

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



The First Sunday In Lent

Wandering Heart: "Jesus sought me"

Jesus doesn't seek out trained rabbis to be his disciples; instead, he calls a few Galilean fishermen to follow him and join his ministry. In this story, Jesus tells Simon Peter to drop his nets one more time, even though they've been fishing all night long and have caught nothing. To their surprise, they haul in nets bursting with fish. In response to this abundant miracle, Peter says, "Go away from me, Lord!" And yet, Peter and his partners drop their nets and follow Jesus. What is the beginning of your faith story? When has God sought you out? Have you ever felt like your calling was pursuing—or chasing—you? Did you resist?

Did you follow?

Gustaf Adolf Lutheran Church—E.L.C.A.

Ministers:

You, All Members of G.A.

Pastor:

Jaime Decker

Prelude Music

Welcome/Announcements

Gathering

Call to Worship

L: Come in. Feel your feet on the floor. Settle your worries. Take a deep breath. Dust the cobwebs from your ears. Relax the tension in your jaw,

C: for Christ is here. God never stops seeking us.

L: We have been found. **C: Let us find God in return.**

L: Let us worship the God of deep waters. **C: Amen.**

Call to Confession

In our scripture passage for today, we will read about Jesus calling Peter to be a disciple. In the story, Peter is in the presence of the Divine for quite some time before he realizes it. Jesus crawls into Peter's boat. He tells him to head toward deep water. Together, they let the nets down. And it is only when the boat threatens to sink, due to the extreme abundance of fish, that Peter turns to Jesus and truly sees who's in his boat.

Sometimes we miss what's right in front of us. Fortunately, Christ keeps crawling into our boats anyhow. So, join me in the prayer of confession, not out of fear, but out of a desire to finally see who's right in front of us. Let us pray:

Prayer of Confession

L: Loving God, **C: You call us by name. You join us in the deep waters of life. You invite us to drop our nets and follow you, and yet, more often than we'd like to admit, we are like Peter. Over and over again, we stand slack jawed and surprised to find you in our midst. Forgive us for drowning out your voice with our own. Forgive us for assuming that we can tackle deep waters by ourselves. Forgive us for forgetting that you will never stop climbing into our boat. Turn our hearts, our minds, and our spirits toward you, for you are the Lord our God, and it is in your name that we pray. Amen.**

Words of Forgiveness

L: Friends, Peter didn't exactly make a good first impression when Jesus got into his boat. He questioned dropping his nets, as they hadn't caught any fish all night. He was oblivious to who Christ was for quite some time, and once he realized the Divinity standing in his boat, he quickly deemed himself unworthy. And even still, Jesus called Peter a disciple and a friend. Church family, hear and believe this good news: You can make a thousand bad impressions. You can make every mistake in the book, roll your eyes, and assume you know better. And even still, Christ will forgive you, claim you, and continue to seek your heart. **C: That is the good news of the gospel. Rest, celebrate, and trust in that. Amen.**

*Gathering Hymn

In The Cross of Christ I Glory

ELW #324 (Verse 1)

*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 For Illumination

L: Creator God, **C: You hear everything. You hear the rush of the wind through the trees. You hear a baby's first cry. You hear the crickets chirping, our silent prayers, and laughter around tables. You hear it all! We don't need that same capacity, but we do need to hear your Word, O God, for we cannot live on bread alone. So today we pray: give us the ability to truly listen. Give us the ability to listen with our hearts, and may the truths revealed in your scripture today change us. With hearts full of gratitude, we pray, amen.**

Word

Reading

Psalm 25:1-10

To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul.

My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be put to shame, nor let my enemies triumph over me.

Let none who look to you be put to shame; rather let those be put to shame who are treacherous.

Show me your ways, O LORD, and teach me your paths.

Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all the day long.

Remember, O LORD, your compassion and love, for they are from everlasting.

Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions; remember me according to your steadfast love and for the sake of your goodness, O LORD.

