

Gather Us, O God



Advent to Gather
Advent Together

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October 24, 2021

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

"He Touched Me"

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

+ *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.⁺

C: **Amen.**

The First Reading

Jeremiah 31:7-9

L: Word of God, Word of Life.

C: **Thanks be to God!**

The Gospel Acclamation

Laura Torrence

Verse 1

Alleluia, alleluia

Alleluia, alleluia

Alleluia, alleluia

Alleluia, alleluia

Verse 2

He's my Savior, alleluia

He's my Savior, alleluia

He's my Savior, alleluia

He's my Savior, alleluia

CCLI Song # 16811. Jerry Sinclair

CCLI License # 2705565

The Holy Scripture

Mark 10:46-52

The Message

⁺ *Prayer of Illumination attributed to St. Benedict.*

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound,
that saved a wretch like me.
I once was lost, but now I'm found,
was blind but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
and grace my fears relieved.
How precious did that grace appear,
the hour I first believed.

Chorus

My chains are gone I've been set free,
my God, my Savior has ransomed me.
And like a flood His mercy reigns,
unending love, amazing grace.

The Lord has promised good to me,
His word my hope secures.
He will my shield and portion be,
as long as life endures.

Chorus

Chorus Repeats

Prayers of the Faithful

L: Lord Jesus, Bartimaeus shouted when he heard you coming, sprang up, cast away his cloak and ran to you, asked you only for what he needed, his sight.
And when you restored him, *immediately*, he followed you.

We give thanks for the people who hear and wait for us, who do not flinch at our humanity, who do not turn away from our vulnerability, who really see us with the eyes of love, that different way of seeing.

May we too see in a different way: not *just* the condition of people but their capabilities; not *just* what they need but what they can offer; and not *just* as labels but as lovable and loving people. Help us to learn from those who know their need of God, and to follow with their faith.

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
- Michael Corbin
- Charliese Eichler
- Dwight Hartsell
- Donnell Horton
- Mark Hough
- Alyssa Jensen
- Waylon Kuklantz
- Ray Matthews
- Vickie McCombs
- Gilbert Naber
- Leo Peeler
- Ron Pittman
- Joyce Quigley
- Sherry Rengstorf and Family
- Calvin Roberson
- Richard Schulz
- Lynda Stellenberg
- David Townsend
- Laura Tucker
- Joyce Veit
- 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:

- Pastor Fred Rengstorf, friend of Fred & Gloria Strickert, died on October 4th.
- Samuel Pennington, cousin of Pat Kelly, died on October 7th.
- Donna Bartch, former member of Advent, died on October 11th.
- June Vincent, mother of Chip Vincent, died on October 16th.

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: Lord Jesus, the Great Physician, 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: Lord Jesus, you have given us grace to bring our prayers to you. Fulfill now, our desires and prayers, as may be best for us. Grant us in this world knowledge of your truth, and in the world to come life everlasting.

C: Amen.

SHARING THE MEAL

The Words of Institution

*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: 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

"Nunc Dimittis (Song of Simeon)

Laura Torrence

Lord, let your servant depart in peace,
according to your word.
For my eyes have seen your salvation,
which you have prepared
before the face of all people,
a light to lighten the Gentiles
and the glory of your people
Israel.

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Dismissal

L: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God