

SEEING



through a NEW lens

EPIPHANY SEASON

Advent Lutheran Church
8840 University City Blvd
Charlotte, NC 28213
(704) 549-1555

www.adventlu.org

February 20, 2022

GATHERING FOR WORSHIP

Pastoral Welcome

Prelude

"Tis so Sweet"

Annette Nolan

Affirmation of Baptism and Receiving of New Members

L: We begin by making the sign that was made on the day of our baptisms. We gather in the name of the Father, and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

L: As we see the light the Christ candle, we remember the words that were said when we were baptized:

C: Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

L: In Baptism, God brings us into his family and calls us his own. By Baptism, God gives us the gifts of faith, love, life, forgiveness, and strength, and asks to respond in faithfulness to him and in service to others.

I ask those who are affirming their baptisms today, do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in Holy Baptism:

- + to live among God's faithful people
- + to hear his Word and share in Holy Communion
- + to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed
- + to serve all people, following the example of our Lord Jesus
- + and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth.

C: I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.

L: Let us pray. God, we give you thanks that through water and the Holy Spirit you give us new birth, cleanse us from sin, and raise us to eternal life. Stir up in your people the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever.

C: Amen.

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: Lord Jesus, make us instruments of your peace, that where there is hatred, we may sow love, where there is injury, pardon, and where there is despair, hope. Grant that we may always seek to console, to understand, and to love in your name.

C: Amen.

The First Reading

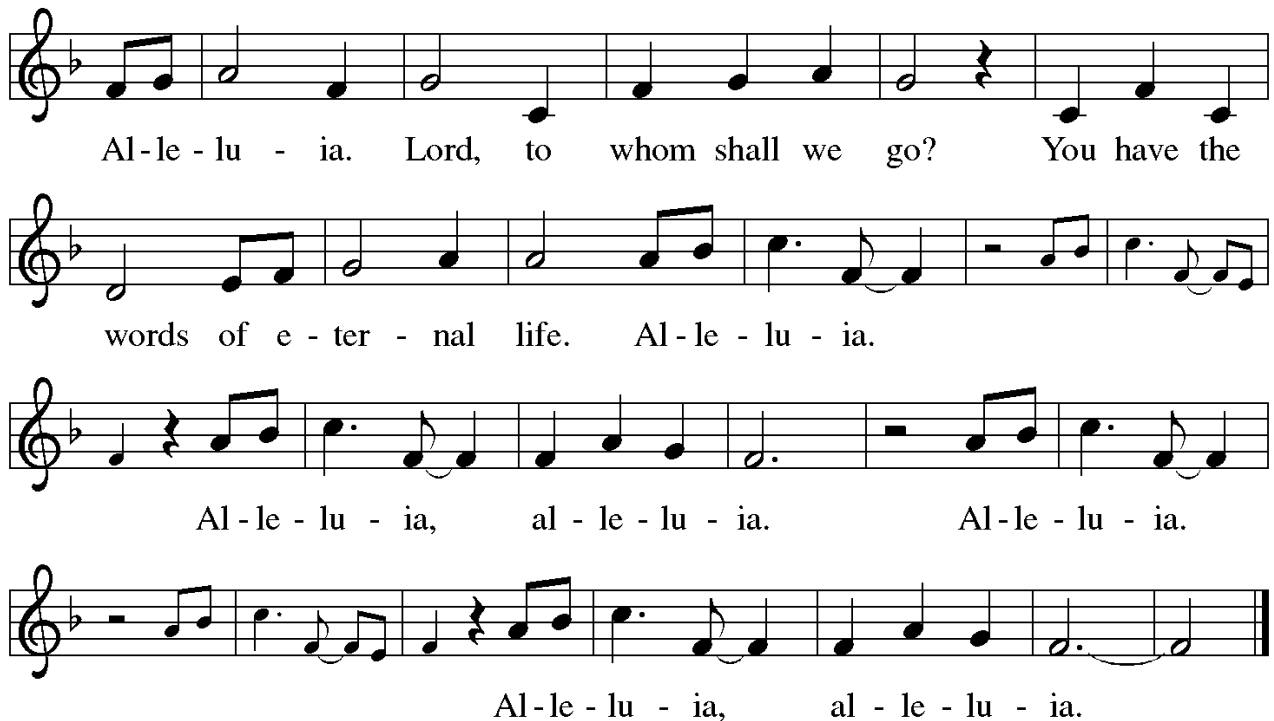
Genesis 45:3-11,15

L: Word of God, Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God!

The Gospel Acclamation

Laura Torrence



Al-le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

The Holy Scripture

Luke 6:27-38

The Message



1 I come with joy, a child of God, for - giv - en, loved, and
 2 I come with Chris - tians far and near to find, as all are
 3 As Christ breaks bread, and bids us share, each proud di - vi - sion
 4 The Spir - it of the ris - en Christ, un - seen, but ev - er
 5 To - geth - er met, to - geth - er bound by all that God has



free, the life of Je - sus to re - call in
 fed, the new com - mu - ni - ty of love in
 ends. The love that made us, makes us one, and
 near, is in such friend - ship bet - ter known, a -
 done, we'll go with joy, to give the world the



love laid down for me, in love laid down for me.
 Christ's com - mu - nion bread, in Christ's com - mu - nion bread.
 strang - ers now are friends, and strang - ers now are friends.
 live a - mong us here, a - live a - mong us here.
 love that makes us one, the love that makes us one.

