

# 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, July 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023 Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

### Announcements

### Call to Worship – Order of Confession and Forgiveness

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

**ALL: Amen**

Leader: Come let us worship God, the Source of love and life, who creates us and all things.

**All: Come let us worship God, who came to us in Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh, the Risen One, who is Immanuel, God with us now and always.**

Leader: Come let us worship God, whose Spirit dwells in our lives and in our world, the Spirit calls, gathers, renews, and sends us out into the world to be witnesses to the love of God.

**All: To the One true God, Father-Son-and Holy Spirit, be praise in all times and in all places.**

Leader: As we gather to worship God we let go of our fears that keeps us from loving, we put down our masks that hide our true selves. We turn to God seeking forgiveness in our own life and the courage to offer forgiveness to each other.

*(A Time of Silence for Personal Reflection and Confess)*

Leader: Most merciful God,

**All: We confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, 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**

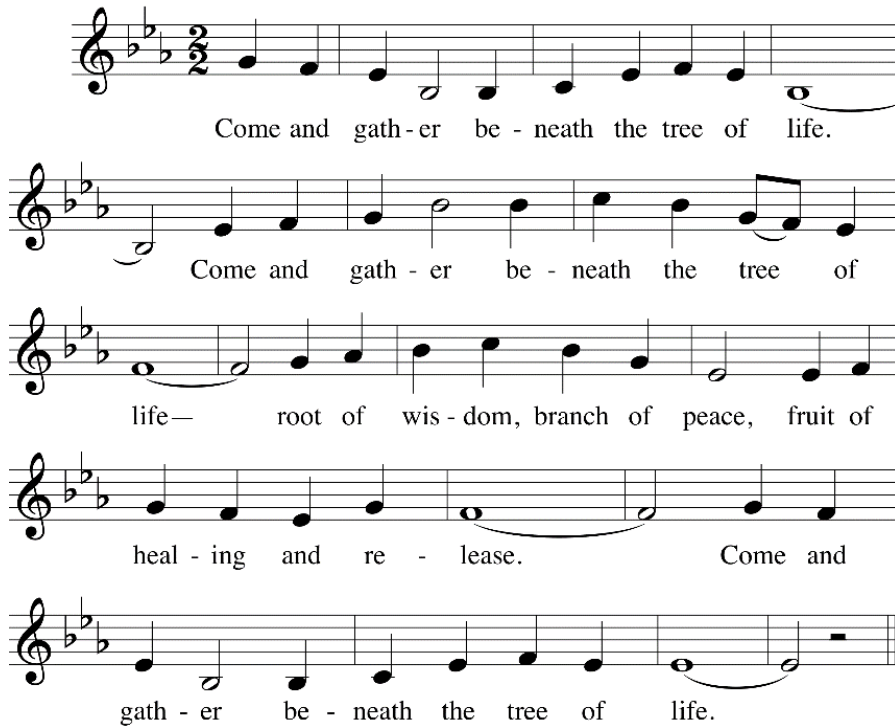
Leader: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for you, and for his sake God forgives you all your sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ he gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit.

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

# Tree of Life

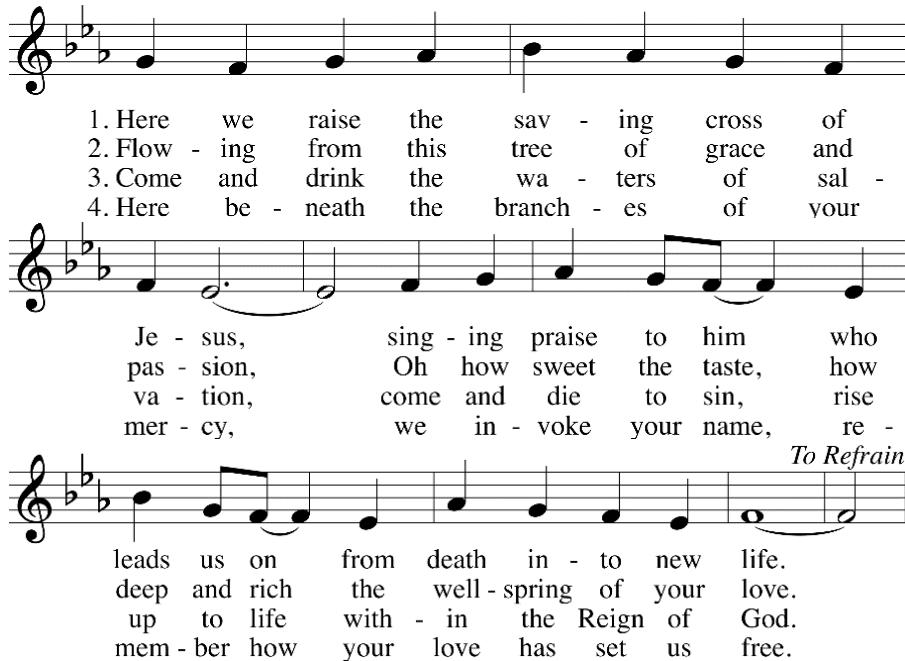
## Gathering Song "Come and Gather Beneath the Tree of Life"

### Refrain



Come and gath - er be - neath the tree of life.  
Come and gath - er be - neath the tree of  
life— root of wis - dom, branch of peace, fruit of  
heal - ing and re - lease. Come and  
gath - er be - neath the tree of life.

