

A Service Centered in the Vocare Spiritual Practice



Good Friday **April 18th, 2025**

*"The LORD is near to the broken-hearted,
and saves the crushed in spirit."
Psalm 34:15*

Vocare is the Latin word meaning "to call." The Vocare spiritual practice invites regular reflection upon values, openness, call, attentiveness, regrets, and experiences of God's presence. As baptized children of God, we have been claimed by God, named by God, and called to be a part of bearing God's creative and redeeming Word to all the world. This liturgy invites worshipers into reflection and contemplation to deepen their understanding of God's call upon their life and work, their labor and their leisure, their being and their doing, so that they might more intentionally live life on purpose and engage in ministry on purpose for the common good.

Welcome (VOCARE: “to call”)

Call to Worship

Breathe in the Goodness of God

Booklet

Christ is with you.
And also with you.

We come together this evening, trusting that God is near to the broken-hearted and brings shalom to those whose spirits are crushed. We carry with us all the seasons of our lives – lives marked by joy and sorrow, peace and conflict, ease and distress, brokenness and belovedness.

Meet us here, Oh Christ. Strengthen us, renew us, nourish us in your call for our lives, and bring us shalom.

We come to reflect on our values and consider how they inform our actions and decisions.

May we be mindful of what we truly value in life and how our values are reflected in our choices.

We come to be open to the ways in which God is calling us, and how we can respond with faith and courage.

May we be open to the movements of the Spirit and ready to follow where God leads.

We come to be aware of the many and varied voices that call to us each day, listening especially for those voices that are life giving and life-sustaining.

May we be discerning in the voices that form and shape us, heeding those that build up and turning away from those that tear down.

We come to practice attentiveness, focusing our minds on God’s presence in our lives, and seeking divine guidance and wisdom.

May we be attentive to the holy and receptive to the wisdom and guidance of God.

We come to name any regrets we may have, seeking forgiveness and renewal as we move forward.

May we find healing and renewed purpose as we seek and receive God’s forgiveness.

We come to be mindful of experiences of God’s presence in new and profound ways.

May we be receptive to the ways in which the divine is revealed to us, and may we be transformed by these encounters.

We come to worship together, opening ourselves fully to the love and presence of God.
Amen.

Call to Worship

Values (Scripture)

As we prepare to hear the Word of God, we reflect on our values. Our values are what we hold dear and what we prioritize in life. They inform our actions and decisions, and shape who we are and who we are becoming.

"Singing Bowl"
silence for reflection
"Singing Bowl"

We now turn our hearts and minds to the reading of the Word, asking God to speak to us through the Holy Scriptures.

Reading: Mark 15:21-41 – Torn in Two

They compelled a passer-by, who was coming in from the country, to carry his cross; it was Simon of Cyrene, the father of Alexander and Rufus. ²² Then they brought Jesus to the place called Golgotha (which means Place of a Skull). ²³ And they offered him wine mixed with myrrh, but he did not take it. ²⁴ And they crucified him and divided his clothes among them, casting lots to decide what each should take. ²⁵ It was nine o'clock in the morning when they crucified him. ²⁶ The inscription of the charge against him read, "The King of the Jews." ²⁷ And with him they crucified two rebels, one on his right and one on his left. ²⁹ Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads and saying, "Aha! You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, ³⁰ save yourself, and come down from the cross!" ³¹ In the same way the chief priests, along with the scribes, were also mocking him among themselves and saying, "He saved others; he cannot save himself. ³² Let the Messiah, the King of Israel, come down from the cross now, so that we may see and believe." Those who were crucified with him also taunted him. ³³ When it was noon, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. ³⁴ At three o'clock Jesus cried out with a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?" which means, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" ³⁵ When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, "Listen, he is calling for Elijah." ³⁶ And someone ran, filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink, saying, "Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to take him down." ³⁷ Then Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last. ³⁸ And the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. ³⁹ Now when the centurion who stood facing him saw that in this way he^g breathed his last, he said, "Truly this man was God's Son!" ⁴⁰ There were also women looking on from a distance. Among them were Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James the younger and of Joses, and Salome, ⁴¹ who followed him when he was in Galilee and ministered to him, and there were many other women who had come up with him to Jerusalem.

