



ADVENT

LUTHERAN CHURCH

June 25, 2023

Advent Lutheran Church

8840 University City Blvd., Charlotte, North Carolina 28213

Phone: 704-549-1555 Website: www.adventlu.org

“Love God, Serve Neighbor”

GATHERING FOR WORSHIP

Pastoral Welcome

Prelude *“When Peace Like a River/The Water is Wide”* (Arr. Rachel Trelstad Porter)

Call to Worship

L: God of compassion, gather us,

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

L: God of beauty, gather us,

C: And we will celebrate our variety and uniqueness.

L: God of healing, gather us,

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

L: God of grace, gather us,

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: Not an easy peace,
not an insignificant peace,
not a halfhearted peace,
but the peace of the Lord be with you all.

C: And also 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.

For peace in the world, for the health of the church, for the unity of all;
For this holy house, for all who worship and praise,
Let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.

Refrain

That we may live out your impassioned response
to the hungry and the poor;
That we may live out . . . truth and justice and grace,
Let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.

Refrain

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 (Prayer for Illumination by Rev. John Buchanan)

- L: Let us pray. God, startle us with your truth and open our hearts and our minds to your wondrous love. Speak your word to us; silence in us any voice but your own and be with us now as we turn our attention, our minds and our hearts, to you, in Jesus Christ our Lord.
- C: **Amen.**

The First Reading

Jeremiah 20:7-13

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 Gospel

Matthew 10:24-39

The Message

Song of the Day

"Lead Me to the Cross"

Saviour I come quiet my soul
Remember redemption's hill
Where Your blood was spilled
For my ransom

Ev'rything I once held dear
I count it all as loss

Lead me to the cross
Where Your love poured out
Bring me to my knees
Lord I lay me down
Rid me of myself
I belong to You
Oh lead me lead me to the cross

You were as I tempted and tried human
The word became flesh
Bore my sin in death
Now You're risen

Ev'rything I once held dear
I count it all as loss

Lead me to the cross
Where Your love poured out
Bring me to my knees
Lord I lay me down
Rid me of myself
I belong to You
Oh lead me lead me to the cross

CCLI Song # 4785828
Brooke Ligertwood

Affirmation of Faith

We believe that God is present,
In the darkness before dawn,
In the waiting and uncertainty,
Where conflict and caring link arms,
Where fear and courage join hands.

We believe in a God who is with us,
Who sits down in our midst
To share our humanity.

We affirm a faith
That takes us beyond a safe place:
Into action, into vulnerability,
And into the places of deepest need.

We commit ourselves to work for change
And to put ourselves on the line.
To bear responsibility, to take risks,
And to face humiliation.
To stand with those on the edge,
to choose life and
to be a community of hope for all people.
Amen.

Prayers of the Faithful

L: Let us pray. Loving God, in whom we live and move and have our being – you call us to journey with you as you journeyed on this earth – in love, in healing, in conflict, in boldness, speaking truth to the powers that be – even the powers that threaten our very lives.

Yet we are often afraid for our lives and reputations. We are often afraid of those who would bully us spiritually, emotionally, and even physically. We are often afraid to identify with you because your name has been used to justify harm to those who are marginalized and misrepresented.

Loving God, whose eye is ever on the sparrow, sustain us by your presence as we follow the way of discipleship and find true life in Jesus Christ. Lord, as you call us,

C: make us worthy of our calling.

L: Compassionate God, we ask for the strength and courage of the Holy Spirit to stand with all who face injustice and oppression. We pray for all Christians, all minorities, and all other communities who are victims of intolerance, hatred, and religious persecution. We especially pray for our Ukrainian brothers and sisters and for nations dealing with civil conflicts, facing extreme poverty, and plagued by corruption and mistrust. Lord, as you call us,

C: make us worthy of our calling.

L: Living God, we pray for all people in their daily life and work — for our families, friends, neighbors, and for those who are hospitalized or ill at home. Hear us now as we lift up those people and those situations you have placed upon our hearts.

