

# Lord of the Valley Lutheran Church

PO Box 843 Granby, CO 80446

Ministers: All God's People

(970)887-9252

Pastor: Joel Pancoast

## LOTV Worship with Holy Communion

Sunday, December 14<sup>th</sup>, 2025

Third Sunday of Advent: Even in Our Fear, We are Called Forward

### Welcome and Announcements

### Lighting the Advent Wreath

A: In a world full of fear, where do you see glimmers of joy?

**C: We see glimmers of joy in birthday candles and homemade cards. We see joy in the laughter of children and the delight of grandparents. We see joy in meals around the table and in the singing of Christmas songs.**

A: You are right. Even in a fearful world, joy is all around us. Today we light the candle of joy as a reminder of this good news. May this flicker of light help us remember that even in a fearful world, joy is here. Joy is real. We only have to look for it.

**C: Thanks be to God for that good news! Amen.**

*Light three candles.*

## GATHERING

### Gathering Song

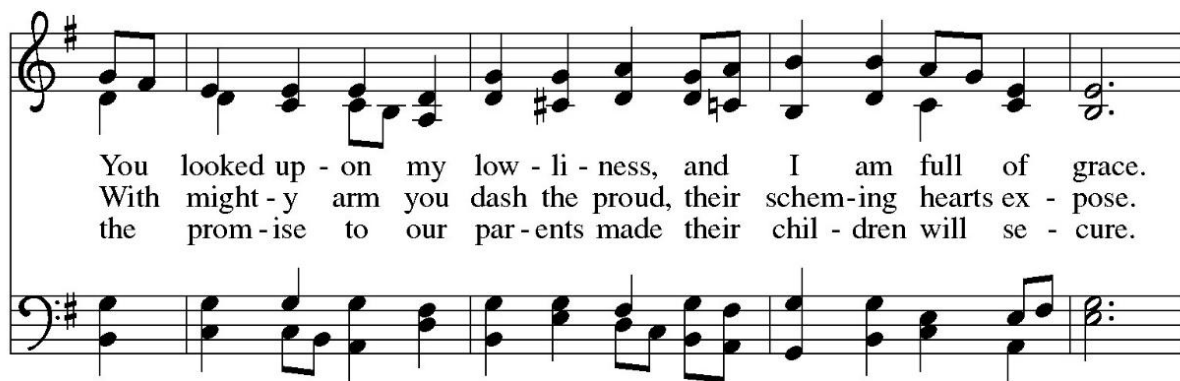
"My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness"

WOV 730

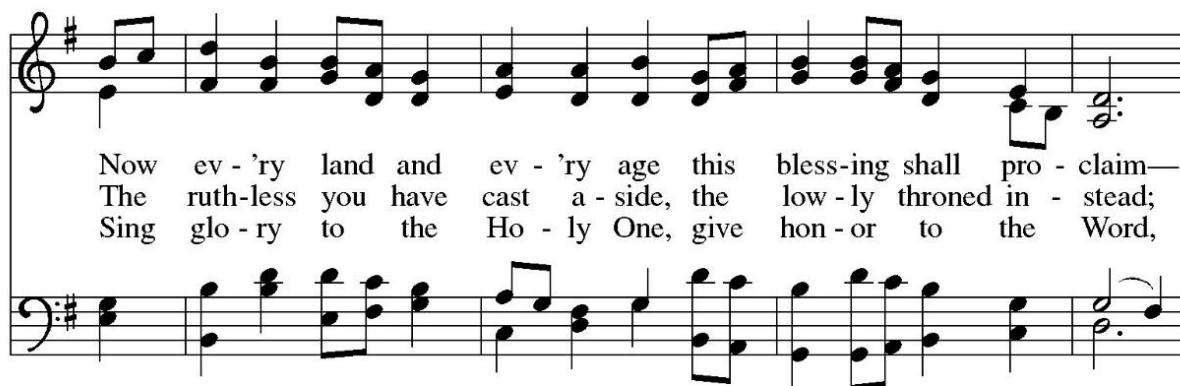
1 My soul pro-claims your great-ness, Lord; I sing my Sav - ior's praise!  
2 To all who live in ho - ly fear your mer - cy ev - er flows.  
3 To Is - ra - el, your ser - vant blest, your help is ev - er sure;

Continues on Next Page...

