

# Lord of the Valley Lutheran Church

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Ministers: All God's People

Pastor: Brian Bergum

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## LOTV Worship with Holy Communion 9:30 am

Sunday, February 7<sup>th</sup> Fifth Sunday of Epiphany

### Welcome and Announcements

We will be celebrating Communion during worship this morning. All are welcome! You will need to provide your own elements of bread and wine or juice for Holy Communion.

### Tree of Life

#### Call to Worship – Order of Confession and Forgiveness

Leader: We worship as we live, in the Grace of God, the Compassion of Jesus Christ, and the Healing Hope of the Holy Spirit.

**ALL: Amen**

Leader: We have come to praise God, who has done wonderful things among us.

**ALL: In Jesus Christ, God has shown us love, giving light for our darkness, and strength for all our days.**

Leader: We come remembering Christ's life and ministry, and the life we are called to live.

**ALL: We come as people yearning, searching for ways to live out our faith. We come, seeking direction and strength to carry on our journey.**

Leader: Come, you are welcome here. Christ is with us, calling us now to life and love.

**ALL: Let us celebrate life. Let us worship God.**

Leader: In Jesus Christ, the Light of God is made known to the world. As we gather we confess to God and to each other the ways in which we deny and refuse to live by the Light of Christ in our lives.

*(A Time of Silence for Personal Reflection and Confess)*

Leader: O God of Radiant Light and Endless Love,

**ALL: We confess to you the truth of our broken lives. We have not trusted your promises or walked in your ways. We have hoarded and squandered the gifts of creation. We have failed to welcome the stranger and the outcast, and make room for those in need. We have neither worked to release the oppressed nor admitted our own captivities. We have failed to let your light shine through us in the world in which we live. Forgive our sin, heal our lives, and set us free, that we might live with your whole creation in joy and hope. Amen**

Leader: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light. Upon them, upon us, the light of Christ shines. Fear not! For behold I bring you good news of great joy: God loves you, and in and through this love God forgives you of all your sins. Embrace this day, for God has come to you, to abide in you. Arise! Your Light has come.

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

## Hymn of Praise, Psalm 147 Adapted

P) Hallelujah! How good it is to sing praises to our God!

**C) How pleasant it is to honor God with praise!**

P) The LORD rebuilds Jerusalem and gathers the exiles of Israel.

**C) The LORD heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds.**

P) The LORD lifts up the lowly.

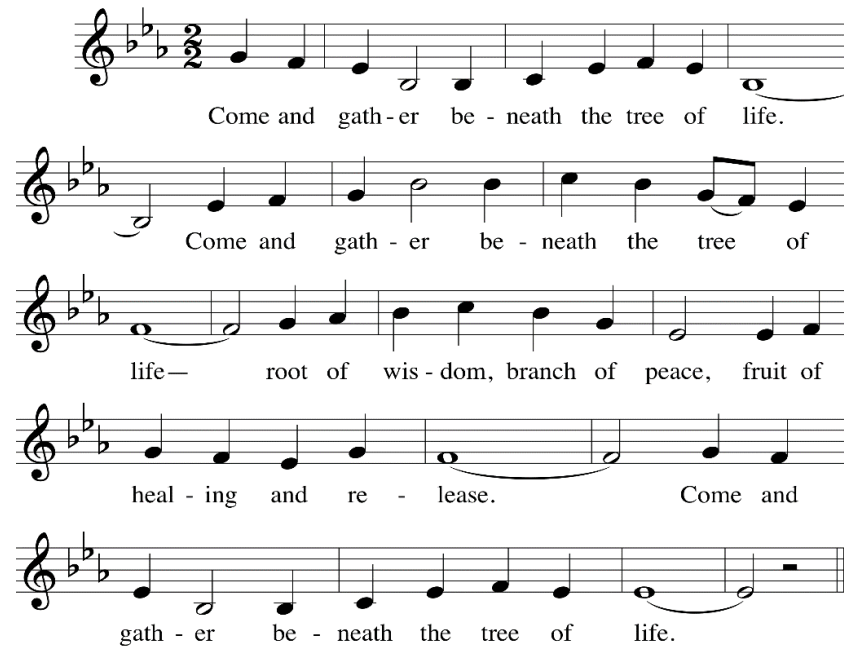
**C) Sing to the LORD with Thanksgiving!**

P) Hallelujah! How good it is to sing praises to our God!

**C) Sing to the LORD with Thanksgiving!**

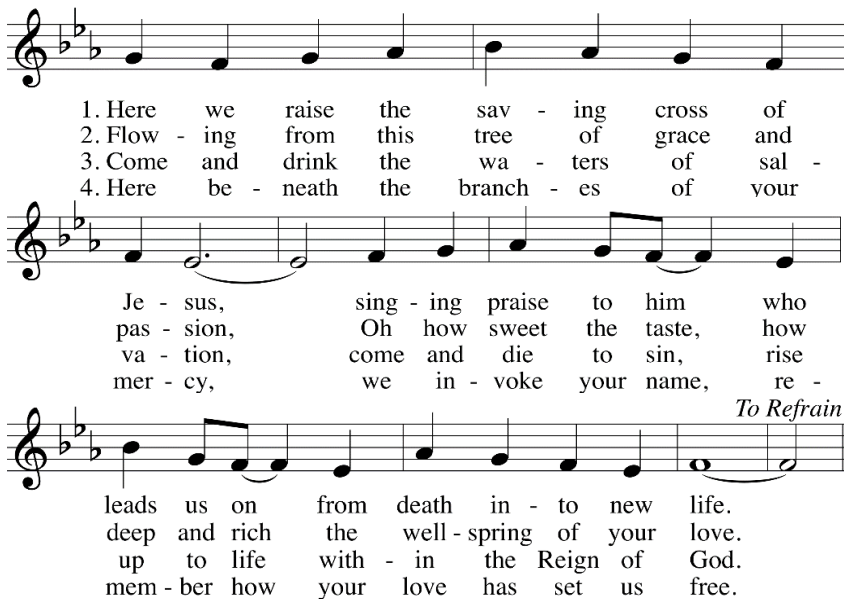
## Gathering Song "Come and Gather Beneath the Tree of Life"

### Refrain



Come and gath-er be - neath the tree of life.  
Come and gath - er be - neath the tree of  
life— root of wis - dom, branch of peace, fruit of  
heal - ing and re - lease. Come and  
gath - er be - neath the tree of life.

