

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



L is for Lament: Lamentations 1 gives voice to grief that feels overwhelming — fire consuming, burdens crushing, sorrow without comfort. Yet within the lament there are interruptions: moments when faith rises up, whispering hope against the darkness.

These glimpses do not erase the suffering, but they remind us that lament is not faithlessness. Instead, lament and faith belong together: grief honestly named, with trust in God breaking through, even if only for a moment.

Theme: “Bitterness of Lament, Glimpses of Hope”

Sunday, September 21st, 2025

Bulletin Donated By:

Gustaf Adolf Lutheran Church—E.L.C.A.
Theme: “Bitterness of Lament, Glimpses of Hope”
Sunday, September 21st, 2025

Ministers:

You, All Members of G.A.

Pastor:

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**

Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying

ELW #752

***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 mercy, You hear our cries when sorrow overwhelms us. In the bitterness of grief, remind us that You are still near. Let flickers of hope rise up in our hearts, even when they feel fleeting. Teach us that lament is also faith — trusting You enough to bring our pain before You. Hold us in Your compassion until the day when hope is no longer fleeting, but full and eternal in Christ. Amen.

Word

Reading

Lamentations 1:12-13

¹² Is it nothing to you, all you who pass by? Look and see if there is any sorrow like my sorrow, which was brought upon me, which the Lord inflicted on the day of his fierce anger.

¹³ From on high he sent fire; it went deep into my bones; he spread a net for my feet; he turned me back; he has left me stunned, faint all day long.

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

Message

Hymn of the Day

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

ELW #733

*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 **"receive our prayer."**

Sharing the Peace

Offering

*Offering Song

Take Me Life, That I May Be (Vs. 1&2)

ELW #583

* 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** *Precious Lord, Take My Hand* *ELW #773*

***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,

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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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