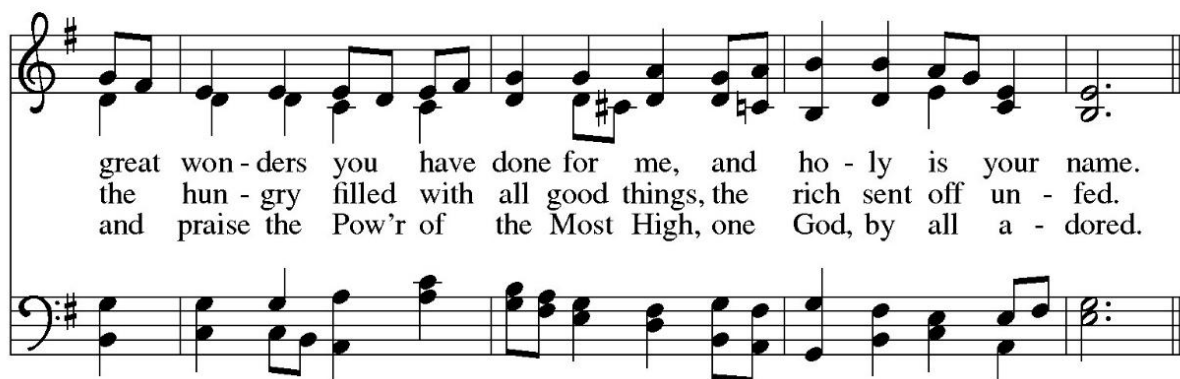




You looked up - on my low - li - ness, and I am full of grace.  
 With might - y arm you dash the proud, their schem - ing hearts ex - pose.  
 the prom - ise to our par - ents made their chil - dren will se - cure.



Now ev - 'ry land and ev - 'ry age this bless - ing shall pro - claim—  
 The ruth - less you have cast a - side, the low - ly throned in - stead;  
 Sing glo - ry to the Ho - ly One, give hon - or to the Word,



great won - ders you have done for me, and ho - ly is your name.  
 the hun - gry filled with all good things, the rich sent off un - fed.  
 and praise the Pow'r of the Most High, one God, by all a - dored.

## Prayer of the Day

P: The Lord be with you

**C: And also with you.**

P: Let us pray.

**C: Holy One, the story of this season is not a new one. We've heard this tale before. We've seen the nativities, watched the plays, sung the carols, witnessed the children act it out. The story of this season is not a new one, and yet we long to hear it as if it is. So spark our spirits awake. Call forth awareness, attention, and reverence in us. Allow us to hear this ancient tale with brand new ears. With joy we pray. Amen.**



# WORD

## Scripture Readings

### Jeremiah 1:4-10

<sup>4</sup> Now the word of the LORD came to me saying,

<sup>5</sup> "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you,  
and before you were born I consecrated you;  
I appointed you a prophet to the nations."

<sup>6</sup> Then I said, "Ah, Lord GOD! Truly I do not know how to speak, for I am only a boy." <sup>7</sup> But the LORD said to me,

"Do not say, 'I am only a boy,'  
for you shall go to all to whom I send you,  
and you shall speak whatever I command you.

<sup>8</sup> Do not be afraid of them,  
for I am with you to deliver you,  
says the LORD."

<sup>9</sup> Then the LORD put out his hand and touched my mouth, and the LORD said to me,  
"Now I have put my words in your mouth.

<sup>10</sup> See, today I appoint you over nations and over kingdoms,  
to pluck up and to pull down,  
to destroy and to overthrow,  
to build and to plant."

### Luke 1:26-40

<sup>26</sup> In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, <sup>27</sup> to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. <sup>28</sup> And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." <sup>29</sup> But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. <sup>30</sup> The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup> And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. <sup>32</sup> He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. <sup>33</sup> He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." <sup>34</sup> Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" <sup>35</sup> The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. <sup>36</sup> And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. <sup>37</sup> For nothing will be impossible with God." <sup>38</sup> Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

<sup>39</sup> In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, <sup>40</sup> where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth.

## Children's Message / Dismissal for Sunday School

### Sermon



**Song of the Day** *"Mary, Did You Know?"* words and music by Mark Lowry and Buddy Greene

Mary, did you know  
That your baby boy will one day walk on water?

Mary, did you know  
That your baby boy will save our sons and daughters?

Did you know,  
That your baby boy has come to make you new?  
This child that you've delivered,  
Will soon deliver you.

Mary, did you know  
That your baby boy will give sight to a blind man?

Mary, did you know  
Your baby boy will calm a storm with his hand?

Did you know,  
That your baby boy has walked where angels trod?  
When you kiss your little baby,  
You've kissed the face of God.