### Verses



1. Here we raise the sav - ing cross of  
2. Flow - ing from this tree of grace and  
3. Come and drink the wa - ters of sal -  
4. Here be - neath the branch - es of your  
Je - sus, sing - ing praise to him who  
pas - sion, Oh how sweet the taste, how  
va - tion, come and die to sin, rise  
mer - cy, we in - voke your name, re -  
*To Refrain*  
leads us on from death in - to new life.  
deep and rich the well - spring of your love.  
up to life with - in the Reign of God.  
mem - ber how your love has set us free.

## Prayer of the Day

P) The Lord be with you.

**C) And also with you.**

P) Everlasting God,

**C) you give strength to the weak and power to the faint. Make us agents of your healing and wholeness, that your good news may be made known to the ends of your creation, through 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.**

### Isaiah 40: 21-31

Have you not known? Have you not heard?

Has it not been told you from the beginning?

Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth?

It is he who sits above the circle of the earth,

and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers;

who stretches out the heavens like a curtain,

and spreads them like a tent to live in;

who brings princes to naught,

and makes the rulers of the earth as nothing.

Scarcely are they planted, scarcely sown,

scarcely has their stem taken root in the earth,

when he blows upon them, and they wither,

and the tempest carries them off like stubble.

To whom then will you compare me,

or who is my equal? says the Holy One.

Lift up your eyes on high and see:

Who created these?

He who brings out their host and numbers them,

calling them all by name;

because he is great in strength,

mighty in power,

not one is missing.

Why do you say, O Jacob,

and speak, O Israel,

'My way is hidden from the LORD,

and my right is disregarded by my God'?

Have you not known? Have you not heard?

The LORD is the everlasting God,

the Creator of the ends of the earth.

He does not faint or grow weary;

his understanding is unsearchable.

He gives power to the faint,

and strengthens the powerless.  
Even youths will faint and be weary,  
and the young will fall exhausted;  
but those who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength,  
they shall mount up with wings like eagles,  
they shall run and not be weary,  
they shall walk and not faint.

### **1 Corinthians 9: 16-23**

If I proclaim the gospel, this gives me no ground for boasting, for an obligation is laid on me, and woe betide me if I do not proclaim the gospel! For if I do this of my own will, I have a reward; but if not of my own will, I am entrusted with a commission. What then is my reward? Just this: that in my proclamation I may make the gospel free of charge, so as not to make full use of my rights in the gospel.

For though I am free with respect to all, I have made myself a slave to all, so that I might win more of them. To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews. To those under the law I became as one under the law (though I myself am not under the law) so that I might win those under the law. To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (though I am not free from God's law but am under Christ's law) so that I might win those outside the law. To the weak I became weak, so that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, so that I might by any means save some. I do it all for the sake of the gospel, so that I may share in its blessings.

### **Gospel Reading**

After reading – Pastor: The Gospel of the Lord.

**Congregation: Thanks be to God.**

### **Mark 1: 29-39**

As soon as [Jesus and the disciples] left the synagogue, they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. Now Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told him about her at once. He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up. Then the fever left her, and she began to serve them.

That evening, at sunset, they brought to him all who were sick or possessed with demons. And the whole city was gathered around the door. And he cured many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him. In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed. And Simon and his companions hunted for him. When they found him, they said to him, 'Everyone is searching for you.' He answered, 'Let us go on to the neighboring towns, so that I may proclaim the message there also; for that is what I came out to do.' And he went throughout Galilee, proclaiming the message in their synagogues and casting out demons.

**Special Music “O Lord God”** (a video choral presentation)

**Sermon**

Song

“Christ, Be Our Light”



1 Long - ing for light, we wait in dark - ness. Long - ing for  
 2 Long - ing for peace, our world is trou - bled. Long - ing for  
 3 Long - ing for food, man - y are hun - gry. Long - ing for  
 4 Long - ing for shel - ter, man - y are home - less. Long - ing for  
 5 Man - y the gifts, man - y the peo - ple, man - y the



truth, we turn to you. Make us your own,  
 hope, man - y de - spair. Your word a - lone  
 wa - ter, man - y still thirst. Make us your bread,  
 warmth, man - y are cold. Make us your build - ing,  
 hearts that yearn to be - long. Let us be ser - vants



your ho - ly peo - ple, light for the world to see.  
 has pow'r to save us. Make us your liv - ing voice.  
 bro - ken for oth - ers, shared un - til all are fed.  
 shel - ter - ing oth - ers, walls made of liv - ing stone.  
 to one an - oth - er, signs of your king - dom come.



*Refrain*  
 Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the



dark - ness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your



church gath - ered to - day.

**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

### The Great Thanksgiving

P) The Lord is with you.

**C) And also with you.**

P) Lift up your hearts.

**C) We lift them to the Lord.**

P) Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C) It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

P) Blessed are you ...in your Holy Church, now and forever.

**C) Amen.**

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

#### After Communion Blessing and Prayer

P) The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, give you grace, mercy and peace now and in all your days!

**C) Amen**

P) 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

**ALL: THANKS BE TO GOD!!**