

LISTENING



below the
noise

SEASON OF LENT

Advent Lutheran Church
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March 6, 2022

Pastoral Welcome

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”

Annette Nolan

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: Holy God, reveal your presence to us this day as we walk with your Son, Jesus Christ, in the season of Lent. Through all of life’s trials and tribulations your Word sustains us for the journey ahead. Send your Spirit upon us that we might listen, discern, and take heart. Be near us this day and may your Word dwell with us forevermore.

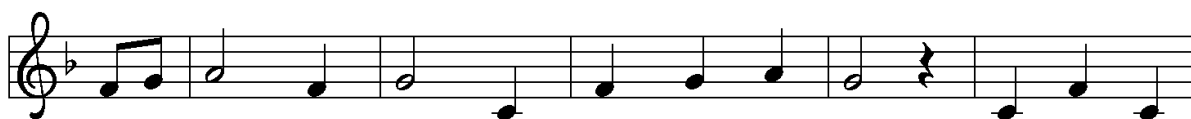
C: Amen.

The First Reading

Deuteronomy 26:1-11

Gospel Acclamation “We Are Turning, Lord, to Hear You”

Rob Beyersdorf



The Message

Song of the Day

“Out in the Wilderness”

Rob Beyersdorf



1 Driv - en by the Spir - it out in the wil - der - ness;
 2 Tempt - ed by the dev - il out in the wil - der - ness;
 3 An - gels all a - round you out in the wil - der - ness;
 4 “You are my be - lov - ed” out in the wil - der - ness.



driv - en by the Spir - it out in the wil - der - ness;
 tempt - ed by the dev - il out in the wil - der - ness;
 an - gels all a - round you out in the wil - der - ness;
 “You are my be - lov - ed” out in the wil - der - ness.



when the Spir - it says, “Go,” you can’t say, “No.”
 though you try to be strong, it’s been so long.
 you are far . . . from home where wild things roam.
 When you were . . . bap - tized, you re - a - lized



You lis - ten for the voice when you’re bend - ed low;
 He whis - pers in your ear and you know he’s wrong;
 There’s dan - ger ev - ’ry - where but you’re not a - lone;
 you’d heard the voice of God from the o - p’ning skies:



driv - en by the Spir - it out in the wil - der - ness.
 tempt - ed by the dev - il out in the wil - der - ness.
 an - gels all a - round you out in the wil - der - ness.
 “You are my be - lov - ed” out in the wil - der - ness.

Text: Jay Beech

Music: OUT IN THE WILDERNESS, Jay Beech

Text and music © 1999 Jay Beech

Commissioning of Lay Pastors

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. Loving Jesus, who spent 40 days in the wilderness alone, help us now in this time of prayer to come alongside others as we pray for them and with them, especially those who may feel isolated, alone, tested and tempted as you were.

A brief silence.

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: May the gift of your life,

C: meet us in the wilderness.

L: We pray for those in the world who through the greed and unequal distribution of the world's wealth are hungry and thirsty. We pray for those who are denied education and health care. We pray for those who are denied freedom of speech and suffer persecution for sharing the good news of Christ.

L: May the gift of your life,

C: meet us in the wilderness.

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 | ▪ Leo Peeler |
| ▪ Lemont Bell | ▪ Chip Priser |
| ▪ J.C. Bunn | ▪ Jesse Priser |
| ▪ Rajiv & Ashish Choudhrie | ▪ Joyce Quigley |
| ▪ Tommy Currin | ▪ Beverly Rector |
| ▪ Seena Drapala | ▪ Brenda Reid |
| ▪ Inez Easley | ▪ Shannon Roberson |
| ▪ Charliese Eichler | ▪ L.D. Shockley |
| ▪ Abby Hibbeler | ▪ Reponda Smith |
| ▪ Donnell Horton | ▪ Kelly Taylor |
| ▪ Waylon Kuklantz | ▪ Jackie Torrence |
| ▪ Ray Matthews | ▪ Renda Torrence |
| ▪ Russ McKittrick | ▪ David Townsend |
| ▪ Andrew Milholland | ▪ Laura Tucker |
| ▪ Dave Miller | ▪ Debbie Vick |
| ▪ Da hood (Daoud) & Da hair | ▪ Herbert Watson |
| (Dahare)Nassar | ▪ Velia Watson |
| ▪ Carolyn Osborne | ▪ Renate Wilson |
| ▪ Donna Parrish | |

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: Demarkas, Aleisha, Micchicco, Barbet, Albert, Steven, Robert, Larry, Terry, and Lakeya

- L: We remember and celebrate the lives of those who have died, especially:
- Richard Schulz, brother-in-law of Dan & Jan Otolski, died February 10.
 - Michael Train, former member of Advent, died January 26.
 - 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: May the gift of your life,
- C: meet us in the wilderness.**
- L: Loving Jesus, may the gift of your life, bring us out of the wilderness and into the fullness of your grace; that inspired and strengthened by your love we might mirror that love to the world.
- C: Amen**

SHARING THE MEAL

Offertory

“Let Us Break Bread Together”

Annette Nolan

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.**

Lead me, guide me, along the way;
For if you lead me, I cannot stray.
Lord, let me walk each day with Thee.
Lead me, O Lord, lead me.

I am weak and I need Thy strength and power,
To help me over my weakest hour.
Help me through the darkness Thy face to see.
Lead me, O Lord, lead me.

Lead me, guide me, along the way,
For if you lead me, I cannot stray.
Lord let me walk each day with Thee.
Lead me, O Lord, lead me.

Help me tread in the paths of righteousness,
Be my aid when Satan and sin oppress.
I am putting all my trust in Thee.
Lead me, O Lord, lead me.

Lead me, guide me, along the way,
For if you lead me, I cannot stray.
Lord let me walk each day with Thee.
Lead me, O Lord, lead me.

I am lost if you take your hand from me,
I am blind without Thy light to see.
Lord, just always let me thy servant be.
Lead me, O Lord, lead me.

Lead me, guide me, along the way,
For if you lead me, I cannot stray.
Lord let me walk each day with Thee.
Lead me, O Lord, lead me.

Dismissal

L: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**