### Verses



1. Here we raise the sav - ing cross of  
2. Flow - ing from this tree of grace and  
3. Come and drink the wa - ters of sal -  
4. Here be - neath the branch - es of your  
Je - sus, sing - ing praise to him who  
pas - sion, Oh how sweet the taste, how  
va - tion, come and die to sin, rise  
mer - cy, we in - voke your name, re -

*To Refrain*  
leads us on from death in - to new life.  
deep and rich the well - spring of your love.  
up to life with - in the Reign of God.  
mem - ber how your love has set us free.

Leader: The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Love of God, and the Communion of the Holy Spirit be with you always.

**ALL: And also with you.**

### Kyrie



**A** In peace, let us pray to the Lord:



**C** Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy.



Lord, have mer - cy, mer - cy on us all. **A** 1. For the  
**A** 2. For your



reign of God, and for peace through - out the  
peo - ple here who have come to give you



world, for the u - ni - ty of all, let us pray to the  
thanks, for the strength to live your word, let us pray to the



Lord: **C** Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy.



**A** Help, save, and de -  
Lord, have mer - cy, mer - cy on us all.

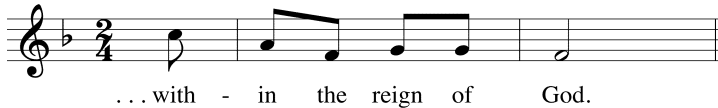


fend us, O God: **C** A - men.

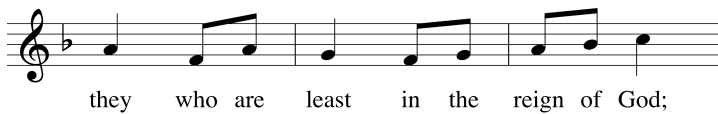
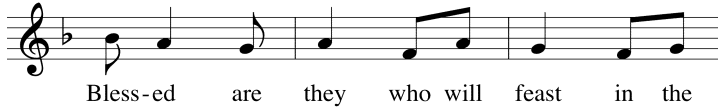
## Song of Praise "Within the Reign of God"

(The congregation sings the verse response and the refrain)

### Verse Response



### Refrain



**Verse:** Come now, the feast is spread; in Jesus' name we break the bread,  
Here shall we all be fed, **WITHIN THE REIGN OF GOD**  
All you who seek God's face are welcome in this holy place;  
Join in the feast of grace, **WITHIN THE REIGN OF GOD**  
(Refrain)

**Verse:** Welcome the weak and poor, the sinner finds an open door,  
None judged, and none ignored **WITHIN THE REIGN OF GOD**  
Here shall the weary rest, the stranger be a welcome guest.  
So shall we all be blest, **WITHIN THE REIGN OF GOD**  
(Refrain)

**Verse:** One earth, one holy band, one family as our God has planned,  
All share the promised land, **WITHIN THE REIGN OF GOD**  
Come now, the feast is spread, in Jesus' name we break the bread;  
Here shall we all be fed, **WITHIN THE REIGN OF GOD**  
(Refrain)

## Prayer of the Day

Leader: The Lord be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

Leader: Let us pray,

**All: Beloved and sovereign God, through the death and resurrection of your Son you bring us into your kingdom of justice and mercy. By your Spirit, give us your wisdom, that we may treasure the life that comes from Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

## Bible Readings

### 1 Kings 3: 5-12

At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night; and God said, 'Ask what I should give you.' And Solomon said, 'You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant my father David, because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart towards you; and you have kept for him this great and steadfast love, and have given him a son to sit on his throne today. And now, O LORD my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David, although I am only a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. And your servant is in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a great people, so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted. Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil; for who can govern this your great people?' It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. God said to him, 'Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches, or for the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, I now do according to your word. Indeed I give you a wise and discerning mind; no one like you has been before you and no one like you shall arise after you.'

