

Lord of the Valley Lutheran Church

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Ministers: All God's People

Pastor: Brian Bergum

LOTV Worship Sunday, September 12, 2021 / 16th Sunday after Pentecost

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship – 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.

People: Amen

Leader: Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth.

People: Let us worship God with gladness; we come into God's presence with singing.

Leader: Know that the Lord is God. It is God that made us, and we are God's own; we are God's people, and the sheep of God's pasture.

ALL: We come with thanksgiving and praise. Give thanks to God; bless God's holy name.

Leader: For God is good, God's steadfast love for all creation endures forever, and God's faithfulness to all generations.

ALL: Gracious God, your generous goodness comes to us new every day. By the work of your Spirit lead us to acknowledge your goodness, give thanks for our blessings, and serve you through our love and service of each other. Amen.

Leader: From the cowardice that dares not face new truth, from the complacency that is contented with half-truth, from the arrogance that thinks it knows all truth, we come to this place trusting in the promises of God to confess our sins to God and to each other.

(A Time of Silence for Personal Reflection and Confession.)

Leader: Gracious and merciful God,

ALL: We confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in our thoughts, our words, and our actions, 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 of all your sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ, God gives the power to become Children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit.

ALL: Amen. Thanks be to God!

Hymn of Praise

"Now the Feast and Celebration"

Refrain

Now the feast and cel - e - bra-tion, all of cre - a - tion
sings for joy, to the God of life and love and free-dom;
praise and glo - ry for - ev - er - more!

Verse 1

1. Now is the feast of the Lamb once slain,
whose blood has freed and u - nit-ed us
to be one great peo - ple of God. **D.C.**

Verse 2

2. Pow-er and rich-es, wis-dom and might, all hon - or and
glo - ry to Christ for - ev - er. **D.C.**

Verse 3

3. For God has come to dwell with us, to make us
peo-ple of God; to make all things new. **D.C.**

Prayer of the Day

Leader: The Lord is with you.

All: And also with you.

Leader: O God,

All: through suffering and rejection you bring forth our salvation, and by the glory of the cross you transform our lives. Grant that for the sake of the gospel we may turn from the lure of evil, take up our cross, and follow 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.

Isaiah 50: 4-9a

The Lord GOD has given me
the tongue of a teacher,
that I may know how to sustain
the weary with a word.
Morning by morning he wakens—
wakens my ear
to listen as those who are taught.
The Lord GOD has opened my ear,
and I was not rebellious,
I did not turn backwards.
I gave my back to those who struck me,
and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard;
I did not hide my face
from insult and spitting.

The Lord GOD helps me;
therefore I have not been disgraced;
therefore I have set my face like flint,
and I know that I shall not be put to shame;
he who vindicates me is near.
Who will contend with me?
Let us stand up together.
Who are my adversaries?
Let them confront me.
It is the Lord GOD who helps me;
who will declare me guilty?
All of them will wear out like a garment;
the moth will eat them up.

James 3: 1-12

Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers and sisters, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness. For all of us make many mistakes. Anyone who makes no mistakes in speaking is perfect, able to keep the whole body in check with a bridle. If we put bits into

the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we guide their whole bodies. Or look at ships: though they are so large that it takes strong winds to drive them, yet they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs. So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great exploits.

How great a forest is set ablaze by a small fire! And the tongue is a fire. The tongue is placed among our members as a world of iniquity; it stains the whole body, sets on fire the cycle of nature, and is itself set on fire by hell. For every species of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by the human species, but no one can tame the tongue—a restless evil, full of deadly poison. With it we bless the Lord and Father, and with it we curse those who are made in the likeness of God. From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this ought not to be so. Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and brackish water? Can a fig tree, my brothers and sisters, yield olives, or a grapevine figs? No more can salt water yield fresh.

Gospel Reading

After reading – Pastor: The Gospel of the Lord.

Congregation: Thanks be to God.

Mark 8: 27-38

Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the way he asked his disciples, 'Who do people say that I am?' And they answered him, 'John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets.' He asked them, 'But who do you say that I am?' Peter answered him, 'You are the Messiah.' And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him.

Jesus Foretells His Death and Resurrection

Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, 'Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.'

He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, 'If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.'

Sermon

Song

“Will You Come and Follow Me”



1 “Will you come and fol - low me if I but call
 2 “Will you leave your - self be - hind if I but call
 3 “Will you let the blind - ed see if I but call
 4 “Will you love the you you hide if I but call
 5 Lord, your sum - mons ech - oes true when you but call



your name? Will you go where you don't
 your name? Will you care for cruel and
 your name? Will you set the pris - 'ners
 your name? Will you quell the fear in -
 my name. Let me turn and fol - low



know and nev - er be the same?
 kind and nev - er be the same?
 free and nev - er be the same?
 side and nev - er be the same?
 you and nev - er be the same.



Will you let my love be shown, will you let my
 Will you risk the hos - tile stare, should your life at -
 Will you kiss the lep - er clean, and do such as
 Will you use the faith you've found to re - shape the
 In your com - pa - ny I'll go where your love and



name be known, will you let my life be
 tract or scare? Will you let me an - swer
 this un - seen, and ad - mit to what I
 world a - round, through my sight and touch and
 foot - steps show. Thus I'll move and live and



grown in you and you in me?"
 pray'r in you and you in me?"
 mean in you and you in me?"
 sound in you and you in me?"
 grow in you and you in me.

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

Leader: The Lord be with you

All: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them to God.

Leader: Let us give thanks to God Most High.

All: It is right to give God our thanks and praise.

Leader: You are indeed Holy, Gracious and Merciful God ... This we pray through Jesus Christ our Savior and our Friend.

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

All: 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

Communion is Shared

Post Communion Blessing

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

All: 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.

All: Amen

Sending Song: "Praise to You, O God of Mercy"

Congregation:



1. Praise to you, O God of mer - cy:
2. From of old you loved and sought us:
Thanks be to you for ev - er! Rais - ing high the
Thanks be to you for ev - er! Truth and jus - tice
weak and low - ly: Thanks be to you for ev - er!
you have taught us: Thanks be to you for ev - er!
Strong is your faith - ful - ness, strong is your
love, re - mem - b'ring your cov - e - nant of
life with us. 3. Praise to you, O
God of mer - cy: Thanks be to you for ev - er!
Rais - ing high the weak and low - ly: Thanks be to you for
ev - er! Thanks be to you for ev - er!

Blessing and Sending

Leader: Go in Peace, Serve the Lord

ALL: THANKS BE TO GOD!!