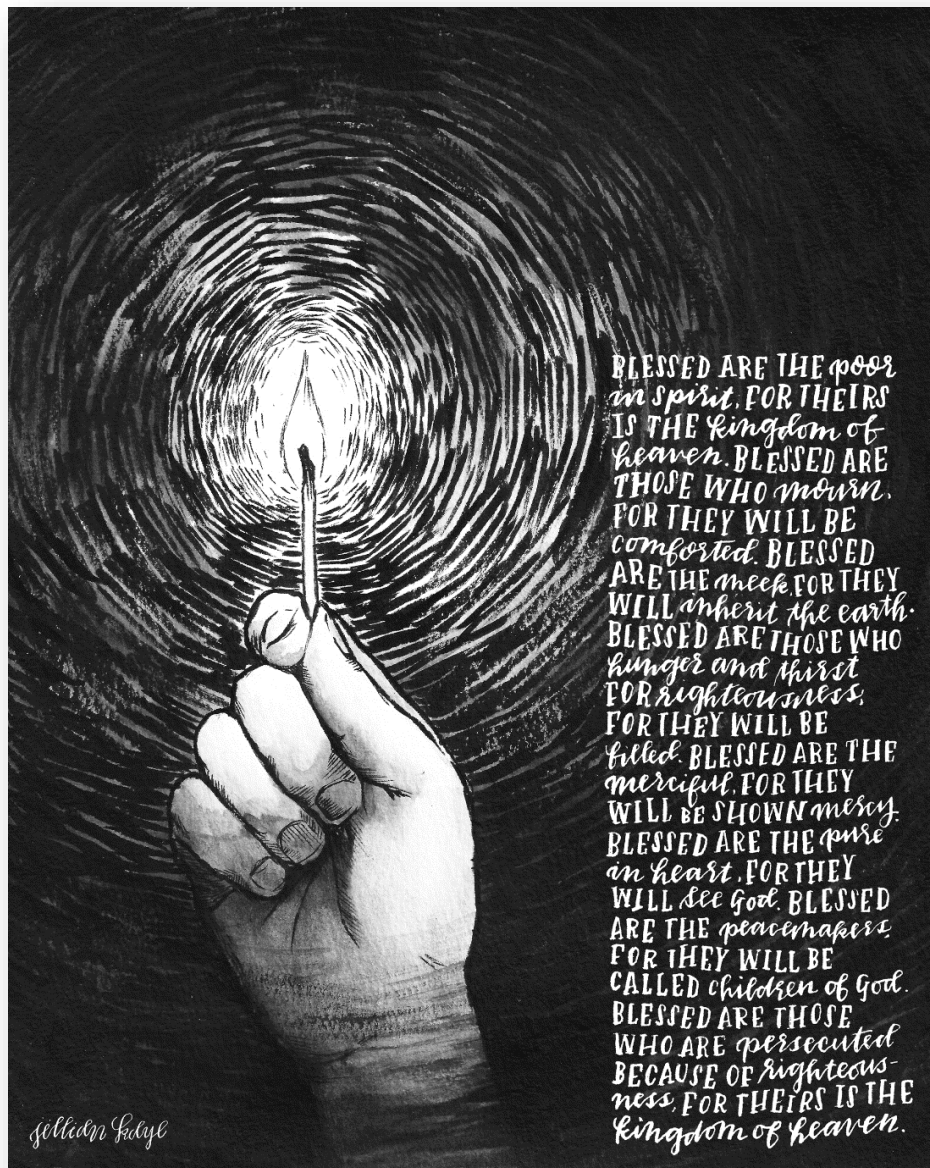


Season of Epiphany



February 19, 2023

Advent Lutheran Church

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Charlotte, NC 28213

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GATHERING FOR WORSHIP

Pastoral Welcome

Prelude

"Shine, Jesus, Shine

Annette Nolan

Confession and Forgiveness

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

L: Let us confess together.

C: God, we confess that sometimes we prefer to hide under cover of darkness where we justify our actions and behaviors as if they were secret and hidden from you.

We become calloused by our apathy.

We become complicit by our silence.

We become co-opted by our desires.

But, your light of true freedom shines *even* in the darkness, calling us to a more excellent way.

