

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



I is for Israel: Jacob is a trickster and sees all of his tricks coming back to catch him. But God stands in the way with a wrestling match that will leave him wounded and clear of his calling. He'll come out of the wrestling match with a new name and a new closeness with God. Maybe that's something we can learn from, as people of faith—that wrestling with God may be part of being human, and one of the ways we grow in faith and love.

Theme: Wrestling with faith (and God)
Sunday, June 15th, 2025

Bulletin Donated By:

Gustaf Adolf Lutheran Church—E.L.C.A.

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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**

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

ELW #733

Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father; there is no shadow of turning with thee;

thou changest not, thy compassions they fail not; as thou hast been, thou forever wilt be. [Refrain]

Refrain:

Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness! Morning by morning new mercies I see;
all I have needed thy hand hath provided; great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me.

Summer and winter and springtime and harvest, sun, moon, and stars in their courses above
join with all nature in manifold witness to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love. [Refrain]

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth, thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow, blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!
[Refrain]

***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 aren't always sure if we're allowed to wrestle with you, or if this is some kind of trick invitation. Remind us that you are big enough for all our questions, all our doubts, all our fears. Give us new names, new identities, new callings, as we rest in the blessings you offer. Amen.

Word

Reading

Genesis 32:24-28

²⁴ Jacob was left alone, and a man wrestled with him until daybreak. ²⁵ When the man saw that he did not prevail against Jacob, he struck him on the hip socket, and Jacob's hip was put out of joint as he wrestled with him. ²⁶ Then he said, "Let me go, for the day is breaking." But Jacob said, "I will not let you go, unless you bless me." ²⁷ So he said to him, "What is your name?" And he said, "Jacob." ²⁸ Then the man said, "You shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel, for you have striven with God and with humans and have prevailed."

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

Message

Hymn of the Day

Abide With Me

ELW #629

Abide with me, fast falls the eventide. The darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide.
When other helpers fail and comforts flee, help of the helpless, oh, abide with me.

Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day; earth's joys grow dim, its glories pass away;
change and decay in all around I see; O thou who changest not, abide with me.

I need thy presence ev'ry passing hour; what but thy grace can foil the tempter's pow'r?
Who like thyself my guide and stay can be? Through cloud and sunshine, oh, abide with me.

I fear no foe, with thee at hand to bless; ills have no weight, and tears no bitterness.
Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy victory? I triumph still, if thou abide with me!

Hold thou thy cross before my closing eyes, shine through the gloom, and point me to the skies;
heav'n's morning breaks, and earth's vain shadows flee; in life, in death, O Lord, abide with me.

***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

After each prayer petition ending with the words, "God of Grace," please respond with **"hear 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**

My Faith Looks Up To Thee

ELW #759

My faith looks up to thee, thou Lamb of Calvary, Savior divine!

Now hear me while I pray, take all my guilt away, oh, let me from this day be wholly thine!

May thy rich grace impart strength to my fainting heart, my zeal inspire;

as thou hast died for me, oh, may my love to thee pure, warm, and changeless be, a living fire!

While life's dark maze I tread and griefs around me spread, be thou my guide;

bid darkness turn to day, wipe sorrow's tears away, nor let me ever stray from thee aside.

When ends life's transient dream, when death's cold, sullen stream shall o'er me roll;

blest Savior, then, in love fear and distrust remove; oh, bear me safe above, a ransomed soul!

***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. *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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