

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



## The Fourth Sunday In Lent

Sunday, March 10<sup>th</sup>, 2024

### ***Wandering Heart: " I'm fixed upon it"***

When your world unravels and your beliefs are tested, you may cling to what you know. As Jesus foretells his death and resurrection, Peter protests. Peter is fixed upon the way he thinks things should go; he resists the pain of what will come. But Jesus is fixed upon his calling and calls Peter out. For everyone, there comes a time when your faith is tested and you will have to face difficult and inconvenient truths. We may want to take the easier path, the path with less pain. We may want to cling to easy or simplistic answers. Instead, what does it look like to welcome complexity? Can you stay fixed upon your convictions while also expanding your perspective?

# 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: On our worst days, **C: God is good.**

L: On our best days, **C: God is good.**

L: When life is consistent, **C: God is good.**

L: And when life turns on its head, **C: God is good.**

L: Day and night, Monday through Sunday, **C: God is good. God is here. God is love.**

L: Hold tight to that good news. Let us worship God!

### Call to Confession

L: There's a moment in our scripture today when Jesus turns to Peter, named "the rock" of the church, and says, "Get behind me, Satan!" I don't know about you all, but that's a pretty bad day for Peter. It's a pretty bad day when Jesus calls you Satan! Fortunately, this absurd moment comforts me with the knowledge that even Peter made mistakes. Peter, who was given the keys to Heaven. Peter, Jesus' right-hand man, made mistakes just like me. And still, Jesus chose him. Knowing that, let us speak honestly with God. For even on our worst days, we belong to God, and that will never change. Join me in prayer:

### Prayer of Confession

L: Holy God, **C: We often find ourselves moving through a world that does not make sense. Like Peter, we want to yell out, "This should not happen!" We want to control scenarios beyond our reach. We want to hold your world in our hands. Forgive us for the moments when we lead with declarations instead of curiosity. Forgive us for arguing when we could listen. Forgive us for fixating on one truth, when we could open ourselves up to many. Soften our hard edges and teach us how to listen. With hope in our hearts we pray, amen.**

### Words of Forgiveness

L: Friends, no matter how many times you have dug your heels in, no matter how many fights you have wanted to pick with God, no matter how many times you have disagreed, raged, or clung to what you know instead of embracing holy change— we worship a God of grace. Nothing can separate us from God's love, not even a stubborn attitude or a tense heart. So, hear and believe the good news of the gospel: God's love for us will always be deeper than we can imagine. We are seen. We are loved. And we are forgiven. Now follow Peter and go be the Church in the world. **C: Amen.**

### \*Gathering Hymn

*I Want Jesus To Walk With Me*

*ELW #325 (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: Listening God, **C: If we could attach ourselves to you, we would. We would scribble your scripture onto our tender hearts. We would weave your good news into the fiber of our being. We would bind ourselves to you, but instead, we wander. Instead of attaching ourselves to you, we find ourselves swept up in the business of the day. Like a seesaw of faithfulness, we move back and forth, up and down, constantly trying to find you in the midst of it all. So speak clearly to us now. Quiet the distractions long enough for us to affix ourselves to your good news. We are listening. We are hungry. We are hopeful. Amen.**

### Word

#### Reading

Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22

<sup>1</sup>Give thanks to the LORD, for the LORD is good, for God's mercy endures forever.

<sup>2</sup>**Let the redeemed of the LORD proclaim that God redeemed them from the hand of the foe,**

<sup>3</sup>gathering them in from the lands; from the east, from the west, from the north and from the south.

<sup>17</sup>**Some were fools and took rebellious paths; through their sins they were afflicted.**

<sup>18</sup>They loathed all manner of food and drew near to death's door.

<sup>19</sup>**Then in their trouble they cried to the LORD and you delivered them from their distress.**

<sup>20</sup>You sent forth your word and healed them and rescued them from the grave.

<sup>21</sup>**Let them give thanks to you, LORD, for your steadfast love and your wonderful works for all people.**

<sup>22</sup>Let them offer sacrifices of thanksgiving and tell of your deeds with shouts of joy.

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

#### Gospel Reading

Matthew 16:21-23

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

From that time on, Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes and be killed and on the third day be raised. <sup>22</sup> And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you." <sup>23</sup> But he turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me, for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

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

#### Message

#### Hymn of the Day

*I Want Jesus To Walk With Me*

*ELW #325 (Verse 2)*

#### Affirmation of Faith

L: I believe in a God of second chances, **C: a God who sees through my stubbornness and holds my fear with tenderness.**

L: I believe that this God of second chances uses ordinary people like Peter to do good in the world.

**C: Therefore, I believe and hope that God can use me too.**

L: I believe that from time to time, God invites us to imagine the impossible. I believe that from time to time, God invites us to change our minds.

**C: This change is holy and important work, although challenging. When fear and scarcity plague me, or when the impossible feels out of reach, I believe that God meets me with grace and invites me to follow.**

L: Thanks be to God for a love like that. **C: Amen.**

## Prayer of the People

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

## Offering

### Offering Hymn

*Give Thanks*

Gray #170

### 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.**

## **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

*I Want Jesus To Walk With Me*

*ELW #325 (Verse 3)*

### \*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: By Jeannette Beckstrom in Memory of Kim Beckstrom's Birthday

Mission Statement of Gustaf 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.

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