

# Gustavus Adolphus

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## LUTHERAN CHURCH

A Reconciling in Christ Congregation



### All Are Welcome Here!

Gustavus Adolphus Lutheran Church proclaims that the Gospel is God's gift to all people, to be shared unconditionally. We rejoice in the manner in which diversity has enriched, nurtured and challenged the life and ministry we share in Christ. We know that the world is often an unloving place and that the experience of alienation is all too common. Because Christ reconciles us, we welcome people of all ages, ethnic backgrounds, sexual orientations, gender identities, physical and mental abilities, educational levels, and socioeconomic backgrounds. We strive to be an evermore welcoming community. Following the example of Christ, we extend a most heartfelt welcome to all.

### Our Congregation's Vision Statement

God in Christ loves us; therefore, through the Holy Spirit we will:

#### *Do justice*

- We **hope** for our community and all of God's creation
- We feed the poor and comfort the afflicted
- We welcome and **respect** our neighbor and the stranger

#### *Love kindness*

- We **love** and care for our congregation and our community
- We practice **forgiveness** locally and globally
- We strive for **compassion** and **acceptance**

#### *Walk humbly with our God*

- We find **joy** in creation
- We desire to grow in **spirituality**
- We delight in liturgical worship and creative expression

We are all children of God. Jesus calls us by name. With the Holy Spirit, we seek to live out God's grace.

The Nativity of our Lord  
Christmas Eve

December 24, 2019

4:00 p.m.

Welcome to  
Gustavus Adolphus!

We welcome people of  
all ages in worship.  
Activity bags for  
children are available  
from the ushers.

Please join us again!

- \* Our Christmas Day  
worship will be held  
tomorrow at 9:30 a.m.
- \* Our regular Sunday  
worship services are  
also held at 9:30 a.m.

Have a blessed Christmas  
season!

✝ Please stand as you are able.

## Gathering

### HANDBELL PRELUDE

(We ask the congregation to gather in silence during the prelude music.)

*Infant Holy in a Manger* Setting, Sharon Elery Rogers  
*A Medley of "Away in a Manger" and "Infant Holy, Infant Lowly"*

*Mary Had a Baby* arr. Anna Laura Page  
*With "Sweet Little Jesus Boy"*

*The Moon of Wintertime* arr. Karissa Dennis  
*With "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"*

*Angel Songs* Setting, Bill Ingram  
*A Medley of: "Angels, from the Realms of Glory"*  
*"Angels We Have Heard on High," and*  
*"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"*

### ✝ OPENING DIALOGUE

(Please stand and face the back of the sanctuary.)

**P** On this holiest of nights,

**C** **we come, joining the shepherds who are stunned  
by wonder.**

**P** On this most silent night,

**C** **we come, our hopes and dreams joining those of Mary  
and Joseph.**

**P** On this night of carols and candlelight,

**C** **we come, our glad songs joining with the choirs of  
angels over us.**

(As the processional cross passes your pew during the singing,  
please turn and face forward.)

### ✝ PROCESSIONAL CAROL

ELW Hymn 283

***O Come, All Ye Faithful***

### ✝ 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.**

### *Worship Notes*

Numbers marked with the word  
"page..." are found in the front  
portion of ELW (the red  
hardcover hymnal, *Evangelical  
Lutheran Worship*) at the  
bottom left and right corners  
of the page.

Numbers marked with the word  
"Hymn..." are found in the back  
portion of ELW in the upper left  
and right corners of the page.

✝ PRAYER OF THE DAY

- ☐ Living God, on this holy night we gather –  
to stand with shepherds, amazed at your glory;  
to sing with angels, rejoicing in your work;  
to wait with Joseph, trusting in your promise;  
to sit with Mary, cradling your love.  
May the good news of this night inspire us  
to tell the world of our great joy;  
for unto us is born a Savior, the Messiah, the Lord.  
Glory and praise to you forever!
- ☑ **Amen.**

