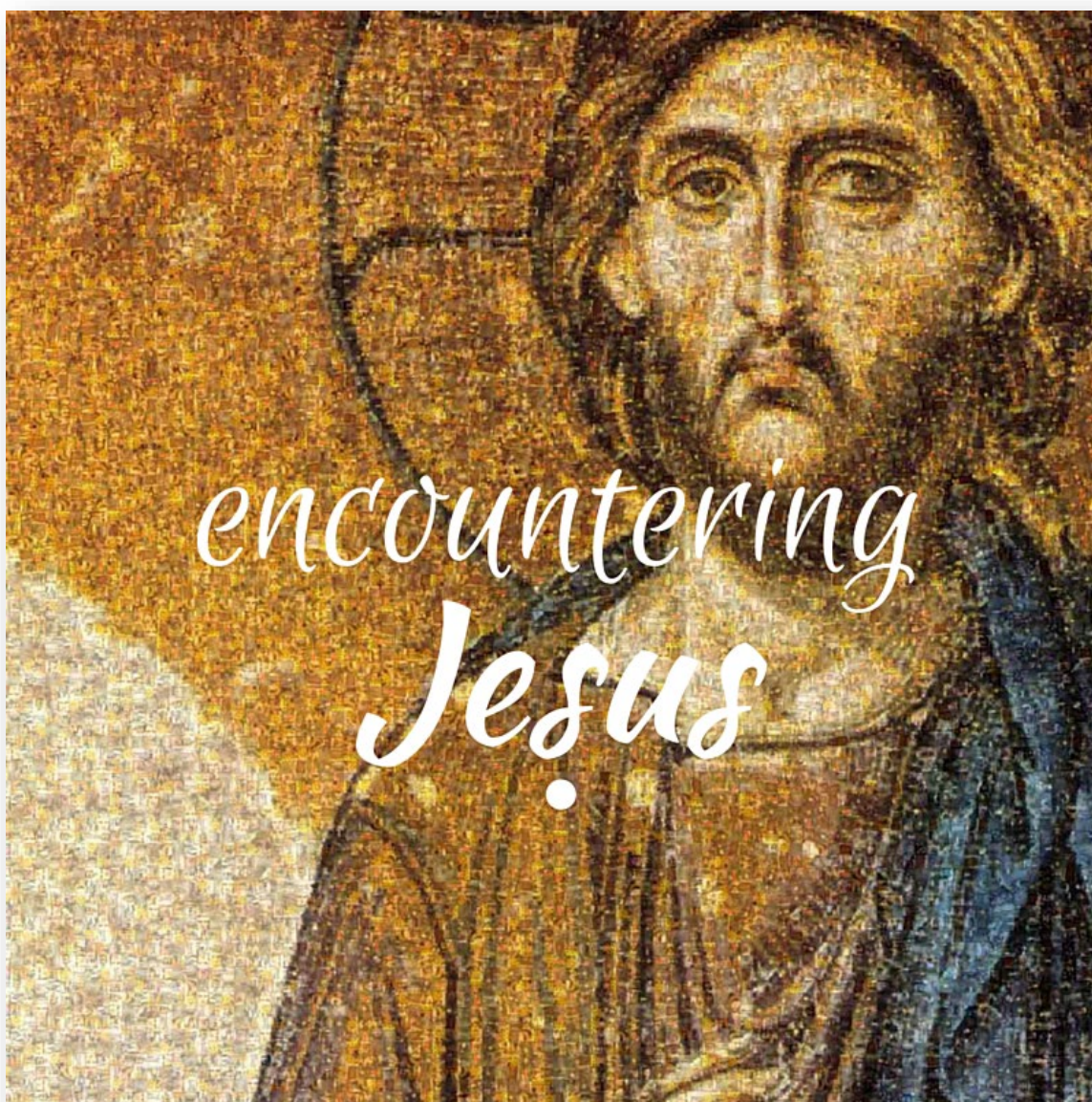


The Season of Lent



First Sunday in Lent

March 12, 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

“As the Deer”

Morning Chimes

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.

