

Gustavus Adolphus

LUTHERAN CHURCH

A Reconciling in Christ Congregation



Third Sunday
of Advent

December 15, 2019

9:30 a.m.

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.

Welcome to
Gustavus Adolphus!

If you are a guest today, please fill out the blue slip included in today's bulletin so that we may have a record of your visit with us.

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

We invite you to remain for refreshments and a time of fellowship following worship today.

Please remember to silence all electronic devices.

✝ Please stand as you are able.

Gathering

When the Prelude Begins...

When the music begins, we encourage you to quiet your hearts and minds and begin to focus on worship.

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

WELCOME

MUSICAL MEDITATION

John Michael Talbot

Holy Is His Name

Holy, holy, holy is his name!

✝ CONFESSON AND FORGIVENESS

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God,
the parent who rouses us from slumber,
the shepherd who gathers us on the holy mountain,
the deliverer who sets us free.

C Amen.

P Let us come before the living God in confession.

P As we wait and watch for the promised day of salvation,

C **we open our hearts to you, O God.**

Search us and know us.

Reveal all that we keep inside.

To you, O God, we confess our sins,

known and unknown.

Forgive us, renew us,

and lead us in your ways of justice and peace.

**Make us reflections of the radiant love
of your beloved Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

P Beloved children of the Most High,
you are gathered before the righteous judge
who has mercy on all.

Splash exuberantly in the waters of baptism,
where sin is washed away in the river of life.

Dwell peacefully in the loving arms
of the one who nurtures all creation.

Go forth boldly in the assurance that your sins are forgiven
in the name of the one who is coming and is already here,

✝ Jesus Christ, our Savior.

C Amen.

✝ GATHERING SONG

ELW Hymn 248

People, Look East

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.

✦ GREETING

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

G **And also with you.**

✦ KYRIE

Ky ri-e e - le-ison, Chri - ste e - le-ison, Ky ri-e e - le - i - son. _____

✦ PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray. Stir up the wills of all who look to you, Lord God, and strengthen our faith in your coming, that, transformed by grace, we may walk in your way; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

G **Amen.**

Word

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

During the lighting of the wreath we will sing the third stanza of the song "Light the Candle."

(Advent 1) Light the can-dle of LOVE to-day, the Giv-er of
 (Advent 2) Light the can-dle of PEACE to-day, the Giv-er of
 (Advent 3) Light the can-dle of JOY to-day, the Giv-er of
 (Advent 4) Light the can-dle of HOPE to-day, the Giv-er of

love is here! Wel-come the love we live and
 peace is here! Wel-come the peace we fight and
 joy is here! Wel-come the joy we crave and
 hope will come! Wel-come the hope we long and

die for, but on - ly Christ can give. Flick-er and
 cry for, but on - ly Christ can give. Flick-er and
 pay for, but on - ly Christ can give. Flick-er and
 wait for, but on - ly Christ can give. Flick-er and

Introduction to the Day

We welcome you to worship as our children share the Good News today through their Christmas play. The gospel being read today is Matthew's account of the annunciation and birth of the one named Emmanuel, God-with-us.



flame and glow with love, light up the world a -
 flame and glow with peace, light up the world a -
 flame and glow with joy, light up the world a -
 flame and glow with hope, light up the world a -



round you. Flick - er and flame and glow with love,
 round you. Flick - er and flame and glow with peace,
 round you. Flick - er and flame and glow with joy,
 round you. Flick - er and flame and glow with hope,



light up the world a - round you.
 light up the world a - round you.
 light up the world a - round you.
 light up the world a - round you.

† GOSPEL

Matthew 1:18-25

P The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 1st chapter.

G **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹⁸Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. ²⁰But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." ²²All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

²³"Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
 and they shall name him Emmanuel,"

which means, "God is with us."²⁴When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, ²⁵but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

P The gospel of the Lord.

G **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SUNDAY SCHOOL PRESENTATION...

O Come, Let Us Adore Him

At the end of the play, please join in singing:

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...

Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!

Let all their songs employ,

while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains

repeat the sounding joy...

+ HYMN OF THE DAY

ELW Hymn 726

Light Dawns on a Weary World

+ PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

A In the hushed anticipation of your coming, O Lord, kindle in us the desire to remain awake; that we might be ready for your coming, and eager to pray.

Petitions follow. Each petition ends...

A God, in your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

After the final petition...

P Come among us, O God, and hear our prayers. Walk with us in this season of Advent, slowing us down, quieting our hearts, and preparing us for the Christ Child who is to come.