### Romans 8: 26-39

The Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

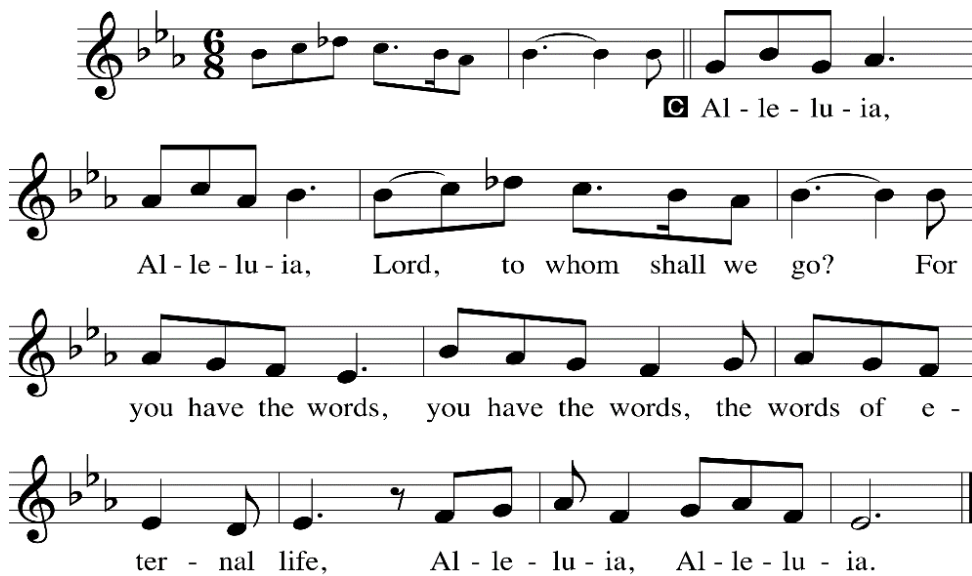
We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified. What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

As it is written,

'For your sake we are being killed all day long;  
we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered.'

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

## Gospel Acclamation



Al - le - lu - ia,

Al - le - lu - ia, Lord, to whom shall we go? For

you have the words, you have the words, the words of e -

ter - nal life, Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia.

## Gospel Reading

### Matthew 13: 31-33, 44-52

[Jesus] put before them another parable: 'The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.'

He told them another parable: 'The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened.'

'The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

'Have you understood all this?' They answered, 'Yes.' And he said to them, 'Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.'

## Sermon

Sermon Hymn

“O God of Mercy, God of Light”

1 O God of mer - cy, God of light, in love and  
 2 You sent your Son to die for all, that our lost  
 3 Teach us the les - son Je - sus taught: to feel for  
 4 For all are kin - dred, far and wide, since Je - sus

mer - cy in - fi - nite, teach us, as ev - er  
 world might hear your call; oh, hear us lest we  
 those his blood has bought, that ev - 'ry deed and  
 Christ for all has died; grant us the will, and

in your sight, to live our lives in you.  
 stray and fall! We rest our hope in you.  
 word and thought may work a work for you.  
 grace pro - vide, to love them all in you.

5 In sickness, sorrow, want, or care,  
 may we each other's burdens share;  
 may we, where help is needed, there  
 give help as though to you.

6 And may your Holy Spirit move  
 all those who live to live in love,  
 till you receive in heav'n above  
 all those who live in you.

**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

Leader: Hear us O God.


**All: Your mercy is great.**

## Offering

### Offering Response "Come, Let us Bring"



1. Come, let us bring the warm and fra - grant bread.  
2. Come, let us bring the sweet a - bun - dant wine.  
3. Praise be to you who set all peo - ple free.



Come, let us bring the warm and fra - grant bread.  
Come, let us bring the sweet a - bun - dant wine.  
Praise be to you who set all peo - ple free.



Bro - ken here so all God's peo - ple might be fed.  
In this cup we taste the joy of grace di - vine.  
Blest are they who share the feast of ju - bi - lee.



Bro - ken here so all God's peo - ple might be fed.  
In this cup we taste the joy of grace di - vine.  
Blest are they who share the feast of ju - bi - lee.

Leader: Let us pray. Merciful God,

**All: 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.

**All: And also with you.**

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

**All: We lift them to the Lord.**

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

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



Leader: It is indeed right and good...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



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

### Eucharistic Prayer and Words of Institution

Leader: Blessed are you, Holy God, the First and Last, life's Beginning and its End. You called us to live as your people and promised to be our God. When time and again we failed to trust your promise and refused to walk in your ways, you sent your Word made flesh, the root and offspring of David, to dwell among us and draw us back to you.

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 to 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.

Send now your Holy Spirit upon this bread and wine and all who gather at your table. By your Spirit strengthen and enliven us that we might serve all in hunger and want; and make of us the body of your Son, through whom all glory and honor is yours, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, now and forever.

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 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.*

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!!!**

(With the noted exception, the *Tree of Life* liturgy is written by Marty Haugen. GIA publishing. Copied with permission under license #4395. "*Within the Reign of God*" by Marty Haugen, GIA Publishing.)