*Word*

CHILDREN'S SERMON

CAROL

ELW Hymn 289

*Angels We Have Heard on High*

FIRST READING

Isaiah 9:2–7

- <sup>2</sup>The people who walked in darkness  
have seen a great light;  
those who lived in a land of deep darkness —  
on them light has shined.
- <sup>3</sup>You have multiplied the nation,  
you have increased its joy;  
they rejoice before you  
as with joy at the harvest,  
as people exult when dividing plunder.
- <sup>4</sup>For the yoke of their burden,  
and the bar across their shoulders,  
the rod of their oppressor,  
you have broken as on the day of Midian.
- <sup>5</sup>For all the boots of the tramping warriors  
and all the garments rolled in blood  
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.
- <sup>6</sup>For a child has been born for us,  
a son given to us;  
authority rests upon his shoulders;  
and he is named  
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

*Introduction to the Day*

*On a long winter evening 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.*

<sup>7</sup>His authority shall grow continually,  
and there shall be endless peace  
for the throne of David and his kingdom.  
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.

℣ Word of God, Word of life.

☩ **Thanks be to God.**

SECOND READING

Titus 2:11-14

<sup>11</sup>For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all,  
<sup>12</sup>training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the  
present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly,  
<sup>13</sup>while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the  
glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. <sup>14</sup>He it is who gave  
himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify  
for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

℣ Word of God. Word of life.

☩ **Thanks be to God.**

✠ ACCLAMATION

ELW Hymn 275

*Angels, from the Realms of Glory*

✠ GOSPEL

Luke 2:1-7

℣ The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 2<sup>nd</sup> chapter.

☩ **Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup>In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all  
the world should be registered. <sup>2</sup>This was the first registration and  
was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. <sup>3</sup>All went to their  
own towns to be registered. <sup>4</sup>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. <sup>5</sup>He  
went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and  
who was expecting a child. <sup>6</sup>While they were there, the time came  
for her to deliver her child. <sup>7</sup>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.

℣ The Gospel of the Lord.

☩ **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

✦ HYMN OF THE DAY

ELW Hymn 271

*I Am So Glad Each Christmas Eve*

✦ PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

**A** God of glory, by your grace a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests on his shoulders, and in his name we pray.

**A** Wonderful Counselor,

**C** **we pray for wisdom for the world's leaders, that they may use their power to lift burdens and break the bonds of oppression.**

**A** Mighty God,

**C** **we pray for the church of Jesus Christ our Lord, that you will multiply and increase our joy as we share in the harvest you have gathered.**

**A** Everlasting Father,

**C** **we pray for families, friends, and loved ones, that those who now walk in deep darkness may see the great light of your saving love.**

**A** Prince of Peace,

**C** **we pray for an end to violence and warfare, that your authority may continue to grow until there is endless peace in every land.**

