

Lord of the Valley Lutheran Church

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Ministers: All God's People

Pastor: Brian Bergum

LOTV Worship Sunday, September 5, 2021 / 15th 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: Gracious God,

All: throughout the ages you transform sickness into health and death into life. Open us to the power of your presence, and make us a people ready to proclaim your promises to the whole world, through Jesus Christ, our healer and Lord. Amen.

Scripture Readings

After each reading –

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

Isaiah 35: 4-7a

Say to those who are of a fearful heart,

‘Be strong, do not fear!

Here is your God.

He will come with vengeance,
with terrible recompense.

He will come and save you.’

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,

and the ears of the deaf unstopped;

then the lame shall leap like a deer,

and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.

For waters shall break forth in the wilderness,

and streams in the desert;

the burning sand shall become a pool,

and the thirsty ground springs of water;

the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp,

the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

James 2: 1-10 [11-13] 14-17

My brothers and sisters, do you with your acts of favoritism really believe in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ? For if a person with gold rings and in fine clothes comes into your assembly, and if a poor person in dirty clothes also comes in, and if you take notice of the one wearing the fine clothes and say, ‘Have a seat here, please’, while to the one who is poor you say, ‘Stand there’, or, ‘Sit at my feet’, have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts? Listen, my beloved brothers and sisters. Has not God chosen the poor in the world to be rich in faith and to be heirs of the kingdom that he has promised to those who love him? But you have dishonored the poor. Is it not the rich who oppress you? Is it not they who drag you into court? Is it not they who blaspheme the excellent name that was invoked over you?

You do well if you really fulfil the royal law according to the scripture, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ But if you show partiality, you commit sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it.[For the one who said, ‘You shall not commit adultery’, also said, ‘You shall not murder.’ Now if you do not commit adultery but if you murder, you have become a transgressor of the law. So speak and so act as those

who are to be judged by the law of liberty. For judgement will be without mercy to anyone who has shown no mercy; mercy triumphs over judgement.]

Faith without Works Is Dead

What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, and one of you says to them, 'Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill', and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.

Gospel Reading

After reading – Pastor: The Gospel of the Lord.

Congregation: Thanks be to God.

Mark 7: 24-37

[Jesus] set out and went away to the region of Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know he was there. Yet he could not escape notice, but a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit immediately heard about him, and she came and bowed down at his feet. Now the woman was a Gentile, of Syrophenician origin. She begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter. He said to her, 'Let the children be fed first, for it is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs.' But she answered him, 'Sir, even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs.' Then he said to her, 'For saying that, you may go—the demon has left your daughter.' So she went home, found the child lying on the bed, and the demon gone.

Jesus Cures a Deaf Man

Then he returned from the region of Tyre, and went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis. They brought to him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they begged him to lay his hand on him. He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spat and touched his tongue. Then looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, 'Ephphatha', that is, 'Be opened.' And immediately his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. Then Jesus ordered them to tell no one; but the more he ordered them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. They were astounded beyond measure, saying, 'He has done everything well; he even makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak.'

Sermon

Song

“Healer of Our Every Ill”

Refrain



Heal - er of our ev - 'ry ill, light of each to - mor - row,



give us peace be - yond our fear, and hope be - yond our sor - row.



- 1 You who know our fears and sad - ness, grace us with your
- 2 In the pain and joy be - hold - ing how your grace is
- 3 Give us strength to love each oth - er, ev - 'ry sis - ter,
- 4 You who know each thought and feel - ing, teach us all your



peace and glad - ness; Spir - it of all com - fort, fill our hearts.
still un - fold - ing, give us all your vi - sion, God of love.
ev - 'ry broth - er; Spir - it of all kind - ness, be our guide.
way of heal - ing; Spir - it of com - pas - sion, fill each heart.

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

Blessing and Sending

Leader: Go in Peace, Serve the Lord

ALL: THANKS BE TO GOD!!