C **Amen.**

+ PEACE

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

C **And also with you.**

Meal

OFFERING/NOISY OFFERING

A Let us now give out of the abundance of God's goodness to us.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Lois Shuford

Ready My Heart



Continuing Prayer Concerns

Sharon & Paul Banitt;

DJ Bedah; Adrienne Bisping;

Mary Boatwright;

Peggy Bowman; Charline Burns;

Amy Cersier; Shirley Cropper;

Vi Dorumsgaard; Katie Falang;

Renaee Frasee; Kimberly Garner;

Morrie Gulbrandson;

Nancy Johnson;

Michelle Mamood;

Darlene McQuarrie;

Jeff McQuarrie; June Mondeng;

Norma Munson; Juliana Palmer;

Jean Rosebrock; Virginia Seigfried;

Arden & Joyce Swanson;

Vi Tefft; Stephanie Vavrichek;

Andrew; Ann; Dave and family;

Sveah; Gretchen; Bre;

Kathryn and family; those who are homebound or in nursing homes or care centers.

Our continual prayers are offered for peace. We pray for all of the world's governments, leaders, and peoples, especially for those who work toward peace.

To have someone's name added to or removed from this list, contact Phil Holzman.

Noisy Offering

During the four Sundays of Advent, the children will receive a noisy offering to benefit ELCA Good Gifts/ God's Global Barnyard.



*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. Those adults and children not communing with us are invited to come forward to receive a blessing.

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

+ OFFERING PRAYER

P Giver of every good thing, we set before you the gifts that you have already given to sustain our lives and to share with others. Help us to be good stewards of the earth and all that is in it, and let our lives be a testimony to the abundant feast you prepare for all who hunger.

C **Amen.**

+ GREAT THANKSGIVING

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts.

C **We lift them to the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

P It is indeed right, our duty and our joy. . .
join their unending hymn...

C **Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might
Heaven and earth of your glory are full.
Hosanna! Hosanna! Hosanna in the highest! (Repeat)
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!
(return to the beginning)**

+ WORDS OF INSTITUTION

+ LORD'S PRAYER

C **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.

DISTRIBUTION SONGS

Jesus, Lamb of God

Jesus, Lamb of God, have mercy on us.

Jesus, bearer of our sins, have mercy on us.

Jesus, redeemer of the world, grant us your peace.

Annunciation and Magnificat from Holden Evening Prayer

Printed on back of Green Insert

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

ELW Hymn 490

† PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A Let us pray. God for whom we wait, in this meal you give us a foretaste of that day when the hungry will be fed with good things. Send us forth to make known your deeds and to proclaim the greatness of your name, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C **Amen.**

Sending

† BLESSING

P May you live this week as if God has come among us.

C **Because he has.**

P May you live as if God has called you to love and to good works.

C **Because he has.**

P May you live in anticipation of the reconciliation of all creation to God.

C **Because it is coming.**

P May God – † our Creator, our Redeemer, and our Sustainer – bless you and keep you along this journey of Advent.

C **Amen.**

† SENDING SONG

Printed on back page

I Am For You

† DISMISSAL

A Go in peace. Christ is with you.

C **Thanks be to God!**

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

God's Mission for
Gustavus
Adolphus Church –

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

1. There is a moun-tain there is a sea.
2. There was a wom-an small as a star,
3. There was a man who walked in the storm,
4. We are a - noint - ed, ser - vants of God;
5. There is a world that waits in the womb;

There is a wind with - in all breath - ing,
Full of the pa - tient dreams of her na - tion,
Caught in be - tween the waves and the light - ning,
We have been born a - gain of Spir - it.
There is a hope un - born God is bear - ing,

There is an arm to break ev - 'ry chain,
Wel - com - ing in an an - gel of God,
Shar - ing his bread with those cast a - side,
We are the word God speaks to the world,
Though the powers of death prowls the night,

There is a fire in all things liv - ing.
Wel - com - ing in God's bold in - vi - ta - tion.
Heal - ing by touch the lost and the dy - ing.
Free - dom and light to all who will hear it.
There is a day our God is pre - par - ing.

There is a voice that speaks from the flame:
"Let it be done," she sang, "un - to me.
Send - ing us forth, he says to his friends:
So let us be the word of the Lord:
Sing 'round the fire to wa - ken the dawn:

"I am for you, I am for you, I am for you is my name."
I am for you, I am for you, I am for you: let it be."
"I am for you, I am for you, I am for you to the end."
I am for you, I am for you, I am for you ev - er - more.
I am for you, I am for you, I am for you: We are one.

Serving Today

Ministers	The Baptized people of GA Church
Presiding Minister	Pastor Susan Masters
Assisting Minister	Amanda Hakemian
Minister of Worship & Music	Deacon Phil Holzman
Contemporary Choir Director	Joel Lurvey
Choir	Contemporary Choir
Sacristan	Brandon Bisping
Transportation	Pat Lynch