

Gather Us, O God



Advent to Gather
Advent Together

Advent Lutheran Church
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November 1, 2020

GATHERING FOR WORSHIP

Prelude

“Softly and Tenderly”

Annette Nolan

Pastoral Welcome

L: All Saints’ Day – November 1 – is a day when the church celebrates the communion of saints – meaning all Christian people of every time and place – which includes each of us. As we celebrate the communion of saints, we also remember all those who died who now live within the fullness of eternal life in the very heart of God.

So, we take a moment at the beginning of our service to remember two saints of the Advent community who have died during this past year. We thank God for giving them to us to know and to love as companions in our pilgrimage here on earth. In their death, we believe they will experience no hunger, nor thirst and no longer will they be oppressed. In their eternal life, we believe they now rest in God. We give thanks to God for their lives.

Call to Worship for All Saints Day

L: We remember, O God . . .
The countless saints of history
who have blazed a trail of courage through time,
We remember, O God . . .
The tender touch of loved ones,
the example of heroes,
the healing words of comforters,
the remarkable acts of fearless ones.
We remember, O God . . .
The gentle strength of grandmothers,
the loyalty of friends,
the kindness of strangers,
the joy of children, the sacrifice of parents.

On this All Saints' Day, we remember, O God, our sister . . .

Cheri Strickland

Handbell rings.

On this All Saints' Day, we remember, O God, our sister . . .

Carole Johnson

Handbell rings.

We remember, O God . . .

The supreme love of Jesus,

the blessing of his Spirit,

the reminder of his words,

the sharing of his suffering,

the glory of his resurrection:

shown forth in the lives of his disciples,

young and old,

dead and living,

articulate and silent,

strange and familiar,

brilliant and ordinary.

We remember in every time and place the saints of God


who have shown us the Lord.

Since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses . . .


let us worship God with joy!

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

All Saints' Day Prayer: Set in the Company of Saints

L: Let us pray. You are our God and we are your people, and we are grateful that you have claimed us as your own.

You have set us in the company of all the saints past and present, among those who have made bold witness to your goodness and your truth. Your Word opens up new futures where we see no way forward.

You know the places in our hearts where we are afraid
— afraid of a future we cannot control
— afraid of losing health and independence
— afraid for the well-being of our children
— afraid that past mistakes will ruin our future

Write the stories of your people deep into our hearts so that we may learn to trust you beyond our fears. Give us hearts and minds and spirits ready to trust and follow wherever your Spirit leads, confident that you will not lead us beyond your loving embrace.

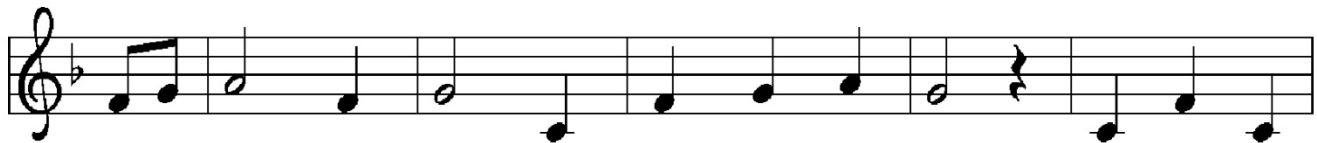
We ask in Jesus' name whose outstretched arms welcome us and hold us securely in your grace. Amen.

— written by Christine Jerrett and posted on the [Christine Jerrett](#) blog.

The First Reading

Revelation 7:9-17

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

Pastor Ward Misenheimer

Song of the Day

“For All the Saints” (Verses 1 & 4) Carol Riddell

For all the saints who from their labors rest,
all who by faith before the world confessed,
your name, O Jesus, be forever blest.

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Oh, blest communion, fellowship divine,
we feebly struggle, they in glory shine;
yet all are one within your great design.

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Remembering Together: In the Company of the Saints

Prayers of the Faithful

L: God of all blessedness, we turn to you now with our prayers for others, seeking your blessing on all for whom we pray.

A brief silence.

L: You tell us:

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

So we pray for those whose spirit fails them, that they might be strengthened in their faith; for those whose poverty is physical, that we might work on their behalf for equity; for those whose outlook on life is poor, that they might have a glimpse of hope and purpose. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

L: You tell us:

Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

So we pray for all who are cast down by grief – from recent losses or a deep-seated sorrow over many years – that they might know the comfort of hope, the comfort of love, the comfort of new life. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

L: You tell us:

Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

So we pray for leaders and followers, for big people and little people, for the proud and the humble, that in acceptance and grace, we might work together for the good of all. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

L: You tell us:

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst after righteousness, for they will be filled. So, we pray that we, who seek to live in that very righteousness, might indeed be filled with wonder and joy in this very place. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

L: You tell us:

Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

So, we pray for all of our sisters and brothers who seek mercy, comfort, healing, refuge, rest, peace, wholeness, community, acceptance, and unconditional love. We especially pray for:

- Laura Angell
- Lemont Bell
- Freda Christ
- Brenda Cicenia
- Inez Easley
- William Ensley
- Emma Fettig
- Eileen Folkerth
- Dick Kuklantz
- Waylon Kuklantz
- Ray Matthews
- Hilda Mertz
- Rick Messina
- Justin Mertz
- Clyde Mullis
- Tyler Oddman
- Will Rhynes
- Calvin Roberson
- Shannon Roberson
- Richard Schulz
- Mark Steele
- Mary Faith Strickland
- Bill Toney
- Eva Toney
- David Townsend
- Herbert Watson
- Tammy Whaley
- Beverly Williams
- Lewis Williams
- Renate Wilson

We now pray aloud or in the silence of our hearts for those we wish to name (*give time for community to pray*).

