

Gustaf Adolf Lutheran Church-ELCA



On a Summer Morning we gather to proclaim the coming of the light. Isaiah announces that the people who walked in darkness have seen a great light. Paul reminds us that the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all. In the familiar account of Christ's birth, the evening sky is bright with the heavenly host singing, "Glory to God in the highest." Amid our broken world we proclaim that the prince of peace is born among us. God comes to us in human flesh—in Christ's body and blood—so that we may be bearers of divine light to all the world.

Christmas In July Sunday, July 23rd, 2023

Ministers:

You, All Members of G.A.

Clergy:

Jaime Decker

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Prelude Music

Welcome/Announcements

Gathering

Opening Hymn

O Come, All Ye Faithful

ELW #283

Confessions and Forgiveness

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the minister begins

P: Blessed be the Holy One of Israel, the Word made flesh, the Power of the Most High, † one God, now and forever. **C: Amen.**

P: Let us come into the light of Christ, confessing our need for God's mercy.

Silence is kept for reflection.

C: Gracious God, in Christ Jesus you come among us as light shining in darkness. We confess our failure to welcome this light. Forgive us and renew our hope, so that we may live in the light of your grace, and welcome the truth of Christ the Lord. Amen.

P: In the Word who has come to dwell with us, God has given us grace upon grace: forgiveness that is stronger than our sins, love that can heal every broken heart. Hear this word of God's pardon and peace: in the name of † Jesus our Savior, you are free from all your sins. Rise, shine, for your light has come. **C: Amen.**

P: The Lord himself will give you a sign: the virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.

C: Blessed is the day of grace, when God sent a Son.

P: Blessed is Mary, to bear such a child. Blessed is Joseph, to care for him on Earth.

C: Blessed are we, to know him in our hearts.

P: He comes to us quietly, with little fanfare.

C: Softly, as in a whisper, God sends salvation to this fallen world.

P: Into the quiet of the long night the Light of the world flickers into human life, a spark which will engulf the world.

C: Come, little Lord Jesus, and be our guest. Stay with us; live with us; be with us, forever. Amen.

*Prayer of the Day

C: Almighty God, you made this holy day shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Word

First Reading

Isaiah 9:2-7

L: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;

C: those who lived in a land of deep darkness on them light has shined.

L: You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy;

C: they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder.

L: For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor,

C: you have broken as on the day of Midian.

L: For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood

C: shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

L: For a child has been born for us, a son given to us;

C: authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

L: His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom.

C: He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

R: The Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God

Hymn

Joy To The World

ELW #267

Second Reading

Luke 2:1-7

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. ⁵He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

R: The Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God

Hymn

Away In A Manger

ELW #277

Third Reading

Luke 2:8-14

⁸In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, ¹⁴"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

R: The Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God

Hymn

Angels We Have Heard On High

ELW #289

Fourth Reading

Luke 2:15-20

¹⁵When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." ¹⁶So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

R: The Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God

Hymn of the Day

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

ELW #270

Offering

Offering Prayer

C: God with us: You came as a baby to a manger. You slept on straw and greeted shepherds. You come again in bread and wine. Remind us how good you are at blessing ordinary things. And then, through these gifts, help us to bless the lives of others in the strength of your holy name. Amen.

***Prayers of The People**

***Peace**

Meal

***Words of Institution**

P. 207

***Lord's Prayer**

P. 208

***Invitation to Communion**

P: Joy to the world! The Lord is come. Let every heart receive your Savior.

Communion Distribution

***Post Communion Blessing**

*** Post Communion Prayer**

P: On this day, O God, you gave us Christ the Son to save us. As you sent the one foretold, send us now with good news for all people. Let the gladness of this feast have no end as we share with others the joy that fills us; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

Candles Lit

Fifth Reading

John 1:1-9

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴ in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. ⁶ There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸ He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹ The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

R: The Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God

Hymn

Silent Night, Holy Night!

ELW #281

Sending

***Benediction**

***Dismissal**

P: Go in peace. Share the gift of Jesus. **C: Thanks be to God.**

*Postlude

Bulletin Donated By:

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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