

# 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

Sunday, March 5, 2023 Second Sunday in Lent

### 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 then take 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 him, 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.

## “Turn My Heart O God”

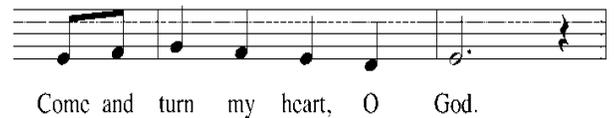
The Congregation sings the refrain along with the verse response.

**Refrain**



Turn\* my heart, O God. Turn my heart, O God.  
Take my pain and bro-ken-ness; shape my life for  
you. Come and turn my heart, O God.

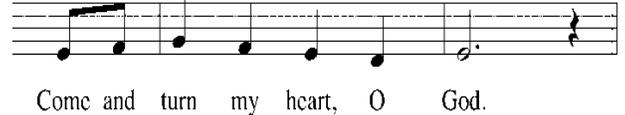
From all the leads to death to seek the way of life ...  
From all that leads to sin, to holiness and grace...  
From all despair and grief, to hope of life renewed...



Come and turn my heart, O God.

**(Refrain)**

O let your Spirit come, and cleanse my inmost heart...  
Give back to me the joy of walking in your way...  
O fill me with your grace that I might sing your praise...



Come and turn my heart, O God.

**(Refrain)**

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 of Praise:

*“Arise, Shine Out!”*



1. A - rise, shine out, your light has come! A -  
2. A - rise, shine out, come and re - jice! The  
3. A - rise, shine out, and dry your tears! Our  
4. A - rise, shine out, bring bread and wine! Come  
5. A - rise, shine out, tell all the land that



wak - en your sad and wea - ry eyes! A  
mu - sic of life sings of the new day! The  
God has con - quered gloom and fright! For  
gath - er a - round the ta - ble of dreams! And  
ha - tred and vio - lence now shall cease! To -



song in the dis - tance has be - gun, the  
dance of the spir - it; free - dom's voice, is  
on this day new dawn ap - pears; be  
share the sto - ry, let it shine, for  
geth - er in hope and hand in hand, we'll



ci - ty of God born from the skies! —  
mov - ing with - in to guide our way! —  
born a - gain! Walk in the light! —  
in this place God's King - dom sings! —  
live God's mer - cy, love and peace! —

Leader: The Lord is with you.

**All: And also with you.**

Leader: Lord God, our strength,

**All: the struggle between good and evil rages within and around us, and the devil and all the forces that defy you tempt us with empty promises. Keep us steadfast in your word, and when we fall, raise us again and restore us through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

**Bible Readings**

**Genesis 12: 1-4a**

The LORD said to Abram, 'Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.'

So Abram went, as the LORD had told him; and Lot went with him.

## Romans 4: 1-5, 13-17

What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. For what does the scripture say? 'Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness.' Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. But to one who without works trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness.

For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation.

For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, as it is written, 'I have made you the father of many nations')—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

## Gospel Verse "Return to God"

*Congregation:*



Re - turn to God with all your heart, the Source of grace and

*Optional Repeat*



mer-cy; Come, seek the ten-der faith-ful-ness of God.

## Gospel Reading

### John 3: 1-17

Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. He came to Jesus by night and said to him, 'Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God.' Jesus answered him, 'Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.' Nicodemus said to him, 'How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?' Jesus answered, 'Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be astonished that I said to you, "You must be born from above." The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.' Nicodemus said to him, 'How can these things be?' Jesus answered him, 'Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things? 'Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

'For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

'Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

## Sermon

## Song "God Loved the World"

1 God loved the world so that he gave his on - ly  
2 Christ Je - sus is the ground of faith, who was made  
3 If you are ill, if death draws near, this truth your  
4 Be of good cheer, for God's own Son for - gives all  
5 All glo - ry to the Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly

Son the lost to save, that all who would in  
flesh and suf - fered death; all who con - fide in  
trou - bled heart can cheer: Christ Je - sus res - cues  
sins that you have done, and jus - ti - fied by  
Spir - it, Three in One! To you, O bless - ed

him be - lieve should ev - er - last - ing life re - ceive.  
Christ a - lone are built on this chief cor - ner - stone.  
us from death; that is the firm - est ground of faith.  
Je - sus' blood, your bap - tism grants the high - est good.  
Trin - i - ty, be praise now and e - ter - nal - ly!

## Affirmation of Faith The 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 God's People

Leader: Merciful God,  
All: receive our prayer.

## Offering

### Offering Response (sung)

For your generous providing, which sustains us all our days,  
For your Spirit here residing, we proclaim our heartfelt praise.  
In the depths of joy and sorrow, though the road be smooth or rough,  
Fearless, we can face tomorrow for your grace will be enough.

'Round your table, through your giving, show us how to live and pray  
Till your kingdom's way of living is the bread we share each day;  
Bread for us and for our neighbor; bread for body, mind and soul,  
Bread of heav'n and human labor – broken bread that makes us whole.

Leader: All good gifts around us come from you, O God

**All: You have given us new life in Christ! Therefore we offer our gifts that we may be gifts to one another. Amen**

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:

*Refrain*

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er, God of might,  
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho-san - na in the high-est.  
Bless-ed is he who comes in the name, in the name of the  
Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

## Words of Institution

Leader: 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.**

## Distribution of Holy Communion

*We invite all who come in faith to the Lord's Table as we celebrate Holy Communion in our worship today. For those who prefer, grape juice and gluten free wafers are available, let the server know as you approach. Those not communing are welcome to come forward for a blessing.*

## Song During Communion "We Are Baptized in Christ Jesus"



1 We are bap-tized in Christ Je - sus, we are bap - tized in his death;  
2 In the wa - ter and the wit-ness, in the break-ing of the bread,  
3 Glo-ry be to God the Fa - ther, glo-ry be to Christ the Son,



that as Christ is raised vic - to - rious, we might live a brand new life.  
in the wait - ing arms of Je - sus who is ris - en from the dead,  
glo-ry to the Ho - ly Spir - it, ev - er three and ev - er one;



And if we have been u - nit - ed in a dread-ful death like his,  
God has made a new be - gin-ning from the ash - es of our past;  
as it was in the be - gin-ning, glo - ry now re-sounds a - gain



we will all be re - u - nit - ed, for he lives.  
in the los - ing and the win - ning we hold fast.  
in a song that has no end - ing. . . . A - men.

Leader: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you always in his grace. **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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"Turn My Heart" Words and Music by Marty Haugen. GIA Publishing. "Arise, Shine Out!" Words and Music by David Haas. GIA Publishing. "Return to God" Traditional text, music by Marty Haugen GIA Publishing. "Holy, Holy, Holy Lord" Traditional text adapted by Ray Makeever. Tune by Ray Makeever. Augsburg Fortress. Copied with permission under onelicense.net #A705-815.