

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.

Second Sunday
of Advent

December 8, 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.

✝ 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.

PRELUDE

Setting, Timothy Albrecht

Comfort, Comfort Now My People

WELCOME

MUSICAL MEDITATION

✝ ADVENT LITANY (from Isaiah 11)

P The mystery begins. Where the winter finds its feet, the rush of frost and chill competes with the old hope of incarnation.

C **Darker nights unfold, and with the fading of the light the sun weakens. Held by this frozen earth, wrapped in winter's frost, the mystery of the ancient hope is alight once more.**

P From the stump of Jesse, the dry old tree of David's line comes a new branch, a new shoot, cracking through the season with a promise yet unfulfilled.

C **This is the hoping, the waiting, the advent.**

P Let us gather round the words the prophets spoke long ago and believe:

C **Immanuel is on the way.**

✝ GATHERING SONG

ELW Hymn 250

Blessed Be the God of Israel

✝ 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 our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming nurture our growth as people of repentance and peace; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

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.

Word

CHILDREN'S SERMON/LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

During the lighting of the wreath we will sing the second 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



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.

Introduction to the Day

At the heart of our Advent preparation stands John the Baptist, who calls us to repent and make a new beginning. As the darkness increases we turn toward the approaching light of Christ. For Christians he is the root of Jesse, the righteous judge who welcomes all, especially the poor and meek of the earth. We wait with hope for that day when the wolf will dwell with the lamb, and there will be no more hurt or destruction. From the Lord's table we are sent in the spirit of John the Baptist to proclaim that in Christ the kingdom of God has come near.

FIRST READING

Isaiah 11:1–10

¹A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.

²The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him,
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of counsel and might,
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.

³His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see,
or decide by what his ears hear;

⁴but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;
he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.

⁵Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist,
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

⁶The wolf shall live with the lamb,
the leopard shall lie down with the kid,
the calf and the lion and the fatling together,
and a little child shall lead them.

⁷The cow and the bear shall graze,
their young shall lie down together;
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

⁸The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.

⁹They will not hurt or destroy
on all my holy mountain;
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD
as the waters cover the sea.

¹⁰On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the
nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

L Word of God. Word of life.

C **Thanks be to God.**

ANTHEM

Daniel E. Gawthrop

Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus

SECOND READING

Romans 15:4–13

⁴Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so
that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might
have hope. ⁵May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to
live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, ⁶so that
together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus
Christ.

⁷Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. ⁸For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, ⁹and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written,

“Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles,
and sing praises to your name”;

¹⁰and again he says,

“Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people”;

¹¹and again,

“Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles,
and let all the peoples praise him”;

¹²and again Isaiah says,

“The root of Jesse shall come,
the one who rises to rule the Gentiles;
in him the Gentiles shall hope.”

¹³May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

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.

+ GOSPEL

Matthew 3:1-12

P The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 3rd chapter.

C Glory to you, O Lord.

¹In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, ²“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” ³This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said,

“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight.’”



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; 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.*

⁴Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. ⁵Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, ⁶and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

⁷But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? ⁸Bear fruit worthy of repentance. ⁹Do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. ¹⁰Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

¹¹"I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹²His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

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 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

