

# Lord of the Valley Lutheran Church

PO Box 843 Granby, CO 80446

(970)887-9252

Ministers: All God's People

Pastor: Brian Bergum

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## Welcome and Announcements

**Opening Song:** "Sanctuary" by John W Thompson and Randy Scruggs

***Lord prepare me to be a sanctuary, pure and holy, tried and true  
With thanksgiving, I'll be a living, sanctuary for you  
Lord prepare me to be a testimony, pure and holy, tried and true,  
With thanksgiving, I'll be a living, testimony, for you.  
Lord prepare me to be a sanctuary, pure and holy, tried and true  
With thanksgiving, I'll be a living, sanctuary for you***

## Confession and Forgiveness

Leader: We worship as we live, in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**People: Amen**

Leader: Come let us worship God, the source of love and life, who creates us and all things.

**People: Come let us worship God, who came to us in Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh, the Risen one, who is Immanuel, God with us now and always.**

Leader: Come let us worship God, whose Spirit dwells in our lives and in our world, the Spirit calls, gathers, renews and sends us out into the world to be witnesses to the love of God.

**People: To the One true God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be praise in all times and all places.**

Leader: As we gather to worship God we let go of our fears that keep us from loving, we put down our masks that hide our true selves. We turn to God seeking forgiveness in our own life and the courage to offer forgiveness to each other.

*(A time of silence for personal reflection and confession)*

Leader: Most merciful God,

**People: We confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves, We have sinned against you in thought, word and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Holy name. Amen**

Leader: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for you, and for his sake, God forgives you all of your sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ, God gives the power to become Children of God and bestows on us the Holy Spirit!

**People: Amen. Thanks be to God!**

**Song:** "Psalm 121"

**I lift my eyes up, up to the mountains.  
Where does my help come from?  
My help comes from you, Make of heaven, Creator of the earth.  
Oh how I need you Lord. You are my only hope.  
You are my only prayer.  
So I will wait for you to come and rescue me,  
to come and given me life. (repeat)**

**(Final time) I lift my eyes up, up to the mountains.**

### **Prayer of the Day**

Leader: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Leader: Beloved and sovereign God,

**People: through the death and resurrection of your Son you bring us into your kingdom of justice and mercy. By your Spirit, give us your wisdom, that we may treasure the life that comes from Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

### **Scripture Readings**

After each reading –

Reader: The Word of God for the People of God.

**ALL: Thanks be to God.**

#### **1Kings 3: 5-12**

At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night; and God said, 'Ask what I should give you.' And Solomon said, 'You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant my father David, because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart towards you; and you have kept for him this great and steadfast love, and have given him a son to sit on his throne today. And now, O LORD my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David, although I am only a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. And your servant is in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a great people, so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted. Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil; for who can govern this your great people?' It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. God said to him, 'Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches, or for the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, I now do according to your word. Indeed I give you a wise and discerning mind; no one like you has been before you and no one like you shall arise after you.'

## **Romans 8: 26-39**

The Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified. What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written,

'For your sake we are being killed all day long;  
we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered.'

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

## **Gospel Reading**

After reading – Pastor: The Gospel of the Lord.

**Congregation: Thanks be to God.**

Matthew 13: 31-33, 44-52

[Jesus] put before them another parable: 'The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.'

He told them another parable: 'The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened.'

'The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.'

'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.'

'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

'Have you understood all this?' They answered, 'Yes.' And he said to them, 'Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.'

## **Sermon**

## **Affirmation of Faith**    "Apostles Creed"

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## **Prayers of the People**

### **The Great Thanksgiving**

#### **Words of Institution**

Leader: Lord remember us in your love and teach us to pray:

**People: 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**

### **After Communion Blessing and Prayer**

Leader: May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen, keep and unite us, now and forever.

**People: Amen**

Leader: Life-giving God, in this meal you have bound us to yourself, at this table we have received the very presence of Jesus Christ. Send us now to be what we have received, that all creation might know your love and sing your praise now and always.

## **Benediction**

### **Sending**

Leader: Go in Peace, Serve the Lord

**People: THANKS BE TO GOD!!**

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