

# Lord of the Valley Lutheran Church

Ministers: All the People of God

Pastor: Brian Bergum

## Announcements

Solo by Jan Sears "Waiting" by Pepper Choplin

Leader: We worship as we live, in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. **People: Amen**

Leader: The days grow short and the darkness of these days reminds us of the darkness of sin and brokenness. So we put up lights, to remember the Light of Christ that shines in our darkness, in all darkness.

**People: We hear the cry of the prophets, the greeting of the angel, and wonder. The Spirit of God is upon us and we proclaim the good news: Nothing is impossible with God! Come Lord Jesus.**

Song "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive  
2 O come, O Wis - dom from on high, em - brac - ing all things  
3 O come, O come, O Lord of might, as to your tribes on  
4 O come, O Branch of Jes - se, free your own from Sa - tan's



Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here  
far and nigh: in strength and beau - ty come and stay;  
Si - nai's height in an - cient times you gave the law  
tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell your peo - ple save,



un - til the Son of God ap - pear.  
teach us your will and guide our way. Re-joyce! Re-joyce!  
in cloud, and maj - es - ty, and awe.  
and give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.



Em - man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el.

## Confession and Forgiveness

Leader: Advent is a season to open our lives to the presence of God. Advent is an awareness that we are made whole through the hope, peace, joy and love that comes only from God.

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

Leader: Most merciful God,

**People: We confess that we have sinned against you by our thoughts, by our words, and by our actions. In this season of Advent, we pray that you would enable us to watch for your light, signs of where you are breaking through the tinsel and glitter we use to mask our pain, our guilt, and our fear. Help us hear the words of your angels, "Do not fear", and trust that you are with us. Forgive us and fill us with your love. Amen.**

Leader: We are people who walk in darkness, but even in our darkness there is a light that the world can not diminish. The Light of God has come to us in Jesus Christ. It is the light of love, of life, of hope. If you hear nothing else during our worship today, hear this: that God loves you and forgives you and calls you to bear the light of Christ in your lives.

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

## Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Leader: The Gospel of John speaks of Christ as the true light coming into the world. In celebration of that coming, we light candles for the four weeks leading to Christmas and reflect on the coming of Christ. Christ is always coming, always entering an anxious time, a troubled world, a wounded heart. And so today we light four candles, candles of hope, peace, and joy and today a candle of love. It is out of God's love and God's love only that God sent Jesus into the world to change the world forever. God's love is not earned or chosen. God's love is pure gift, and today, as we always do, we come here to give thanks to God for the gift of love, given and shown to us in our relationships with one another, given and shown to us in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

**All: Loving God, as we journey this Advent season, we open all the dark places in our lives and memories to the healing light of Christ. Teach us to be people who know, live and share your love. Prepare our hearts to be transformed by you that we may walk in the light of Christ. Amen.**

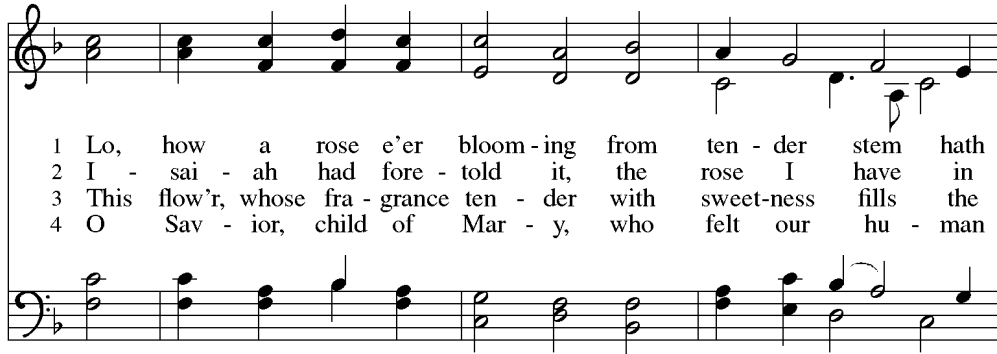
**First Reading**

Isaiah 7: 10-16

The Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test. Then Isaiah said: 'Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted.

**Song**

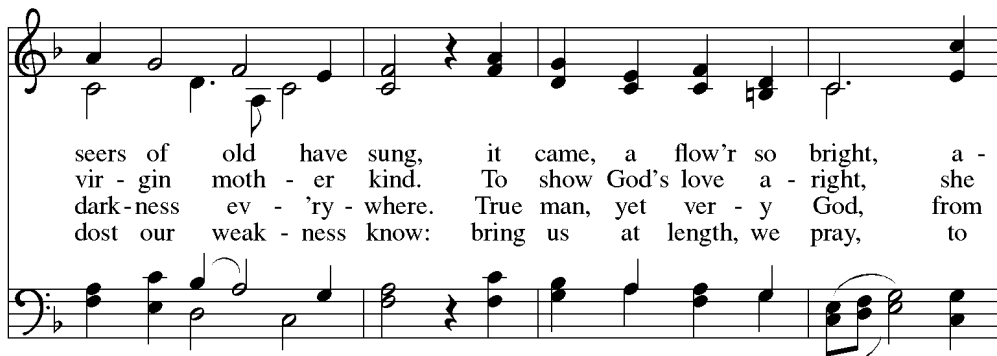
"Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming"