Lord Jesus Christ, meet us at the wells where we are lonely,
where we are forgotten, where we are hurt by others,
and give us to drink the water of grace that brings healing and new life.

Lord Jesus Christ, speak to us in the hidden places where unforgiveness lurks,
where resentments gather, where prejudices are fueled,
and give us to drink the water of grace that brings forgiveness and peace.

Lord Jesus Christ, restore us to yourself, revive us with your Holy Spirit,
refresh us with living water, rekindle in us the fire of your love,
and give us to drink the water of grace that brings resurrection and new life.

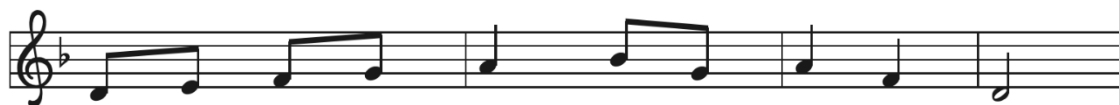
C: Amen.

The First Reading

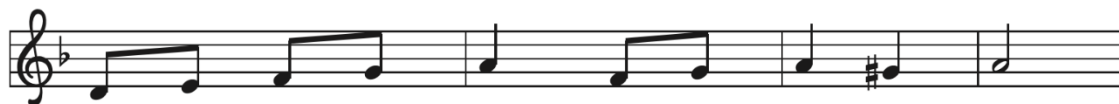
Exodus 17:1-7

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

John 4:5-42

The Message

Song of the Day

"All Who Are Thirsty"

G
Bm⁷

All who are thirst - y, all who are ___ weak, come to the foun-

C²
Am⁷ G/B C² C²/D G

- tain. Dip your heart in the stream of life. Let the pain and the sor - row

Bm⁷
C²

be wash'd a - way in the waves of His mer - cy as deep cries

Am⁷ G/B C² C²/D
CHORUS 1
G G² G^{sus} G C² C²/D

out to deep. _ (We sing) Come, Lord Je - sus, ___ come.

G G² G^{sus} G C²
C²/D G G²

Come, Lord Je - sus, ___ come. Come, Lord

G^{sus} G C²
C²/D G G² G^{sus} G

Je - sus, ___ come. Come, Lord Je - sus, ___

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, whose Spirit moved over the waters at the dawn of creation, hear our prayers for all who thirst today.

(A brief silence.)

- L: God, we pray for those who are spiritually thirsty, who long to know your presence, but don't know where to find you. We pray for those who are alone and without hope, those who long to feel needed and loved, those who are searching for meaning and purpose. Pour down your waters,

C: and heal your people.

- L: God, open our hearts to the needs of all who thirst. Give us courage to work together with those who thirst justice, to stand alongside those who thirst for peace, and to commit ourselves to those who thirst for an equal sharing of resources among peoples and nations.
Pour down your waters,

C: and heal your people.

L: 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.

We especially pray for:

- April Bradshaw
- 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
- Terry Park
- Rosemary Parkinson
- Joann, Chris & Peter Pilachowski
- Tony Poovey
- Chip Priser
- Joyce Quigley
- Davis Schierlmann
- 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 give thanks for the birth of Baker Beau Simyon, great-grandson of Dick and MaryLou Kuklantz born on March 9.

L: We pray for our guests at Room in the Inn this past Sunday and Monday: Virginia, Erica, Terra, Tracy, Selbrani, Annie, Ashley, Aquavius, Lionel, Noaka, Virgil, Kymber-Leigh, Wanda, Nelly, and Edward.

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
- Patrick Murphy, uncle of John Schierlmann, died on February 11

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.

Pour down your waters,

C: and heal your people.

L: God, hear us 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—the source of living water.

