

Gustaf Adolf Lutheran Church  
E.L.C.A.



**X Is IN OXEN:** We've all done it. We've all heard it. Excuse after excuse as to why we can't show up for the dinner party, for the exercise class, for the doctor appointment, for time with God. What would it look like if we said "no" to making excuses and "yes" to the invitation to Come, for everything is ready now? How does this parable challenge our excuses and priorities knowing that God summons us to show up now?

Theme: Make Time, Not Excuses  
Sunday, June 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2024

Bulletin Donated By:

**Gustaf Adolf Lutheran Church—E.L.C.A.**

**Theme: Make Time, Not Excuses**

**Sunday, June 23<sup>rd</sup> 2024**

Ministers:

*You, All Members of G.A.*

Pastor:

**Jaime Decker**

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Prelude Music

Welcome/Announcements

**Gathering**

**Call to Worship**

L: We gather in the name of the Creator,

**C: inviting us always to risk the unknown.**

L: We gather in the name of the Christ,

**C: fully human, fully divine, full of gift and mystery.**

L: We gather in the name of the Spirit,

**C: unveiling for us what feels long-hidden. Amen.**

**Thanksgiving for Baptism**

L: We give you thanks, O God, for the gift of baptism,

**C: For this water, crisp and cold, inviting us to shake off the cobwebs of all we had thought to be true.**

L: We give you thanks, O God, for gift of baptism,

**C: For this water, warm and inviting, reminding us of your comfort and embrace.**

L: We give you thanks, O God, for the gift of baptism,

**C: For lakes and rivers, oceans and creeks,**

L: For waters that foam and rage, for those that drip and trickle,

**C: For waters that teem with life.**

L: We give you thanks, O God, for the gift of baptism,

**C: For waters that hide dangers yet unknown,**

L: For waters that remind us to be born anew,

**C: For all the waters across your wide creation.**

L: We give you thanks, O God, for the gift of baptism!

**C: Alleluia! Amen**

**\*Gathering Hymn**

*Oh, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways*

ELW #772 vs. 1-2

**\*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.**

**\*Prayer of the Day**

**C: O God, you invite us to feast on the bread of life that you set before us. Yet, we reason that we are too busy to take time to be in Your presence. We find excuse after excuse to decline all that You offer. Help us to slow down and to excuse ourselves from feasting on the busyness of this world that leaves us hungry. Remind us that we are fed and nourished by the bread that only You can offer. Amen.**

**Word**

**Reading**

**Luke 14:15-24**

<sup>15</sup> One of the dinner guests, on hearing this, said to him, "Blessed is anyone who will eat bread in the kingdom of God!" <sup>16</sup> Then Jesus said to him, "Someone gave a great dinner and invited many. <sup>17</sup> At the time for the dinner he sent his slave to say to those who had been invited, 'Come, for everything is ready now.' <sup>18</sup> But they all alike began to make excuses. The first said to him, 'I have bought a piece of

land, and I must go out and see it; please accept my regrets.' <sup>19</sup> Another said, 'I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I am going to try them out; please accept my regrets.' <sup>20</sup> Another said, 'I have just been married, and therefore I cannot come.' <sup>21</sup> So the slave returned and reported this to his master. Then the owner of the house became angry and said to his slave, 'Go out at once into the streets and lanes of the town and bring in the poor, the crippled, the blind, and the lame.' <sup>22</sup> And the slave said, 'Sir, what you ordered has been done, and there is still room.' <sup>23</sup> Then the master said to the slave, 'Go out into the roads and lanes, and compel people to come in, so that my house may be filled. <sup>24</sup> For I tell you, none of those who were invited will taste my dinner.' "

P: The word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

### Message

### Hymn of the Day

*Oh, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways*

ELW #772 vs. 3-4

### \*The Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead.\* On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

### Prayers of Intercession

Response: **Receive our prayer.**

### Sharing the Peace

### Offering and Make-A-Change

#### \*Offering Song

*Give Thanks*

**Gray #170**

Give thanks with a grateful heart, give thanks to the Holy One; give thanks because he's given Jesus Christ, his Son. (Repeat)

And now let the weak say, "I am strong!" Let the poor say, "I am rich" because of what the Lord has done for us! (Repeat)

Give thanks.

#### \* Offering Prayer

**C: God of every good thing, you provide for us in every season of our lives. Help us to open our hands, open our lives, to your whole creation, that we might prioritize justice over wealth, truth over reputation, people over profits. Amen.**

## **Meal**

### Holy Communion

\*Words of Institution

Pg. 207

\*Lord's Prayer

Pg. 208

### \*Invitation to Communion

P: This table is set for you, you who are seeking and you who rest in the illusion that you have all the answers, you who speak up in the face of injustice and you who struggle to find your voice, you who understand that we are both/and, sinner/saint, from beginning to end. Come. Share in God's meal of grace.

Communion Distribution (All Are Welcome to Receive Communion Here at GA Church)

\*Post Communion Blessing

**\* Post Communion Prayer**

P: O God, you have fed us with a meal beyond our imaginations– a meal of grace, and delight, and freedom. Send us forth from your table now, bearing good news for the whole world. **C: Amen.**

**Sending**

**Blessing**

L: May God bless you with the curiosity to continue growing into your own self.  
May God keep you steady in the face of all that is unknown.  
May God’s face shine on you as you seek new answers to old questions being born anew.  
**C: Amen.**

**\*Sending Hymn**

*Precious Lord, Take My Hand*

*ELW #773 vs.1-3*

**\*Dismissal**

P: Go now in peace with open hearts and minds, Seeking justice and truth in all things.  
**C: To Share the Good News of God’s Word and to serve the community and the world.  
Thanks be to God.**

\*Postlude

Mission Statement of Gustaf Adolf Lutheran Church (Adopted in 2022)  
**To share the Good News of God’s Word and to serve the community and the world.**  
*Matthew 22:39* ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’  
*Matthew 28:19* Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name  
of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

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We celebrate weekly Holy Communion. We welcome all who believe in the Risen Christ and who find in the sacrament our Lord’s real presence for the forgiveness of sins and the renewal of life. If you receive communion in your home congregation, you are invited to receive it here at G.A. Red wine and white grape juice will be offered to you in Christ’s name. You may choose your preference. If you are unable to receive wheat bread, or wine, be sure that in a single element you receive the Presence and all the gifts of the sacrament.  
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## **772. Oh, that the Lord Would Guide My Ways**

1 Oh, that the Lord would guide my ways to keep his statutes still!  
Oh, that my God would grant me grace to know and do his will!

2 Order my footsteps by your word and make my heart sincere;  
let sin have no dominion, Lord, but keep my conscience clear.

3 Assist my soul, too apt to stray, a stricter watch to keep;  
and should I e'er forget your way, restore your wand'ring sheep.

4 Make me to walk in your commands, 'tis a delightful road;  
nor let my head or heart or hands offend against my God.

## **773: PRECIOUS LORD, TAKE MY HAND**

1 Precious Lord, take my hand, lead me on, let me stand,  
I am tired, I am weak, I am worn; through the storm, through the  
night, lead me on to the light: Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me  
home.

2 When my way grows drear, precious Lord, linger near, when my  
life is almost gone; hear my cry, hear my call, hold my hand lest I  
fall: Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.

3 When the darkness appears and the night draws near, and the  
day is past and gone, at the river I stand, guide my feet, hold my  
hand: Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.