

Lord of the Valley Lutheran Church

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Ministers: All God's People

Pastor: Brian Bergum

LOTV Worship with Holy Communion 9:30 am

Sunday, March 20th Third Sunday in Lent

Welcome and Announcements

Gathering

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

ALL: Amen

Leader: God calls us to be honest with ourselves, with God and each other, as God renews us and our life's purposes. Come apart from the busyness of family, school and work, and dwell in the presence of God, the source and ground of our being.

ALL: We come in praise of God and in affirmation of Jesus Christ as the truth and center of our lives. We celebrate the places where love is found, and we give thanks for the gift of new life.

Leader: O God, the struggles of relationships, the pressure of making ends meet or of keeping up with our peers, the fear of losing, our health, our job, our home, the ones we love, over time dry up our lives, and takes the very breath from our being.

ALL: Raise us up O God. Breathe your Spirit into our dry bones. Call us out of the tombs we have created in our lives, that we might embrace and celebrate the gift of life you have given us this very day. Amen

Leader: Sisters and Brothers: God created us to experience joy in communion with God, to love all humanity, and to live in harmony with all of creation. But sin separates us from God, our neighbors, and creation. As we move through this season of Lent we acknowledge our need for repentance; that is, our need to re-focus and re-prioritize our lives, our need to turn our lives back toward God and our neighbors. Let us continue our Lenten journey by together confessing our sins and seeking the forgiveness and new life that is promised to us in Christ Jesus.

Song "Create In Me a Clean Heart"

Create in me a clean heart, O God

And renew a right Spirit within me

Create in me a clean heart, O God

And renew a right Spirit within me

Confession and Forgiveness

Leader: God of Love and Life,

ALL: We confess that we have sinned against you and each other, by what we have done and said, and by what we have failed to do and say. We confess that we are wounded, and those wounds affect how we treat ourselves and how we treat others. We come seeking forgiveness and healing. We come seeking a sense of wholeness in our lives. Help us to forgive the people who have wounded us, as we come seeking forgiveness for the wounds we have caused other people. Have mercy on us, O God. Help us to live differently. Help us to forgive graciously. Help us to love abundantly. Amen

Leader: God is faithful, even when we are not. God's promises are true, even when we break our promises. Our lives change but one thing does not change: God has loved you, loves you now, and will love you always. And it is in and through this love that in Jesus Christ God forgives you of all your sins. This is the good news that brings us new life.

ALL: Amen – Thanks be to God!

Song "Create In Me a Clean Heart"

Create in me a clean heart, O God

And renew a right Spirit within me

Create in me a clean heart, O God

And renew a right Spirit within me

And cast me not away from Your presence O Lord

And take not Your Holy Spirit from me.

Restore to me the joy of Your salvation.

And renew a right Spirit within me.

Prayer of the Day

Leader: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Leader: Eternal God,

All: your kingdom has broken into our troubled world through the life, death, and resurrection of your Son. Help us to hear your word and obey it, and bring your saving love to fruition in our lives, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Scripture Readings

After each reading –

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

All: Thanks be to God.

Isaiah 55: 1-9

Ho, everyone who thirsts,
 come to the waters;
and you that have no money,
 come, buy and eat!
Come, buy wine and milk
 without money and without price.
Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread,
 and your labor for that which does not satisfy?
Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good,
 and delight yourselves in rich food.
Incline your ear, and come to me;
 listen, so that you may live.
I will make with you an everlasting covenant,
 my steadfast, sure love for David.
See, I made him a witness to the peoples,
 a leader and commander for the peoples.
See, you shall call nations that you do not know,
 and nations that do not know you shall run to you,
because of the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel,
 for he has glorified you.

Seek the LORD while he may be found,
 call upon him while he is near;
let the wicked forsake their way,
 and the unrighteous their thoughts;
let them return to the LORD, that he may have mercy on them,
 and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.
For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
 nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD.
For as the heavens are higher than the earth,
 so are my ways higher than your ways
 and my thoughts than your thoughts.

1 Corinthians 10: 1-13

I do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, and all ate the same spiritual food, and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual rock that followed them, and the rock was Christ. Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them, and they were struck down in the wilderness.

Now these things occurred as examples for us, so that we might not desire evil as they did. Do not become idolaters as some of them did; as it is written, 'The people sat down to eat and drink, and they rose up to play.' We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did, and were destroyed by serpents. And do not complain as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer. These things happened to them to serve as an example, and they were written down to instruct us, on whom the ends of the ages have come. So if you think you are standing, watch out

that you do not fall. No testing has overtaken you that is not common to everyone. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tested beyond your strength, but with the testing he will also provide the way out so that you may be able to endure it.

Gospel Reading

After reading – Pastor: The Gospel of the Lord.

Congregation: Thanks be to God.

Luke 13: 1-9

At that very time there were some present who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. He asked them, 'Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them—do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did.'

Then he told this parable: 'A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. So he said to the gardener, "See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?" He replied, "Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig round it and put manure on it. If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down."'

Sermon

Song "Oh Love, How Deep" (verses 1-4 and 7)



1 Oh, love, how deep, how broad, how high, be - yond all
 2 God sent no an - gel to our race, of high - er
 3 For us bap - tized, for us he bore his ho - ly
 4 For us he prayed; for us he taught; for us his



thought and fan - ta - sy, that God, the Son of
 or of low - er place, but wore the robe of
 fast and hun - gered sore; for us temp - ta - tion
 dai - ly works he wrought, by words and signs and



God, should take our mor - tal form for mor - tals' sake!
 hu - man frame, in Christ our Lord to this world came.
 sharp he knew; for us the tempt - er o - ver - threw.
 ac - tions thus still seek - ing not him - self, but us.

5 For us by wickedness betrayed,
 for us, in crown of thorns arrayed,
 he bore the shameful cross and death;
 for us he gave his dying breath.

6 For us he rose from death again;
 for us he went on high to reign;
 for us he sent his Spirit here
 to guide, to strengthen, and to cheer.

7 All glory to our Lord and God
 for love so deep, so high, so broad:
 the Trinity whom we adore
 forever and forevermore.

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

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: Eternal God, who has created the heavens and the earth ... With all the prophets of old and new, the saints and sinner, and all the company of heaven, we glorify your name and join in the endless song of all creation.

All: Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Lord remember us in your love 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

After Communion Blessing and Prayer

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

Benediction

Sending

Leader: Go in Peace, Serve the Lord

All: THANKS BE TO GOD!!

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