

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 26th, 2026**

Ministers:

You, All Members of G.A.

Clergy:

Jaime Decker

+++++

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

Second Reading**Luke 2:1-7**

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ² This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³ All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴ Joseph 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. ⁵ He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶ While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷ And 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**

⁸ In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹ to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." ¹³ And 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**

¹⁵ When 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." ¹⁶ So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷ When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸ and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹ But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰ The 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: Ways To Give Offering: In Person, Venmo and Online www.galutheranchurch.org

Because you give...
we worship, fellowship, learn, serve and grow.
Thank you for your generosity!

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*****Lord's Prayer**

P. 208

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

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***Go Tell It On The Mountain*

ELW #290

Sending**Blessing**

L: May God bless you with the curiosity to continue growing into your own self.

May God keep you steady in the face of all that is unknown.

May God's face shine on you as you seek new answers to old questions being born anew.

C: Amen.

***Dismissal**

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

*Postlude

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.

From Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2026 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted and live streamed by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #35904. CCLI# 3138595 and #21256999

283. O Come, All Ye Faithful

1 O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant! O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem; come and behold him, born the king of angels:

Refrain: O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

2 The highest, most holy, light of light eternal, born of a virgin, a mortal he comes; Son of the Father now in flesh appearing! [Refrain]

3 Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation, sing, all ye citizens of heaven above! Glory to God in the highest: [Refrain]

4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning; Jesus, to thee be all glory giv'n! Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing: [Refrain]

267. Joy to the World

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her king; let ev'ry heart prepare him room and heav'n and nature sing, and heav'n and nature sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.

2 Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

3 No more let sin and sorrow grow nor thorns infest the ground; he comes to make his blessings flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is found, far as, far as the curse is found.

4 He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the nations prove the glories of his righteousness and wonders of his love, and wonders of his love, and wonders, wonders of his love.

277. Away in a Manger

1 Away in a manger, no crib for his bed, the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head; the stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay, the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

2 The cattle are lowing; the baby awakes, but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes. I love you, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky and stay by my cradle til morning is nigh. →→

3 Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask you to stay close by me forever and love me, I pray. Bless all the dear children in your tender care and fit us for heaven, to live with you there.

289. Angels We Have Heard on High

1 Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains, and the mountains in reply, echoing their joyous strains.

Refrain: Gloria in excelsis Deo; gloria in excelsis Deo.

2 Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong? What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heavenly song? [Refrain]

3 Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing; come, adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the newborn King. [Refrain]

270. Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

1 Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the new-born king; peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled." Joyful, all you nations, rise; join the triumph of the skies; with angelic hosts proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

Refrain: Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the new-born king!"

2 Christ, by highest heav'n adored, Christ, the ever-lasting Lord, late in time behold him come, offspring of the virgin's womb. Veiled in flesh the Godhead see! Hail, the incarnate deity! Pleased as man with us to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel! [Refrain]

3 Hail the heav'n-born Prince of peace! Hail the Sun of Righteousness! Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with healing in his wings. Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die, born to raise each child of earth, born to give us second birth. [Refrain]

296. What Child Is This

1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping? Whom angels greet with anthems sweet while shepherds watch are keeping? This, this is Christ the king, whom shepherds guard and angels sing; haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary!

2 Why lies he in such mean estate where ox and ass are feeding? Good Christian, fear; for sinners here the silent Word is pleading. Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you; hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mary! →→

3 So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh; come, peasant king, to own him. The King of kings salvation brings; let loving hearts enthrone him. Raise, raise the song on high, the virgin sings her lullaby; joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mary!

290. Go Tell It on the Mountain

Refrain: Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and ev'rywhere; go tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!

1 While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night, behold, throughout the heavens there shone a holy light. [Refrain]

2 The shepherds feared and trembled when, lo! above the earth rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Savior's birth. [Refrain]

3 Down in a lonely manger the humble Christ was born; and God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn. [Refrain]