

Gather Us, O God



Advent to Gather
Advent Together

Advent Lutheran Church
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October 31, 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

"A Mighty Fortress"

Advanced Bells

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 31:31-34

L: Word of God, Word of Life.

C: **Thanks be to God!**

The Gospel Acclamation

Daniel Pietruszka

Rob Beyersdorf

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

Verse 3

He's is worthy, alleluia

He's is worthy, alleluia

He's is worthy, alleluia

He's is worthy, alleluia

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

Verse 4

I will praise him, alleluia

I will praise him, alleluia

I will praise him, alleluia

I will praise him, alleluia

The Holy Scripture

John 8:31-36

MileStone Blessing

3rd Grade Bible Presentation

The Message

Song of the Day

"Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word"

Daniel Pietruszka
Rob Beyersdorf

Prayers of the Faithful

L: Reforming God, we give you thanks for your forgiveness and for your never-ending love. We pray for ourselves and your church throughout the world. Fill us with a spirit of openness to your Spirit, to hear and receive your promises and to remain faithful to our covenant with you. Where we are corrupt, purify us. Where we are in error, direct us. Where we are in need, provide for us. Where we are divided, reunite us. And where we are close-minded, reform us and make us new. In all things, keep them steadfast in your word.

L: Gracious God,

C: Hear our prayer.

L: Healing God, 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
- Lemont Bell
- Michael Corbin
- Charliese Eichler
- Gabriella Estrella
- Dwight Hartsell
- Donnell Horton
- Mark Hough
- John Kivett
- Waylon Kuklantz
- Susan Lewis
- Ray Matthews
- Vickie McCombs
- Gilbert Naber

- Leo Peeler
- Ron Pittman
- Joyce Quigley
- Bobby Reed
- Sherry Rengstorf and Family
- Calvin Roberson
- Richard Schulz
- 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:

- Blanche Pennington, aunt of Pat Kelly, 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: Gracious God,

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.

SHARING THE MEAL

Preparation of the Table

“Amazing Grace”

Daniel Pietruszka

Annette Nolan

The Words of Institution

Rob Beyersdorf

*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.

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

Daniel Pietruszka
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**