

# LISTENING



below the  
noise

**SEASON OF LENT**

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

[www.adventlu.org](http://www.adventlu.org)

March 20, 2022

**Call to Worship** – *Listening Below the Noise*

- L: What if God calls us . . .  
Not to a task, but to a conversation?  
What if God calls us . . .  
Not to a destination, but to a relationship?  
What if God calls us . . .  
Not to an achievement, but to a table?  
What if we answered: “Here I am,”  
And pulled up a chair,  
Ready for whatever happens next?

**Prelude**                      *“Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley”*                      Sanctuary Singers

**Confession and Forgiveness**

- L: We gather in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
L: Allow yourself to settle for a moment.  
To embrace the silence.  
To discover the stillness that lives within your soul.

*(Silence for reflection and self-examination)*

I invite you to listen to the voice of God who speaks to you:  
“Return to me with your whole heart, for I am gracious and merciful, slow to anger  
and abounding in steadfast love to the thousandth generation, ready to forgive all  
your sins by washing them away with my tears of joy.”

*(Silence for reflection and self-examination)*

- L: God, source of life and steadfast love,  
**C: We turn toward you and open our hearts.**  
**Forgive our pride and forgive our insecurities.**  
**Forgive our self-absorption and forgive our self-destruction.**  
**Forgive our doubts and forgive our confidence.**  
**Forgive our longing for attention and forgive our desire to hide.**  
**Forgive each step we take away from you.**  
L: Allow yourself to settle for a moment.  
To embrace the silence.  
To discover the stillness that lives within your soul.

*(Silence for reflection and self-examination)*

- L: I invite you to listen to the voice of God who speaks to you:  
“Do not fear, for I have redeemed you and forgiven you all your sins. I have called you by name and you are mine.”
- 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: Let us pray.  
Only the hungry search for bread.  
Only the thirsty look for water.  
This is a place for those who are hungry and thirsty in spirit.
- Only those who ache for meaning will pursue it.  
Only those who yearn for a deeper life will seek it.  
This is a place for those who ache and yearn for something more.
- God of Life, we have come here today with our hunger and thirst,  
our unsatisfied longings, and our heart-felt yearnings,  
trusting that you will satisfy our souls.
- C: **Amen.**

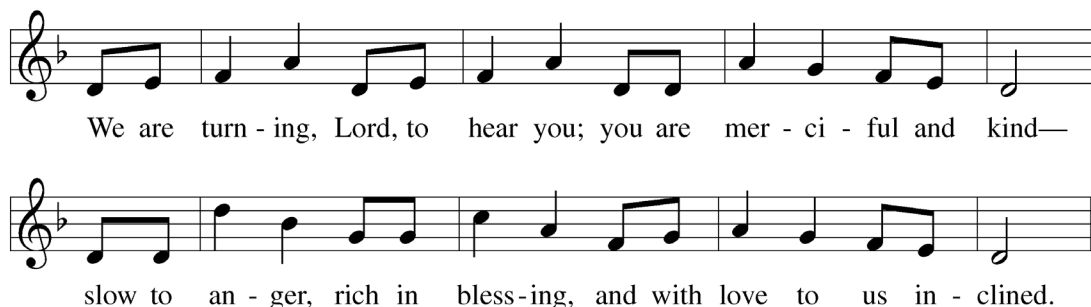
### The First Reading

Isaiah 55:1-9

### Gospel Acclamation

*“We Are Turning, Lord, to Hear You”*

Daniel Pietruszka

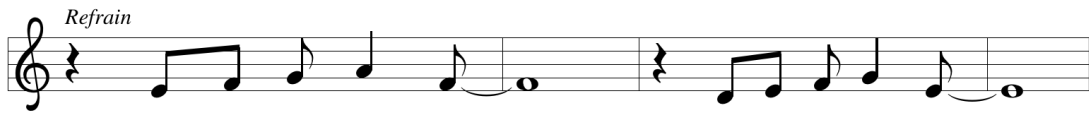


### The Gospel

Luke 13:1-9

### The Message

*Refrain*



Change my heart, O God; make it ev - er true.

*End*




Change my heart, O God; may I be like you.



You are the pot - ter; I am the clay.

