

Gather Us, O God



Advent to Gather
Advent Together

Advent Lutheran Church
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Pastoral Welcome

Opening Prayer

L: My Lord God, I have no idea where I am going. I do not see the road ahead of me. I cannot know for certain where it will end. Nor do I really know myself, and the fact that I think that I am following your will does not mean that I am actually doing so. But I believe that the desire to please you does in fact please you. And I hope I have that desire in all that I am doing. I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire. And I know that if I do this you will lead me by the right road, though I may know nothing about it. Therefore, will I trust you always, though I may seem to be lost and in the shadow of death. I will not fear, for you are ever with me, and you will never leave me to face my perils alone.+

Prelude

"Lord, I Lift Your Name on High"

Annette Nolan

Confession and Forgiveness

L: Blessed be God: Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit.

C: And blessed be God's kingdom, now and forever. Amen.

L: My brothers and sisters, the scripture tells us that in moments of stillness we become more aware of God. As we prepare ourselves for confession, we enter a moment of silence and open ourselves to God's presence.

A time of silence.

L: God,

**C: I commit my failures as well as my successes into your hands,
and I bring for your healing the people and the situations,
the wrongs and the hurts of the past.
Give me courage, strength and generosity to let go and move on,
leaving the past behind me, and living the present to the full.
Lead me always to be positive as I entrust the past to your mercy,
the present to your love, and the future to your providence. Amen.+**

P: God, by your forgiveness, you have created in us clean hearts and renewed in us – *once again* – the joy of your Holy Spirit. By faith, take hold of this forgiveness and experience the abundant life of Jesus Christ.

C: Amen

+ *Opening Prayer* written by Thomas Merton.

+ *Confession* attributed to St. Augustine.

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: God, give us wisdom to perceive you, intelligence to understand you, patience to wait for you, eyes to see you, a heart to know you, and a life to proclaim you, through the power of the Spirit of Jesus Christ our Lord.⁺

C: **Amen.**

The First Reading

Isaiah 50:4-9

L: Word of God, Word of Life.

C: **Thanks be to God!**

The Gospel Acclamation

Rob Beyersdorf

Verse 1

Alleluia, alleluia

Alleluia, alleluia

Alleluia, alleluia

Alleluia, alleluia

Verse 2

He's my Savior, alleluia

He's my Savior, alleluia

He's my Savior, alleluia

He's my Savior, alleluia

Verse 1

Alleluia, alleluia

Alleluia, alleluia

Alleluia, alleluia

Alleluia, alleluia

CCLI Song # 16811. Jerry Sinclair

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⁺ *Prayer of Illumination attributed to St. Benedict.*

The Message

Song of the Day

"Lift High the Cross"

Rob Beyersdorf



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, once lift - ed on the glo - rious tree,
 4 So shall our song of tri - umph ev - 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!

Text: George W. Kitchin, 1827–1912; rev. Michael R. Newbolt, 1874–1956
 Music: CRUCIFER, Sydney H. Nicholson, 1875–1947
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Prayers of the Faithful

L: Lord Jesus, you are a Lord who walks beside your people.
 So, we pray for people who walk for justice.
 You are a Lord who raises up those who are bent low.
 So, we pray for those held down by the grindings of life and the indifference of the world.
 You are a Lord who feeds the hungry
 So, we pray for all who long for bread and the means to provide it.
 You are a Lord who celebrates the small and the insignificant.
 So, we pray for the children and for those who are never noticed.
 You are a Lord who says 'Follow me'.
 So, we pray for courage and faith in our hearts that we may take up the cross and find it leads to life.

L: In your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

L: God, our hope and refuge,
in our distress we come quickly to you.
Shock and horror of that tragic day have subsided,
replaced now with an emptiness,
a longing for an innocence lost.

We come remembering those who lost their lives
in New York, Washington D.C., and Pennsylvania.

We are mindful of the sacrifice of public servants
who demonstrated the greatest love of all
by laying down their lives for friends.

We commit their souls to your eternal care
and celebrate their gifts to a fallen humanity.

We come remembering
and we come in hope,
not in ourselves, but in you.

As foundations we once thought secure have been shaken,
we are reminded of the illusion of security.

In commemorating this tragedy,
we give you thanks for your presence
in our time of need
and we seek to worship you in Spirit and in truth,
our guide and our guardian.

L: In your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

L: Gracious God, you call us to hold the needs of our sisters and brothers as dear to us
as our own needs. We pray for all our sisters and brothers who seek comfort,
healing, refuge, rest, peace, wholeness, community, acceptance, and unconditional
love.

L: We especially pray for:

- Amanda Banbridge
- Lemont Bell
- Darren & Wendy Bengé
- Peg Buckstad
- Dallas Collins
- Troy Dane
- Charliese Eichler
- Dwight Hartsell
- Collette Hishon
- Donnell Horton
- Marylou Kuklantz
- Waylon Kuklantz
- Teresa Ledford
- Ray Matthews
- Mark Navtaril
- Leo Peeler

- Emma Powell
- Calvin Roberson
- Richard Schulz
- Susan Severance
- Rashaad Sinclair
- David Townsend
- John Vick
- 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:

- Pastor Henry McKay, the first Pastor of Advent, died on August 28th
- Bea Biggers, aunt of Lisa Williams, died on August 30th
- Ralph Purpur, friend of Russ McKittrick and the Lutheran Men in Mission of NC, died on August 28th
- Lewis Williams, father of Angie Martin, died on Sept 1st
- Beverly Williams, mother of Angie Martin, died on September 4th.

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: We give thanks:

- For the birth of August Thomas Calamari on September 5th, grandson of Ed and Debra Efird

L: In your mercy

C: Hear our prayer.

L: Gracious God, we pray for all healthcare professionals and relief workers, especially with the rapid rise of hospitalizations and the new surge of coronavirus infections. We give thanks for the development and availability of multiple vaccines, and we are bold to pray that those with vaccine hesitancy would choose to be vaccinated. Strengthen, encourage, and comfort us in the days ahead to rest in your peace amid anxiety, frustration, and worry.

L: Lord in your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

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.

The 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 (*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.

L: The gifts of God for the people of God.

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

"Lord, Let Your Servants Go in Peace" (Canticle of Simeon)

Rob Beyersdorf

Lord, let your servants go in peace;
we who have long waited.
Fearful with doubt,
we still kept watch in the night.
Now we see your light.

Lord, let your servants go in peace;
we who were rent asunder.
Biased and blind,
we labeled foes who were friends.
Now we make amends.

Lord, let your servants go in peace;
for you have kept your promise.
With our own eyes
we see salvation is won,
born in Christ, your Son.

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Dismissal

L: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God