

# Gather Us, O God



*Advent to Gather*  
*Advent Together*

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## Pastoral Welcome

### Opening Prayer

L: My Lord God, I have no idea where I am going. I do not see the road ahead of me. I cannot know for certain where it will end. Nor do I really know myself, and the fact that I think that I am following your will does not mean that I am actually doing so. But I believe that the desire to please you does in fact please you. And I hope I have that desire in all that I am doing. I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire. And I know that if I do this you will lead me by the right road, though I may know nothing about it. Therefore, will I trust you always, though I may seem to be lost and in the shadow of death. I will not fear, for you are ever with me, and you will never leave me to face my perils alone.+

### Prelude

*“Just a Closer Walk with Thee”*

Annette Nolan

### Confession and Forgiveness

L: Blessed be God: Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit.

**C: And blessed be God’s kingdom, now and forever. Amen.**

L: My brothers and sisters, the scripture tells us that in moments of stillness we become more aware of God. As we prepare ourselves for confession, we enter a moment of silence and open ourselves to God’s presence.

*A time of silence.*

L: God,

**C: I commit my failures as well as my successes into your hands,  
and I bring for your healing the people and the situations,  
the wrongs and the hurts of the past.**

**Give me courage, strength and generosity to let go and move on,  
leaving the past behind me, and living the present to the full.**

**Lead me always to be positive as I entrust the past to your mercy,  
the present to your love, and the future to your providence. Amen.+**

P: God, by your forgiveness, you have created in us clean hearts and renewed in us –  
*once again* – the joy of your Holy Spirit. By faith, take hold of this forgiveness and  
experience the abundant life of Jesus Christ.

**C: Amen**

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+ *Opening Prayer written by Thomas Merton.*

+ *Confession attributed to St. Augustine.*

## 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: God, give us wisdom to perceive you, intelligence to understand you, patience to wait for you, eyes to see you, a heart to know you, and a life to proclaim you, through the power of the Spirit of Jesus Christ our Lord.<sup>+</sup>

C: **Amen.**

## The First Reading

Micah 6:6-8

L: Word of God, Word of Life.

C: **Thanks be to God!**

## The Gospel Acclamation

Kristin Nysten

### *Verse 1*

Alleluia, alleluia

Alleluia, alleluia

Alleluia, alleluia

Alleluia, alleluia

### *Verse 2*

I will praise him, alleluia

I will praise him, alleluia

I will praise him, alleluia

I will praise him, alleluia

*CCLI Song # 16811. Jerry Sinclair*

*CCLI License # 2705565*

## The Holy Scripture


Mark 10:35-45

## The Message


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<sup>+</sup> *Prayer of Illumination attributed to St. Benedict.*

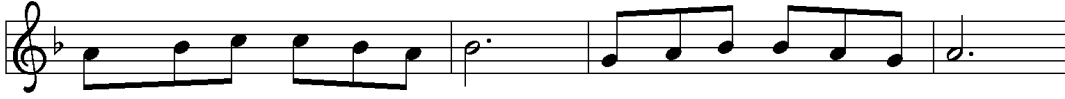
*Refrain*



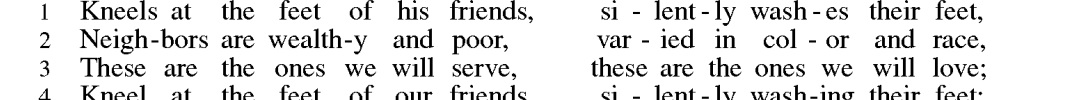
Je - su, Je - su, fill us with your love, show



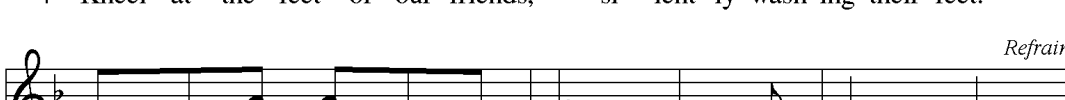
us how to serve the neigh-bors we have from you.



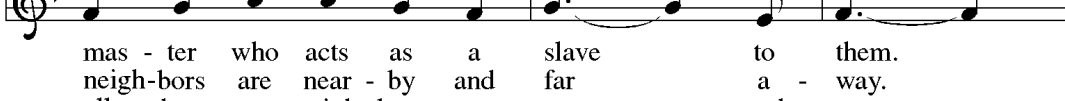
1 Kneels at the feet of his friends, si - lent - ly wash - es their feet,



2 Neigh-bors are wealth-y and poor, var - ied in col - or and race,




3 These are the ones we will serve, these are the ones we will love;

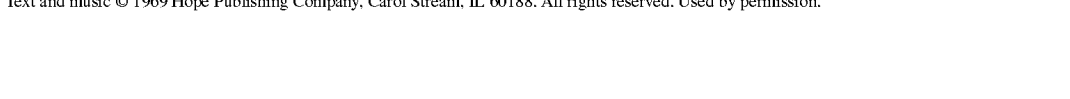


4 Kneel at the feet of our friends, si - lent - ly wash - ing their feet:

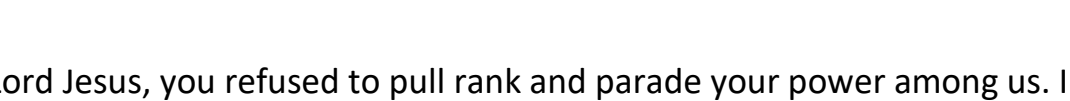
*Refrain*



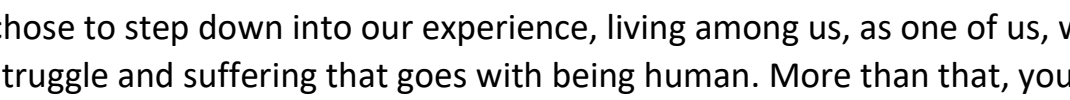
mas - ter who acts as a slave to them.



neigh-bors are near - by and far a - way.



all these are neigh - bors to us and you.



this is the way we will live with you.

