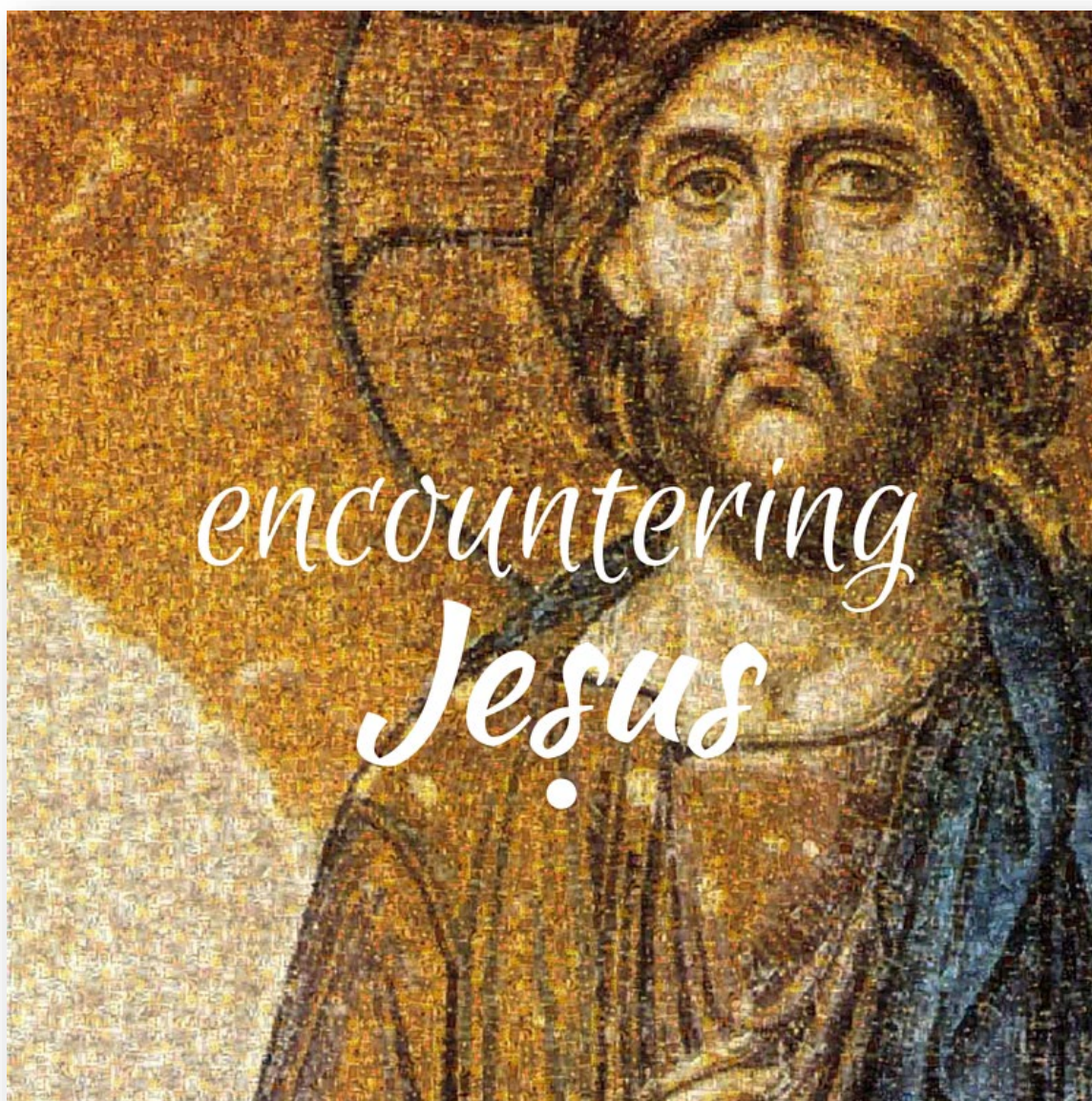


The Season of Lent



First Sunday in Lent

March 5, 2023

Advent Lutheran Church

8840 University City Blvd

Charlotte, NC 28213

(704) 549-1555

www.adventlu.org

GATHERING FOR WORSHIP

Pastoral Welcome

Prayer

"A Centering Prayer"

Prelude

"God So Loved the World"

Annette Nolan

Confession and Forgiveness

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

L: Allow yourself to settle for a moment.

To embrace the silence.

To discover the stillness that lives within your soul.

(Silence for reflection and self-examination)

Listen to the voice of God who speaks to you:

"Return to me with your whole heart, for I am gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love to the thousandth generation, ready to forgive all your sins by washing them away with my tears of joy."

(Silence for reflection and self-examination)

L: God, source of life and steadfast love,

C: We turn toward you and open our hearts.

Forgive our pride and forgive our insecurities.

Forgive our self-absorption and forgive our self-destruction.

Forgive our doubts and forgive our confidence.

Forgive our longing for attention and forgive our desire to hide.

Forgive each step we take away from you.

L: Listen to the voice of God who speaks to you:

"Do not fear, for I have redeemed you and forgiven you all your sins. I have called you by name and you are mine."

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 for Illumination

L: Let us pray. Mighty Spirit of God,
Blow away the tight rules that hold us back from trusting, risking, and loving.
Blow away all the categories we have constructed and all the containers we carry
that limit our love of you and our love of our neighbor.
Ready us for new birth.
Prepare us for risk.
Equip us with the courage and the vision to receive the new life you are calling us
into.
Mighty Spirit God, we cannot choose the stories we have inherited, but we can
choose to be open to the story you are inscribing upon our hearts.

C: Amen.

