

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



From generation to generation: There's room for every story-Our series begins with Matthew's genealogy. In that long list of names, we remember the trauma and triumph of those who came before; each name holds a story and their story gives way to Christ's story. God works through the unexpected people and stories of the past and present. When you zoom in, you may not be able to see how each character propels the story forward, but when you zoom out, you can see how each story is woven together into a larger tapestry. The Isaiah passage illustrates a convergence of opposing groups and identities coming together. Instead of the way of the past—of war—they learn a new way by transforming their weapons into gardening tools. What are the old paths that we've followed, and where must we diverge into a new way?

## First Sunday of Advent Sunday, November 27<sup>th</sup>, 2022

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

Ministers:

Pastor:

Prelude Music

Welcome/Announcements

***You, All Members of G.A.***

**Jaime Decker**

## Gathering

### Call to Worship

P: Blessed be the Holy Trinity, + one God, in whose image we are made, who claims us and calls us beloved.

**C: Amen**

### Candle Lighting

P: Over a hundred people, from the ages of two to eighty years old, were asked the question, “What gives you hope?” From the voices of different generations, hear their answers:

*(Lighting of the Advent Candle)*

### Hymn

*Light One Candle To Watch for Messiah - Verse 1*

ELW #240

### Call to Confession

In God’s house, everyone is welcome—those who seem like they have it all together, and those who feel like their world is falling apart. No matter who we are, there’s room for us here. With that confidence, we turn to God in prayer, speaking the truth of our lives. Let us pray:

### Prayer of Confession

P: God of today and God of tomorrow, you say, “Bring your full self. There’s room for you here.”

**C: But we say, “Our lives are too messy.”**

P: You say, “Bring your hopes and your dreams. There’s room for you here.”

**C: But we say, “It’s too risky to hope.”**

P: You say, “Bring your grief and your prayers. There’s room for you here.”

**C: But we say, “Some things are easier to forget.”**

P: God of today and God of tomorrow, we know in our hearts that there’s room for us here.

**C: Forgive us for withholding our full selves from you. Forgive us for giving only our Sunday best.**

P: Help us remember, today and tomorrow, **C: There’s room for every story. Amen.**

### Words of Forgiveness

P: Family of faith, We who feel scattered are held together. We who have lost our way are forgiven and found. And we who are lonely are brought into the fold and are told, “There’s room for you here.” From generation to generation, this is the good news of the gospel. In Jesus Christ we are held, forgiven, found, and welcomed.

**C: Thanks be to God! Amen.**

### \*Gathering Hymn

*Through The Ages*

*(Verse 1) – Blue Sheet*

### \*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

P: God of the ages, in scripture we hear stories of people like us—ordinary people, people who longed to know you, people who longed to follow you, people who made mistakes, people who tried to grow—old, young, native, immigrant, new to the faith, lifelong believer. In scripture we hear stories of people like us, so just as you walked with them, help us to hear and remember all the ways that you walk with us.

**C: We are listening. We are grateful. We are yours. Amen.**

## Word

### First Reading

**Isaiah 2:1-5**

The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem. <sup>2</sup>In days to come the mountain of the LORD's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it. <sup>3</sup>Many peoples shall come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths." For out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. <sup>4</sup>He shall judge between the nations, and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more. <sup>5</sup>O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the LORD!