(Silence for reflection and self-examination)

L: God has forgiven you all your sins in Jesus Christ and filled you with the power of the Holy Spirit. May your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify God forever.

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 of Illumination

L: Let us pray. Lord Jesus, you took your friends with you as you made your way to the top of a mountain. There you revealed your glory to them. Changed and transformed, you led them back to the valley below.

Like them, we do not permanently reside on mountaintops, and so we pray for eyes to see the light of your glory in the ordinary moments and encounters of each day, especially

Among those who have little power

Among those whose voices are silenced

Among those who are forgotten and overlooked

Lord Jesus, strengthen us that we may also bear your light each day, especially
As we lament with those who mourn
As we hunger and thirst for justice
As we risk offense for choosing the path of your kingdom instead of the
way of the world

May our lives be a blessing: bearing light that shines in the darkness, speaking hope
that displaces despair, and embodying love that casts out hate. In your name we
pray.

C: Amen.

The First Reading

Exodus 24:12-18

L: Word of God, Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God!

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 17:1-9

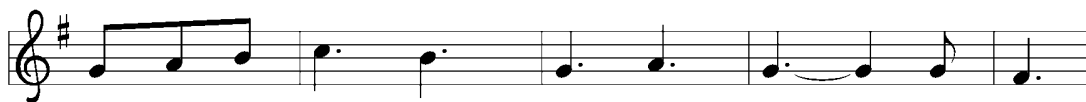
The Message

Song of the Day

ELW #841 "Lift Every Voice and Sing"



1 Lift ev - 'ry voice and sing till earth and heav - en ring,
 2 Ston - y the road we trod, bit - ter the chas - t'ning rod,
 3 God of our wea - ry years, God of our si - lent tears,



ring with the har - mo - nies of lib - er - ty.
 felt in the days when hope un - born had died;
 thou who hast brought us thus far on the way;



Let our re - joic - ing rise high as the lis - t'ning skies,
 yet with a stead - y beat, have not our wea - ry feet
 thou who hast by thy might led us in - to the light,



let it re - sound loud as the roll - ing sea.
 come to the place for which our par - ents sighed?
 keep us for - ev - er in the path, we pray.



Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us;
 We have come o - ver a way that with tears has been wa - tered;
 Lest our feet stray from the plac - es, our God, where we met thee;



sing a song full of the hope that the pres - ent has brought us;
 we have come, tread - ing our path through the blood of the slaugh - tered,
 lest, our hearts drunk with the wine of the world, we for - get thee;



fac - ing the ris - ing sun of our new day be - gun,
 out from the gloom - y past, till now we stand at last
 shad - owed be - neath thy hand, may we for - ev - er stand,



let us march on till vic - to - ry is won.
 where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.
 true to our God, true to our na - tive land.

A New Creed ⁺

We are not alone,
we live in God's world.

We believe in God:
who has created and is creating,
who has come in Jesus,
the Word made flesh,
to reconcile and make new,
who works in us and others by the Spirit.
We trust in God.

We are called to be the Church:
to celebrate God's presence,
to live with respect in Creation,
to love and serve others,
to seek justice and resist evil,
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,
our judge and our hope.

In life, in death, in life beyond death,
God is with us.
We are not alone.
Thanks be to God.

Prayers of the Faithful

L: Let us pray. God of revelation, on mountaintops and valley floors you reveal to us the light of your love in Jesus Christ, your beloved Son. Teach us to listen to him so that we may hear your voice and share the good news of the kingdom of heaven.

L: In your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

L: God of life and of truth, we pray for the poor of our world, for whom the kingdom of heaven often seems distant and unattainable. We pray for those who are without homes and for the issues of affordable housing in our city. We specifically pray for our guests at Room in the Inn this past Monday: Christina, Selbrani, Ashley, Aquavius, Douglas, Carlotta, Lionel, Noaka, Justin, Jacquelynn.

L: In your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

⁺ *A New Creed* from The United Church of Canada (1968)

L: God of life and truth, we pray for those who mourn and seek healing in body, mind, and spirit.

