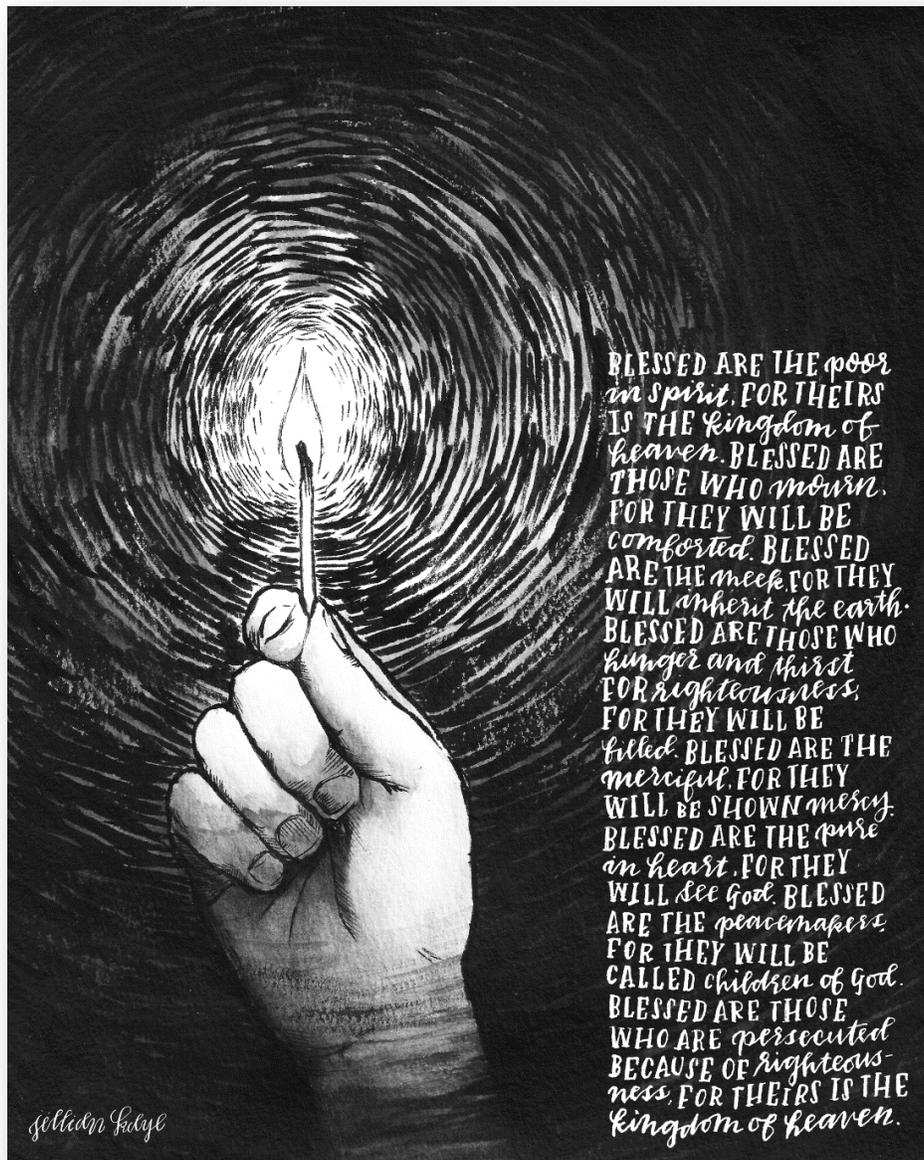


Season of Epiphany



January 22, 2023

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

www.adventlu.org

GATHERING FOR WORSHIP

Pastoral Welcome

Prelude

"Change My Heart, O God"

Annette Nolan

Confession and Forgiveness

L: We gather in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

L: Let us confess together.

C: God, we confess that sometimes we prefer to hide under cover of darkness where we justify our actions and behaviors as if they were secret and hidden from you.

We become calloused by our apathy.

We become complicit by our silence.

We become co-opted by our desires.

But, your light of true freedom shines *even* in the darkness, calling us to a more excellent way.

