

Gather Us, O God



Advent to Gather
Advent Together

Advent Lutheran Church
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Charlotte, NC 28213
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November 21, 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

"Majesty"

Morning Chimes

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.*

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 7:9-10, 13-14

L: Word of God, Word of Life.

C: **Thanks be to God!**

The Gospel Acclamation

Laura Torrence

The Holy Scripture

John 18:33-37

The Message

Song of the Day

“Blessing, Honor, and Glory”

Laura Torrence

Blessing, honor, glory to the Lamb.
Holy, righteous, worthy is the Lamb.
Death could not hold him down, for he is risen!
Seated upon the throne, he is the Lamb of God!
Blessing, honor, glory to the Lamb.
Holy, righteous, worthy is the Lamb.
Death could not hold him down, for he is risen!
Seated upon the throne, he is the Lamb of God!
Blessing, honor, glory to the Lamb.
Holy, righteous, worthy is the Lamb.

CCLI Song # 1001179

David Reidy | Geoff Bullock

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

Prayers of the Faithful

L: God of all creation, from the beginning of time to the end of eternity, you have chosen to use your power and majesty to love us, to redeem us, and to shape us as your people. In Christ Jesus, you overcame every force that would separate us from you by choosing the path of suffering and by laying your life down. As your Holy Spirit continues to fill us, may your presence give us your peace; may your peace strengthen us with your grace; may your grace enliven us with your hope; and may your hope lead us into your Kingdom.

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 | ▪ Pastor Raymond Peters |
| ▪ Lemont Bell | ▪ Joyce Quigley |
| ▪ Charliese Eichler | ▪ Calvin Roberson |
| ▪ Michael Funke | ▪ Richard Schulz |
| ▪ Dwight Hartsell | ▪ L.D. Shockley |
| ▪ Donnell Horton | ▪ Gloria Strickert |
| ▪ John Kivett | ▪ Leni Taite |
| ▪ Waylon Kuklantz | ▪ David Townsend |
| ▪ Susan Lewis | ▪ Laura Tucker |
| ▪ Ray Matthews | ▪ Herbert Watson |
| ▪ Vickie McCombs | ▪ Velia Watson |
| ▪ Trey O'Quinn | ▪ Renate Wilson |
| ▪ Leo Peeler | |

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: We give thanks for the birth of Alex DeGrace, son of Madeline & Stephen and grandson of Leonard and Tanya DeGrace, born on November 17.

L: Lord in your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

L: God of abundance, we come before you with our prayers of thanksgiving. As we celebrate Thanksgiving on Thursday, we know that for some this year will be different: a new table at which to sit, a new person sitting with us, or a dear one absent. Help us recognize all the ways you are present in our lives this year. Help us gather the strength we need for today and for all our tomorrows. In all things, grant us the joy of intimacy with Jesus, your great gift to us, through whom you offer Living Water and Bread of Life, more than we can ask or imagine.

L: Lord in your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

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

Preparing the Table

"Worship the Lord"

Jennifer Frisina (cello)
Annette Nolan (piano)

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.

“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**