1 Lo, how a rose e'er bloom - ing from ten - der stem hath  
 2 I - sai - ah had fore - told it, the rose I have in  
 3 This flow'r, whose fra - grance ten - der with sweet-ness fills the  
 4 O Sav - ior, child of Mar - y, who felt our hu - man



sprung! Of Jes - se's lin - eage com - ing as  
 mind; with Mar - y we be - hold it, the  
 air, dis - pels with glo - rious splen - dor the  
 woe; O Sav - ior, king of glo - ry, who



seers of old have sung, it came, a flow'r so bright, a -  
 vir - gin moth - er kind. To show God's love a - right, she  
 dark - ness ev - 'ry - where. True man, yet ver - y God, from  
 dost our weak - ness know: bring us at length, we pray, to



mid the cold of win - ter, when half - spent was the night.  
 bore to us a Sav - ior, when half - spent was the night.  
 sin and death he saves us and light - ens ev - 'ry load.  
 the bright courts of heav - en and in - to end - less day.

## Second Reading Romans 1: 1-7

Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for the sake of his name, including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ, To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

## Song "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

1 Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born king;  
2 Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,  
3 Hail the heav'n - born Prince of peace! Hail the Sun of righ-teous-ness!

peace on earth, and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled."  
late in time be - hold him come, off - spring of a vir - gin's womb.  
Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with heal - ing in his wings.

Joy - ful, all you na - tions, rise; join the tri - umph of the skies;  
Veiled in flesh the God-head see! Hail, in - car - nate de - i - ty!  
Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,

with an - gel - ic hosts pro - claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"  
Pleased as man with us to dwell, Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el!  
born to raise each child of earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.

*Refrain*  
Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born king!"

## Gospel Reading Matthew 1: 18-25

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.' All this took place to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

'Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,  
and they shall name him Emmanuel',

which means, 'God is with us.' When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

## Song "From Heaven Above" Verses 1-3



1 "From heav'n a - bove to earth I come to bear good  
2 "To you this night is born a child of Mar - y,  
3 "This is the Christ, God's Son most high, who hears your

*Insert additional stanzas as desired.*

12 Ah, dear - est Je - sus, ho - ly child, pre - pare a  
13 My heart for ve - ry joy now leaps; my voice no  
14 "Glo - ry to God in high - est heav'n, who un - to



news to ev - 'ry home! Glad tid - ings of great joy I  
cho - sen vir - gin mild; this new - born child of low - ly  
sad and bit - ter cry, who will him - self your Sav - ior

bed, soft, un - de - filed, a qui - et cham - ber in my  
long - er si - lence keeps; I too must sing with joy - ful  
us the Son has giv'n." With an - gels sing in pi - ous



bring to all the world, and glad - ly sing:  
birth shall be the joy of all the earth.  
be and from all sin will set you free."

heart, that you and I may nev - er part.  
tongue the sweet - est an - cient cra - dle - song:  
mirth a glad new year to all the earth!

Song

"What Child Is This"



1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mar-y's lap is sleep-ing?  
 2 Why lies he in such mean es - tate where ox and ass are feed - ing?  
 3 So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; come, peas-ant, king, to own him.



Whom an - gels greet with an-thems sweet while shep-herds watch are keep - ing?  
 Good Chris-tian, fear; for sin-ners here the si - lent Word is plead - ing.  
 The King of kings sal - va - tion brings; let lov - ing hearts en-throne him.



This, this is Christ the king, whom shep-herds guard and an - gels sing;  
 Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you;  
 Raise, raise the song on high, the vir - gin sings her lul - la - by;



haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mar - y!  
 hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mar - y!  
 joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mar - y!



Song

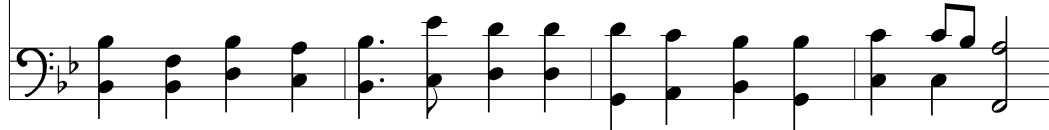
"Angels, from the Realms of Glory"



1 An - gels, from the realms of glo - ry, wing your flight o'er all the earth;  
2 Shep-herds, in the fields a - bid - ing, watch - ing o'er your flocks by night,  
3 Sa - ges, leave your con - tem - pla - tions, bright - er vi - sions beam a - far;  
4 All cre - a - tion, join in prais - ing God, the Fa - ther, Spir - it, Son,



once you sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry, now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:  
God with us is now re - sid - ing, yon - der shines the in - fant light.  
seek the great de - sire of na - tions, you have seen his na - tal star.  
ev - er - more your voic - es rais - ing to the e - ter - nal Three in One.