(Silence for reflection and self-examination)

L: God has forgiven you all your sins in Jesus Christ and filled you with the power of the Holy Spirit. May your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify God 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: Let us pray. Lord Jesus, light of new life, bringer of grace and hope, you came to the fishermen when the prophet John was taken away. Come to us now, as we fear losses of our own. Grant us courage to cast aside the nets that bind us, to follow you into true freedom and newness of life. Help us to be faithful disciples, that we might inspire others to follow in your ways.

C: Amen.

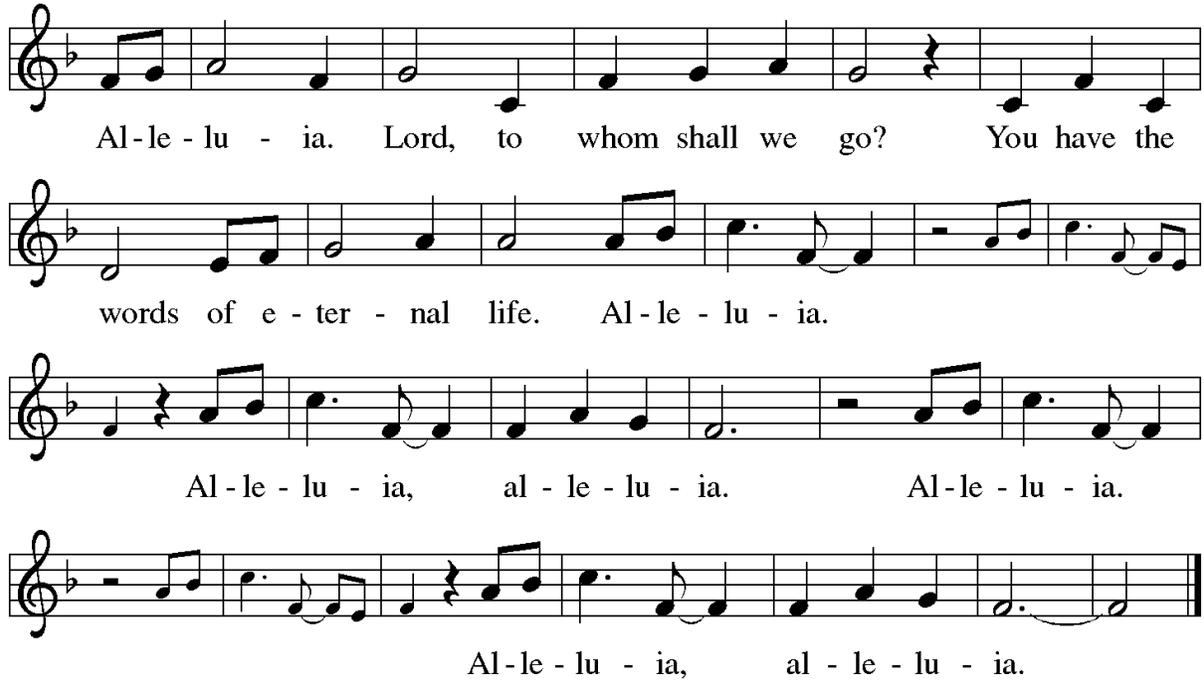
The First Reading

Isaiah 9:1-4

L: Word of God, Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God!

The Gospel Acclamation



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

Matthew 4:12-23

The Message



1 "I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my peo - ple cry.
 2 "I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my peo - ple's pain.
 3 "I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame.



All who dwell in dark and sin my hand will save.
 I have wept for love of them. They turn a - way.
 I will set a feast for them. My hand will save.



I, who made the stars of night, I will make their dark-ness bright.
 I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love a - lone.
 Fin-est bread I will pro-vide till their hearts be sat - is - fied.



Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?"
 I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send?"
 I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?"



Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you



call-ing in the night. I will go, Lord, if you



lead me. I will hold your peo - ple in my heart.

Affirmation of Faith for Epiphany Season

I believe in God, the creator of the universe,
who spoke, "Let there be light!" and there was light,
setting in motion all of creation and blessing it to this day.