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

Gospel Acclamation

pg. 205

### Gospel Reading

**Matthew 1:1-17**

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

An account of the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah, the son of David, the son of Abraham. <sup>2</sup>Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers, <sup>3</sup>and Judah the father of Perez and Zerah by Tamar, and Perez the father of Hezron, and Hezron the father of Aram, <sup>4</sup>and Aram the father of Aminadab, and Aminadab the father of Nahshon, and Nahshon the father of Salmon, <sup>5</sup>and Salmon the father of Boaz by Rahab, and Boaz the father of Obed by Ruth, and Obed the father of Jesse, <sup>6</sup>and Jesse the father of King David. And David was the father of Solomon by the wife of Uriah, <sup>7</sup>and Solomon the father of Rehoboam, and Rehoboam the father of Abijah, and Abijah the father of Asaph, <sup>8</sup>and Asaph the father of Jehoshaphat, and Jehoshaphat the father of Joram, and Joram the father of Uzziah, <sup>9</sup>and Uzziah the father of Jotham, and Jotham the father of Ahaz, and Ahaz the father of Hezekiah, <sup>10</sup>and Hezekiah the father of Manasseh, and Manasseh the father of Amos, and Amos the father of Josiah, <sup>11</sup>and Josiah the father of Jechoniah and his brothers, at the time of the deportation to Babylon. <sup>12</sup>And after the deportation to Babylon: Jechoniah was the father of Salathiel, and Salathiel the father of Zerubbabel, <sup>13</sup>and Zerubbabel the father of Abiud, and Abiud the father of Eliakim, and Eliakim the father of Azor, <sup>14</sup>and Azor the father of Zadok, and Zadok the father of Achim, and Achim the father of Eliud, <sup>15</sup>and Eliud the father of Eleazar, and Eleazar the father of Matthan, and Matthan the father of Jacob, <sup>16</sup>and Jacob the father of Joseph the husband of Mary, who bore Jesus, who is called the Messiah. <sup>17</sup>So all the generations from Abraham to David are fourteen generations; and from David to the deportation to Babylon, fourteen generations; and from the deportation to Babylon to the Messiah, fourteen generations.

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

### Message

Hymn of the Day

*Through The Ages*

*(Verse 2) - Blue Sheet*

### Affirmation of Faith

**C: We believe in a God who promised to Abraham, who wrestled with Jacob, who walked with Ruth, who spoke with Moses, who grieved with Bathsheba, who danced with David, who dreamed with Joseph, and who hoped like Mary. We believe in a God who has been loving, inviting, transforming, and challenging us from generation to generation. And we believe that same God is here with us now, saying, "Come on in; there's room for you here." Amen.**

## **Prayers of the People**

L: God of Abraham and Isaac, God of Tamar and Ruth, God of Mary and Joseph, We bow our heads today hoping to catch a glimpse or a shimmer of you. We know that you are here with us, just as you walked with every generation before, so we bring you our prayers.

**C: Thank you for creating space for us. Thank you for seeing our scattered thoughts, our imposter syndrome, our fragments of doubt, and still saying, “Come on in.” Thank you for seeing our ordinary selves with anxious concerns and unflattering habits and saying, “I have bigger plans for you.” Thank you for seeing our fragile egos, and our uncertain relationships, and saying, “You still belong here.” Your expansive love makes room for us to breathe, and we want to love with our lungs and hearts full.**

L: So today we pray—teach us how to make that same room for others. When we come face to face with stories that are different from ours, **C: show us how to add chairs to the table.**

L: When we find ourselves face to face with stories that frustrate and test our patience,  
**C: show us how to build bridges instead of walls.**

L: When we find ourselves face to face with stories that feel foreign or unrelatable,  
**C: remind us to open the door and to listen fully.**

L: From Abraham to Mary, you made room for every story—and that love continues to make room for us.  
**ALL: Teach us to do the same for our neighbor so this world will know love. With hope we pray, AMEN.**

## **Offering**

### **Offering Prayer**

Eternal God, you make the desert bloom and send springs of water to thirsty ground. Receive these simple gifts of bread, wine, and money, and make us messengers of your mercy and love for all in need of your healing and justice. We ask this through Christ our Savior. **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: Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God, who has come to save you.

\*Lamb of God Pg. 208

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

\*Post Communion Blessing

**\* Post Communion Prayer**

P: Faithful God, in this meal you have remembered your mercy, bringing heaven to earth in the body and blood of Christ. As we wait for the day when all your promises will be fulfilled, sustain us and strengthen us by this holy mystery. Guide us toward your promised future, coming to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.  
**C: Amen.**

**Sending**

**\*Benediction**

As you leave this place, may you go knowing that from generation to generation, we have been claimed and loved. From generation to generation, God has been by our side. From generation to generation, we are not alone. The God of yesterday and the God of tomorrow knows you by name, loves you, and calls you forth, saying, "Go be the person you are called to be, love wildly, do justice, and come back soon." May it be so.  
Amen.

**\*Sending Hymn**

*Through The Ages*

*(Verse 3) - Blue Sheet*

**\*Dismissal**

P: Go in peace, with Christ beside you.

**C: To share the Good News of God's Word and to 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,

+++++

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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