Text: Tom Colvin, 1925–2000, alt.  
 Music: CHEREPONI, Ghanaian folk tune, adapt. Tom Colvin  
 Text and music © 1969 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

- L: Lord Jesus, you refused to pull rank and parade your power among us. Instead, you chose to step down into our experience, living among us, as one of us, with all the struggle and suffering that goes with being human. More than that, you adopted the role of slave, washing feet, serving people of no reputation or social standing, and giving of yourself completely. Form us to be people who follow you by emptying ourselves of all self-serving power and continue to fill us with your Spirit of compassion, inclusive love, and humility.
- L: In your mercy,
- C: Hear our prayer.**
- L: Lord Jesus, today we recommit to the work of healing in our communities. We take up your mantle of peace, justice, and love. We will ready ourselves again to walk on the path illuminated by your purpose:  
 To be aware of those still suffering from hunger and poverty.  
 To erase the inequality that diminishes Your divine light in all of us.  
 To purge the doubts that nothing will change.

To thoughtfully care for Your creation.

To be Your love and to bring forth a day when no one will be hungry.

L: In your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

L: Lord Jesus, you call us to hold the needs of our sisters and brothers as dear to us as our own needs. We pray for all our sisters and brothers who seek comfort, healing, refuge, rest, peace, wholeness, community, acceptance, and unconditional love.

L: We especially pray for:

- Val Allred
- Scott Barger
- Lemont Bell
- Dallas Collins
- Michael Corbin
- Charliese Eichler
- Dwight Hartsell
- Donnell Horton
- Mark Hough
- Alyssa Jensen
- Waylon Kuklantz
- Ray Matthews
- Gilbert Naber
- Leo Peeler
- Blanche Pennington
- Ron Pittman
- Joyce Quigley
- Sherry Rengstorf and Family
- Calvin Roberson
- Richard Schulz
- Lynda Stellenberg
- David Townsend
- Laura Tucker
- Joyce Veit
- June Vincent
- Herbert Watson
- Velia Watson
- Renate Wilson
- Carol Wisner

L: We now pray aloud or in the silence of our hearts for those we wish to name.

*Time for the community to pray.*

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

- Michele Lowder, cousin of Shawn Allread, died on September 26<sup>th</sup>
- Dale Anderson, uncle of Gloria Strickert, died on September 27<sup>th</sup>
- Pastor Fred Rengstorf, friend of Fred & Gloria Strickert, died on October 4<sup>th</sup>.
- Samuel Pennington, cousin of Pat Kelly, died on October 7<sup>th</sup>.
- Donna Bartch, former member of Advent, died on October 11<sup>th</sup>.

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 of all healing, we pray for all healthcare professionals and relief workers, especially with the rapid rise of hospitalizations and the new surge of coronavirus infections. We give thanks for the development and availability of multiple vaccines, and we are bold to pray that those with vaccine hesitancy would choose to be vaccinated. Strengthen, encourage, and comfort us in the days ahead to rest in your peace amid anxiety, frustration, and worry.

L: Lord in your mercy

**C: Hear our prayer.**

L: Gracious God, we offer these prayers to you, those spoken and those still unknown to us. Give us peace to trust you with the timing and the answers you provide. We ask all these things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**C: Amen.**

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## SHARING THE MEAL

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### The Words of Institution

Kristin Nylen, cantor

*This is the air I breathe  
This is the air I breathe  
Your holy presence living in me*

*And I . . . I'm desperate for you  
And I . . . I'm lost without you*

P: In the night in which he was betrayed,  
Our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;  
Broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

*This is my daily bread  
This is my daily bread  
Your very word spoken to me  
And I . . . I'm desperate for you  
And I . . . I'm lost without you*

P: Again, after supper, he took the cup,  
Gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:  
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,

Shed for you and for all people  
For the forgiveness of sin.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

*This is the living Lord  
This is the living Lord  
Your very blood given for me*

*And I . . . I'm desperate for you  
And I . . . I'm lost without you*

*This is the air I breathe  
This is the air I breathe  
This is the air I breathe*

### **The Lord's Prayer (*spoken*)**

**C: 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.**

### **Post-Communion Blessing**

**L: As you have been fed at this table, go to feed the hungry.  
As you have received – give.  
As you have heard – proclaim.  
And the blessing which you have received from the Father, Son and Holy Spirit be always with you.**

**C: Amen.**

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### **SENDING GOD'S PEOPLE**

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#### **Sending Song**

*"We Are Called"*

Rob Beyersdorf

[Verse 1]

Come! Live in the light!  
Shine with the joy and the love of the Lord!  
We are called to be light for the kingdom  
To live in the freedom of the city of God!

**[Chorus]**

**We are called to act with justice  
We are called to love tenderly  
We are called to serve one another  
To walk humbly with God**

[Verse 2]

Come! Open your heart!  
Show your mercy to all those in fear!  
We are called to be hope for the hopeless  
So all hatred and blindness will be no more!

**[Chorus]**

[Verse 3]

Sing! Sing a new song!  
Sing of that great day when all will be one!  
God will reign and we'll walk with each other  
As sisters and brothers united in love!

**Dismissal**

**L:** Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**C:** **Thanks be to God**