You are gracious and upright, O LORD; therefore you teach sinners in your way.

You lead the lowly in justice and teach the lowly your way.

All your paths, O LORD, are steadfast love and faithfulness to those who keep your covenant and your testimonies.

R: The Word of the Lord **C: Thanks be to God**

Gospel Acclamation

pg. 205

Gospel Reading

Luke 5:1-11

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

Once while Jesus^{al} was standing beside the Lake of Gennesaret and the crowd was pressing in on him to hear the word of God, ² he saw two boats there at the shore of the lake; the fishermen had gotten out of them and were washing their nets. ³ He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little way from the shore. Then he sat down and taught the crowds from the boat. ⁴ When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch." ⁵ Simon answered, "Master, we have worked all night long but have caught nothing. Yet if you say so, I will let down the nets." ⁶ When they had done this, they caught so many fish that their nets were beginning to burst. ⁷ So they signaled their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both boats, so that they began to sink. ⁸ But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus's knees, saying, "Go away from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man!" ⁹ For he and all who were with him were astounded at the catch of fish that they had taken, ¹⁰ and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. Then Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching people." ¹¹ When they had brought their boats to shore, they left everything and followed him.

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

Message

Hymn of the Day

In The Cross of Christ I Glory

ELW #324 (Verse 2&3)

Affirmation of Faith

L: I believe in a God of abundance—**C: a God who sees possibilities where I cannot, and who holds onto hope when I am at the end of my rope.**

L: I believe in a God who comforts—**C: a God who says, “Do not be afraid;” a God who joins me in life’s deep waters.**

L: I believe in a God who invites— **C: a God who says, “Follow me,” and, “You will be fishers of people.”**

L: I believe in a God who seeks after me relentlessly and persistently—**C: a God of second chances and boundless mercy; a God who calls us by name. We believe. Help our unbelief. In Christ’s name we pray. Amen.**

Prayer of the People

L: Hear us, O God. **C: Your mercy is great.**

Offering

Offering Prayer

L: Jesus, you are the bread of life and the host of this meal. Bless these gifts that we have gathered that all people may know your goodness. Feed us not only with this holy food but with hunger for justice and peace. We pray this in your name. **C: Amen.**

Offering Hymn

Give Thanks

Gray #170

Meal

Holy Communion

*Great Thanksgiving	Pg. 206
*Holy, Holy, Holy	Pg. 207
*Words of Institution	Pg. 207
*Lord’s Prayer	Pg. 208

*Invitation to Communion

P: Bread for the journey. A feast for hungry hearts. Come!

*Lamb of God

Pg. 208

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

*Post Communion Blessing

*** Post Communion Prayer**

P: Generous God, at this table we have tasted your immeasurable grace. As grains of wheat are gathered into one bread, now make us one loaf to feed the world; in the name of Jesus, the Bread of life. **C: Amen.**

Sending

***Benediction**

Beloved wanderer, as you leave this place, may you carry your curious heart on your sleeve. May you look for God in every face. May you find the courage to get out of the boat, to run to the tomb, and to speak of your faith. And when the world falls apart, may you hear God’s voice deep within, saying, “Take heart, it is I, be not afraid.” You are called. You are blessed. In both your ups and your downs, you always belong to God. Go now in peace. Go trusting that good news. Amen.

***Sending Hymn**

In The Cross of Christ I Glory

ELW #324 (Verse 4)

***Dismissal**

P: Go in peace. Share your bread.

C: Share the Good News of God’s Word and serve the community and the world. Thanks be to God.

***Postlude**

Bulletin Donated:

<p><u>Mission Statement of Gustaf Lutheran Church (Adopted in 2022)</u></p> <p>To share the Good News of God’s Word and to serve the community and the world.</p> <p><i>Matthew 22:39</i> ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’</p> <p><i>Matthew 28:19</i> 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,</p>
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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.

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