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

SERMON

+ HYMN OF THE DAY

ELW Hymn 256

Comfort, Comfort Now My People

+ 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

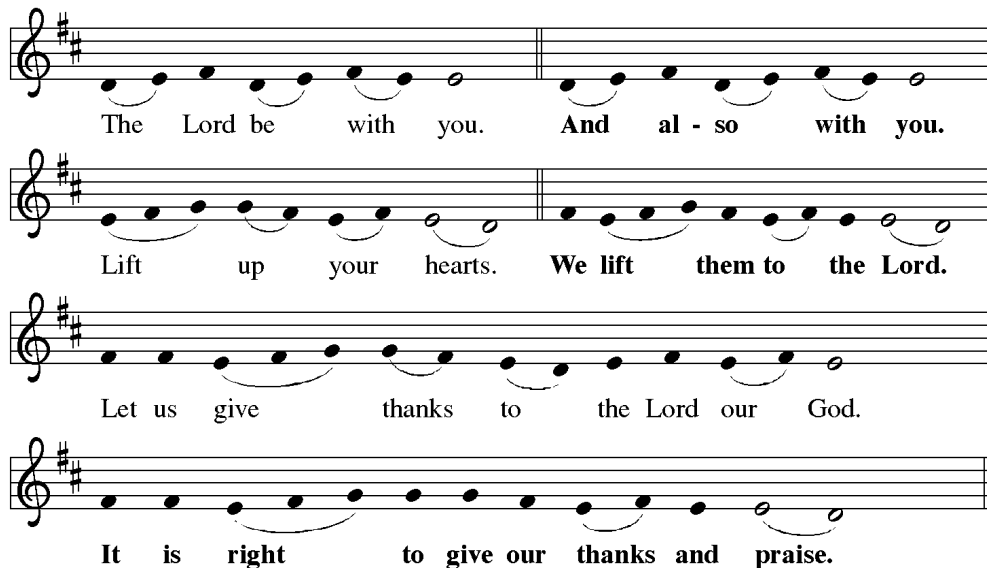
On Jordan's Banks the Baptist's Cry

† 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



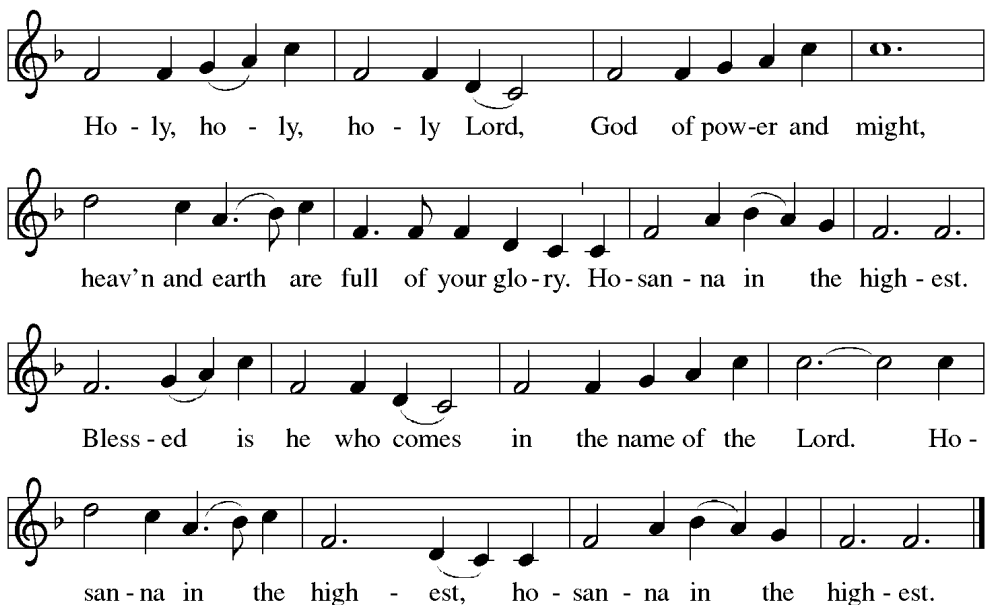
The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

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



*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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Gustavus Adolphus
Lutheran Church
1509 27th Avenue NE
Minneapolis, MN 55418

Website:
www.gachurchmpls.org
Email: info@gachurchmpls.org
Phone: 612-789-7256

Church Staff

The Rev. Susan Masters,
Interim Pastor (Ext. 10)
pastorsusan@gachurchmpls.org

Deacon Phil Holzman, Minister
of Word and Service (Ext. 11)
philh@gachurchmpls.org

Dan Hager,
Finance Manager (Ext. 14)
danh@gachurchmpls.org

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



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.*

† 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 HYMNS

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming
The King Shall Come

ELW Hymn 272
ELW Hymn 260

† 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

ELW Hymn 246
Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding

† DISMISSAL

A Go in peace. Christ is with you.

C **Thanks be to God!**