

# 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

*“For the Beauty of the Earth”*

Advent Ringers

### 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.

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## PROCLAIMING THE WORD

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### 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

Genesis 2:18-24

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*

I will praise him, alleluia

*CCLI Song # 16811. Jerry Sinclair*

*CCLI License # 2705565*

### The Holy Scripture

Mark 10:2-16

### The Message

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



1 Al - though I speak with an - gel's tongue, my faith, my  
 2 For love is pa - tient, love is kind, and nev - er  
 3 For now we peer at dark - ened glass; our vi - sions  
 4 The gifts are man - y, the Bod - y one, and in - to



knowl - edge all sur - pass, but have no love, my gifts are  
 vain with boast - ing pride; love bears all things, all things en -  
 end; our tongues all cease. In part we know, in part now  
 one are all bap - tized. Be - lov - ed, share one heart, one



vain as clang - ing gong or blar - ing brass.  
 dures. All things must end; love will a - bide.  
 see: then we will see love face to face.  
 mind, one hope, one faith, one love in Christ.

Text: Andrew Donaldson, b. 1951  
 Music: O WALY WALY, English traditional  
 Text © 1995 Andrew Donaldson.

L: God of refuge, with tender care for the smallest and least of your children, you bid disciples: let the children come, and do not forbid them. You reminded your followers that the kingdom of God is formed and filled with “such as these,” and so we ask you to help us see them as you do: these little ones who flee gang violence in cities throughout Central America; these vulnerable ones and their families, who cannot find food to sustain or a safe place to take shelter; these mothers and fathers, who have impoverished their own hope in order to save their children’s future; and these, your little ones, who cry out to be covered by your sheltering wings, and who seek to see your face in the faces of those who meet them in the strange lands of exile.

We pray for generosity and creativity as we work with church and state to find places of grace, safety, and hope for children and families who are refugees. We pray for all who would help – for communities of welcome, for volunteers and visitors, for chaplains, social workers, judges and health care workers who tend to the needs of frightened children and seek to balance urgent necessity with strained resources. We pray for a peaceful spirit as we work and serve among neighbors whose fearfulness prevents generosity from flowering in human hearts.

L: In your mercy,

C: **Hear our prayer.**

L: God of healing, we pray for all families who have experienced the brokenness of separation and divorce. We pray for healing in these families – for the healing of the deep emotional wounds, for the letting go of anger and bitterness and for sharing in the opportunities of forgiveness. As communities of faith, may we be places of grace and support for all families in every season of life.

L: In your mercy,

**C: Hear our prayer.**

L: God of compassion, 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:

- Henry Arzadon
- Michelle Arzadon
- Lemont Bell
- Peg Buckstad
- Dallas Collins
- Michael Corbin
- Charliese Eichler
- Jesse Frisina
- Dwight Hartsell
- Donnell Horton
- Waylon Kuklantz
- Teresa Ledford
- Ray Matthews
- Mark Navtaril
- Gilbert Naber
- Leo Peeler
- Ron Pittman
- Pr Fred Rengstorf and Family
- Calvin Roberson
- Richard Schulz
- Lynda Stellenberg
- David Townsend
- June Vincent
- Herbert Watson
- Renate Wilson

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:

- Betty McLain, mother of Dennis McLain, died on September 12th
- Alan Church, friend of Jennie Henderson, died on September 12th
- Emma Powell, former member, died on September 13<sup>th</sup>
- Peter Hammerling Sr., grandfather of Laura Torrence, died on September 17<sup>th</sup>
- Kristen McCartney, friend of Alyssa Schrader, died on September 20<sup>th</sup>
- Michele Lowder, cousin of Shawn Allread, died on September 26<sup>th</sup>
- Dale Anderson, uncle of Gloria Strickert, died on September 27th

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: We give thanks:
- For the birth of Cameron West Thurow, grandson of Mark and Diane Large, born on September 20<sup>th</sup>.
  - For the marriage of Paul Hartsell and Alaina Liggett on September 24<sup>th</sup>.
- 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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**Preparing the Table**

*“Simple Gifts”*

Advent Ringers

**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.**

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SENDING GOD'S PEOPLE

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**Sending Song**

*"Lord, I Lift Your Name on High"*

Morning Chimes

**Dismissal**

L: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God**