

LIVING AS



HE LOVED

PENTECOST SEASON

September 4, 2022

Advent Lutheran Church

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

“Love God, Serve Neighbor”

GATHERING FOR WORSHIP

Pastoral Welcome

Call to Worship – *Choose Life* (written by Rev. Joanna Harader)

L: God sets before us life and death.

C: We long to choose life.

L: God sets before us blessings and curses.

C: We long to choose blessings.

L: And so we seek the path of Jesus.

C: Unsure of the terrain.

L: And so we try to follow Jesus.

C: Even though we don't quite understand him.

L: We gather this morning for worship,

C: Offering our time, talents, and ourselves.

L: Holy One, by your grace,

C: Meet us where we are.

Lead us to where you long for us to be.

Prelude

"The Old Rugged Cross"

Annette Nolan

Prayer of Confession

L: We gather in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

L: God, you call us to be your voice in this world,

C: and we choose to stay silent.

L: God, you call us to be your hands in this world,

C: and we choose to keep them hidden.

L: God, you call us to be your feet in this world,

C: and we choose to go our own way.

L: God, when we meet those who are doubting and we say nothing,

C: Forgive us.

L: God, when we encounter those who are in need and we do nothing,

C: **Forgive us.**

L: God, when we are called to take up the cross and we carry nothing,

C: **Forgive us.**

(Silence for reflection and self-examination.)

L: Brothers and sisters, this is the Good News:

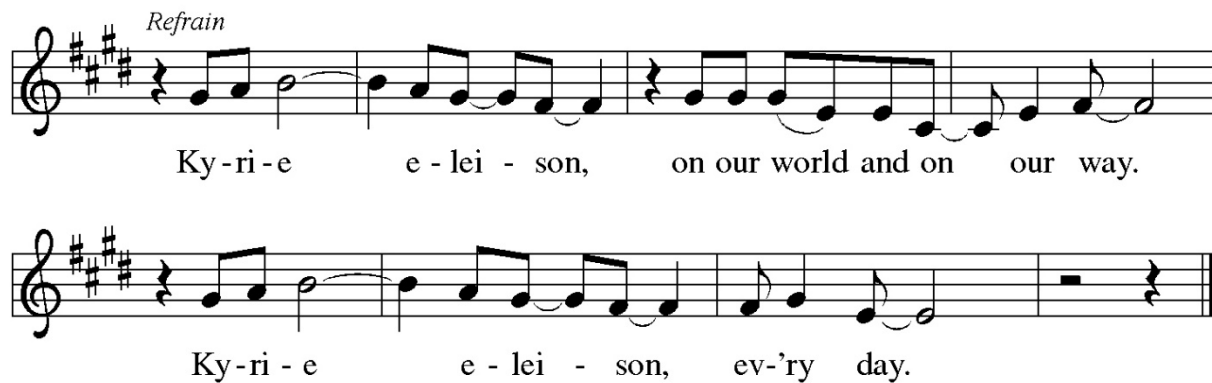
Know that God in Christ Jesus has forgiven you.

Now let your hearts be a meeting place for kindness and truth,
and your lives a fellowship of justice and peace.

C: **Amen.**

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 *(edited prayer written by John van de Laar)*

L: Let us pray. How do we do what's right, Jesus, when it costs us so much to follow you? When the good and the true and the beautiful cannot be purchased in a 'buy-now-pay-later' scheme as a quick-fix solution to our longing for life?

How do we do what's right when it takes so much time and when the life it brings comes according to the timetable of eternity, not the stopwatch of our up-to-the-minute world?

We need to learn how to do what's right, Jesus, and our world needs us to learn it, too; we need to count the cost of your call and measure it against the abundant life you promise. Help us, in our own small way, to be those who do the right thing, and in so doing, demonstrate the goodness that following you brings to all.

C: Amen.

The First Reading

Deuteronomy 30:15-20

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 Second Reading

Luke 14:25-33

The Message

Song of the Day

"Lead Me to the Cross"



1 Sav - iour I come, _____ qui - et my soul, _____ re - mem -
 2 You were as I, _____ tempt - ed and tried, _____ 7 hu -



ber _____ re - demp - tion's hill, _____ where Your blood was spilled, _____
 man. _____ The word be - came flesh, _____ bore my sin in death. _____



_____ for my ran - som. _____ Ev - 'ry - thing _____ I
 _____ Now, You're ris - en. _____



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 _____ my - self, _____ I be - long to _____ You. _____



_____ Oh, lead me. _____ Lead me to the cross. _____



_____ Lord, I lay me _____ down. _____ Rid me of _____ my - self, _____ I be - long to _____ You. _____

Prayers of the Faithful

L: Let us pray. Lord Jesus, when we hear your words about carrying the cross and giving up all our possessions to follow you, we realize how far from the mark of discipleship we truly are. None of this is easy for us; nor will it ever be. But we know the more difficult the call, the greater our dependence; and the greater our dependence is upon you, the more we learn to trust; and the more we learn to trust you, the less we see giving up everything as a sacrifice; and the less we see giving up everything for you as a sacrifice, the more we experience discipleship as a life of unimaginable abundance.

