

Gather Us, O God



Advent to Gather
Advent Together

Advent Lutheran Church
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November 14, 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

"We Gather Together"

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.

⁺ *Opening Prayer* written by Thomas Merton.

⁺ *Confession* attributed to St. Augustine.

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: 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

Daniel 12:1-3

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

I will praise him, alleluia

I will praise him, alleluia

I will praise him, alleluia

The Holy Scripture

Mark 13:1-8

The Message

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



1 My soul cries out with a joy - ful shout that the
 2 Though I am small, my . . . God, my all, you . . .
 3 From the halls of pow'r to the for - tress tow'r, not a
 4 Though the na - tions rage from . . age to age, we re -



God of my heart is great, and my spir - it sings of the
 work great . . things in me, and your mer - cy will last from the
 stone will be left on stone. Let the king be - ware for your
 mem - ber who holds us fast: God's mer - cy must de -



won - drous things that you bring to the ones who wait.
 depths of the past to the end of the age to be.
 jus - tice tears ev - 'ry ty - rant . . . from his throne.
 liv - er us from the con - quer - or's crush - ing grasp.



You fixed your sight on your ser - vant's plight, and my
 Your ver - y name puts the proud to shame, and to
 The hun - gry poor shall . . weep no more, for the
 This sav - ing word that our fore - bears heard is the



weak - ness you did not spurn, so from east to west shall my
 those who would for you yearn, you will show your might, put the
 food they can nev - er earn; there are ta - bles spread, ev - 'ry
 prom - ise which holds us bound, till the spear and rod can be



name be blest. Could the world be a - bout to turn?
 strong to flight, for the world is a - bout to turn.
 mouth be fed, for the world is a - bout to turn.
 crushed by God, who is turn - ing the world a - round.



Refrain
 My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your jus - tice burn.



Wipe a - way all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is a - bout to turn.

Prayers of the Faithful

L: God of all creation, we near the turning of another the year. As our earth revolves around the sun, help us to look all around and perceive how you are still at work in our world and in our lives. God, you have not given up on us and you have not given up on this one earth you created and love. Strengthen us by the promise of your Gospel to not give up when we find ourselves weighed down with worry and filled with fear and anxiety. Filled by your Holy Spirit, we have been empowered to roll up our sleeves, to sweep away and clean, to build and plant, to pluck up what needs to be removed, and to make space for what needs to grow. Give us vision to look all around and to witness that you are always doing a new thing.

L: In your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

L: God of justice, we pray for the world. Bring peace to those nations in conflict and where there is political instability. Protect those who are poor and hungry and give them hope. Move those with plenty to share with those who have little. Help all people to love their neighbor as themselves. Replace the rule of wealth and war with your realm of justice and peace.

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.

We especially pray for:

- | | |
|---------------------|-------------------------|
| ▪ Val Allred | ▪ Leo Peeler |
| ▪ Lemont Bell | ▪ Pastor Raymond Peters |
| ▪ Charliese Eichler | ▪ Joyce Quigley |
| ▪ Michael Funke | ▪ Calvin Roberson |
| ▪ Dwight Hartsell | ▪ Richard Schulz |
| ▪ Donnell Horton | ▪ Leni Taite |
| ▪ John Kivett | ▪ David Townsend |
| ▪ Waylon Kuklantz | ▪ Laura Tucker |
| ▪ Susan Lewis | ▪ Herbert Watson |
| ▪ Ray Matthews | ▪ Velia Watson |
| ▪ Vickie McCombs | ▪ Renate Wilson |

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

Time for the community to pray.

L: God of all healing, we pray for all healthcare professionals and relief workers. We give thanks for them and for the care and healing they provide. Strengthen and encourage them as they continue to serve and work on behalf of the health of our communities.

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.

SHARING THE MEAL

The Words of Institution

Laura Torrence

*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 servants go 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