**P** Lord of hosts, establish your holy realm with justice and righteousness, from this time on and forevermore.

**C** **Amen.**

✦ PEACE

**P** The peace of Christ be with you always.

**C** **And also with you.**

*Meal*

OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

*On Christmas Night (Sussex Carol)*

Setting, Paul Manz

Edited, David Cherwien

✦ OFFERTORY

ELW Hymn 296

*What Child Is This*

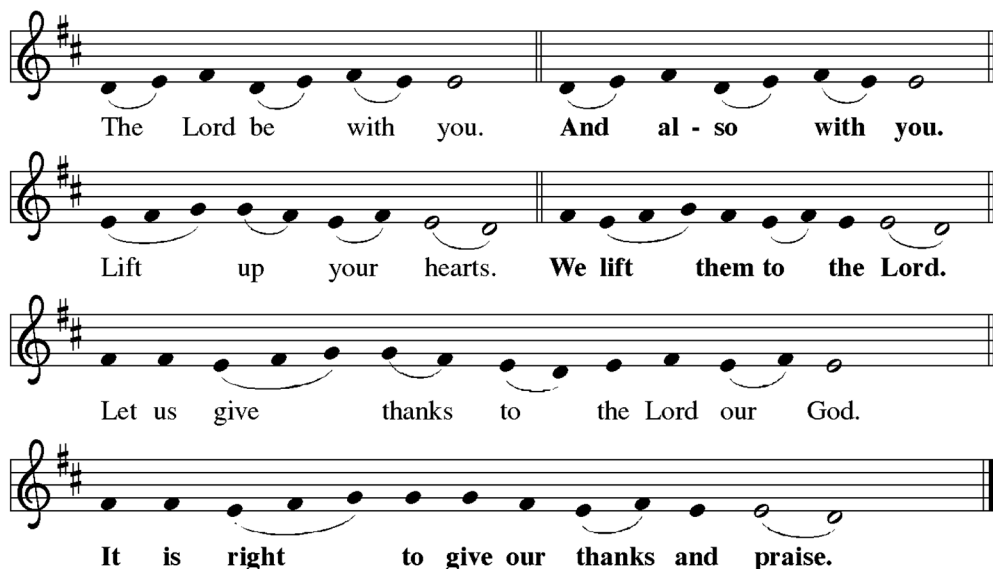


✦ OFFERING PRAYER

**P** Holy God, your beauty shines forth from the manger and your love flows from the cross. As you gather us around these signs of your love come among us, warm us to extend your care among the hungry and all in need. In Jesus' name we pray.

**C** Amen.

✦ GREAT THANKSGIVING



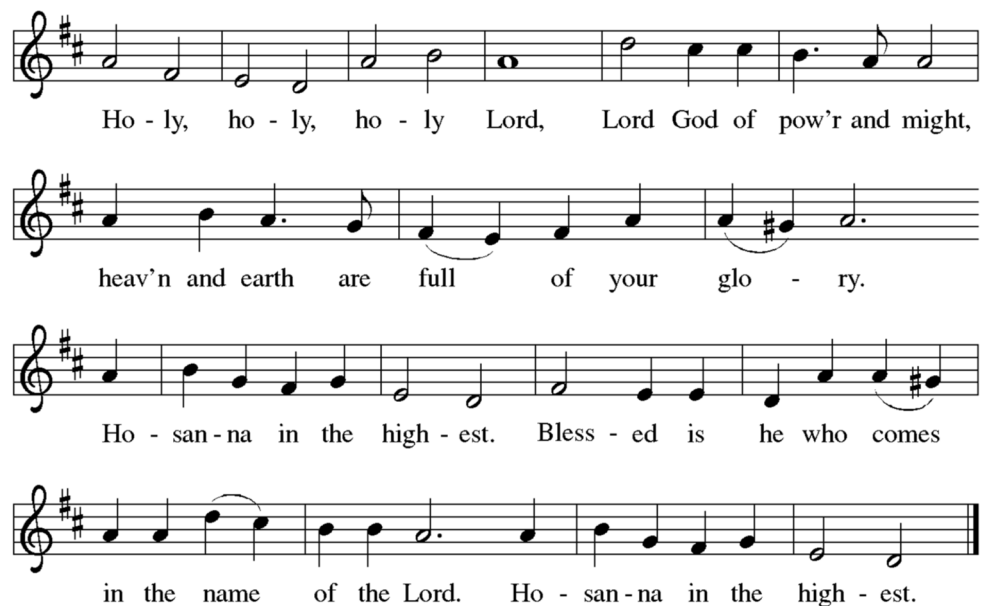
The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

**P** It is indeed right, our duty and our joy....we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,  
 heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.

Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes  
 in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

✦ WORDS OF INSTITUTION



✠ LORD'S PRAYER

**☒ 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.**

INVITATION AND DISTRIBUTION

*We serve communion by intinction. Receive a wafer and dip it into the larger chalice containing wine or into the smaller chalice containing grape juice.*