*Refrain*



Mold me and make me; this is what I pray.

## Affirmation of Faith

L: Let us affirm our faith.

**C: We believe in Jesus Christ,  
Son of the One God,  
Maker and sustainer of earth, sea, and sky.  
Born of Mary's womb,  
Faithful to the God of Abraham and Sarah,  
Jesus healed the sick,  
Served the poor,  
And proclaimed the reign of God in the world.  
Condemned by the religious  
And crucified by the state,  
He died,  
But transformed even death  
And rose to life everlasting.  
He blessed the disciples with his Holy Spirit  
And sent them forth,  
East and west, north and south.  
We commit ourselves to Jesus,  
To one another and to his mission in the world  
In the grace of the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

## Prayers of the People of God

L: Let us pray. Lord, you are merciful and kind, abounding in steadfast love, calling us into a new way of being, and giving us so many second chances in life. May your love wash over us, as we turn toward you and away from all that leads us from abundant life. Like clay from the earth, mold us to be people of compassion and forgiveness in the world in which we live.

L: Lord, in your mercy,

**C: Hear our prayer.**

L: We pray for those leaders of the world who are tempted by the lure of power, without considering the cost to others. We pray for those at the root of conflict, division, and violence whose desire to have things their way prevents them listening to your voice of peace. We pray for the country and the people of Ukraine as they stand against the Russian invasion of their country.

L: Lord, in your mercy,

**C: Hear our prayer.**

L: We pray for those whom we know, for whom illness, frailness or bereavement have left them isolated and cut off from the joy, support and encouragement of human encounter.

L: We especially pray for:

- |                     |                         |
|---------------------|-------------------------|
| ▪ Val Allred        | ▪ Joyce Quigley         |
| ▪ Lemont Bell       | ▪ Beverly Rector        |
| ▪ Marie Childress   | ▪ Joyce Reed            |
| ▪ Inez Easley       | ▪ Brenda Reid           |
| ▪ Charliese Eichler | ▪ Shannon Roberson      |
| ▪ Abby Hibbeler     | ▪ L.D. Shockley         |
| ▪ Donnell Horton    | ▪ Reponda Smith         |
| ▪ Waylon Kuklantz   | ▪ Kelly Taylor          |
| ▪ Ray Matthews      | ▪ Jackie Torrence       |
| ▪ Russ McKittrick   | ▪ Renda Torrence        |
| ▪ Andrew Milholland | ▪ David Townsend        |
| ▪ Dave Miller       | ▪ Laura Tucker          |
| ▪ Carolyn Osborne   | ▪ Debbie Vick           |
| ▪ Leo Peeler        | ▪ Herbert Watson        |
| ▪ Chip Priser       | ▪ Renate Wilson         |
| ▪ Jesse Priser      | ▪ Sara & Ralph Yarberry |

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, Steven, Amanda, Robert H, Dennis Lakeya, Donnell, Ricky, Robert S, and Thobour.

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

- Kim Solaris, friend of Laura Torrence, died February 25.
- Bobby McKittrick, uncle of Russ McKittrick, died February 24.

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: In your mercy,

**C: Hear our prayer.**

L: Lord God, we journey with Jesus during this Lenten season with the certain hope that you will recreate our world so that all people will live in peace and experience justice. We pray all of these things in your name.

**C: Amen**

---

SHARING THE MEAL

---

**Offertory**

*“Be Thou Near to Me”*

Daniel Pietruszka

**Word of Institution**

**The Lord’s Prayer (*sung*)**

**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

---

## Benediction

L: Look at your hands. See the touch and the tenderness.

C: **God's own for the world.**

L: Look at your feet. See the path and the direction.

C: **God's own for the world.**

L: Look at your heart. See the fire and the love.

C: **God's own for the world.**

L: Look at the cross. See God's Son and Savior.

C: **God's own for the world.**

L: This is God's world,

C: **And we will serve God in it.**

L: May God bless you. May God keep you with great care and lead your lives with great love.

C: **May Christ's warm welcome shine in our lives and his peace fill our hearts and our homes. Amen.**

## Sending Song

*"Leaning on the Everlasting Arms"*

Advance Bells

## Dismissal

L: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**