L: Word of God. Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God.

Openness (Centering)

As the seasons rise and fall in our lives and in the life of the whole world, we open our hearts to God's leading, and ask God to help us be receptive and responsive to God's calling in our lives. We sing together:

Centering Song

Were You There (vs 1)

ELW #353

Call (Message): What barriers are separating you or others from knowing God's love? What barriers has God torn down to reveal God's love for you? For this community? World? What sorrows or regrets do you need to cry out or lay down before God? *Take a couple minutes to write your responses/prayers on a piece of paper, or to reflect on them silently. Keep your responses to use later in this service.*

Centering Song

***Were You There* (vs 2)**

ELW #353

Attentiveness (Prayer)

Ever watchful Lord,
Your steadfast love never ceases, and your mercies are new every day. As we gather this evening under your watchful presence, we pray for the grace to be more attentive to your presence in our lives.

For the church universal, that our leaders and members may be attuned to the whispers of your Spirit, we pray:
Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For the world and its leaders, that they may be attentive to the needs of the marginalized and act with justice and compassion, we pray:
Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For our community, that we may notice those in need and respond with kindness and empathy, we pray:
Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For ourselves, that we may be fully present in each moment, aware of your persistent love and guidance, we pray:
Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For those who are suffering, that they may feel your comforting presence and know they are not alone, we pray:
Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord, grant us the grace to be attentive to your voice amidst the noise of the world. Help us to be present, to notice, and to respond to your call in our lives. Amen.

Centering Song

***Were You There* (vs 3)**

ELW #353

Regrets (Confession)

Gracious God,
We gather before you, acknowledging our human frailty and our need for your grace. We bring our full selves to you – in all our brokenness and beloved-ness, seeking your shalom. In this moment of confession, we bring our regrets, the actions we wish we could undo, the words we wish we could unsay.

We confess that we have not always lived in accordance with your will. We have chosen our own way over yours, and we have caused harm to ourselves and others.
We carry the weight of these regrets, Lord.

We confess the times we have closed our hearts to your love, the times we have turned away from

our neighbor in need, the times we have neglected the care of your creation.
For these, and all our regrets, known and unknown, we seek your forgiveness.

In your great mercy, Lord, forgive us. Heal the wounds of our past mistakes and free us from the burden of regret. Grant us the courage to seek reconciliation, and the wisdom to learn from our past.
Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

In the mercy of Almighty God, Father +Son, and Holy Spirit, Beloved Ones, your sins are forgiven in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

Experience God's Presence

In response to the Word, you are invited to bring the sorrows and sufferings of the world to the cross. These can be personal, communal, or global, for no matter the level of pain, God can hold it all.

Because sorrow comes in many forms, we will do this in two possible ways: by dropping a stone (or nail) on the cross, or by extinguishing a candle.

As you come forward and leave your sorrow, you are invited to speak it aloud, or simply hold it to yourself. If you prefer to remain in your seat, we will bring a stone (or nail) to you for you to hold in your hands as you pray.

So let us now offer our sorrows to God.

Mini-Monologue: *Alexander – Son of Simon of Cyrene*

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

***Worshippers Exit in Silence**

Offering

**Offering Plates are located in the back of the sanctuary. You are invited to place your offering in the offering plate as you leave the sanctuary.*

Ways To Give Offering: In Person, Venmo and Online www.galutheranchurch.org



*Because you give...
we worship, fellowship, learn, serve and grow.
Thank you for your generosity!*

This liturgy was adapted from an “Evening VOCARE Worship” written by Eric E. Parrish, Music Director, First Lutheran Church, Worthington, MN in consultation with Rev. Dr. Charlene Rachuy Cox, Director of Programming, Engagement, and Innovation for Congregational Thriving, through the Lutheran Center for Faith, Values, and Community at St. Olaf College, Northfield, MN.

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Prayer by Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org.”

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 2025 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted and live streamed by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #35904. CCLI# 3138595 and #21256999*