CAROLS DURING DISTRIBUTION

***Lo, How A Rose E'er Blooming***



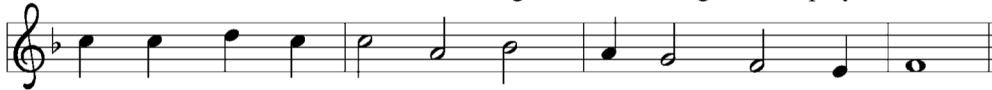
1 Lo, how a rose e'er bloom - ing from ten - der stem hath  
 2 I - sai - ah had fore - told it, the rose I have in  
 3 This flow'r, whose fra - grance ten - der with sweet-ness fills the  
 4 O Sav - ior, child of Mar - y, who felt our hu - man



sprung! Of Jes - se's lin - eage com - ing as  
 mind; with Mar - y we be - hold - it, the  
 air, dis - pels with glo - rious splen - dor the  
 woe; O Sav - ior, king of glo - ry, who



seers of old have sung, it came, a flow'r so bright, a -  
 vir - gin moth - er kind. To show God's love a - right, she  
 dark-ness ev - 'ry - where. True man, yet ver - y God, from  
 dost our weak - ness know: bring us at length, we pray, to



mid the cold of win - ter, when half - spent was the night.  
 bore to us a Sav - ior, when half - spent was the night.  
 sin and death he saves us and light - ens ev - 'ry load.  
 the bright courts of heav - en and in - to end - less day.



*Please join us for  
 The Lord's Supper*

*All are invited to join us in the Lord's Supper. We believe that Christ is present in the bread and wine and that we receive God's grace and forgiveness through this meal.*

*There are gluten-free wafers available for those who need them. Simply indicate this to the communion server.*

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- Opening Dialogue written by Rev. Thom Shuman, *Lectionary Liturgies*, <http://www.liturgylink.net/>

## Infant Holy, Infant Lowly



1 In - fant ho - ly, in - fant low - ly, for his bed a cat - tle stall;  
2 Flocks were sleep - ing, shep - herds keep - ing vig - il till the morn - ing new



ox - en low - ing, lit - tle know - ing Christ the child is Lord of all.  
saw the glo - ry, heard the sto - ry, tid - ings of a gos - pel true.



Swift - ly wing - ing, an - gels sing - ing, bells are ring - ing, tid - ings bring - ing:  
Thus re - joic - ing, free from sor - row, prais - es voic - ing, greet the mor - row:



Christ the child is Lord of all! Christ the child is Lord of all!  
Christ the child was born for you! Christ the child was born for you!

## Go Tell It on the Mountain

*Refrain*



Go tell it on the moun - tain, o - ver the hills and ev - 'ry - where;



go tell it on the moun - tain that Je - sus Christ is born!



1 While shep - herds kept their watch - ing o'er si - lent flocks by night,  
2 The shep - herds feared and trem - bled when, lo, a - bove the earth  
3 Down in a lone - ly man - ger the hum - ble Christ was born;



be - hold, through - out the heav - ens there shone a ho - ly light.  
rang out the an - gel cho - rus that hailed our Sav - ior's birth.  
and God sent us sal - va - tion that bless - ed Christ - mas morn.

*Refrain*

## ✠PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

**A** God of wonder, in Jesus we behold the light of the world come near. As you have come among us now, send us out in joy, hastening to share the good news of your love. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit dwelling among us now and forever.

**C** Amen.



# Sending

- *The choir will process down the center aisle during the singing of "Away in a Manger" and light their candles.*
- *The person at the end of each row will receive the light from an adult in the choir at the beginning of "Silent Night."*
- *Un-lit candles should be tipped on their side to receive the flame, allowing the lit candle to not drip wax.*

✝ CANDLELIGHTING CAROL

ELW Hymns 277 & 278

## Verse 1 - Hymn 277

**Away in a manger, no crib for a 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.**

## Verse 2 - Hymn 278

**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 till morning is nigh.**

## Verse 3 - Hymn 277

**Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask Thee 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.**

✝ CAROL

ELW Hymn 281

## ***Silent Night, Holy Night!***

*Candles may be extinguished at the end of the carol  
and handed to the ushers at the end of the service.*

**Silent night, holy night,  
All is calm, all is bright  
Round yon virgin mother and Child.  
Holy Infant, so tender and mild,  
Sleep in heavenly peace.**

**Silent night, holy night,  
Shepherds quake at the sight;  
Glories stream from heaven afar,  
Heavenly hosts sing Alleluia!  
Christ the Savior is born!**

**Silent night, holy night,  
Son of God, love's pure light;  
Radiant beams from your holy face  
With the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord, at your birth.**