The blind will see  
The deaf will hear  
The dead will live again.  
The lame will leap  
The dumb will speak  
The praises of the lamb.

Mary, did you know  
That your baby boy is lord of all creation?

Mary, did you know  
That your baby boy will one day rule the nations?

Did you know,  
That your baby boy is heaven's perfect lamb?  
This sleeping child you're holding, is the great I am.



## **Affirmation of Faith**

**We have seen the valley. We have seen a sky without stars. We have seen the longest night, and still we believe.**

**We believe in a with-us God. We believe in the hope of tomorrow. We believe that good news is louder than fear. We believe this good news is for all people.**

**So even when our knees shake, even when our voice trembles, even when fear is all around us, we will hold onto that good news.**

**We will reach for each other. We will look for God in our midst. We will sing songs of joy.**

**We will proclaim:**

**Unto us, love is born. We have seen the longest night, and we have seen unimaginable love. So still, we believe.**

**Amen.**

## **Prayers of the People**

A: Calling God, if you tapped on my shoulder today, would my knees shake? Would my mind race? Would my voice waver?

A: Knowing the stories of all the faithful folks you've called before, help us be ready. Help us be brave enough to follow. Help us hear your call for what it is. Help us reply, "Let it be with me according to your will." Help us trust that you are a God who calls. We include in our prayers all who are struggling and may be too overwhelmed to understand your call Pat, Benjamin, Miles, Jody, Susan, Joe, Kelley, Rob, David, Tonia and Steve.

A: God of Joy,

**C: Hear our Prayer**

A: You called Mary and Moses, Jeremiah and Peter. You have called ordinary people throughout all of time. You have called artists and activists, poets and prophets, teachers and healers— young and old alike.

A: God of Joy,

**C: Hear our Prayer**

A: So as we move through this world, open our ears to hear your voice. As we move through this world, open our hearts to the invitations, the inspiration, and the nudges you place in our lives. As we move through this world, God, allow us to hear whatever call you have in store for us in this season. For no matter how big or how small, we trust that you are a calling, inviting, nudging, inspiring God who sees us in the best light.

A: God of Joy,

**C: Hear our Prayer**

A: With hope we lean forward, we listen for your word.

**C: Amen.**

## **MEAL**

### **Offering**



## **Great Thanksgiving**

P: With-us God, we live in a fearful world. If we're honest, we come to this Table today with the taste of fear on our tongues. We come to this Table carrying our anxiety. We come to this Table asking for guidance. We come to this Table with all of life's "what-ifs." But you do not disregard our fear. You do not brush it under the rug or call us foolish. You do not ignore the realities in front of us. You do not dish out hurtful platitudes, telling us to "toughen up" or "power through."

Instead, you meet us here. You listen to our fears. You remind us that we are not alone. You surround us with people who love us. You show us where we are strong. You walk beside us. And you give us a new song to sing.

So today we pray, gracious God: replace the fear on our tongues with words of hope and songs of joy. As we come to this Table, pour out your Spirit on this bread and cup. Remind us that even in a fearful world, you are on the move.

Remind us that even in a fearful world, you are here, inviting us to the Table, nourishing our spirits, reminding us that we belong, calling us by name. Instill that good news in us, for this is a joyful feast.

Fear is not the loudest voice today. What a gift that is.

## **Words of Institution**

### **The Lord's Prayer**

P: Lord, remember us in your love and teach us to pray.

**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.**

### **Distribution of Communion**

*We invite all who come in faith to the Lord's Table as we celebrate Holy Communion in our worship today. For those who prefer, grape juice and gluten free wafers are available, let the server know as you approach. Those not communing are welcome to come forward for a blessing.*

### **Prayer After Communion**

**C: Loving God, in a world racked with fear, you gather us together. You set the table. you meet us here. You nourish our bodies as you nourish our spirits. You remind us that this is a joyful feast, and that fear cannot win every time. So with renewed courage, with renewed hope, with renewed conviction, send us out into the world. Help us to feed others as you have fed us. With gratitude we pray, Amen.**



