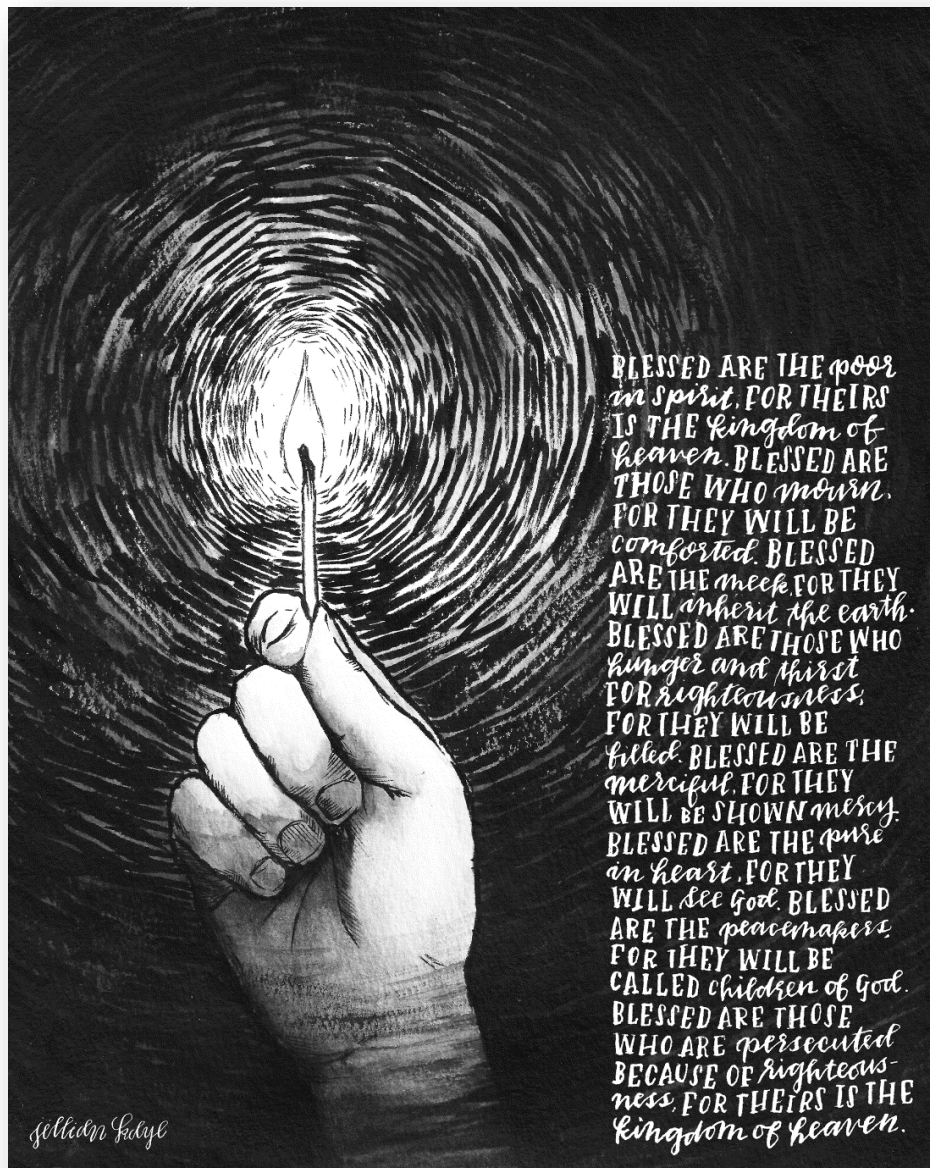


Season of Epiphany



February 12, 2023

Advent Lutheran Church

8840 University City Blvd

Charlotte, NC 28213

(704) 549-1555

www.adventlu.org

GATHERING FOR WORSHIP

Pastoral Welcome

Prelude

"Pass It On"

Annette Nolan

Affirmation of Baptism

L: We begin by making the sign that was made on the day of our baptisms.
We gather in the name of the Father, and of the Son + and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

L: As we see the light the Christ candle, we remember the words that were said when we were baptized:

C: Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

L: Brothers and sisters, in Baptism, God brings us into his family and calls us his own. By Baptism, God gives us the gifts of faith, love, life, forgiveness, and strength, and asks to respond in faithfulness to him and in service to others.

I ask those who are affirming their baptisms today, do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in Holy Baptism:

- to live among God's faithful people;
- to hear his Word and share in his supper;
- to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed,
- to serve all people, following the example of our Lord Jesus,
- and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth.

C: I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.

L: Let us pray. We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit, you give us new birth, cleanse us from sin, and raise us to eternal life. Stir up in your people the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and 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, make me an instrument of your peace:

where there is hatred, let me sow love;

where there is injury, pardon;

where there is doubt, faith;

where there is despair, hope;

where there is darkness, light;

where there is sadness, joy.

Grant that I may not so much seek

to be consoled as to console,

to be understood as to understand,

to be loved as to love.

For it is in giving that we receive,

it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,

and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

C: Amen.