We especially pray for:

- Terence Connelly
- Karen Creasy
- Darrell Easley
- Inez Easley
- Rosemary Martin-Fountain
- Andrea Hankins
- Dwight Hartsell
- Jim Hintz
- Gary Homesley
- Donnell Horton
- Waylon Kuklantz
- Bobbi Larson
- Bonnie Lupton
- Gabe Lynch
- Sara Moeller
- Terry Mosher
- Steve O'Donnell
- Terry Park
 - Daniel Pietruszka
- Tony Poovey
- Joyce Quigley
- Joanna Reilly
- Bishop Tim Smith
- Kelly Taylor
- David Townsend
- Herbert Watson
- 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:

- Dorothy Park, mother of Dave Park, died on June 20
- Bill Reed, friend of Shannon Roberson, died June 21.

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: Lord, as you call us,

C: make us worthy of our calling.

L: Gracious God, we offer these prayers to you, those spoken and those still unknown to us. Give us peace to trust you with the timing and the answers you provide. We ask all these things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

C: Amen.

SHARING THE MEAL

Offering *(Please sign and pass the pew pads)*

Offertory Song *"Perfect Peace" (Laura Story)*

Table Prayer

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 *"Come and See"*

L: On the night that Jesus was betrayed, in an upper room. He took the bread and blessed it as he said, "Here's my body broken for you." He took the cup and raised it up on high, bowed his head and prayed. And then he said, "My blood for you is shed, a cleansing stream to wash your sin away."

Congregational Response

1 Come and see the glo - ry of the Lord. Come, be - hold the
 2 Come and give thanks un - to the Lord. Come, be - hold the

Lamb. Come and see the mer - cy of the King,
 Lamb. Come and sing the prais - es of the King,

Lord a - bove the heav - ens, Lord in all the earth,

Lord of all the an - gels, wor - thy to be served.

Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia, Lord.

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.

"Lamb of God"

1 Lamb of God, you take a - way the
 2 Lamb of God, I'm ask - ing you to
 (3) pre - cious blood of Je - sus Christ

sin of the world. Lamb of God, you
 take a - way my sin. I con - fess that
 cleans - es me from sin. The pre - cious blood of

take a - way the sin of the world.
 I've done wrong, I need your help a - gain.
 Je - sus Christ cleans - es me from sin.

Refrain
 Lord, have mer - cy, Christ, have mer - cy, Lord, have
 mer - cy on me. Lord, have mer - cy, Christ, have

Last time to coda ♪
 mer - cy, have mer - cy on me. 3 The

♪ *Coda*
 Lord, have mer - cy on me.

Communion Song

"What Grace is Mine

(Keith and Kristyn Getty)

Communion Song ELW #781 "Children of the Heavenly Father"



Tryg - ga - re kan ing - en va - ra än Guds lil - la bar - na - ska - ra,
1 Chil - dren of the heav'n-ly Fa - ther safe - ly in his bo - som gath - er;
2 God his own doth tend and nour-ish, in his ho - ly courts they flour - ish.
3 Nei - ther life nor death shall ev - er from the Lord his chil - dren sev - er;
4 Though he giv - eth or he tak - eth, God his chil - dren ne'er for - sak - eth;



stjär - nan ej på him - la - fäs - tet, få - geln ej i kän - da näs - tet.
nest - ling bird nor star in heav - en such a ref - uge e'er was giv - en.
From all e - vil things he spares them, in his might - y arms he bears them.
un - to them his grace he show - eth, and their sor - rows all he know - eth.
his the lov - ing pur - pose sole - ly to pre - serve them pure and ho - ly.

The Blessing

L: 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

Installation of Council and Congregational Leaders

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


ELW #660 "Lift High the Cross"



Lift high the cross, the love of Christ pro - claim till




all the world a - dore his sa - cred name.



1 Come, Chris - tians, fol - low where our cap - tain trod,
2 All new - born ser - vants of the Cru - ci - fied
3 O Lord, oncc lift - ed on the glo - rious tree,
4 So shall our song of tri - umph cv - er be:

Refrain



our king vic - to - rious, Christ, the Son of God.
bear on their brows the seal of him who died.
as thou hast prom - ised, draw us all to thee.
praise to the Cru - ci - fied for vic - to - ry!

Dismissal

L: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**