# SENDING

## Benediction

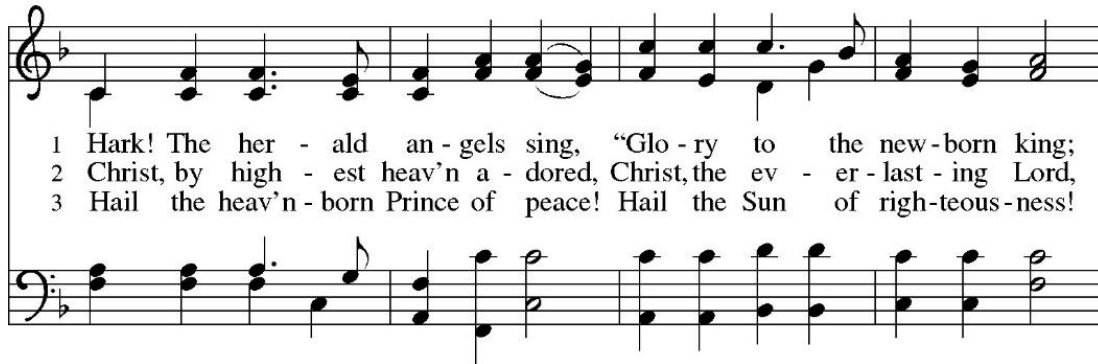
P: In a fearful world, may you look for God's spirit. May you reach for each other's hands. May you choose courage whenever you can. And in all things, may you remember that good news is louder than fear. In the name of the one who calls, the one who sends, and the one who journeys with us, go in peace and be not afraid.

C: Amen.

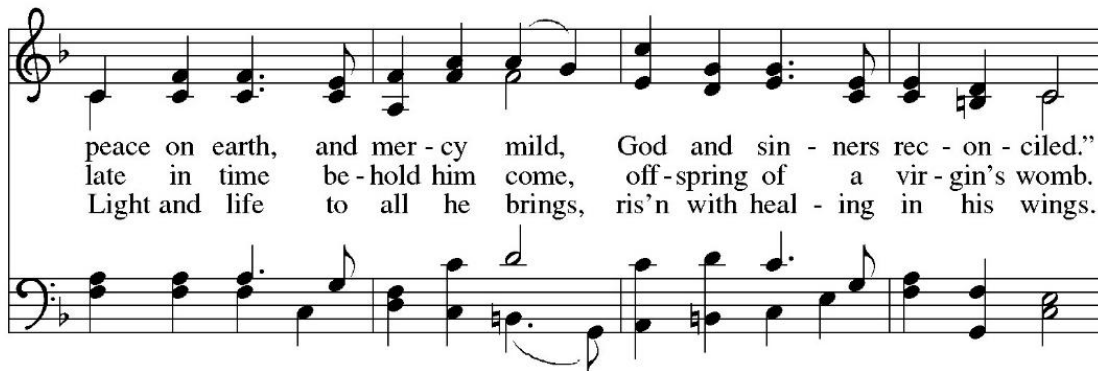
## Sending Song

"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

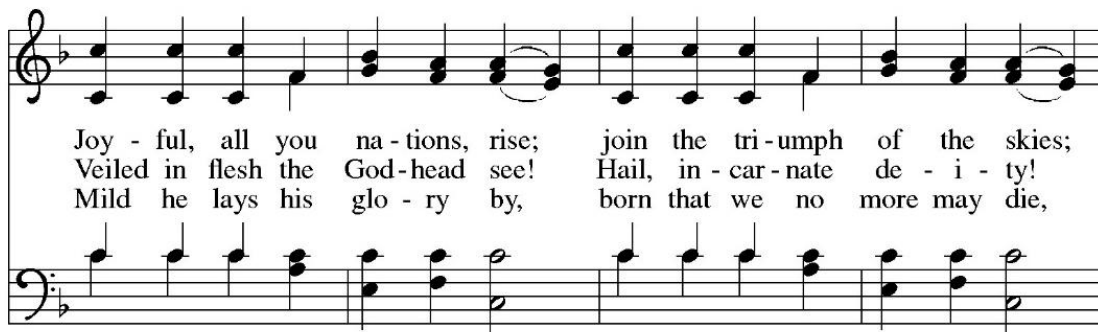
ELW 270



1 Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born king;  
2 Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,  
3 Hail the heav'n - born Prince of peace! Hail the Sun of righ-teous-ness!



peace on earth, and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled."  
late in time be - hold him come, off - spring of a vir - gin's womb.  
Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with heal - ing in his wings.



Joy - ful, all you na - tions, rise; join the tri - umph of the skies;  
Veiled in flesh the God-head see! Hail, in - car - nate de - i - ty!  
Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,

Continues on Next Page...





with an - gel - ic hosts pro - claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"  
 Pleased as man with us to dwell, Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el!  
 born to raise each child of earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.

*Refrain*



Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born king!"

## Dismissal

A: Go in peace and be not afraid.

**C: Thanks be to God! And we will!**