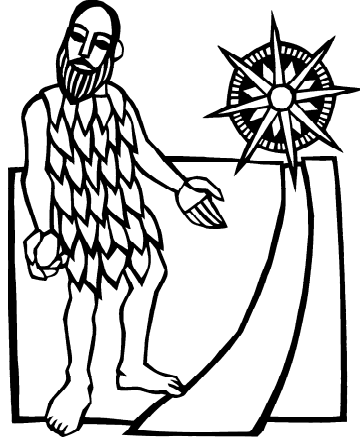


Gustavus Adolphus

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.

Fourth Sunday
of Advent

December 22, 2019

9:30 a.m.

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.

When the Prelude Begins...

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

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.

✝ Please stand as you are able.

Gathering

PRELUDE

Setting, Paul Manz

Savior of the Nations, Come

WELCOME

MUSICAL MEDITATION

Setting, John Ferguson

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

✝ CALL TO WORSHIP (*from Psalm 146*)

P Happy are those who have the God of Israel as their helper, whose hope is in the Lord their God.

C **Hallelujah! We will praise the Lord as long as we live!**

P You are the one who keeps every promise forever, who gives justice to the oppressed, and food to the hungry.

C **Hallelujah! We will praise the Lord as long as we live!**

P The Lord frees the prisoners. The Lord opens the eyes of the blind. The Lord lifts the burdens of those bent beneath their loads.

C **Hallelujah! Let our praises now begin!**

✝ GATHERING SONG

ELW Hymn 257

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Stanza 1 ... All Voices	Stanza 5 ... Lectern Side
Stanza 2 ... High Voices	Stanza 6 ... High Voices
Stanza 3 ... Low Voices	Stanza 7 ... Low Voices
Stanza 4 ... Pulpit Side	Stanza 8 ... All Voices

✝ 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.**

✝ KYRIE

ELW page 98

✝ PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray. Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that hinders our faith, that eagerly we may receive your promises, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Word

CHILDREN'S SERMON AND LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

During the lighting of the wreath we will sing the fourth stanza of the song "Light the Candle," which is printed on the back of the announcement sheet.

FIRST READING

Isaiah 35:1-10

¹The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad,
the desert shall rejoice and blossom;
like the crocus ²it shall blossom abundantly,
and rejoice with joy and singing.

The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,
the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.
They shall see the glory of the LORD,
the majesty of our God.

³Strengthen the weak hands,
and make firm the feeble knees.

⁴Say to those who are of a fearful heart,
"Be strong, do not fear!

Here is your God.

He will come with vengeance,
with terrible recompense.

He will come and save you."

⁵Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;

⁶then the lame shall leap like a deer,
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.

For waters shall break forth in the wilderness,
and streams in the desert;

⁷the burning sand shall become a pool,
and the thirsty ground springs of water;

the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp,
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

⁸A highway shall be there,
and it shall be called the Holy Way;

the unclean shall not travel on it,
but it shall be for God's people;
no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray.

⁹No lion shall be there,
nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;
they shall not be found there,
but the redeemed shall walk there.

¹⁰And the ransomed of the LORD shall return,
and come to Zion with singing;
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;
they shall obtain joy and gladness,
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Introduction to the Day

John the Baptist expects the Messiah to bring God's judgment upon the earth (Matthew 3:11-12). From a prison cell, he wonders whether Jesus is the one who will do this. Jesus' response indicates that God's reign is indeed being fulfilled already through healing and restoration.

During these final days of Advent, we pray (and sing) "O come, O come, Emmanuel," a beloved hymn based on the O Antiphons, ancient prayers appointed for the seven days preceding Christmas.

On this final Sunday of Advent, we prepare to celebrate the birth of the one born to save us from the power of sin and death.

L Word of God. Word of life.

C **Thanks be to God.**

SECOND READING

Luke 1:46-55

^{46b}My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,
⁴⁷my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
⁴⁸for you, Lord, have looked with favor on your lowly servant.
From this day all generations will call me blessed:
⁴⁹you, the Almighty, have done great things for me
and holy is your name.
⁵⁰You have mercy on those who fear you,
from generation to generation.
⁵¹You have shown strength with your arm
and scattered the proud in their conceit,
⁵²casting down the mighty from their thrones
and lifting up the lowly.
⁵³You have filled the hungry with good things
and sent the rich away empty.
⁵⁴You have come to the aid of your servant Israel,
to remember the promise of mercy,
⁵⁵the promise made to our forbears,
to Abraham and his children forever.

L Word of God. Word of life.

C **Thanks be to God.**

† ACCLAMATION

Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

The image shows two systems of musical notation for the acclamation. Each system consists of a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The melody is written in the treble clef, and the accompaniment is in the bass clef. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The first system includes the lyrics 'Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.' with a long note on 'ia' in the second phrase. The second system repeats the same melody and lyrics.

† GOSPEL

Matthew 11:2-11

P The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 11th chapter.

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

²When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples ³and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" ⁴Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: ⁵the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. ⁶And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me."

⁷As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? ⁸What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. ⁹What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰This is the one about whom it is written,

'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way before you.'

¹¹Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he."

- P** The gospel of the Lord.
- C** Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

+ HYMN OF THE DAY ELW Hymn 251
My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness

+ 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



Continuing Prayer Concerns

*Sharon & Paul Banitt;
DJ Bedah; Adrienne Bisping;
Mary Boatwright;
Peggy Bowman; Charline Burns;
Amy Cersier; Shirley Cropper;
Vi Dorumsgaard; Katie Falang;
Rena Frasee; Kimberly Garner;
Morrie Gulbrandson;
Nancy Johnson;
Michelle Mamood;
Darlene McQuarrie;
Jeff McQuarrie; 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.*

We have learned of the death of GA member June Mondeng. We extend Christian sympathy to her friends and family. A memorial service for June will be held in June 2020.

