

# Gather Us, O God



*Advent to Gather*  
*Advent Together*

Advent Lutheran Church  
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## GATHERING FOR WORSHIP

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**Prelude**

“Create in Me a Clean Heart”

Annette Nolan

**Pastoral Welcome**

**Call to Worship**

L: Gather us, O God

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

L: Gather us, God

**C: And we will celebrate our variety and uniqueness.**

L: Gather us, God

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

L: Gather us, God

**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: Where people squabble

**C: Peace be among us.**

L: Where races fight

**C: Peace be among us.**

L: Where neighbors argue

**C: Peace be among us.**

L: Where nations disagree

**C: Peace be among us.**

L: Where Christ's disciples gather

**C: Peace be our way.**

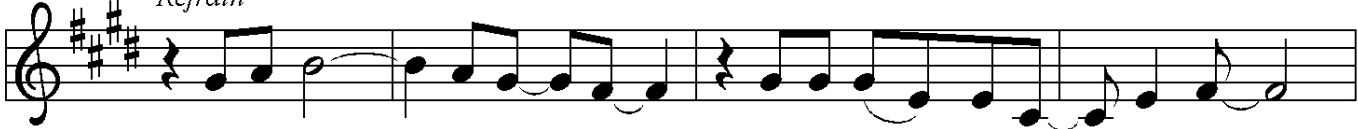
L: The peace of the Lord be with you.

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## PROCLAIMING THE WORD

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*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*

### Prayer of the Day

L: Here we are again, God, carrying into this day of joy and freedom the burdens we just can't seem to lay down, the weight of all the scores we long to have settled, and the justice we demand for the wrongs we have suffered.

And yet, we also know what would happen if you were to deal with us justly – with our greed and violence, our betrayal and lust. If your justice was served in our lives, then we could not stand.

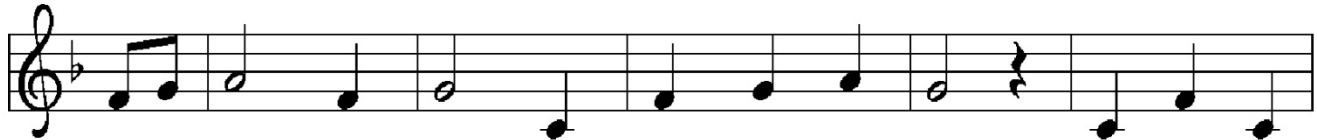
You have filled us with your Holy Spirit – source of healing and forgiveness. May she heal us from our obsession to get even with those who have wronged us and our presumption that we are the true arbiters of justice.

Here we are again, God, in this time of worship. We offer our lives to you in this moment. Lead us back to your heart, the place where our hunger for grace and mercy may be filled, and where we may be freed from the tyranny of vengeance. Amen. (*adpt. from sacredise.com, "The Tyranny of Vengeance"*)

**The First Reading**

Genesis 50:15-21

**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 18:21-35

**The Message**

Pastor Ward Misenheimer

## Song of the Day “Where Charity and Love Prevail” (vv. 1,2 & 5) Laura Torrence



- 1 Where char - i - ty and love pre - vail, there God is ev - er found;
- 2 With grate-ful joy and ho - ly fear, God's char - i - ty we learn;
- 3 Let us re - call that in our midst dwells Christ, God's ho - ly Son;
- 4 Let strife a - mong us be un - known; let all con - ten - tions cease.
- 5 Let us for - give each oth - er's faults as we our own con - fess,



brought here to - geth - er by Christ's love, by love we thus are bound.  
let us with heart and mind and soul now love God in re - turn.  
as mem - bers of each bod - y joined, in him we are made one.  
Be God's the glo - ry that we seek; be his our on - ly peace.  
that we may love each oth - er well in Chris - tian gen - tle - ness.

Text: Latin hymn, 9th cent.; tr. Omer Westendorf, 1916–1997, alt.