C: **Amen**

SHARING THE MEAL

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

Offertory Song

“Down to the River to Pray”

As I went down to the river to pray
Studyin' about that good ol' way
And who shall wear the starry crown
Good Lord show me the way

O sisters let's go down
Let's go down come on down
O sisters let's go down
Down to the river to pray

As I went down to the river to pray
Studyin' about that good ol' way
And who shall wear the starry crown
Good Lord show me the way

O brothers let's go down
Let's go down come on down
O brothers let's go down
Down to the river to pray

Shall we gather at the river
Where bright angel feet have trod
With its crystal tide forever
Flowing by the throne of God

O sinners let's go down
Let's go down come on down
O sinners let's go down
Down to the river to pray

As I went down to the river to pray
Studyin' about that good ol' way
And who shall wear the starry crown
Good Lord show me the way

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 #445 "Wash, O God, Our Sons and Daughters"



1 Wash, O God, our sons and daughters, where your cleansing waters flow.
2 We who bring them long for nurture; by your milk may we be fed.
3 Oh, how deep your holy wisdom! Unimagined, all your ways!



Number them among your people; bless as Christ blessed long ago.
Let us join your feast, partaking cup of blessing, living bread.
To your name be glory, honor! With our lives we worship, praise!



Weave them garments bright and sparkling; compass them with love and light.
God, renew us, guide our footsteps; free from sin and all its snares,
We your people stand before you, water-washed and Spirit-born.



Fill, anoint them; send your Spirit, holy dove and heart's delight.
one with Christ in living, dying, by your Spirit, children, heirs.
By your grace, our lives we offer. Re-create us; God, transform!

Communion Hymn ELW #461 "All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly"



1 All who hun-ger, gath-er glad-ly; ho-ly man-na is our bread.
2 All who hun-ger, nev-er strang-ers; seek-er, be a wel-come guest.
3 All who hun-ger, sing to- geth-er, Je- sus Christ is liv- ing bread.



Come from wil-der-ness and wan- d'ring. Here in truth we will be fed.
Come from rest-less-ness and roam- ing. Here in joy we keep the feast.
Come from lone- li- ness and long- ing. Here in peace we have been fed.



You that yearn for days of full-ness, all a-round us is our food.
We that once were lost and scat-tered in com-mu-nion's love have stood.
Blest are those who from this ta- ble live their days in grat-i- tude.



Taste and see the grace e- ter- nal. Taste and see that God is good.
Taste and see the grace e- ter- nal. Taste and see that God is good.
Taste and see the grace e- ter- nal. Taste and see that God is good.

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

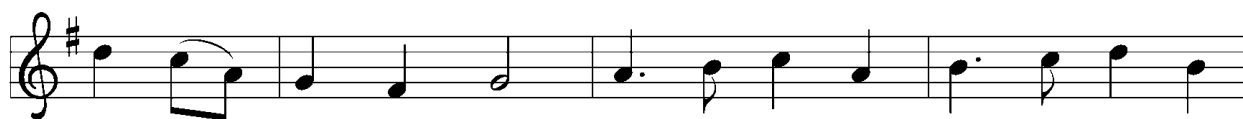
ELW #618 "Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer"



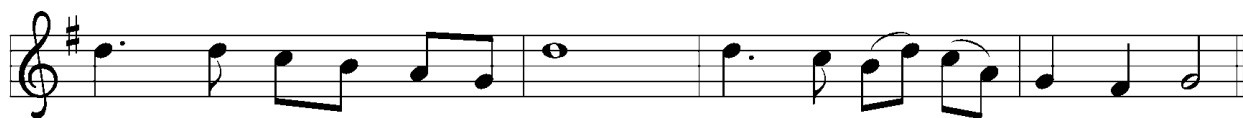
1 Guide me ev - er, great Re - deem - er, pil - grim through this
2 O - pen now the crys - tal foun - tain where the heal - ing
3 When I tread the verge of Jor - dan, bid my anx - ious



bar - ren land. I am weak, but you are might - y; hold me
wa - ters flow; let the fire and cloud - y pil - lar lead me
fears sub - side; death of death and hell's de - struc - tion, land me



with your pow'r - ful hand. Bread of heav - en, bread of heav - en,
all my jour - ney through. Strong de - liv - 'rer, strong de - liv - 'rer,
safe on Ca - naan's side. Songs and prais - es, songs and prais - es



feed me now and ev - er - more, feed me now and ev - er - more.
shield me with your might - y arm, shield me with your might - y arm.
I will raise for - ev - er - more, I will raise for - ev - er - more.

Dismissal

L: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**