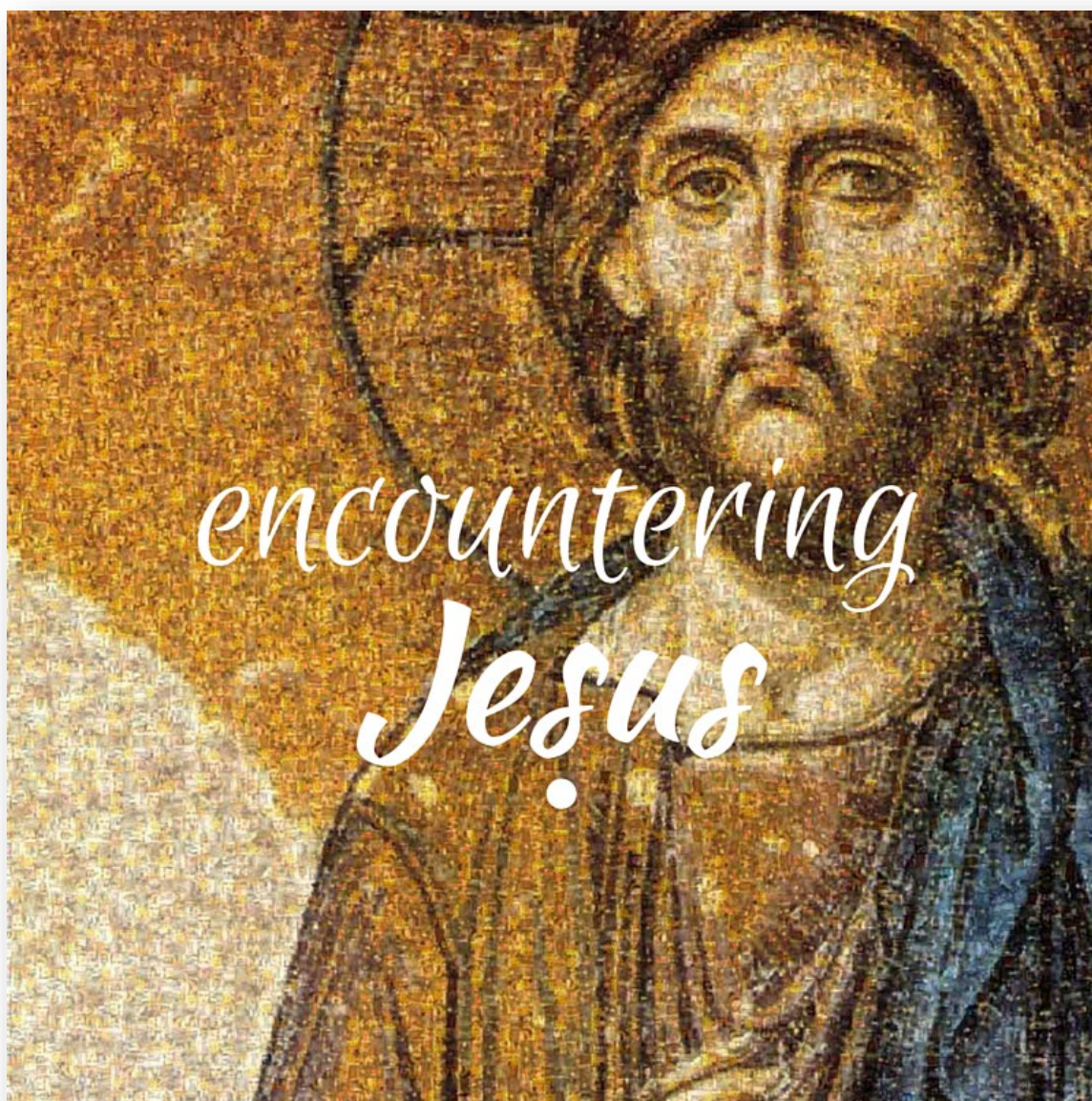


The Season of Lent



First Sunday in Lent

March 19, 2023

Advent Lutheran Church

8840 University City Blvd

Charlotte, NC 28213

(704) 549-1555

www.adventlu.org

GATHERING FOR WORSHIP I

Pastoral Welcome

Prayer	<i>"Vision"</i>	by David Adam
Prelude	<i>"Open our eyes, Lord"</i>	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.
Open our eyes, Lord,
we want to see Jesus,
to reach out and touch him,
and say that we love him.
Open our ears, Lord,
and help us to listen.
Open our eyes, Lord,
we want to see Jesus.