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

L: You tell us:

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

So, make our hearts pure with us that we might know Your love all the more. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

L: You tell us:

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called the children of God.

So we pray for all who work for peace:

peace in relationships;

peace in communities;

peace in politics;

peace in places of conflict;

peace for the body, mind and soul ...

that all might see themselves

and others as God's children.

Lord of all peace, our nation becomes more divided every week. Anger, frustration, disappointment, suspicion, and distrust have eroded relationships and perpetuated a mentality of "us and them," so that the real issues are eclipsed and the real people who are hurting are forgotten once again. By the power of your Holy Spirit, we pray for the deep healing that must happen — *no more band-aids* — and we pray for ourselves who are called to do the difficult work of rebuilding trust and creating communities that resemble your kingdom of heaven. We pray for our nation, especially on Tuesday; we give thanks for the freedoms of our country as we exercise our right to vote and we pray for the safety and security of our election. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

L: You tell us:

Blessed are those who are persecuted ... for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. So, we pray for the broken and despised, the marginalized and the downtrodden, the victims and the dispossessed, the refugees and the homeless . . . this kingdom, our precious kingdom, belongs also to them. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

L: And as we pray for others, we pray also that you will hold us always in communion with the saints of all the ages, those who have been blessed and whose memories, example and closeness bless us, even at this present time. We remember and celebrate the lives of those who have recently died, especially . . .

- David Grace, uncle of Jennie Henderson
- Tyrone Brunson, brother of Chris Jackson
- Jamie Bruckman, friend of Harriett Easley
- Joseph Drapala, brother-in-law of Chris Rasmussen
- Ingeborg Boggess, aunt of Toni Hagerman
- Benny Liles, uncle of Herbert Watson's

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

L: God of all blessedness, we offer all these prayers to you – the ones we have spoken aloud, the ones said silently, and the ones yet to be formed in our hearts – in the name of your son, Jesus Christ. Amen.

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.

SENDING GOD'S PEOPLE

Benediction

L: Go now, with the blessings of the saints and angels.
Go now, with the blessings of the people with whom you share your life.
Go now, with the blessings of the whole people of God.
Go now, with the blessings of God, the Father, the + Son and the Holy Spirit, to sustain and surround you, now and always. Amen.

Dismissal

L: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.
C: **Thanks be to God.**

Sending Song

“Chariots A’Comin’

Annette Nolan

ALL SAINTS' DAY

Commemoration of all the Faithful Departed

November 1, 2019 - October 31, 2020

Let us pray for our departed loved ones.

*Eternal rest,
grant unto them O Lord,
and let perpetual light shine upon them.*

Amen

Bill Aldred
friend of Marylou & Dick Kuklantz

Jessie Amaker
grandmother of Teleah Amaker

Louise Bekkenhuis
step-mother of Brenda Cicenía

Drew Boggess
nephew of Toni Hagerman

Ingeborg Boggess
aunt of Toni Hagerman

Arlene Overcash Bostian
mother of Phil & Abby Bostian

Lauren Bradshaw
friend of Sarah Sue Hardinger's family

Freddie Bridges
mother of Michelle Hagle

James Bruckmann
friend of Darrell & Harriett Easley

Tyrone Brunson
brother of Chris Harris

Randy Carpenter
friend of Marc & Karla Jensen

Nell Clayton
aunt of Janet Rasmussen

Pastor Sherrill Curtis
friend of Pastor Ward

Joseph Drapala
brother-in-law of Chris Rasmussen

Angel Duggins
sister of Jasmine Stimac

Kenneth Efird
cousin of Ed Efird

Darlene Easley
extended family of Darrell & Harriett Easley

Peter Farmer
friend of Gene & Brenda Reid

Isaac Friday
former member

Jon Furr
extended family of Dot Furr

Joan Georg
mother of Diane Wassum

David Grace
uncle of Jennie Henderson

Richard Graven
father of Richelle Draper

Joyce Huffman
aunt of Debra Efird

Catherine Jacobs
extended family of Dwight & Susan Hartsell

Dean Jarrett
uncle of Carol Schierlmann

Carole Johnson
member & mother of Brenda Cicenía

Bill Kirkpatrick
friend of Gene & Brenda Reid



David Large
friend of Gene & Brenda Reid

Richard Lester
father of Sharon Thrower

Michael Mason
nephew of Gene & Brenda Reid

Hal Merriott
former member

Kenny Mertz
father of Diane Jowers

Angelina Messina
mother of Rick Messina

Erica Miller
extended family of Pam Rhynes

Bonnie Mitchell
friend of Pastor Ward

Betty Murphy
aunt of Mona Ingolia

Marlene Quigby
aunt of Jeannie Henderson

Barbara Reid
aunt of Susan Lewis

George Sachno
Vice President of NC-LMM

Tobias Schwarzer
cousin of Tanya DeGrace

Marie von Seggern
mother of Karl von Seggern

Sharon Stancher
friend of Pastor Ward

Catherine Staplefoote
sister of Teleah Amaker

Myra Steele
sister-in-law of Jennifer Frisina

Grace Stegall
aunt of Lisa Williams

Michael Stevens

Cheri Strickland
member

Audrey Sutphin
mother of Tim Fullmer

Betty Taylor
mother of Tim Taylor

Vance
friend of Jennie Henderson & Stephanie Estrella

Emma Jean Watson
mother of Herbert Watson

Theodore Watson Sr.
grandfather of Brooke Watson-Summerour

Gladys Williams
aunt of Lisa Williams