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.

OFFERING/NOISY OFFERING

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

OFFERING HYMN

ELW Hymn 490, stanzas 1 and 2

Let all mortal flesh keep silence,
and with fear and trembling stand;
ponder nothing earthly-minded,
for with blessing in his hand
Christ our God to earth descending
comes full homage to demand.

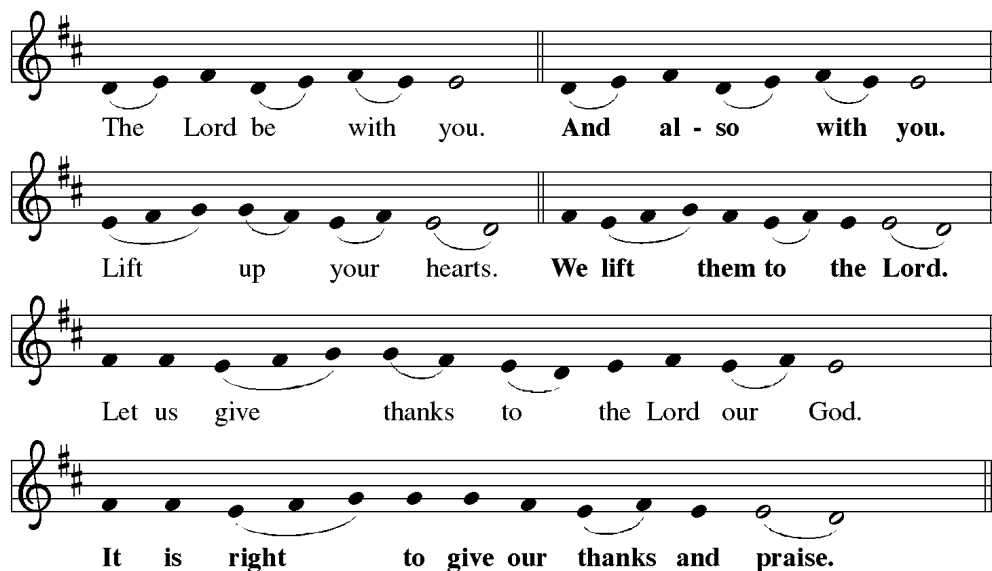
King of kings, yet born of Mary,
as of old on earth he stood,
Lord of lords in human vesture,
in the body and the blood,
he will give to all the faithful
his own self for heav'nly food.

+ 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.

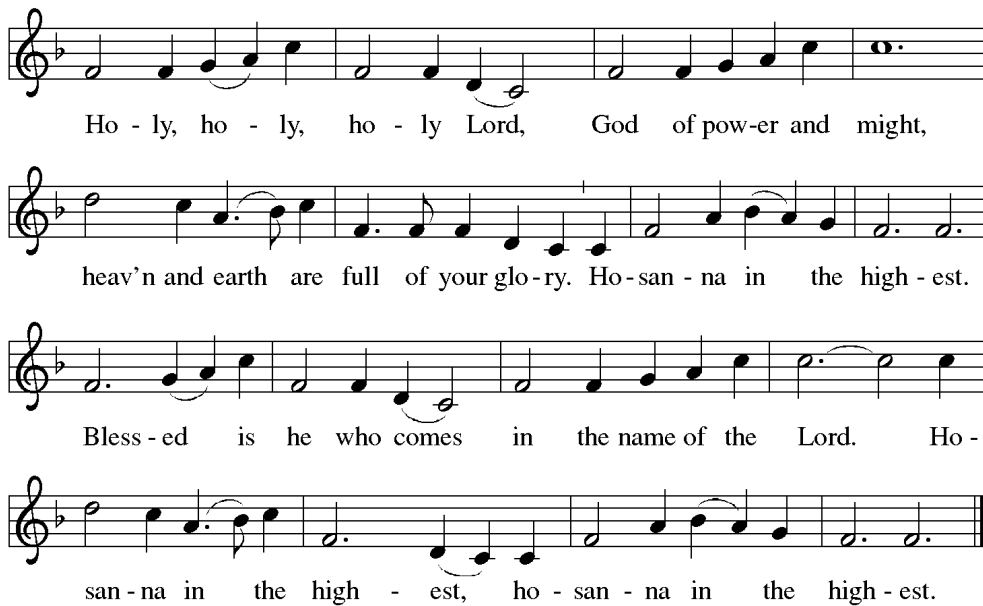
C Amen.

+ GREAT THANKSGIVING



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...
join their unending hymn...



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er 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, 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.

DISTRIBUTION SONGS

He Came Down

ELW Hymn 253

Canticle of the Turning

ELW Hymn 723

† 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.

☒ **Amen.**



*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.

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Lutheran Church

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Joel Lurvey,
Contemporary Choir Director
joel.lurvey@gmail.com



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



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

ELW Hymn 267

Joy to the World

+ DISMISSAL

- A** Go in peace. Christ is with you.
- C** **Thanks be to God!**

POSTLUDE

Setting, Gordon Young

Joy to the World

**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	Pastor Susan Masters
Assisting Minister	Joel Lurvey
Minister of Worship & Music	Deacon Phil Holzman
Lector	Adrienne Bisping
Sacristan	Brock Bisping
Transportation	Brian Hendrickson