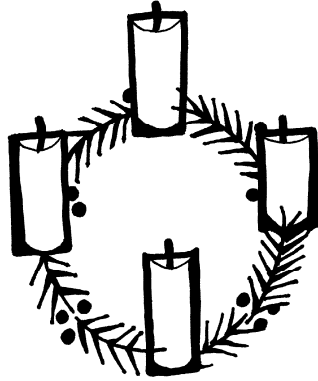


Gustavus Adolphus

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 23, 2018

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

PRELUDE

Setting, Robert Lau

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

✝ CONFESSON AND FORGIVENESS

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God,
the Lord of Israel who comes to set us free,
the mighty Savior who comes to show mercy,
the Dawn from on high who guides us into peace.

C Amen.

P Happy are those whose help is the Lord.
Let us seek God's help as we confess our sins.

C **God our Savior, we ask for your mercy.
Though we have heard Mary's song,
we still seek security in pride and power and
possessions.
Though we know your story,
we resist the costs of following you.
We pass by those considered lowly in this world.
We turn away from hungry people who still wait
to be filled.
Forgive us, we pray.
Help us to work for the justice you intend.
Make us messengers of the peace you bring.
As we wait for you, turn our apathy into acts of love
and service.
We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, Emmanuel. Amen.**

P God forgives all our sins
and promises to bring us to everlasting life.

C **Thanks be to God.**

✝ GATHERING SONG

ELW Hymn 251

My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness

✝ 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.

✦ KYRIE

Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy.

Lord, have mer - cy; have mer - cy, O Lord.

The musical score consists of two systems of music. Each system has a vocal line on a treble clef staff and a piano accompaniment on a bass clef staff. The key signature is one sharp (F#). The first system contains the lyrics 'Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy.' The second system contains the lyrics 'Lord, have mer - cy; have mer - cy, O Lord.'

✦ PRAYER OF THE DAY

☐ Let us pray. God, our light and salvation, you bring hope and peace to the lowly and oppressed. Let us see the world through your eyes that we may love the widow and orphan, that we may work for justice, that our lives may bear witness to the good news of the kingdom at hand and our vocation serve to draw people to your salvation; through your Son, Jesus Christ, in the power of the Holy Spirit.

☑ Amen.

Word

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

After a prayer, we will sing these verses...

Light one candle to watch for Messiah,
Let the light banish darkness.
He shall bring salvation to Israel,
God fulfills the promise

Light two candles to watch for Messiah,
let the light banish darkness.
He shall feed the flock like a shepherd,
gently lead them homeward.

Introduction to the Day

Cradle and cross are inextricably connected on the fourth Sunday of Advent. Between a lovely tribute to the little town of Bethlehem and the blessed virgin Mary's magnificent song of praise, the letter to the Hebrews reminds us in no uncertain terms that Christ's advent is for "the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all." It is the kind of tension in which the church always lives as when in the holy communion—with high delight—"we proclaim the Lord's death."

Light three candles to watch for Messiah,
let the light banish darkness.
Lift your heads and lift high the gateway
for the King of glory.

Light four candles to watch for Messiah,
Let the light banish darkness.
He is coming, tell the glad tidings.
Let your lights be shining!

(ELW HYMN 240)

FIRST READING

Micah 5:2-5a

²But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah,
who are one of the little clans of Judah,
from you shall come forth for me
one who is to rule in Israel,
whose origin is from of old,
from ancient days.

³Therefore he shall give them up until the time
when she who is in labor has brought forth;
then the rest of his kindred shall return
to the people of Israel.

⁴And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD,
in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.
And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great
to the ends of the earth;

^{5a}and he shall be the one of peace.

P Word of God. Word of life.

C **Thanks be to God.**

SECOND READING

Hebrews 10:5-10

⁵Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said,

“Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired,
but a body you have prepared for me;

⁶in burnt offerings and sin offerings
you have taken no pleasure.

⁷Then I said, ‘See, God, I have come to do your will, O God’
(in the scroll of the book it is written of me).”

⁸When he said above, “You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in
sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings” (these are
offered according to the law), ⁹then he added, “See, I have come to do your
will.” He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. ¹⁰And it is by
God’s will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of
Jesus Christ once for all.

P 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

Luke 1:39-55

P The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the 39th chapter.

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

³⁹In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, ⁴⁰where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit ⁴²and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. ⁴³And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? ⁴⁴For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

⁴⁶And Mary said,

"My soul magnifies the Lord,

⁴⁷and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

⁴⁸for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.

Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;

⁴⁹for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name.

⁵⁰His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation.

⁵¹He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.

⁵²He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly;

⁵³he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty.

⁵⁴He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy,

⁵⁵according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

P The Gospel of the Lord.

