

Lord of the Valley Lutheran Church

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Ministers: All God's People

Pastor: Brian Bergum

Saturday Evening Worship

Saturday, September 19

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship

P) We gather in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit,

C) Amen

P) Today we hear of God's great generosity

C) A generosity beyond our imagination!

P) Yet we know that through our Lord Jesus Christ, this overflowing love of God comes to us.

C) So we come to God with all that is on our hearts and in our minds, trusting this love that has been proclaimed.

P) We confess to God that we are broken, in ways that are clear and in ways that may not be so apparent.

C) We seek the love of God in Christ Jesus to embrace us as we admit our own need for forgiveness.

P) We have sinned against you, O God, in our thoughts, with our words and through our actions.

C) We have failed to seek you and your guidance in our life; we have failed ourselves and our neighbors.

P) We have taken for granted the gift you have given us in love.

C) We have mistreated the creation around us and used our abilities too often only for ourselves.

ALL) Forgive our sin and heal our hearts and minds, that we may be restored and rise in praise of you through our life and living. Let our lives reflect your generosity of love, mercy, and peace. Amen

P) It is because of God's great generosity that we can be so honest and trusting. It is because of God's great love in Jesus Christ, that that I can proclaim your sins, and mine, are indeed forgiven and that we walk in newness of life through our Lord Jesus Christ this day!

ALL) Amen

Kyrie

Refrain

Ky-ri-e e-lei-son, on our world and on our way.

Ky-ri-e e-lei-son, ev-'ry day.

For peace in the world, for the health of the church, for the unity of all; for this holy house, for all who worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord. *Refrain*

That we may live out your impassioned response to the hungry and the poor; that we may live out truth and justice and grace, let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord. *Refrain*

For peace in our hearts, for peace in our homes, for friends and family; for life and for love, for our work and our play, let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord. *Refrain*

For your Spirit to guide; that we center our lives in the water and the Word; that you nourish our souls with your body and blood, let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord. *Refrain*

Prayer of the Day

P) The Lord be with you.

C) And also with you.

P) Almighty and eternal God,

C) you show perpetual lovingkindness to us your servants. Because we cannot rely on our own abilities, grant us your merciful judgment, and train us to embody the generosity of your Son, 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.

Jonah 3: 10-4:11

When God saw what [the people of Nineveh] did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it.

But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. He prayed to the LORD and said, 'O LORD! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning; for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and ready to relent from punishing. And now, O LORD, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live.' And the LORD said, 'Is it right for you to be angry?' Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city, and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of the city.

The LORD God appointed a bush, and made it come up over Jonah, to give shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort; so Jonah was very happy about the bush. But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. When the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that he might die. He said, 'It is better for me to die than to live.'

But God said to Jonah, 'Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?' And he said, 'Yes, angry enough to die.' Then the LORD said, 'You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labor and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night. And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand people who do not know their right hand from their left, and also many animals?'

Philippians 1: 21-30

For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which I prefer. I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again. Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel, and are in no way intimidated by your opponents. For them this is evidence of their destruction, but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well— since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

Gospel Reading

After reading – Pastor: The Gospel of the Lord.

Congregation: Thanks be to God.

Matthew 20: 1-16

[Jesus said to the disciples:] 'For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the market-place; and he said to them, "You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right." So they went. When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, "Why are you standing here idle all day?" They said to him, "Because no one has hired us." He said to them, "You also go into the vineyard." When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, "Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first." When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, saying, "These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat." But he replied to one of them, "Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?" So the last will be first, and the first will be last.'

Sermon

Sermon Hymn "There's a Wideness in God's Mercy"



1. There's a wide-ness in God's mer-cy Like the wide-ness
2. For the love of God is broad-er Than the meas-ures
3. Trou-bled souls, why will you scat-ter Like a crowd of



of the sea; There's a kind-ness in God's jus-tice
of our mind, And the heart of the E-ter-nal
fright-ened sheep? Fool-ish hearts, why will you wan-der



Which is more than lib-er-ty. There is plen-ti-
Is most won-der-ful-ly kind. If our love were
From a love so true and deep? There is wel-come



ful re-demp-tion In the blood that has been shed;
but more sim-ple We should take him at his word,
for the sin-ner And more grac-es for the good;



There is joy for all the mem-bers
And our lives would be thanks-giv-ing
There is mer-cy with the Sav-ior,



In the sor-rows of the Head.
For the good-ness of our Lord.
There is heal-ing in his blood.

Affirmation of Faith

We believe in God, the Creator, who moved upon the face of the deep at the beginning of creation, who created all that is, all that will be, who spoke through the prophets of old.

We believe in Jesus Christ, into whom God's Spirit was poured in fullness and power, that the whole creation might be restored, healed and unified; and who promised that the Spirit would come and fill the faithful with power to witness to the mighty love of God.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, who breathes within us the breath of God. We wait on the Spirit today with longing hearts, seeking to be empowered to witness to God's love in Christ, with fresh and courageous actions of love and hope. Amen.

Prayers of the People

Holy Communion

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

Dismissal

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