

SEEING



through a NEW lens

EPIPHANY SEASON

Advent Lutheran Church
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Pastoral Welcome

Prelude

“We Gather Together” Annette Nolan

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. Awesome God, Creator of all, the light of your glory fills the heavens, the breath of your Spirit blows through the skies, and the stars above stand as silent witnesses to your power.

By your word all things were made.

By your breath all things are sustained.

By your hand, we have been molded as a potter works the clay, formed from earthly dust into an image that bears your very likeness.

By the waters of your creation, we have been baptized. Like our brother Jesus, you have spoken our names – Beloved Ones – and claimed as your children.

By your grace we live and move and have our being, worshipping you with all creation, now and forever.

C: Amen.

The First Reading

Isaiah 43:1-7

L: Word of God, Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God!

The Gospel Acclamation

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 Holy Scripture

Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

The Message

Song of the Day

"You Are Mine"



1 "I will come to you in the si - lence,
 2 "I am hope for all who are hope - less,
 3 "I am strength for all the de - spair - ing,
 (4) am the Word that leads all to free - dom, I



I will lift you from all your fear.
 I am eyes for all who long to see. (2) In the
 heal-ing for the ones who dwell in shame.
 am the peace the world can - not give.



You will hear my voice, I claim you as my choice. Be
 shad-ows of the night, I will be your light.
 All the blind will see, the lame will all run free, and
 I will call your name, em - brac - ing all your pain. Stand



still and know I am here. *To stanza 2*
 Come and rest in me. *To refrain*
 all will know my name. *To refrain*
 up, now walk and live! *To refrain*



Refrain
 Do not be a-fraid, I am with you. I have called you each by



name. Come and fol-low me, I will bring you home; I



love you and you are mine." *To stanzas 3 and 4*

4 "I

The Apostles' 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 the Faithful

L: God, source of new life and new beginnings, from the waters of baptism, you have filled us with your Holy Spirit. Teach us to yield to the Spirit, who shapes us to embody the life of Jesus Christ and empowers us to reveal his love for the world. May our hands and feet be the hands and feet of Christ as we serve all people and strive for justice and peace in all the earth.

L: In your mercy,

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
- Marinell Bostian
- Steve Bowers
- Charliese Eichler
- Connie Erks
- Jack Forrest
- Ross Holshouser
- Donnell Horton
- Waylon Kuklantz
- Ray Matthews
- Andrew Milholland

- Leo Peeler
- Joyce Quigley
- Shannon Roberson
- Richard Schulz
- L. D. Shockley
- Gloria Strickert
- 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: Robert, Trina, Thomas, Albert, Andrea, Anthony, Ronald, Teresa, Bruce, Shawnetta

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

- Calvin Roberson, member, died on December 15 – funeral is Thursday, January 6 at 11am at Advent
- Officer Mia Goodwin, died on December 22
- Monty Chisolm, died on December 23, son of James and Ida Chisolm
- Wayne Bartch, died December 11th, former member of Advent
- Vickie McCombs, died January 5th, friend of the Via da Cristo community

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: In your mercy,

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: In your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

L: Lord Jesus, Light of the World, hear our prayers, and make us reflections of your Light, so that the places of darkness in our world would be pierced by your Light and that all nations would be drawn to you and be overwhelmed with joy.

C: Amen.

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.

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.

May God bless us with tears to shed for those who suffer from pain, rejection, starvation, and war, so that we may reach out our hands to comfort them and turn their pain into joy.

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.

Sending Song

"Go, My Children, with My Blessing"



1 "Go, my chil - dren, with my bless - ing, nev - er a - lone.
2 "Go, my chil - dren, sins for - giv - en, at peace and pure.
3 "Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour - ished, clos - er to me.



Wak - ing, sleep - ing, I am with you, you are my own.
Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure.
Grow in love and love by serv - ing, joy - ful and free.



In my love's bap - tis - mal riv - er I have made you mine for - ev - er.
Here you heard my dear Son's sto - ry, here you touched him, saw his glo - ry.
Here my Spir - it's pow - er filled you, here my ten - der com - fort stilled you.



Go, my chil - dren, with my bless - ing, you are my own."
Go, my chil - dren, sins for - giv - en, at peace and pure."
Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour - ished, joy - ful and free."

Dismissal

L: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**