

Gather Us, O God



Advent to Gather
Advent Together

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Pastoral Welcome

Prelude

"Give Thanks"

Morning Chimes

Prayers for Fathers

- L: L: Gather us, O God
C: And we will know your life that makes us one.
L: Gather us, O God
C: And we will celebrate our variety and uniqueness.
L: Gather us, O God
C: And we will give you the pain of our brokenness.
L: Gather us, O 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

L: Mighty God, who speaks a word of peace to calm our troubled sea;
Caring God, who nudges us away from fear and toward faith;
Ever-present God, who fills us with awe,
but also raises many questions
without easy answers:
Open our eyes to see you in our boat,
Strengthen our hearts for the challenges that lie ahead, and
Open our ears to hear the word you speak to us.
In name of Jesus Christ our Lord, we pray.

C: Amen.

The First Reading

Job 38:1-11

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 Message

Song of the Day

“Precious Lord, Take My Hand”

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: God, you have been our resting-place through the ages.
Generations come and pass away, but you abide forever.
We praise you for your presence among us.
You bring us comfort amid our trials, clarity where confusion persists,
peace in the midst of conflict and hope of eternal life.
Hear us now as we pray for your church and the needs of the world,
for you are the God of our lives.

Time of silence.

L: God, we pray for the church – the community of believers throughout the world –
that we may be true, engaging, glad, and actively doing your will. Let your church
be always faithful, and ready to promote the cause of compassionate love and
peace.

Lord, hear our prayer

C: and in your love, answer.

L: God, we pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world.
We pray that everywhere upon this earth there may be justice and peace.
Lord, hear our prayer

C: and in your love, answer.

L: God, we pray for all people in their daily life and work—for our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone. We name before you individuals and families experiencing personal hardship or facing an uncertain future, those who are separated from loved ones, those who grieve this today, and those who are sick in the hospital or ill at home. Hear us now as we lift up those people and those situations you have placed upon our hearts.

L: We especially pray for:

- Ashton family
- Lemont Bell
- Lee Chandler
- Dallas Collins
- Alpha Omega Curry
- Dee Dunlap
- Charliese Eichler
- Eileen Folkerth
- Jennifer Frisina
- Margerite Heming
- Donnell Horton
- Houston family
- Nylah Howard
- Andrew Hunt
- Waylon Kuklantz
- GiGi Logan
- Elsie Mason
- Ray Matthews
- Lynn McClurkin
- Hilda Mertz
- Justin Mertz
- Lucy Mullis
- Chris Musial
- Charlotte Nodine & Wanda Cook
- Leo Peeler
- Noel Petrea
- Calvin Roberson
- Shannon Roberson
- Richard Schulz
- David Townsend
- Laura Tucker
- Joyce Veit
- Herbert Watson
- Naomi Watson
- Beverly Williams
- Lewis Williams
- Renate Wilson

L: We now pray aloud or in the silence of our hearts for those we wish to name.

Time for the community to pray.

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

- H. L. Propst, uncle of Debra Efird
- Chris Jackson, frequent visitor of Advent

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: We give thanks:

- For the birth of Theodore Clyde Hedges on June 11, grandson of Don and Toni Hagerman
- For the news from Rick Messina’s doctors that his cancer is now in remission

L: Lord, hear our prayer

C: and in your love, answer.

L: God, in your love, hear all our prayers—both the spoken and unsaid. May our prayers further your purposes for us and for all whom we have prayed, and bring us to that place where we may experience the joy that has been given to your faithful down through the ages—a joy everlasting.

C: Amen.

SHARING THE MEAL

Preparing the Table

“Let Us Break Bread Together”

Annette Nolan

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

"What a Fellowship"

Daniel Pietruszka

Dismissal

L: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God**