L: We especially pray for:

- Terence Connelly
- Charliese Eichler
- Dwight Hartsell
- Carol Hollingsworth
- Gary Homesley
- Donnell Horton
- Andy Jacobs
- Ashley King
- Beth Knapp
- Waylon Kuklantz
- Bobbi Larson
- Gabe Lynch
- Jacob Mosher
- Jane Ogilvie
- Terry Park
- Kate Peer
- Emily Pilger
- Chip Priser
- Joyce Quigley
- Michael Searing
- Bishop Tim Smith
- David Townsend
- Laura Tucker
- Herbert Watson
- Renate Wilson
- Chuck Wolfe

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

Time for the community to pray.

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

- Jeff Bertelson, brother-in-law of Gloria & Fred Strickert, died on February 3
- Gene LaJeunesse, classmate of Chris Rasmussen, on February 7

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: In your mercy

C: hear our prayer.

L: God of life and of truth, we ask these things in the name of your Son, Jesus who blesses us with your living presence and fills our lives with your life-changing truth.

C: Amen.

SHARING THE MEAL

Offering

(Please sign and pass the pew pads)

Offertory Song

"Dreamers and Doubters"

Sanctuary Singers

Table Prayer

- L: God of grace, all you have made is good and your love endures forever. By your very breath you give us life and by your hand you bring forth bread from the earth and fruit from the vine.
- C: **Nourish us with these gifts, that we might be for the world living signs of your gracious presence in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

Words of Institution

*This is the air I breathe
This is the air I breathe
Your holy presence living in me
And I . . . I'm desperate for you
And I . . . I'm lost without you*

- P: In the night in which he was betrayed,
Our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
Broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

*This is my daily bread
This is my daily bread
Your very word spoken to me
And I . . . I'm desperate for you
And I . . . I'm lost without you*

- P: Again, after supper, he took the cup,
Gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
Shed for you and for all people
For the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

*This is the living Lord
This is the living Lord
Your very blood given for me
And I . . . I'm desperate for you
And I . . . I'm lost without you*

*This is the air I breathe
This is the air I breathe
This is the air I breathe*

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.

Communion Songs ELW #433 *"Blessing, Honor, and Glory"*

Blessing, honor, glory to the Lamb.
Holy, righteous, worthy is the Lamb.
Death could not hold him down, for he is risen!
Seated upon the throne, he is the Lamb of God!
Blessing, honor, glory to the Lamb.
Holy, righteous, worthy is the Lamb.
Death could not hold him down, for he is risen!
Seated upon the throne, he is the Lamb of God!
Blessing, honor, glory to the Lamb.
Holy, righteous, worthy is the Lamb.

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

Franciscan Blessing

L: May God bless us with discomfort at easy answers, half-truths, and superficial relationships, so that we may live deep within our hearts.

May God bless us with anger at injustice, oppression, and exploitation of people, so that we may work for justice, freedom, and peace.

And may God bless us with enough foolishness to believe that we can make a difference in this world, so that we can do what others claim cannot be done.

C: Amen.

Sending Song

"Days of Elijah"

These are the days of Elijah
Declaring the Word of the Lord
And these are the days
Of Your servant Moses
Righteousness being restored
And though these are days
Of great trials
Of famine and darkness and sword
Still we are the voice
In the desert crying
Prepare ye the way of the Lord

Chorus

Behold He comes
Riding on the clouds
Shining like the sun
At the trumpet call
So lift your voice
It's the year of Jubilee
And out of Zion's hill
Salvation comes

And these are the days of Ezekiel
The dry bones becoming as flesh
And these are the days
Of Your servant David
Rebuilding a temple of praise
And these are the days of the harvest
The fields are as white in the world
And we are the laborers
In Your vineyard
Declaring the Word of the Lord

Chorus

Behold He comes
Riding on the clouds
Shining like the sun
At the trumpet call
So lift your voice
It's the year of Jubilee
And out of Zion's hill
Salvation comes

There is no god like Jehovah
There is no god like Jehovah
There is no god like Jehovah
There is no god like Jehovah

Chorus

Behold He comes
Riding on the clouds
Shining like the sun
At the trumpet call
So lift your voice
It's the year of Jubilee
And out of Zion's hill
Salvation comes

CCLI Song # 1537904

Robin Mark

Dismissal

L: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**