+

We believe in the one High God,
 who out of love created the beautiful world
 and everything good in it.
 God created man and woman
 and wanted them to be happy in the world.
 God loves the world and every nation
 and tribe on the Earth.
 We have known this High God in darkness,
 and now we know God in the light.
 God promised in the book of His word, the Bible,
 that God would save the world
 and all the nations and tribes.
 We believe that God made good God's promise
 by sending the Son, Jesus Christ,
 a man in the flesh, a Jew by tribe,
 born poor in a little village,

+ A beautiful example of a creed is the *Maasai Creed*. It was written around 1960 by the Congregation of the Holy Ghost ("Spiritans") in East Nigeria. It is designed on a threefold pattern of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

who left his home and was always on safari doing good,
curing people by the power of God,
teaching about God and humans,
showing the meaning of religion is love.
He was rejected by his people,
tortured and nailed hands and feet to a cross and died.
He lay buried in the grave,
but the hyenas did not touch him,
and on the third day, he rose from the grave.
He ascended to the skies. He is the Lord.
We believe that all our sins are forgiven through him.
All who have faith in him must be sorry for their sins,
be baptized in the Holy Spirit of God,
live the rules of love and share the bread together in love,
to announce the Good News to others
until Jesus comes again.
We are waiting for Him. He is alive. He lives.
This we believe. Amen.

Prayers of the Faithful

L: L: The Spirit of the Lord is poured out upon us in abundance; so, we are bold to pray for the church, the world, and all that God has made.

A brief silence.

L: Gracious God, you teach us to love our neighbors and enemies alike. Encourage your church to follow the leading of your love, especially when it is risky or difficult. Help us to show mercy just as we have first received mercy. God of grace,

L: God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

L: Gracious God, look upon our world with mercy, that we delight in an abundance of peace. Protect all whose lives are marred by war and civil unrest, especially at the border between Ukraine and Russia and in the country of Ethiopia. Filled with your Spirit, we pray for courage to lift our own voices as we seek forgiveness and pursue nonviolence in our own communities, in our nation, and within the world.

L: God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

L: Gracious God, let your Spirit fall afresh on us today, heal those who long for healing and make whole those who hunger for wholeness. As we speak their names, we bring them to you in the confidence that you love them and know their every need and that your healing power will bring comfort and restoration.

L: We especially pray for:

- Val Allred
- Lemont Bell
- Steve Bowers
- Ida Chisolm
- Rajiv & Ashish Choudhrie
- Tommy Currin
- Seena Drapala
- Charliese Eichler
- Abby Hibbeler
- Donnell Horton
- Waylon Kuklantz
- Ray Matthews
- Andrew Milholland
- Dave Miller
- **Da hood (Daoud) & Da hair (Dahare)Nassar**
- Carolyn Osborne
- Donna Parrish
- Leo Peeler
- Joyce Quigley
- Beverly Rector
- Shannon Roberson
- L.D. Shockley
- David Townsend
- Laura Tucker
- Herbert Watson
- Velia Watson
- Renate Wilson

L: And for the deepest hopes of our hearts, we pray now.

Time for the community to pray.

L: We pray for our guests at Room in the Inn this past Monday: Trina, Demarkus, Aleisha, Carol, Winston, Frank, Robert, Jamarian, Christopher, and Dwight.

L: We remember and celebrate the lives of those who have died, especially:

- Lauren Talton, lifted up by Marylou Kuklantz, died February 6
- Richard Schulz, brother-in-law of Dan & Jan Otolski, died February 10.

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: God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

L: Gracious God, you have called us through the goodness of your grace to be your hands and do your work, to be your voice and share your words, to bring healing to a fallen world and wholeness to broken lives. Let your light shine through us and light the path for others, so that all may experience your love and share in the joy of your Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

Words of Institution

The Lord's Prayer (*sung*)

C: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil, for the kingdom, the pow'r and the glory are yours, now and forever.

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.

Franciscan Blessing

L: May God bless us with discomfort at easy answers, half-truths, and superficial relationships, so that we may live deep within our hearts.

May God bless us with anger at injustice, oppression, and exploitation of people, so that we may work for justice, freedom, and peace.

And may God bless us with enough foolishness to believe that we can make a difference in this world, so that we can do what others claim cannot be done.

C: Amen.



1 Light dawns on a wea - ry world when eyes be - gin to
 2 Love grows in a wea - ry world when hun - gry hearts find
 3 Hope blooms in a wea - ry world when crea-tures, once for -



see all peo - ple's dig - ni - ty. Light dawns on a
 bread and chil - dren's dreams are fed. Love grows in a
 lorn, find wil - der - ness re - born. Hope blooms in a



wea - ry world: the prom-ised day of jus - tice comes.
 wea - ry world: the prom-ised feast of plen - ty comes.
 wea - ry world: the prom-ised green of E - den comes.



The trees shall clap their hands; the dry lands, gush with springs;



the hills and moun-tains shall break forth with sing - ing!



We shall go out in joy, and be led forth in peace,



as all the world in won-der ech - oes sha - lom.

Dismissal

L: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**