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



Continuing Prayer Concerns

*Joy Anderson;
Sharon & Paul Banitt;
Mary Boatwright;
Peggy Bowman; Charline Burns;
Jean Clausen; Shirley Cropper;
Vi Dorumsgaard; Katie Falang;
Ed Femrite; Joann Femrite;
Ted Femrite; Renae Frasee;
Kara Fraser; Kimberly Garner;
Dawn Jackson; Jeff McQuarrie;
June Mondeng;
Juliana Palmer; Jean Pope;
Jean Rosebrock; Walt Schopf;
Arden & Joyce Swanson;
Vi Tefft; Vesta Todd;
Stephanie Vavrichek;
Marion White; Andrew;
Annette and family; Sveah;
Gretchen; Bre; Winnie; 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.

CHILDREN'S SERMON & NOISY OFFERING

Our donations from Noisy Offerings this Advent 2018 will be sent to ELCA Good Gifts/God's Global Barnyard to be used to buy farm animals for families around the world that can help a family escape the cycle of hunger and poverty for good.

I NOTICE..., I WONDER...

SERMON

I HEAR...

✝ HYMN OF THE DAY

ELW Hymn 257

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

✝ PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

A As we await the coming of Christ, we pray in hope for the church, the world, and all of creation.

Petitions follow. Each petition ends...

A Hear us, O God.

C **Your mercy is great.**

After the final petition...

P Confident that the Holy Spirit intercedes for us, we bring to you these prayers and those unspoken, in the name of Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C **Amen.**

✝ PEACE

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

C **And also with you.**

Meal

OFFERING

ORGAN OFFERTORY

Setting, Timothy Albrecht

Comfort, Comfort Ye My People

✝ OFFERTORY

ELW Hymn 490, stanzas 1 & 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 God of abundance, we bring before you the precious fruits of your creation, and with them our very lives. Teach us patience and hope as we care for all those in need until the coming of your Son, our Savior and Lord.

C **Amen.**

✠ GREAT THANKSGIVING

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

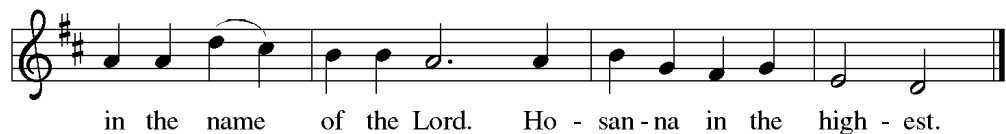
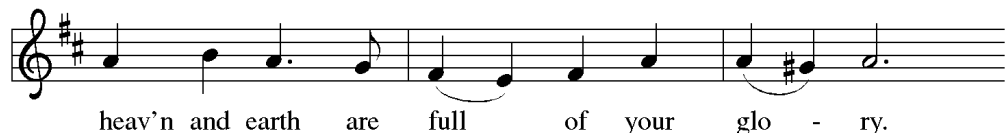
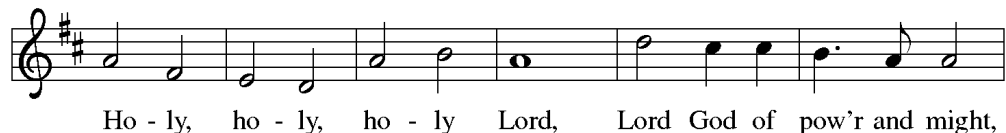
P Lift up your hearts.

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...



✠ WORDS OF INSTITUTION

✠ LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven...

ELW page 112

- Liturgical Materials from Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2018 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.
- Music reprinted by permission of OneLicense.net license#A-708093 and CCLI license#1955062.
- Liturgical music reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #23346.
- New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

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. Jo Bauman Johnson,
Pastor (Ext. 10)

pastorjo@gachurchmpls.org
Cell phone: 952-285-6945

Phil Holzman, Deacon/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

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).



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.*

HYMNS DURING DISTRIBUTION

O Little Town of Bethlehem ELW Hymn 279
Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming ELW Hymn 272

✝ PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

- A** Let us pray. Holy One, we give you thanks that in this bread
and cup we have feasted again on your endless love. Let that
love overflow more and more in our lives, that we may be
messengers to prepare your way, harvesters of justice and
righteousness, and bearers of your eternal Word, our Savior
Jesus Christ.
- C** **Amen.**

Sending

✝ BLESSING

✝ SENDING SONG ELW Hymn 267
Joy to the World

✝ DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE

Setting, Gordon Young

Joy to the World

As always you are invited to remain and share in the postlude.
Today's piece is a short, but exuberant setting of our sending song
by a prolific 20th century composer of church music.

Serving Today

Ministers	The Baptized people of GA Church
Presiding Minister & Preacher	Pastor Jo Bauman Johnson
Assisting Minister	Andrea Carter
Minister of Worship & Music	Deacon Phil Holzman
Lector	Gary Anderson
Sacristan	Brock Bisping
Transportation	Brian Hendrickson