

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



A is for Alabaster  
Sunday, August 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024

Bulletin Donated By:

**Gustaf Adolf Lutheran Church—E.L.C.A.**  
**Sunday, August 18<sup>th</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**

*Praise and Thanksgiving*

ELW #689 vs.1

**\*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, as the woman broke open the alabaster jar to anoint Jesus, we ask You to break us open as well. Fill us with courage to be your bold witnesses so that your love and grace gushes out into the world. Grant us the strength to stand firm in our faith and proclaim your goodness, even when, especially when, it is difficult. Amen.**

**Word**

**Reading**

**Mark 14:3-9**

<sup>3</sup> While he was at Bethany in the house of Simon the leper, as he sat at the table, a woman came with an alabaster jar of very costly ointment of nard, and she broke open the jar and poured the ointment on his head. <sup>4</sup> But some were there who said to one another in anger, "Why was the ointment wasted in this way? <sup>5</sup> For this ointment could have been sold for more than three hundred denarii and the

money given to the poor." And they scolded her. <sup>6</sup> But Jesus said, "Let her alone; why do you trouble her? She has performed a good service for me. <sup>7</sup> For you always have the poor with you, and you can show kindness to them whenever you wish, but you will not always have me. <sup>8</sup> She has done what she could; she has anointed my body beforehand for its burial. <sup>9</sup> Truly I tell you, wherever the good news is proclaimed in the whole world, what she has done will be told in remembrance of her."

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

### Message

### Hymn of the Day

*Praise and Thanksgiving*

ELW #689 vs.2&3

### Baptism

Dalton Melroe

pg. 227

### Prayers of Intercession

Response: **Receive our prayer.**

### Sharing the Peace

### Offering & 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**

*Praise and Thanksgiving*

ELW #689 vs 4

### **\*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. *From Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2024 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted and live streamed by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #35904. CCLI# 3138595 and #21256999*

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## **689. Praise and Thanksgiving**

**Verse 1:** Praise and thanksgiving God we would offer  
For all things living  
You have made good, Harvest of sown fields  
Fruits of the orchard, Hay from  
the mown fields, Blossom and wood.

**Verse 2:** God bless the labor We bring to serve You,  
That with our neighbor  
We may be fed. Sowing or tilling,  
We would work with You, Harvesting  
milling For daily bread.

**Verse 3:** Father providing Food for Your children,  
Your wisdom guiding  
Teaches us share One with another,  
So that rejoicing with us all others may  
know your care.

**Verse 4:** Then will Your blessing Reach every people,  
freely confessing  
Your gracious hand. When You are reigning,  
No one will hunger; Your love  
sustaining showers the land.