

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



The Third Sunday In Lent

Sunday, March 3rd, 2024

Wandering Heart: "Praise the mount"

"Praise the mount of God's unchanging love. . ." This lyric represents Peter's mountaintop faith moment. It speaks to spiritual euphoria and feeling the closeness of God. In this story, Peter proclaims who Jesus is. He speaks with conviction. Peter claims his faith. If you had to speak your faith in one sentence or phrase, what would you say? When we have the courage to say, "This, I believe..." then that conviction has a ripple effect on others. When life gets rocky, we lean on mountain top moments and our deepest convictions to see us through.

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: If you ask the sky who God is, **C: the sky will tell you of God's reach.**

L: If you ask the day who God is, **C: the sun will tell you of God's warmth.**

L: If you ask the night who God is, **C: the moon will tell you of God's comfort.**

L: "The heavens are telling the glory of God" (Psalm 19:1). Are you listening?

C: We are listening! We will sing of God's glory.

L: Let us worship Holy God.

Call to Confession

In our scripture for today, Jesus asks the disciples, "Who do you say that I am?" Peter said, "You are the Messiah." Have you ever wondered if his voice faltered when he answered? Did he respond loudly and with confidence, or with a tentative whisper? We'll never know. The text doesn't provide those details. But we can trust that, no matter how we speak to God, when we speak, God is listening. So friends, join me in the prayer of confession. Whether you whisper these words or speak them with conviction, may you trust that our gracious and merciful God is listening with love. Let us pray together:

Prayer of Confession

L: Holy God, Some days, we are quick to declare your goodness. Like Peter, we see you in our midst and we are confident in our faith. Other days, we are distracted and uncertain, desperate for answers.

C: Forgive us for losing sight of you.

L: Some days we are quick to trust your blessings—

C: trusting that we are called, that we can make a difference.

L: Other days, our praise falls silent and doubt creeps in.

C: Forgive us for losing sight of ourselves.

L: We know that fear and doubt are part of the journey of faith. But for the days when we are far from you and far from ourselves, we ask for your tender grace.

C: Pull us closer toward you. Remind us of the mountaintop moments of our faith. Amen.

Words of Forgiveness

L: Friends, Whether you speak to God in a whisper or with clear conviction, with questions or with answers, with hope in your heart or with doubt in your throat— God will always listen with love and mercy. So rest in this good news: regardless of how loudly you live your faith—you belong to God. You are loved. You are claimed. You are forgiven. Speak that good news with confidence. **C: 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: Holy Word, C: For generations people have bowed their heads, have prayed the Psalms, have asked for your presence in their lives. For generations people have whispered, "May the words of my mouth and the meditations of my heart be acceptable and pleasing to you, O God." For generations we have gathered here, we have quieted our minds, we have prayed to feel your presence in our midst. So once again, just as the generations before, we turn our hearts to your Word. Still our busy minds so that we might truly comprehend what you have to say to us today. With joy and hope we pray, amen.

Word

Reading

Psalm 19

The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky proclaims its maker's handiwork.

²**One day tells its tale to another, and one night imparts knowledge to another.**

³Although they have no words or language, and their voices are not heard,

⁴**their sound has gone out into all lands, and their message to the ends of the world, where God has pitched a tent for the sun.**

⁵It comes forth like a bridegroom out of his chamber; it rejoices like a champion to run its course.

⁶**It goes forth from the uttermost edge of the heavens and runs about to the end of it again; nothing is hidden from its burning heat.**

⁷The teaching of the LORD is perfect and revives the soul; the testimony of the LORD is sure and gives wisdom to the simple.

⁸**The statutes of the LORD are just and rejoice the heart; the commandment of the LORD is clear and gives light to the eyes.**

⁹The fear of the LORD is clean and endures forever; the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether.

¹⁰**More to be desired are they than gold, more than much fine gold, sweeter far than honey, than honey in the comb.**

¹¹By them also is your servant enlightened, and in keeping them there is great reward.

¹²**Who can detect one's own offenses? Cleanse me from my secret faults.**

¹³Above all, keep your servant from presumptuous sins; let them not get dominion over me; then shall I be whole and sound, and innocent of a great offense.

¹⁴**Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O LORD, my strength and my redeemer.**

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

Gospel Reading

Matthew 16:13-20

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

¹³ Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" ¹⁴ And they said, "Some say John the Baptist but others Elijah and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." ¹⁵ He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" ¹⁶ Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." ¹⁷ And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you but my Father in heaven. ¹⁸ And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. ¹⁹ I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." ²⁰ Then

he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

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: Jesus asked the disciples, "But what about you? Who do you say that I am?" Church, what do you say? **C: Jesus is a hand reaching out in the storm, the voice of truth spoken over us, and love without walls. Jesus is justice for the weary, healing for the hurt, and welcome for the stranger. Jesus is teacher, Messiah, and friend— with me on the mountain and beside me in the valley. Jesus is a star in the night, and the love that knows my name.**

L: Jesus asked, "Who do you say that I am?"

C: Like Peter, we say, "Jesus, you are the Messiah, son of the Living God."

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

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:

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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