

# Gustaf Adolf Lutheran Church

E.L.C.A.



N is for Nicodemus: - Nicodemus shows up by the cover of night to ask questions and learn from Jesus. But that's not the only time he appears in scripture and the other moments are a lesson in what it means to risk little, and show up too late. How might these later stories of Nicodemus teach us that there is always more to learn about ourselves, each other, and God?

*Theme: At any age, there is always  
Something new to learn*

*Sunday, July 14<sup>th</sup>, 2024*

Bulletin Donated By:

**Gustaf Adolf Lutheran Church—E.L.C.A.**  
**Theme: There is Always Something New To Learn**  
**Sunday, July 14<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

Ministers:

*You, All Members of G.A.*

Pastor:

**Jaime Decker**

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Prelude Music

Welcome/Announcements

**Gathering**

**Call to Worship**

L: We gather in the name of the Creator,

**C: inviting us always to risk the unknown.**

L: We gather in the name of the Christ,

**C: fully human, fully divine, full of gift and mystery.**

L: We gather in the name of the Spirit,

**C: unveiling for us what feels long-hidden. Amen.**

**Thanksgiving for Baptism**

L: We give you thanks, O God, for the gift of baptism,

**C: For this water, crisp and cold, inviting us to shake off the cobwebs of all we had thought to be true.**

L: We give you thanks, O God, for gift of baptism,

**C: For this water, warm and inviting, reminding us of your comfort and embrace.**

L: We give you thanks, O God, for the gift of baptism,

**C: For lakes and rivers, oceans and creeks,**

L: For waters that foam and rage, for those that drip and trickle,

**C: For waters that teem with life.**

L: We give you thanks, O God, for the gift of baptism,

**C: For waters that hide dangers yet unknown,**

L: For waters that remind us to be born anew,

**C: For all the waters across your wide creation.**

L: We give you thanks, O God, for the gift of baptism!

**C: Alleluia! Amen**

**\*Gathering Hymn**

*Be Thou My Vision*

ELW #793 vs.1&2

**\*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 think we have all the answers, we think we have so much to lose. We prefer to be left unquestioned, our power intact, untouched. Remind us that we can be born anew in your good creation.**

**Grant us courage and curiosity in your name. Amen.**

**Word**

**Reading**

**John 3:1-10**

Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. 2 He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with that person." 3 Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above." 4 Nicodemus said to him, "How can

anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?" 5 Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. 6 What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. 7 Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You[c] must be born from above.'[d] 8 The wind[e] blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." 9 Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" 10 Jesus answered him, "Are you the teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things? P: The word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

### Message

### Hymn of the Day

*Be Thou My Vision*

*ELW #793 vs.3&4*

### \*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 & Make-A-Change

#### \*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 every good thing, you provide for us in every season of our lives. Help us to open our hands, open our lives, to your whole creation, that we might prioritize justice over wealth, truth over reputation, people over profits. 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 are seeking and you who rest in the illusion that you have all the answers, you who speak up in the face of injustice and you who struggle to find your voice, you who understand that we are both/and, sinner/saint, from beginning to end. Come. Share in God's meal of grace.

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 a meal beyond our imaginations– a meal of grace, and delight, and freedom. Send us forth from your table now, bearing good news for the whole world. **C: Amen.**

**Sending**

**Blessing**

L: May God bless you with the curiosity to continue growing into your own self.  
May God keep you steady in the face of all that is unknown.  
May God’s face shine on you as you seek new answers to old questions being born anew.  
**C: Amen.**

**\*Sending Hymn**

*Eternal Father, Strong To Save*

ELW #756

**\*Dismissal**

P: Go now in peace with open hearts and minds, seeking justice and truth in all things.  
**C: To 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,

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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 2024 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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## **793. Be Thou My Vision**

1 Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart; naught be all else to me, save that thou art: thou my best thought both by day and by night, waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

2 Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true word; I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord. Thou my soul's shelter, and thou my high tow'r, raise thou me heav'n ward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.

3 Riches I heed not, nor vain, empty praise, thou mine inheritance, now and always: thou and thou only, the first in my heart, great God of heaven, my treasure thou art.

4 Light of my soul, after victory won, may I reach heaven's joys, O heaven's Sun! Heart of my own heart, whatever befall, still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

## **756. Eternal Father, Strong to Save**

1 Eternal Father, strong to save, whose arm has bound the restless wave, who bade the mighty ocean deep its own appointed limits keep: oh, hear us when we cry to thee for those in peril on the sea.

2 O Savior, whose almighty word the winds and waves submissive heard, who walked upon the foaming deep, and calm amid the storm didst sleep: oh, hear us when we cry to thee for those in peril on the sea.

3 O Holy Spirit, who didst brood upon the chaos dark and rude, and bid its angry tumult cease, and give, for wild confusion, peace: oh, hear us when we cry to thee for those in peril on the sea.

4 O Trinity of love and pow'r, all trav'lers guard in danger's hour from rock and tempest, fire and foe, protect them where so'er they go; thus evermore shall rise to thee glad hymns and praise from land and sea.