✠ CLOSING LITANY

- A** The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.  
**C** **The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.**
- A** Those who dwelt in the land of deep darkness, on them light has shined.  
**C** **We have beheld Christ's glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father.**
- A** To us a child is born, to us a Son is given.  
**C** **In him was life, and the life was the light of all people.**

✠ BLESSING

- P** May the One whom Mary brought to birth carry you into new and abundant life.  
**C** **Amen.**
- P** May the One whom Joseph cradled into his arms enfold you with love and strength.  
**C** **Amen.**
- P** May the One whom angels proclaimed in song bring harmony to our world.  
**C** **Amen.**
- P** And the blessing of almighty God – ✠ Father, Son, and Holy Spirit – be upon you and remain with you always.  
**C** **Amen.**

✠ SENDING CAROL

ELW Hymn 270

***Hark! The Herald Angels Sing***

✠ DISMISSAL

- A** Go in peace. Share the joy of Christ.  
**C** **Thanks be to God.**

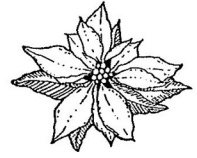
POSTLUDE

Setting, Myron Roberts

***God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen***



# Poinsettia Memorial Garden



## Given by:

*Shirley Fors*

*A Friend*

*Phil Holzman*

*Gayle & Ed Huble*

*Dee Kjera and family*

*Carol LaBelle*

*Micky Madden*

*Judith A. Maki*

*Darlene McQuarrie*

*Eleanore Miller*

*Beverly Moody*

*Laura Moren*

*Jennifer Parker*

*Jean Pope*

*Kathy & Dave Schuette*

## In Memory of:

*Christina Hollis*

*Betty Honl*

*Sundra Arvidson*

*Our Parents*

*"Bud" Olson*

*Loved Ones*

*Loved Ones*

*Lester D. Maki and Warren C. Maki*

*Loved Ones*

*Loved Ones*

*Loved Ones*

*Robert Moren*

*Kate Murphy*

*Addison Pope and Karl Pope*

*Loved Ones*

## Also Given By:

*Altar Guild to the Glory of God and his son, Jesus*

*Pletschers' Greenhouses, Inc.*



***Our Core Values at  
Gustavus Adolphus  
Lutheran Church***

***love  
joy  
hope  
compassion  
spirituality  
forgiveness  
acceptance***

**Gustavus Adolphus Lutheran Church**  
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**Email: [info@gachurchmpls.org](mailto:info@gachurchmpls.org)**  
**Church Phone: 612-789-7256**

**Church Staff**

**The Rev. Susan Masters**, Interim Pastor (Ext. 10)  
[pastorsusan@gachurchmpls.org](mailto:pastorsusan@gachurchmpls.org)

**Deacon Phil Holzman**, Minister of Word & Service (Ext. 11)  
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[philh@gachurchmpls.org](mailto:philh@gachurchmpls.org)

**Dan Hager**, Finance Manager (Ext. 14)  
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**Joel Lurvey**, Contemporary Choir Director  
[joel.lurvey@gmail.com](mailto:joel.lurvey@gmail.com)



**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**  
God's work. Our hands.

**God's Work. Our Hands**  
Your gift. Your choice.

Direct – Cash or check donation to the plate.

Online – On our website or by scanning the QR code below with your smartphone.

Text to Donate – Text 612-235-4476 and enter an amount (no dollar sign needed); follow the prompts to complete your donation.

Give+ App – Search “Give Plus Church” in your phone’s App store, download, and find Gustavus Adolphus by Zip Code (55418).



**God's Mission for  
Gustavus Adolphus Church –**

***To build community  
where God is at the center.***

***Serving Today***

Ministers	The Baptized people of GA Church
Presiding Minister & Preacher	Pastor Susan Masters
Assisting Minister	Derrick Watson
Minister of Worship & Music	Deacon Phil Holzman
Crucifer	Aaron Miller
Choir	GA Choristers & Senior Choir
Lector	Kim Huseonica
Sacristan	Kathy Schuette