The First Reading

Deuteronomy 30:15-20

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 5:1-12

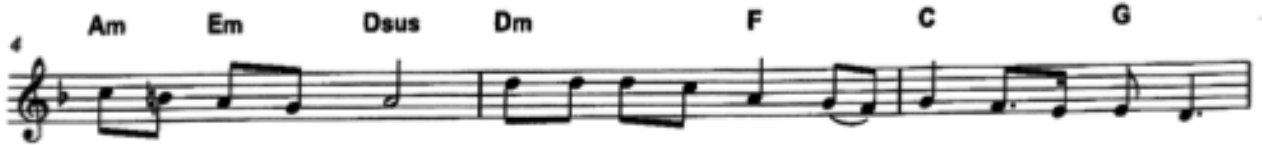
The Message

Song of the Day

"Christ in Me Arise"



Christ in me a-rise and dis-pel all the dark-ness. Christ in me a-rise with Your



pow-er and Your strength. Christ in me pour out Your_ bless-ing and heal-ing.



Christ in me a-rise and I shall rise with You.



1 Be now my vi-sion, o-pen these eyes, show-ing me all that I must
2 Be now my foot-steps, lead-ing the way, tak-ing me where_ I must



see; On-ward to the king-dom, You are the way; A -
go. On-ward to the king-dom, You are the way; A -



rise in me and I shall rise with You.
rise in me and I shall rise with

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

Prayers of the Faithful

L: Let us pray. God of life and of truth, your Son, Jesus, invites us to see the world through your eyes and we find ourselves disoriented:
You bless the poor in spirit. You bless those who mourn.
You bless the meek. You bless the pure in heart.
You bless those who are persecuted for justice.
You turn our world and its values upside down.

We sit at Jesus' feet, so we can learn to follow the way of the kingdom. Awaken in us that hunger and thirst for you which will lead us to do your will and seek your peace.

(Silence)

L: God of life and of truth, we pray for the poor of our world, for whom the kingdom of heaven often seems distant and unattainable. We pray for those who are without homes and for the issues of affordable housing in our city. We specifically pray for our guests at Room in the Inn this past Monday: Audrey, Jessica, Terra, Amy, Jashia, Selbrani, Annie, Wanda, Vanessa, Nelly. Blessed are the poor in spirit,
C: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

L: God of life and of truth, we pray for the poor of our world, for whom the kingdom of heaven often seems distant and unattainable. We pray for those who are without homes and for the issues of affordable housing in our city. We specifically pray for our guests at Room in the Inn this past Monday: Carol, Erica, Angola, Selbrani, Annie, Kymber-Leigh, Tina, Wanda, Nelly, Regina. Blessed are the poor in spirit,

C: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

L: God of life and truth, we pray for those who face persecution and violence, for whom peace, safety, and security seem fleeting. We pray for our Ukrainian brothers and sisters and for the countries of Ethiopia, Afghanistan, Yemen, Israel-Palestine, Haiti and Myanmar. Blessed are we and all peacemakers in this world,

C: for we will be called your children.

L: God of life and truth, we pray for those who mourn and seek healing in body, mind, and spirit.

L: We especially pray for:

- | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------|
| ▪ Larry Cartin | ▪ Jane Ogilvie |
| ▪ Terence Connelly | ▪ Terry Park |
| ▪ Charliese Eichler | ▪ Kate Peer |
| ▪ Dwight Hartsell | ▪ Emily Pilger |
| ▪ Carol Hollingsworth | ▪ Joyce Quigley |
| ▪ Gary Homesley | ▪ Michael Searing |
| ▪ Donnell Horton | ▪ Bishop Tim Smith |
| ▪ Andy Jacobs | ▪ David Townsend |
| ▪ Ashley King | ▪ Laura Tucker |
| ▪ Waylon Kuklantz | ▪ Augustin Villacis |
| ▪ LouAnn & Allen Lamb | ▪ Laverne Waskielis |
| ▪ Bobbi Larson | ▪ Herbert Watson |
| ▪ Gabe Lynch | ▪ Renate Wilson |
| ▪ Jacob Mosher | ▪ Chuck Wolfe |

L: And for the deepest hopes of our hearts, we pray now.

Time for the community to pray.

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

- Judee Coyle, friend of Mike and Marie Childress, on January 29
- Jeff Bertelson, brother-in-law of Gloria & Fred Strickert, died on February 3

- 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: Let us take a moment of silence to pray for the millions of people in Central Turkey and Northwest Syria whose lives have been devastated by the earthquakes on Monday, Feb 6.
- L: Blessed are all who seek healing and those who mourn,
C: for they will be comforted.
- L: God of life and of truth, we ask these things in the name of your Son, Jesus who blesses us with your living presence and fills our lives with your life-changing truth.
- C: Amen**

SHARING THE MEAL

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

Offertory Song *"One Bread, One Body"* Advanced Bells

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 #638 *"Blessed Assurance"*

ELW #496 *"One Bread, One Body"*

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.**

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 #860 "I'm So Glad"



1 I'm so glad I'm so glad
2 Sa - tan had me bound, Je - sus lift-ed me. Sa - tan had me bound,
3 When I was in trou - ble, When I was in trou - ble,



Je - sus lift-ed me. I'm so glad
Sa - tan had me bound, Je - sus lift-ed me,
When I was in trou - ble,



sing-ing glo - ry, hal - le - lu - jah! Je - sus lift - ed me.

Dismissal

L: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.