The First Reading

Genesis 12:1-4

Gospel Acclamation

"Let Your Steadfast Love"

En tu in - a - go - ta - ble a - mor, oh Dios,
Let your stead - fast love come to us, O Lord.

en tu in - a - go - ta - ble a - mor, oh Dios,
Let your stead - fast love come to us, O Lord.

cum - ple la pro - me - sa de tu sal - va - ción;
Save us as you prom - ised; we will trust your word,

tu pa - la - bra con - fia - ré.
we will trust your word.

The Gospel

Matthew 3:1-17

The Message

Song of the Day

"Your Grace Is Enough"



1 Great is Your faith - ful - ness, O God;
 2 Great is Your love and jus - tice, God of Ja - cob;



You wres - tle with the sin - ner's rest - less heart.
 You use the weak to lead the strong.



You lead us by still wa - ters in - to mer - cy
 You lead us in the song of Your sal - va - tion,



and noth - ing can keep us a - part. So re -
 and all Your peo - ple sing a - long.



mem - ber Your peo - ple, re - mem - ber Your chil - dren, re -



mem - ber Your prom - ise O God. Your



grace is e - nough, Your grace is e - nough Your



grace is e - nough, for me.

Affirmation of Faith

L: Let us affirm our faith.

**C: We believe in Jesus Christ,
Son of the One God,
Maker and sustainer of earth, sea, and sky.
Born of Mary's womb,
Faithful to the God of Abraham and Sarah,
Jesus healed the sick,
Served the poor,
And proclaimed the reign of God in the world.
Condemned by the religious
And crucified by the state,
He died,
But transformed even death
And rose to life everlasting.
He blessed the disciples with his Holy Spirit
And sent them forth,
East and west, north and south.
We commit ourselves to Jesus,
To one another and to his mission in the world
In the grace of the Holy Spirit. Amen.⁺**

Prayers of the People of God

L: Let us pray. God of Abraham, Sarah, Nicodemus, and of all of us who think we are too old or too young, too weak or too strong to experience the new thing you are calling us to do and to receive.

God of all of us daunted by the sheer wonder of the plan you lay out before us, we come to you now with all that we are.

C: Hear us and help us on our journey.

L: God, we pray for all the people in this world, especially for our Ukrainian brothers and sisters and for the countries of Ethiopia, Afghanistan, Yemen, Israel-Palestine, Haiti and Myanmar. We offer these prayers to you now.

C: Hear us and help us on our journey.

God, we pray for those whom we know, for whom illness, frailness or bereavement have left them isolated and cut off from the joy, support, and encouragement of human encounter.

⁺ The Iona Abbey Worship Book.

We especially pray for:

- Charles Bush
- Terence Connelly
- Charliese Eichler
- Dwight Hartsell
- Carol Hollingsworth
- Gary Homesley
- Donnell Horton
- Beth Knapp
- Waylon Kuklantz
- Bobbi Larson
- Gabe Lynch
- Tamara Barrett Mallon
- Darryl May
- Jacob Mosher
- Terry Park
- Rosemary Parkinson
- Joann, Chris & Peter Pilachowski
- Chip Priser
- Joyce Quigley
- Bishop Tim Smith
- David Townsend
- Laura Tucker
- Bruce Wagoner
- Lesley Wagoner
- Herbert Watson
- Renate Wilson

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

Time for the community to pray.

L: We pray for our guests at Room in the Inn this past Monday: Carol, Virginia, Taylor, Terra, Amy, Annie, Kymber-Leigh, Nelly, Justin, Jacquelynn, Roger, Elizabeth, Selbrani,, Wanda, Douglas, Carlote

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

- Edith Frisina, mother of Vinnie Frisina, died on February 22
- Chuck Wolfe, friend of Jennifer Canipe & Cathy Bolen, died February 24
- The Reverend Roger Butler, friend of Harriett Easley, died on February 22
- Mary Rohrbach, mother of Debra Markham, died on February 25

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.

L: We offer these prayers to you now.

C: Hear us and help us on our journey.

L: God of Abraham, Sarah, and Nicodemus, hear us and help us on our journey as we entrust ourselves and all for whom we have prayed into the care of your hands and into the unending mercy of your Son, Jesus Christ.

C: Amen

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

Offertory Song

“Be Thou Near to Me”

Daniel Pietruszka

Table Prayer

L: Lord Jesus, here at your Table of grace, you give us your very life in the gifts of bread and wine. In the bread broken, may we taste hope and be strengthened to break the bonds of injustice and to free the oppressed. In the wine poured, may we taste love and be strengthened to feed the hungry and to work for peace in our communities.

C: Amen.

Words of Institution

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.**

Communion Hymn ELW #465 "As the Grains of Wheat"

Refrain



As the grains of wheat once scat-tered on the hill were



gath-ered in - to one to be - come our bread; so may all your peo-ple from



all the ends of earth be gath-ered in - to one in you.



1 As this cup of bless-ing is shared with-in our midst,
2 Let this be a fore-taste of all that is to come when



may we share the pres - ence of your love.
all cre - a - tion shares this feast with you.

Refrain

Communion Hymn "Grace Flows Down"

Amazing grace how sweet the sound
 Amazing love now flowing down
 From hands and feet that were nailed to the tree
 Grace flows down and covers me

It covers me
 It covers me
 It covers me
 And covers me
 (Repeat)

The 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

Benediction

L: May the peace of Christ go with you wherever he may send you. May he guide you through the wilderness, protect you through the storm, and may he bring you home rejoicing at the wonders he has shown you. May he bring you home rejoicing, once again into our doors.

C: Amen.

Sending Song

"Amazing Grace"

Daniel Pietruszka

Dismissal

L: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.