L: In your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

L: Lord Jesus, we pray for people and situations where there is struggle and hardship, unrest and conflict, and hunger and hopelessness. For the country and the people of Ukraine, as well as other countries that are dealing with political unrest and conflict; for Ethiopia, Afghanistan, Yemen, Israel-Palestine, Haiti and Myanmar.

L: In your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

L: Lord Jesus, hear us now as we pray for those families and friends you have placed upon our hearts.

We especially pray for:

- Sawyer Akers
- Melissa Butler
- Sean Cahill
- Tim Caldwell
- Helen Cheyney
- Terence Connelly
- Charliese Eichler
- Gary Homesley
- Donnell Horton
- Joe Johnson
- Waylon Kuklantz
- Chuck Mauney
- Kevin Middleton
- Andrew Milholland
- Leo Peeler
- Reagan Poli
- David Poe
- Chip Priser
- Joyce Quigley
- Chris Rasmussen
- Kenton Rohrberg
- Michael Searing
- Kelly Taylor
- David Townsend
- Laura Tucker
- Josie Upton
- Samantha Upton
- Holly von Seggern
- Herbert Watson
- Renate Wilson
- Chuck Wolfe
- Sara Yarberry

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:

- James Lowder, uncle of Shawn Allred, died August 6
- Ralph Yarberry, member, died August 16
- Matilda Nichols Watson Freeland, aunt of Lynn McKittrick, died August 27
- Reponda Smith, co-worker of Anne Brown and Cathy Bolen, died August 27
- Jim Cheyney, father of Pastor Steve Cheyney, died August 27
- Dorothy Swing, mother of Steve Swing, died August 29
- Wanda Bone, aunt of Rebecca Sabo, died August 31

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 offer prayers of praise and thanksgiving at the birth of Amelia Violet Velez, born August 21st, grand-daughter of Mark and Connie Searing, daughter of Ashley & Keith Velez

L: In your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

L: Lord Jesus, we give thanks for the gift of work and for the many types of work you have given us to do. Hear our prayers on this day of sabbath rest and strengthen us for the week ahead. We pray that you would be present with those who work by day, and those who work by night; those who work near, and those whose work carries them far away; and we pray for those who are seeking employment and those whose job pays below a living wage. We pray this knowing that your labors on our behalf never cease, and that your yoke is easy, and your burden is light.

L: In your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

L: Lord Jesus, 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 your holy name.

C: Amen.

SHARING THE MEAL

Offering

(Please sign and pass the pew pads)

Offertory Song

"Let Us Break Bread Together"

Sanctuary Singers



1 Let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees;
2 Let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees;
3 Let us praise God to - geth - er on our knees;



let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees.
let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees.
let us praise God to - geth - er on our knees.



When I fall on my knees, with my face to the ris - ing



sun, O Lord, have mer - cy on me.

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

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.

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

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

"Will You Come and Follow Me"



1 "Will you come and fol - low me if I but call
2 "Will you leave your - self be - hind if I but call
3 "Will you let the blind - ed see if I but call
4 "Will you love the you you hide if I but call
5 Lord, your sum - mons ech - oes true when you but call



your name? Will you go where you don't
your name? Will you care for cruel and
your name? Will you set the pris - 'ners
your name? Will you quell the fear in -
my name. Let me turn and fol - low



know and nev - er be the same?
kind and nev - er be the same?
free and nev - er be the same?
side and nev - er be the same?
you and nev - er be the same.



Will you let my love be shown, will you let my
Will you risk the hos - tile stare, should your life at -
Will you kiss the lep - er clean, and do such as
Will you use the faith you've found to re - shape the
In your com - pa - ny I'll go where your love and



name be known, will you let my life be
tract or scare? Will you let me an - swer
this un - seen, and ad - mit to what I
world a - round, through my sight and touch and
foot - steps show. Thus I'll move and live and



grown in you and you in me?"
pray'r in you and you in me?"
mean in you and you in me?"
sound in you and you in me?"
grow in you and you in me.

Dismissal

L: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**