

Gather Us, O God



Advent to Gather
Advent Together

Advent Lutheran Church
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Pastoral Welcome

Prelude “Holy, Holy, Holy” (arr. Jim Brickman) Annette Nolan

Call to Worship

L: Gather us, O God

C: And we will know your life that makes us one.

L: Gather us, God

C: And we will celebrate our variety and uniqueness.

L: Gather us, God

C: And we will give you the pain of our brokenness.

L: Gather us, God

C: And we will share the gifts of your Spirit.

L: Trinity of love braid us as one

C: That our brokenness be healed by you

That our fears be held by you

That our gifts be used by you

That our lives be offered to you

So that the world may know your reign of love. Amen.

Sharing the Peace

L: Where people squabble

C: Peace be among us.

L: Where races fight

C: Peace be among us.

L: Where neighbors argue

C: Peace be among us.

L: Where nations disagree

C: Peace be among us.

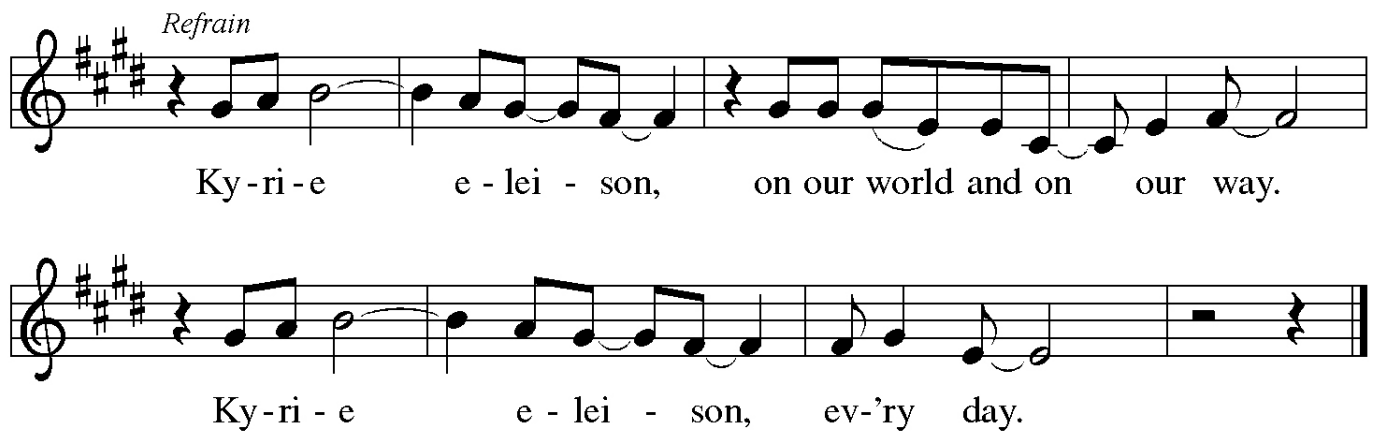
L: Where Christ's disciples gather

C: Peace be our way.

L: The peace of the Lord be with you.

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

Refrain



Ky-ri - e e - lei - son, on our world and on our way.

Ky-ri - e e - lei - son, ev-'ry day.

Prayer of the Day (*St. Patrick's Breastplate*)

L: I arise today
Through a mighty strength, the invocation of the Trinity,
Through belief in the Threeness,
Through confession of the Oneness
of the Creator of creation.

I arise today
Through the strength of Christ's birth with his baptism,
Through the strength of his crucifixion with his burial,
Through the strength of his resurrection with his ascension,
Through the strength of his descent for the judgment of doom.

I arise today
Through the strength of the love of cherubim,
In the obedience of angels,
In the service of archangels,
In the hope of resurrection to meet with reward,
In the prayers of patriarchs,
In the predictions of prophets,
In the preaching of apostles,
In the faith of confessors,
In the deeds of righteous men.

I arise today, through
The strength of heaven,
The light of the sun,
The radiance of the moon,
The splendor of fire,

The speed of lightning,
The swiftness of wind,
The depth of the sea,
The stability of the earth,
The firmness of rock.

I arise today, through
God's strength to pilot me,
God's might to uphold me,
God's wisdom to guide me,
God's eye to look before me,
God's ear to hear me,
God's word to speak for me,
God's hand to guard me,
God's shield to protect me,
afar and near.

Christ with me,
Christ before me,
Christ behind me,
Christ in me,
Christ beneath me,
Christ above me,
Christ on my right,
Christ on my left,
Christ when I lie down,
Christ when I sit down,
Christ when I arise,
Christ in the heart of everyone who thinks of me,
Christ in the mouth of everyone who speaks of me,
Christ in every eye that sees me,
Christ in every ear that hears me.

I arise today
Through a mighty strength, the invocation of the Trinity,
Through belief in the Threeness,
Through confession of the Oneness
of the Creator of creation.

C: Amen.

The First Reading

Isaiah 6:1-8

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

John 3:1-17

The Message

Song of the Day

"Come, Join the Dance of Trinity"

Rob Beyersdorf

The Iona Abbey Creed

L: Now let us confess our faith with the words of the Iona Creed:

**C: We believe in God above us,
maker and sustainer of all life,
of sun and moon, water and earth,
of the breadth and beauty of all humanity.**

**We believe in God beside us, Jesus Christ,
the Word made flesh, born of a woman, servant of the poor,
tortured and nailed to a tree.**

A man of sorrows, he died forsaken.

