanks be to God!

*Gathering Hymn

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

ELW #631

Love divine, all loves excelling, Joy of heav'n, to earth come down!

Fix in us thy humble dwelling, all thy faithful mercies crown.

Jesus, thou art all compassion, pure, unbounded love thou art;

visit us with thy salvation, enter ev'ry trembling heart.

Breathe, oh, breathe thy loving Spirit into ev'ry troubled breast;

let us all in thee inherit; let us find thy promised rest.

Take away the love of sinning; Alpha and Omega be;

end of faith, as its beginning, set our hearts at liberty.

Come, Almighty, to deliver; let us all thy life receive;

suddenly return, and never, nevermore thy temples leave.

Thee we would be always blessing, serve thee as thy hosts above,

pray, and praise thee without ceasing, glory in thy perfect love. →

Finish then thy new creation, pure and spotless let us be;
let us see thy great salvation perfectly restored in thee!
Changed from glory into glory, till in heav'n we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before thee, lost in wonder, love and praise!

***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 look backward all the time, for every reason under the sun. We make assumptions, too – about Lot's wife, about other people's wives, about other people, about ourselves. Grant us a new curiosity, a measure of gray in our black-and-white thinking, a crack in everything we thought to be true. Amen.

Word

Reading

Genesis 19:15-17, 24-26

When morning dawned, the angels urged Lot, saying, "Get up, take your wife and your two daughters who are here, or else you will be consumed in the punishment of the city." ¹⁶ But he lingered, so the men seized him and his wife and his two daughters by the hand, the Lord being merciful to him, and they brought him out and left him outside the city. ¹⁷ When they had brought them outside, they said, "Flee for your life; do not look back or stop anywhere in the plain; flee to the hills, or else you will be consumed." ²⁴ Then the Lord rained on Sodom and Gomorrah sulfur and fire from the Lord out of heaven, ²⁵ and he overthrew those cities and all the plain and all the inhabitants of the cities and what grew on the ground. ²⁶ But Lot's wife, behind him, looked back, and she became a pillar of salt.

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

Message

Hymn of the Day

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

ELW #807

Come, thou Fount of ev'ry blessing, tune my heart to sing thy grace;
streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise.
While the hope of endless glory fills my heart with joy and love,
teach me ever to adore thee; may I still thy goodness prove.

Here I raise my Ebenezer: "Hither by thy help I've come";
and I hope, by thy good pleasure, safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger, wand'ring from the fold of God;
he, to rescue me from danger, interposed his precious blood.

Oh, to grace how great a debtor daily I'm constrained to be;
let that grace now like a fetter bind my wand'ring heart to thee.
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it; prone to leave the God I love.
Here's my heart, oh, take and seal it; seal it for thy courts above.

***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

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 abundance beyond measure, It feels like privilege to offer back to you even a portion of the blessings you have poured out upon us. Keep us ever-mindful of what we call our own, ever-seeking new ways to come alongside you in the creation of abundance for the world. 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: O God, you have fed us with bread of the new creation, wine of new promises for tomorrow. May this meal strengthen us to be your strong and steady hands in the world, reaching always for more connection with one another and with you, **C: Amen.**

Sending

Blessing

L: May you rest in the knowledge that God has got you, like the strong and steady hands of a midwife on a slippery newborn baby. May you delight in the grace and forgiveness of Jesus, inviting us again and again to repentance and repair. May you recognize new birth all around, the spirit of God made manifest in abundant imagination. **C: Amen.**

***Sending Hymn**

Now It Is Evening

ELW #572 (to the Tune of #556)

Now it is evening: lights of the city bid us remember Christ is our light.

Many are lonely, who will be neighbor? Where there is caring, Christ is our light.

Now it is evening: food on the table bids us remember Christ is our life.

Many are hungry, who will be neighbor? Where there is sharing, Christ is our life.

Now it is evening: little ones sleeping bid us remember Christ is our peace.
Some are neglected, who will be neighbor? Where there is caring, Christ is our peace.

Now it is evening: here in our meeting may we remember Christ is our friend.
Some may be strangers, who will be neighbor? Where there's a welcome, Christ is our friend.

***Dismissal**

P: Go now in peace, Love your God, Serve your neighbor.
C: and Share the Good News of God's Word and to 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,

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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