The First Reading

1 Samuel 16:1-13

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 9:1-41

The Message

Song of the Day ELW #779 "Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound"



1 A - maz - ing grace!— how sweet the sound— that
2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and
3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares I
4 The Lord has prom - ised good to me; his
5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright



saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but
grace my fears re - lieved; how pre - cious did that
have al - read - y come; 'tis grace has brought me
word my hope se - cures; he will my shield and
shin - ing as the sun, we've no less days to



now am found; was blind, but now I see.
grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!
safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
por - tion be as long as life en - dures.
sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

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. Lord, creator of light, we remember all who walk in darkness, all who do not know your love, all who are unaware of your light. We pray that your church may shine as a light in the world and bring all peoples to you who are the true light. We pray for all who go out in mission and proclaim your love.

Jesus, Light of the world,

C: scatter the darkness from our hearts and minds.

L: Lord, forgive the hurt we cause by our own blindness. May the brightness of your light bring joy to our homes, new love to our relationships, deep peace to our communities. Jesus, Light of the world,

C: scatter the darkness from our hearts and minds.

L: Lord, we pray for those leaders of the world who are blinded by the lure of power, without considering the cost to others. We pray for those at the root of conflict, division, and violence whose desire to have things their way prevents them listening to your voice of peace. We pray for our Ukrainian brothers and sisters and for the countries of Ethiopia, Afghanistan, Yemen, Israel-Palestine, Haiti and Myanmar. Jesus, Light of the world,

C: scatter the darkness from our hearts and minds.

L: Lord, 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:

- Millie Bradshaw
- Charles Bush
- Terence Connelly
- Charliese Eichler
- Dwight Hartsell
- Carol Hollingsworth
- Gary Homesley
- Donnell Horton
- Waylon Kuklantz
- Bobbi Larson
- Gabe Lynch
- Tamara Barrett Mallon
- Darryl May
- Terry Park
- Rosemary Parkinson
- Joann, Chris & Peter Pilachowski
- Tony Poovey
- 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 Monday: Dawn, Tracy, Selbrani, Annie, Andresha, Kymber-Leigh, Jerona, Rachael, Mary, Nelly
- L: We remember and celebrate the lives of those who have died, especially:
 - 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. Jesus, Light of the world,
- C: scatter the darkness from our hearts and minds.**
- L: Lord, 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 Light of the world.
- C: Amen**

SHARING THE MEAL

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

Offertory Song

“Here I Am, Lord”

Advanced Bells

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

"Open Our Eyes, Lord"

Open our eyes, Lord,
we want to see Jesus,
to reach out and touch him,
and say that we love him.

Open our ears, Lord,
and help us to listen.

Open our eyes, Lord,
we want to see Jesus.



1 Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;
 2 Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true word;
 3 Rich - es I heed not, nor vain, emp - ty praise,
 4 Light of my soul, af - ter vic - to - ry won,



naught be all else to me, save that thou art:
 I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord.
 thou mine in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways:
 may I reach heav - en's joys, O heav - en's Sun!



thou my best thought both by day and by night,
 Thou my soul's shel - ter, and thou my high tow'r,
 thou and thou on - ly, the first in my heart,
 Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,



wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.
 raise thou me heav'n - ward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.
 great God of heav - en, my trea - sure thou art.
 still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

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.**

Stewardship Presentation

Newell Partnership

Deloris Bainbridge

Dismissal

L: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**