He descended into the earth to the place of death.

On the third day he rose from the tomb.

**He ascended into heaven to be everywhere present,
and His kingdom will come on earth.**

**We believe in God within us,
the Holy Spirit of Pentecostal fire,
Life-giving breath of the church,
Spirit of healing and forgiveness,
Source of resurrection and of eternal life. Amen**

Prayers of the Faithful

L: Lord God of hosts, you are always asking, “Whom shall I send?” Give each of us the courage of Isaiah to respond, “Here am I, send me.”

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of hosts:

C: The whole earth is full of your glory.

L: You are beautiful, Lord God, because you are holy, and your voice is all powerful. Give strength to your people and give the blessings of your peace to the world you created. Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of hosts:

C: The whole earth is full of your glory.

L: Lord Jesus Christ, you speak to us of heavenly things, even when we are most interested in earthly things. Speak to us in the night-times of our lives, that we may learn the way and the will of your Holy Spirit. Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of hosts:

C: The whole earth is full of your glory.

L: Almighty Lord God, give to the leaders of the world and of our country a vision of the future that is both imaginative and realistic and respectful of the dignity of all people. We pray for all those caught in the middle of the ongoing conflict between Israel and the Palestinians living in Gaza. In all our decisions, help us to bear witness to the values of the gospel and to be involved in the work of freedom, integrity and justice. Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of hosts:

C: The whole earth is full of your glory.

L: Lord God of mercy and care, you created us in your image. Help us see your likeness in one another. Open our eyes to see and attend to all those who struggle, suffer, and are in pain or sorrow.

L: We especially pray for:

- | | |
|---------------------|----------------------|
| ▪ Augustin Aragon | ▪ Andrew Hunt |
| ▪ Ashton family | ▪ Chris Jackson |
| ▪ Lemont Bell | ▪ Waylon Kuklantz |
| ▪ Lee Chandler | ▪ Teresa Ledford |
| ▪ Dallas Collins | ▪ Amy Leonard |
| ▪ Alpha Omega Curry | ▪ Ray Matthews |
| ▪ Deborah DuBose | ▪ Lynn McClurkin |
| ▪ Dee Dunlap | ▪ Hilda Mertz |
| ▪ Natalie Eklund | ▪ Justin Mertz |
| ▪ Linda Foley | ▪ Rick Messina |
| ▪ Eileen Folkerth | ▪ Lucy Mullis |
| ▪ Donnell Horton | ▪ Chris Musial |
| ▪ Houston family | ▪ Charlotte Nodine & |
| ▪ Nylah Howard | Wanda Cook |

- Leo Peeler
- Calvin Roberson
- Shannon Roberson
- Richard Schulz
- David Townsend
- Herbert Watson
- Naomi Watson
- Jenny Weems
- Beverly Williams
- Lewis Williams
- Renate Wilson

L: We now pray aloud or in the silence of our hearts for those we wish to name (*give time for community to pray*).

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

- Delsey Maples, friend of Jennifer & Vince Frisina
- Linda Merry, former member of Advent
- Ralph Weis, father of Karen Taylor

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: Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of hosts:

C: The whole earth is full of your glory.

L: Almighty Lord God, from whom all life comes and to whom all life returns, we remember on this Memorial Day weekend all who served our country in the military and give thanks for sacrifices made and losses endured. We remember and give thanks for the acts of courage, grace and hope. We remember and give thanks for our brothers and sisters who gave the full measure of devotion. We give thanks for the life, goodness, faith, courage, and love that was in each one of them. We pray for families and friends and all who grieve for loved ones who have died. Meet them in the valley of death's shadow. Embrace them in the healing warmth of your comfort, grace and love. Grant them and all of us the assurance that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Almighty Lord God, we pray for the day when swords are beaten into plowshares, war is studied no more, and all people and your world will know peace. By your Spirit's power, grant us the courage, the perseverance, and the faith as we work for that day of shalom. Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of hosts:

C: The whole earth is full of your glory.

L: Come Holy Spirit, come with your life-giving care and joy.

C: Amen.

SHARING THE MEAL

Preparing the Table

“Holy Spirit, Rain Down”

Laura Torrence

Invitation to the Table

L: The table of bread and wine is now made ready. It is the table of company with Jesus, and all who love him. It is the table of sharing with the poor of the world, with whom Jesus identified himself. It is the table of communion with the earth, in which Jesus became fully human. So come to the table, all who have much faith and all who would like to have more; all who have been here often and all who have not been in a long time; all who have tried to follow Jesus, and all who have fallen short. Come. It is Christ who invites us all to meet him here.

C: **Amen**

The Words of Institution

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.**

SENDING GOD'S PEOPLE

Benediction

L: May you never feel alone in the struggle for justice and peace.
May you know the support of family, friends, and people who feel as passionately about the world as you do.

May you feel a part of the great cloud of witnesses, who through the ages, did God's work and prayed for the coming of the Kingdom.

May you never feel alone.

And if you do, may you carry in your heart the words of Jesus, who told his friends: "I am with you always."

C: **Amen.**

Sending Song

"Firm Foundation"

Annette Nolan & Debbie Poovey

Dismissal

L: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God**