*Refrain*



Come and wor - ship, come and wor - ship, wor - ship Christ, the new - born king.



Song

"Your Little Ones, Dear Lord"



1 Your lit - tle ones, dear Lord, are we, and  
2 With songs we has - ten you to greet, and  
3 Oh, draw us whol - ly to you, Lord, and  
4 Un - til at last we too pro - claim, with



come your low - ly bed to see; en - light - en ev - 'ry  
kiss the ground be - fore your feet. Oh, bless - ed hour, oh,  
to us all your grace ac - cord; true faith and love to  
all your saints, your glo - rious name; in par - a - dise our



soul and mind, that we the way to you may find.  
sweet-est night that gave you birth, our soul's de - light.  
us im - part, that we may hold you in our heart.  
songs re - new, and praise you as the an - gels do.



## Affirmation of Faith

“Apostle's Creed”

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, he was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and will come again 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

Leader: God, in your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

## Offering

Leader: Let us pray, Merciful God,

**People: Everything in heaven and earth belongs to you. We joyfully release what you have entrusted to us. May these gifts be signs of our whole lives returned to you, dedicated to the healing and unity of all creation, through Jesus Christ. Amen.**

## The Great Thanksgiving

Leader: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

**People: We lift them up to God.**

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**People: It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

Leader: All praise to You, Emmanuel, God-promised, and God with us; Your light shines in our lives; your peace embraces our anger, sorrow, and loss; your life opens us to new discovery of ourselves and our neighbors. And so it is with courage and hope that we join in singing the song of Mary, praising you with our joyful hearts.

## The Annunciation

Leader: An angel went from God to a town called Nazareth to a woman whose name was Mary. The angel said to her, "Rejoice, O highly favored, for God is with you. You shall bear a child, and his name shall be Jesus, the Chosen One of God Most High." And Mary said, "I am the servant of my God, I live to do your will."

## The Magnificat

*All:*

1., 3. My — soul pro - claims your  
2. You have cast the might - y

great - ness, O God, and my spir - it re - joic - es in  
down from their thrones, and up - lift - ed the hum - ble of

you, You have looked with love on your  
heart, You have filled the hun - gry with

*fine last time*

ser - vant here, and blessed me all my life through.  
won - drous things, and left the wealth - y no part.

Great and might - y are you, O Ho - ly One,  
Great and might - y are you, O Faith - ful One,

strong is your kind - ness ev - er - more.  
strong is your jus - tice strong your love,

How you fa - vor the weak — and low - ly one,  
As you prom - ised to Sar - ah and A - bra - ham,

hum - bling the proud of heart.  
kind - ness for - ev - er - more.

## Words of Institution

Leader: Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life: Blessed are you for the birth of creation. Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light. Blessed are you for your promise to your people. Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams. Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will. Blessed are you for your Son Jesus, the Word made flesh.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me. Again after supper he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me. With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth. We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection. We look with hope for his coming. Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Come among us. Bless this meal. May your Word take flesh in us. Awaken your people. Fill us with your light. Bring the gift of peace on earth. All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever.

**People: Amen.**

Leader: Lord, Remember us in your love, and teach us to pray.

**People: 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

*We welcome all people who come in the faith to partake of Holy Communion. Smaller children are invited to come forward for a blessing. Grape juice and gluten free wafers are available, ask server as you approach.*

**Song During Communion** "The Bells of Christmas"

Det ki - mer nu til ju - le - fest, det ki - mer  
 1 The bells of Christ - mas chime once more; the heav'n - ly  
 2 This world, though wide and far out - spread, could scarce - ly  
 3 Now let us go with qui - et mind, the swad - dled  
 4 Oh, join with me, in glad - ness sing, to keep our

for den høj - e gæst, som steg til la - ve  
 guest is at the door. He comes to earth - ly  
 find for you a bed. Your cra - dle was a  
 babe with shep - herds find, to gaze on him who  
 Christ - mas with our king, un - til our song, from

hyt - ter ned med nyt - års - ga - ver: fryd og fred.  
 dwell - ings still with new year gifts of peace, good will.  
 man - ger stall, no pearl nor silk nor king - ly hall.  
 glad - dens them, the love - liest flow'r of Jes - se's stem.  
 lov - ing souls, like rush - ing might - y wa - ter rolls!

Leader: Life-giving God, in this meal you have bound us to yourself, from 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. **People: Amen**

**Benediction**

Leader: The Lord bless you and keep you, the Lord's face shine on you and be gracious to you, the Lord look upon you with favor, and give you peace. In the name of the Father and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **People: Amen**

**Sending**

Leader: Go in peace and hope to serve the Lord!

**ALL: Thanks be to God.**