I believe in Jesus Christ,
the Light that shines in the darkness,
And the darkness cannot overcome it.
He embodied humanity in the image of God,
and suffered for the greater good.
He atoned for our sins
and died on the cross for us,
God's saving grace!

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the guiding light of God in our world.
Through his spirit,
God conquers the darkness of human sin,
helps people grow and become the people they are meant to be.
I believe in the power of transformation,
here in this world and in the world to come. Amen.

Prayers of the Faithful

L: Let us pray.
Lord Jesus, light of new life,
bringer of grace and hope,
we place every need into your healing hands:
our loved ones, our enemies, ourselves,
our work, our congregation, our denomination,
our community, our nation, our world,
our hopes, our security, our failures, and our future.
Let us walk:

C: In the light of the Lord.

L: Lord Jesus, we pray for the unity of your Church.
Help us to see ourselves as rays from the one sun, branches of a single tree,
and streams flowing from one river. May we remain united to you and to each
other, because you are our common source of life; and may we send out your light
and pour forth your flowing streams over all the earth, drawing our inspiration and
joy from you.
Let us walk:

C: In the light of the Lord.

L: Lord Jesus, you are close to those who are need of healing and those who are recovering from illness and surgery. You spent your ministry restoring many to health and bringing comfort to those suffering. Bless all that is being done for the health of those for whom we pray.

L: We especially pray for:

- Larry Cartin
- Terence Connelly
- Charliese Eichler
- Edith Frisina
- Vincent Frisina Sr.
- Dwight Hartsell
- Ann Hess
- Bernie Hess
- Carol Hollingsworth
- Gary Homesley
- Donnell Horton
- Andy Jacobs
- Marc Jensen
- Bob Keen
- Ashley King
- Waylon Kuklantz
- LouAnn & Allen Lamb
- Kevin Middleton
- Ron Middleton
- Jacob Mosher
- Jane Ogilvie
- Joyce Quigley
- Carol Schierlmann
- Michael Searing
- Ron Stemple
- David Townsend
- Laura Tucker
- Michelle Veit
- Augustin Villacis
- Laverne Waskielis
- Herbert Watson
- Renate Wilson
- Chuck Wolfe

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: Ronica, Carol, Erica, Terra, Willie Mae, Amy, Selbrani, Annie, Kymber-Leigh, Taka

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

- Robert Weitzel, father of Diane Large, on January 15

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: Let us walk:

C: In the light of the Lord

L: Lord Jesus, light of new life, bringer of grace and hope, we place every need into your healing hands for it is there we will find rest and wholeness. Hallelujah, Glory to your Holy Name.

C: Amen

SHARING THE MEAL

Offering

(Please sign and pass the pew pads)

Offertory Song

Table Prayer

- L: God of grace, all you have made is good and your love endures forever. By your very breath you give us life and by your hand you bring forth bread from the earth and fruit from the vine.
- C: **Nourish us with these gifts, that we might be for the world living signs of your gracious presence in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

Words of Institution

***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 *(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.

Communion Songs

ELW #483 *"Here Is Bread"*

ELW #752 *"Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying"*

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

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.

Sending Song

ELW #671 "Shine, Jesus, Shine"

Chorus

Shine, Jesus, shine
Fill this land with the Father's glory
Blaze, Spirit, blaze,
Set our hearts on fire

Flow, river, flow
Flood the nations with grace and mercy
Send forth Your Word, Lord
And let there be light.

Lord the light of Your love is shining
In the midst of the darkness, shining
Jesus, Light of the world, shine upon us
Set us free by the truth You now bring us
Shine on me
Shine on me.

Chorus

As we gaze on Your kingly brightness.
So our faces display Your likeness.
Ever changing from glory to glory,
Mirrored here may our lives tell Your story.
Shine on me
Shine on me.

Chorus

CCLI Song # 30426 Graham Kendrick
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Dismissal

- L:** Go in peace. Serve the Lord.
- C:** **Thanks be to God.**