

SEEING



through a NEW lens

EPIPHANY SEASON

Advent Lutheran Church
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January 23, 2022

GATHERING FOR WORSHIP

Pastoral Welcome

Prelude

"Ode to Joy"

Morning Chimes

Confession and Forgiveness

L: We gather in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

L: Let us confess together.

C: God, we confess that sometimes we prefer to hide under cover of darkness where we justify our actions and behaviors as if they were secret and hidden from you.

We become calloused by our apathy.

We become complicit by our silence.

We become co-opted by our desires.

But, your light of true freedom shines *even* in the darkness, calling us to a more excellent way.

(Silence for reflection and self-examination)

L: God has forgiven you all your sins in Jesus Christ and filled you with the power of the Holy Spirit. May your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify God forever.

C: Amen.

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

Greeting

L: 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 Illumination

L: Let us pray. God of Jubilee, you bring from oppression and healing for the afflicted. We gather to hear your Good News and to be transformed as the world is changed.

In this time of worship, may we be fed in body and soul. As we sing and pray, as we break the bread and drink the cup, may the Spirit of the Lord fall upon us, and may we be refreshed, anointed, and empowered.

And when our time of worship is ended, send us back out into the world to proclaim the Good News.

We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, our Rock and Redeemer, our Teacher and Guide, in whom we find the path that leads to your kingdom.

C: Amen.

The First Reading

Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10

L: Word of God, Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God!

The Gospel Acclamation

Rob Beyersdorf

Al-le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al-le - lu - ia.
Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia.
Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

The Message

Song of the Day

"Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness"

Rob Beyersdorf



1 Praise the One who breaks the dark-ness with a lib - er - at - ing light;
2 Praise the One who blessed the chil - dren with a strong yet gen - tle word;
3 Praise the one true love in - car - nate: Christ, who suf - fered in our place;



praise the One who frees the pris - 'ners, turn - ing blind - ness in - to sight.
praise the One who drove out de - mons with a pierc - ing, two - edged sword.
Je - sus died and rose for man - y that we may know God by grace.



Praise the One who preached the gos - pel, heal - ing ev - 'ry dread dis - ease,
Praise the One who brings cool wa - ter to the des - ert's burn - ing sand;
Let us sing for joy and glad - ness, see - ing what our God has done.



calm - ing storms and feed - ing thou - sands with the ver - y bread of peace.
from this well comes liv - ing wa - ter quench - ing thirst in ev - 'ry land.
Praise the one re - deem - ing glo - ry; praise the One who makes us one.

Native American Creed⁺

I believe in God, Creator of our unique native languages,
Who gifted us this identity as a distinct people through our native tongues,
so that our native spiritual leaders could relay God's love to our native people who
could not understand that foreign tongue called English.

I believe in Jesus Christ, our relative,
Who talked of us when he said,
"I have other sheep out there, besides those I have here."
I believe in Jesus Christ who knew the pain of our native people who were forced
from their homeland and had no place to lay their head.

I believe in Jesus Christ as our Chief Cornerstone as we begin to build a new
generation of native spiritual leaders.
I believe in Jesus Christ who does not say "goodbye"
in any language, but says, "I will come again."

I believe in the Holy Spirit as tongues of fire
lighting upon our native people to witness to their people and to the world,
through the native song and dance.

I believe in the Holy Spirit as our guide and the
driving force for our native people to do a new thing as we walk a new journey,
toward perfection for all humankind.

Prayers of the Faithful

L: Let us pray. The Spirit of the Lord is poured out upon us in abundance, so we are
bold to pray for the church, the world, and all that God has made.

A brief silence.

L: God, as your people, we experience the hurts of this world – the prolonged
struggles with coronavirus, the political and religious divisions, and the weightiness
of injustice, poverty, conflict, and war – it feels as if the good news you declared
fulfilled is a fleeting dream.

By your Holy Spirit, give us the eyes to see your signs grace, hope, forgiveness, and
love; and prepare us to see that your astonishing divine generosity will turn war
into peace, inequality into respect, cruelty into compassion, and despair into
justice.

⁺ The Native American Creed was written by the Rev. Roger Scott who is a member of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma.

L: God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

L: God, source of healing, we pray for family and friends who are undergoing tests, facing surgeries, and dealing with illness. As we speak their names, we bring them to you in the confidence that you love them and know their every need and that your healing power will bring comfort and restoration. Bless all that is being done for their recovery and answer our prayers as you see best.

L: We especially pray for:

- Val Allred
- Lemont Bell
- Steve Bowers
- Ida Chisolm
- Zoey Creasy
- Charliese Eichler
- Jack Forrest
- Ross Holshouser
- Donnell Horton
- Alyssa Jensen & family
- Waylon Kuklantz
- Ray Matthews
- Andrew Milholland
- Leo Peeler
- Joyce Quigley
- Shannon Roberson
- Richard Schulz
- L. D. Shockley
- Leni Taite
- David Townsend
- Laura Tucker
- Herbert Watson
- Velia Watson
- Jack Wert
- Tona Wert
- Renate Wilson

L: And for the deepest hopes of our hearts, we pray now.

Time for the community to pray.

L: We pray for our guests at Room in the Inn this past Monday: Christin, Karen, Annie, Coy, Debra, Teresa, Samuel, Bruce

L: We remember and celebrate the lives of those who have died, especially:

- Patte Train, former member of Advent, who died December 28
- Vickie McCombs, friend of the Via da Cristo community, who died January 5
- Amy Hill, friend of Connie Searing, who died January 5
- James Chisolm, member of Advent, who died January 17

L: By your Holy Spirit, comfort their families, and all who grieve, give peace to those who mourn, strengthen all through the promise of eternal life in Jesus Christ.

L: God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

L: God, source of compassion, we pray for all healthcare professionals and relief workers, especially with the rapid rise of hospitalizations and the new surge of coronavirus infections. Strengthen and encourage them as they continue to serve and work on behalf of the health of our communities.

L: God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

L: God, who spoke Light into existence, hear our prayers. Continue to make us reflections of your Light, so that the places of darkness in our world might be pierced by your unfading Light and that all peoples would be drawn to you and experience your inexpressible joy.

C: Amen.

SHARING THE MEAL

Words of Institution

The Lord's Prayer (*sung*)

C: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil, for the kingdom, the pow'r and the glory are yours, now and forever.

Post-Communion Blessing

L: May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the gifts of his body and blood strengthen, keep and unite us now and forever.

C: Amen.

SENDING GOD'S PEOPLE

Franciscan Blessing

L: May God bless us with discomfort at easy answers, half-truths, and superficial relationships, so that we may live deep within our hearts.

May God bless us with anger at injustice, oppression, and exploitation of people, so that we may work for justice, freedom, and peace.

And may God bless us with enough foolishness to believe that we can make a difference in this world, so that we can do what others claim cannot be done.

C: Amen.

“Lord, Let Your Servants Go in Peace” (Canticle of Simeon)

Rob Beyersdorf

Lord, let your servants go in peace;
we who have long waited.
Fearful with doubt,
we still kept watch in the night.
Now we see your light.

Lord, let your servants go in peace;
we who were rent asunder.
Biased and blind,
we labeled foes who were friends.
Now we make amends.

Lord, let your servants go in peace;
for you have kept your promise.
With our own eyes
we see salvation is won,
born in Christ, your Son.

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Dismissal

L: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**