

# Gather Us, O God



*Advent to Gather*  
*Advent Together*

Advent Lutheran Church  
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November 7, 2021

**Prelude**

*“Fairest Lord Jesus/Beautiful Savior”*

**Advent Ringers**

## **Opening Prayer**

L: All Saints’ Sunday is a day when the church celebrates the communion of saints – meaning all Christian people of every time and place – which includes each of us. As we celebrate the communion of saints, we also remember all those who died who now live within the fullness of eternal life in the very heart of God.

So, we take a moment at the beginning of our service to remember four saints of the Advent community who have died during this past year. We thank God for giving them to us to know and to love as companions in our pilgrimage here on earth. In their death, we believe they will experience no hunger, nor thirst and no longer will they be oppressed. In their eternal life, we believe they now rest in God. We give thanks to God for their lives.

## **Call to Worship for All Saints Day**

L: We remember, O God . . .  
The countless saints of history  
who have blazed a trail of courage through time,  
We remember, O God . . .  
The tender touch of loved ones,  
the example of heroes,  
the healing words of comforters,  
the remarkable acts of fearless ones.  
We remember, O God . . .  
The gentle strength of grandparents,  
the loyalty of friends,  
the kindness of strangers,  
the joy of children, the sacrifice of parents.

On this All Saints’ Day, we remember, O God, our sister . . .

***Freda Christ***

*Handbell rings.*

On this All Saints' Day, we remember, O God, our sister . . .

**Emma Fettig**

*Handbell rings.*

On this All Saints' Day, we remember, O God, our brother. . .

**Lewis Williams**

*Handbell rings.*

On this All Saints' Day, we remember, O God, our sister . . .

**Beverly Williams**

*Handbell rings.*

We remember, O God . . .

The supreme love of Jesus,

the blessing of his Spirit,

the reminder of his words,

the sharing of his suffering,

the glory of his resurrection:

shown forth in the lives of his disciples,

young and old,

dead and living,

articulate and silent,

strange and familiar,

brilliant and ordinary.

We remember in every time and place the saints of God

who have shown us the Lord.

Since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses . . .

let us worship God with joy!

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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.**

## All Saints' Day Prayer

L: Let us pray. You are our God and we are your people, and we are grateful that you have claimed us as your own.

You have set us in the company of all the saints past and present, among those who have made bold witness to your goodness and your truth. Your Word opens up new futures where we see no way forward.

You know the places in our hearts where we are afraid

— afraid of a future we cannot control

— afraid of losing health and independence

— afraid for the well-being of our children

— afraid that past mistakes will ruin our future

Write the stories of your people deep into our hearts so that we may learn to trust you beyond our fears. Give us hearts and minds and spirits ready to trust and follow wherever your Spirit leads, confident that you will not lead us beyond your loving embrace.

We ask in Jesus' name whose outstretched arms welcome us and hold us securely in your grace. Amen.<sup>+</sup>

### **Anthem**

*"Heaven's Song"*

Ladies Chorus "Dolce"

### **The First Reading**

Isaiah 25:6-9

### **The Gospel Acclamation**

Kristin Nylen

#### *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

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<sup>+</sup> Written by Christine Jerrett and posted on the *Christine Jerrett* blog.

The Message

Song of the Day

“Softly and Tenderly”

Kristin Nylen



1 Soft - ly and ten - der - ly Je - sus is call - ing, call - ing for  
 2 Why should we tar - ry when Je - sus is plead - ing, plead - ing for  
 3 Oh, for the won - der - ful love he has prom - ised, prom - ised for



you and for me. See, on the por - tals he's wait - ing and watch - ing,  
 you and for me? Why should we lin - ger and heed not his mer - cies,  
 you and for me! Though we have sinned, he has mer - cy and par - don,

*Refrain*



watch - ing for you and for me.  
 mer - cies for you and for me? “Come home, come home!”  
 par - don for you and for me.



You who are wea - ry, come home.” Ear - nest - ly, ten - der - ly,



Je - sus is call - ing, call - ing, “O sin - ner, come home!”

Text: Will L. Thompson, 1847-1909  
 Music: THOMPSON, Will L. Thompson

# Remembering Together: In the Company of the Saints

## Prayers of the Faithful

- L: Watching for a new heaven, waiting for a new earth, we pray to the Lord, saying,  
Lord have mercy,
- C: and wipe away our tears.**
- L: Lord, we pray for the church. Transform this broken body into a communion of  
saints, a company of the faithful, working for good in your world. Lord have mercy,
- C: and wipe away our tears.**
- L: Lord, 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. Lord have mercy,
- C: and wipe away our tears.**
- L: Lord, we pray for the communities in which we live. Make your home among us  
and dwell with us in all these places. May our communities reflect the beauty and  
peace of your new creation and be a place of refuge for all. Lord have mercy,
- C: and wipe away our tears.**
- L: Lord, we pray for loved ones and friends. May our lives be extensions of your loving  
care for those who seek comfort, healing, refuge, rest, peace, wholeness,  
community, acceptance, and unconditional love.

We especially pray for:

- |                      |                               |
|----------------------|-------------------------------|
| ▪ Val Allred         | ▪ Joyce Quigley               |
| ▪ Lemont Bell        | ▪ Bobby Reed                  |
| ▪ Charliese Eichler  | ▪ Sherry Rengstorf and Family |
| ▪ Gabriella Estrella | ▪ Calvin Roberson             |
| ▪ Dwight Hartsell    | ▪ Shannon Roberson            |
| ▪ Donnell Horton     | ▪ Richard Schulz              |
| ▪ Mark Hough         | ▪ Leni Taite                  |
| ▪ John Kivett        | ▪ David Townsend              |
| ▪ Waylon Kuklantz    | ▪ Laura Tucker                |
| ▪ Susan Lewis        | ▪ Joyce Veit                  |
| ▪ Ray Matthews       | ▪ Herbert Watson              |
| ▪ Vickie McCombs     | ▪ Velia Watson                |
| ▪ Leo Peeler         | ▪ Renate Wilson               |
| ▪ Ron Pittman        | ▪ Carol Wisner                |

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.*

Lord, as your Holy Spirit moves among us this day, call to our memories all the saints who have shared their lives with us and now rest in your presence . . . our grandparents and parents, aunts and uncles, brothers and sisters, and family and friends.

*Time for the community to pray.*

L: Until we join with your people in praise at your throne, we press on. And in the company of your saints from every age, we praise you.

L: Lord, we thank you for all who have served in the armed forces of this country and for the freedom their sacrifice has earned and guarded for us. Help us to prize this freedom and use it well. Continue to bless all living veterans and their families. Comfort those who grieve for those who gave the last full measure of devotion. Strengthen those who bear physical, emotional, and spiritual wounds and stand with all those who provide care to our veterans.

We pray for the day when swords will be turned into plowshares and spears into pruning hooks. Help us to live now in anticipation of that day, as people who long for peace, who pray for peace, and who seek to be peacemakers in this world. Lord have mercy,

**C: and wipe away our tears.**

L: As you have sustained your saints through every age and every season, keep us faithful, here and now, until your will is done on earth as it is in heaven. We ask all these things in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

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## SHARING THE MEAL

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### The Words of Institution

Kristin Nysten

*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” (Canticle of Simeon)**

Kristin Nysten

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.

*GIA Publications, Inc. 2004 | Michael Mahler*

**Dismissal**

**L:** Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**C:** **Thanks be to God**