Music: TWENTY-FOURTH, attr. Lucius Chapin, 1760–1842

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### The Iona Abbey Creed

**L:** Now let us confess our faith with the words of the Iona Creed:

**C:** **We believe in God above us,  
maker and sustainer of all life,  
of sun and moon, water and earth,  
of the breadth and beauty of all humanity.**

**We believe in God beside us, Jesus Christ,  
the Word made flesh, born of a woman, servant of the poor,  
tortured and nailed to a tree.**

**A man of sorrows, he died forsaken.**

**He descended into the earth to the place of death.**

**On the third day he rose from the tomb.**

**He ascended into heaven to be everywhere present,  
and His kingdom will come on earth.**

**We believe in God within us,  
the Holy Spirit of Pentecostal fire,  
Life-giving breath of the church,  
Spirit of healing and forgiveness,  
Source of resurrection and of eternal life. Amen**

## **Prayers of the Faithful**

- L: Lord, look on your world. We know the world is so fractured and filled with chaos and crises of our own making. Teach us to pray, and when we struggle to pray, may your Spirit intercede with the words we cannot find. Come, Holy Spirit!

*A brief silence.*

- L: Lord of all faithfulness,  
Free the “score-keepers” in our world and in our hearts.  
Restore the fallen in our world and in our hearts.  
Strengthen the merciful in our world and in our hearts.  
Heal the broken in our world and in our hearts.  
Uplift the lowly in our world and in our hearts.  
Bring down the tyrants in our world and in our hearts.  
Erase the lines of division in our world and in our hearts.  
Create a Christ-guided humanity in our world and in our hearts.  
And use us to make it so.  
Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**
- L: Lord of all justice, you are the one 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. By the power of your Holy Spirit, give us the courage and the boldness to work toward abolishing social structures which continue to perpetuate racial practices and policies in our own communities. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**
- L: Lord of all compassion, you call us to hold the needs of our sisters and brothers as dear to us as our own needs. We pray for all of our sisters and brothers who seek comfort, healing, refuge, rest, peace, wholeness, community, acceptance, and unconditional love.

We especially pray for

- Abby Bostian
- Jessie Amaker
- The Ashton family
- Josh Baker
- Lindsey Baker
- Lemont Bell
- Anne Brown (Teleah Amaker's mother)
- Freda Christ
- Antonio Estrella
- Ann Farabee
- Emma Fettig
- Eileen Folkerth
- Jan Frick
- Dwight Hartsell
- Richard Henderson
- Dick Kuklantz
- Waylon Kuklantz
- Phyllis Lester
- Ray Matthews
- Hilda Mertz
- Justin Mertz
- Rick Messina
- Caroline Morton
- Clyde Mullis
- Tyler Oddman
- Anita Ortiz
- Nadine Osborne
- Calvin Roberson
- Shannon Roberson
- Richard Schulz
- Myra Steele
- Kirby Strickland & family
- Mary Faith Strickland
- Linda Ann Wassum
- Herbert Watson
- Beverly Williams
- Lewis Williams
- Lisa Williams
- Jeff Woods

- L: We now pray aloud or in the silence of our hearts for those we wish to name (*give time for community to pray*).
- L: We give thanks for the birth of Luke Kristopher Swiger (born Sept 7) grandson of Lisa and Elliott Swiger.
- L: We give thanks for the marriage of Kristin and Adam Bostian (son of Abby and Phil Bostian) on August 28<sup>th</sup> and for the marriage of Breanna and Ian Stimac (son of Laurie Stimac) on September 5. We pray for them as they begin their married lives together.
- L: We remember and celebrate the lives of those who have died, especially . . .

Nell Clayton, aunt of Janet Rasmussen

Eric West, husband of Tammy Jones-West (who is the Assistant to the Bishop on the NC Lutheran Synod staff)

. . . 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 Christ Jesus.

- L: We pray for all communities and all people who have been impacted by the devastating wildfires in California, Oregon, and Washington State. Strengthen and protect all firefighters, first responders, and relief workers.
- L: Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**
- L: Lord of all healing and care, we pray for all healthcare professionals and relief workers, especially those who find themselves on the frontlines to bring healing, comfort and care to all impacted by the coronavirus. Strengthen, encourage, and empower us to be people of peace in the midst of anxiety, impatience, worry, dread, and a hunger for life to be normal again. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**



L: Lord, take the time and gifts you have entrusted to us, and teach us how to use them to give others the abundant life of Jesus – so that your people may rejoice in the new life you give, for you are the life-giver and we are your servants.

**C: 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.**

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## **SENDING GOD'S PEOPLE**

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### **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.**

### **Dismissal**

L: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

### **Sending Song**

"Sing Unto the Lord"

Annette Nolan