

Gustavus Adolphus

LUTHERAN CHURCH

A Reconciling in Christ Congregation



First Sunday
of Christmas

December 29, 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.

*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

Claude Balbastre

Quand Jésus naquit à Noël

WELCOME

† CALL TO WORSHIP (*from Psalm 148*)

P Praise the Lord! Let all the angels praise the Lord.

C **Praise him, sun and moon; praise him, shining stars; praise him, highest heavens.**

P Let them all praise the name of the Lord!

C **God commanded, and the universe was created, fixed in place forever.**

P Praise God, kings and queens, and all peoples, princes and all other rulers, girls and young men, old people and children too.

C **Let us all praise the name of the Lord, and worship the Prince of Peace.**

† GATHERING SONG

ELW Hymn 269

Once in Royal David's City

† 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.**

† CANTICLE OF PRAISE

ELW Hymn 289

Angels We Have Heard on High

† PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray. O Lord God, you know that we cannot place our trust in our own powers. As you protected the infant Jesus, so defend us and all the needy from harm and adversity, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Word

CHILDREN'S SERMON

FIRST READING

Isaiah 63:7-9

⁷I will recount the gracious deeds of the LORD,
the praiseworthy acts of the LORD,
because of all that the LORD has done for us,
and the great favor to the house of Israel
that he has shown them according to his mercy,
according to the abundance of his steadfast love.
⁸For he said, "Surely they are my people,
children who will not deal falsely";
and he became their savior
⁹in all their distress.
It was no messenger or angel
but his presence that saved them;
in his love and in his pity he redeemed them;
he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old.

L Word of God. Word of life.

C Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING

Hebrews 2:10-18

¹⁰It was fitting that God, for whom and through whom all things exist, in bringing many children to glory, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through sufferings. ¹¹For the one who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one Father. For this reason Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters, ¹²saying,
"I will proclaim your name to my brothers and sisters,
in the midst of the congregation I will praise you."
¹³And again,
"I will put my trust in him."
And again,
"Here am I and the children whom God has given me."
¹⁴Since, therefore, the children share flesh and blood, he himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, ¹⁵and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. ¹⁶For it is clear that he did not come to help angels, but the descendants of Abraham. ¹⁷Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people. ¹⁸Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

L Word of God. Word of life.

C Thanks be to God.

Introduction to the Day

As we celebrate the Twelve Days of Christmas, our gospel today confronts us with the death of innocent children at the hands of Herod. The birth of Christ does not remove the power of evil from our world, but its light gives us hope as we walk with all the "holy innocents" of past generations and today who have suffered unjustly. In our gathering around word and meal, God continues to redeem us, lift us up, and carry us as in days of old.

Guest Organist

Today we welcome Mark Spitzack as our guest organist. Although this is the first time Mark is playing for a Sunday morning service at GA, he is no stranger to our congregation as he has served as choir accompanist for our Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols for the past several years. Please take a moment to welcome to Mark when you see him this morning.

† ACCLAMATION

ELW Hymn 276

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

† GOSPEL

Matthew 2:13–23

P The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 2nd chapter.

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

¹³Now after [the wise men] had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, “Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.” ¹⁴Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, ¹⁵and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, “Out of Egypt I have called my son.”

¹⁶When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the wise men. ¹⁷Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah:

¹⁸“A voice was heard in Ramah,
wailing and loud lamentation,
Rachel weeping for her children;
she refused to be consoled, because they are no more.”

¹⁹When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, ²⁰“Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child’s life are dead.”

²¹Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. ²²But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee. ²³There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, “He will be called a Nazorean.”

P The gospel of the Lord.

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

SERMON

† HYMN OF THE DAY

ELW Hymn 279

O Little Town of Bethlehem

Offering Hymn

The giving of our tithes and offerings is an act of worship. Singing a hymn is also an act of worship. To maintain a worshipful mood during the offering, we sing a hymn.

† PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

A In peace let us pray to the God of love.

Petitions follow. Each petition ends...

A God, in your mercy,

G **hear our prayer.**

After the final petition...

P We entrust all our prayers – both spoken and unspoken – into your care, O God, knowing that you hear us when we pray.

C Amen.

+ PEACE

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

C And also with you.

Meal

OFFERING

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

OFFERING HYMN



1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mar - y's lap is sleep - ing?
2 Why lies he in such mean es - tate where ox and ass are feed - ing?
3 So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; come, peas - ant, king, to own him.



Whom an - gels greet with an - thems sweet while shep - herds watch are keep - ing?
Good Chris - tian, fear; for sin - ners here the si - lent Word is plead - ing.
The King of kings sal - va - tion brings; let lov - ing hearts en - throne him.



This, this is Christ the king, whom shep - herds guard and an - gels sing;
Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you;
Raise, raise the song on high, the vir - gin sings her lul - la - by;



haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mar - y!
hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mar - y!
joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mar - y!

+ OFFERING PRAYER

P Generous God, you have given us life, this community, and these gifts of the earth that become the meal of your grace. Move in our hearts, that we might use your gifts to bring hope and blessing wherever we go, through Christ our Lord.

C Amen.



Continuing Prayer Concerns

Sharon & Paul Banitt;
DJ Bedah; Adrienne Bisping;
Mary Boatwright;
Peggy Bowman; Charline Burns;
Amy Cersier; Shirley Cropper;
Vi Dorumsgaard; Katie Falang;
Renaë 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.

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.



*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.

† 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

Away in a Manger

ELW Hymn 277

Your Little Ones, Dear Lord

ELW Hymn 286

† PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A Let us pray. Emmanuel, God with us, you grace us with life and breath and give us bread for the journey. Send us out in service to this world that you love, telling the amazing news of your coming to be Savior and Lord of all.

G **Amen.**

Sending

† BLESSING

P Go forth to love and serve God in all that you do. In God's strength, comfort the afflicted, stand with those who weep, and defend the oppressed. And may the grace of our † Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit abide with you, now and always.

G **Amen.**

† SENDING SONG

ELW Hymn 299

Cold December Flies Away

† DISMISSAL

A Christ is born!
Go tell it on the mountain and everywhere.

G **Thanks be to God!**

POSTLUDE

Setting, Wilbur Held

Joy to the World

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*Our Core Values at
Gustavus Adolphus
Lutheran Church*

*love
joy
hope
compassion
spirituality
forgiveness
acceptance*

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Church Staff

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

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



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



Serving Today

Ministers	The Baptized people of GA Church
Presiding Minister & Preacher	Pastor Susan Masters
Assisting Minister	Carlotta Rosebrock
Organist	Mark Spitzack
Lector	Lynette Paulson
Sacristan	Aaron Bisping
Transportation	Pat Lynch