

# Lord of the Valley Lutheran Church

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Ministers: All God's People

Pastor: Rob Moss

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## LOTV Worship with Holy Communion

Sunday, February 23, 2025 Seventh Sunday after Epiphany

### Welcome and Announcements

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C: And also with you.**

### Epiphany Confession and Forgiveness

P: God of Light,

**C: We have lived in darkness for too long. We have built walls of isolation so high that the sun is no longer visible. We have a fortress of protection so complete that the sun cannot penetrate. We have stumbled down dark alleys in search of real meaning. God of light and life, illuminate the rooms of our life with your light, and draw us closer to you. Forgive the sin which keeps us in our private darkness. Allow us to live in the light of your freedom and acceptance.**

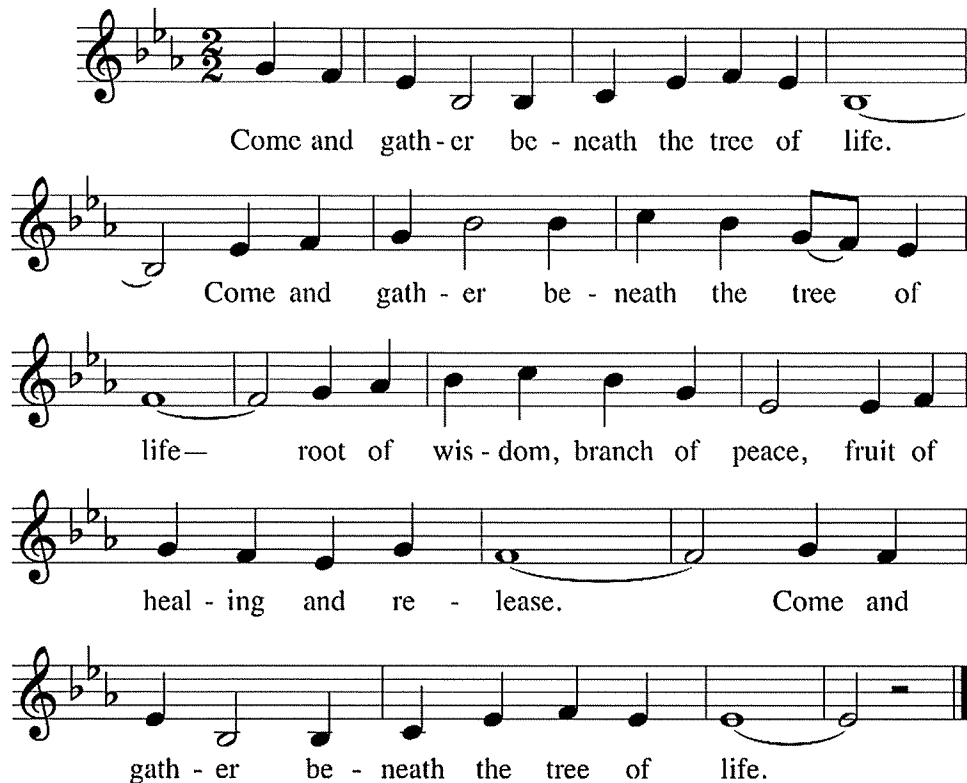
P: Our God is Light and life. Our God has brightened our days with hope and exposed every dark corner of our lives with grace and mercy. The Light of life is Christ Jesus, who brings the compassion of God's brightness into a dark world. In Jesus, we live in the light of our Creator and know the joy of hope and community.

**C: We give thanks to God for light and new life! Amen!**

# Tree of Life

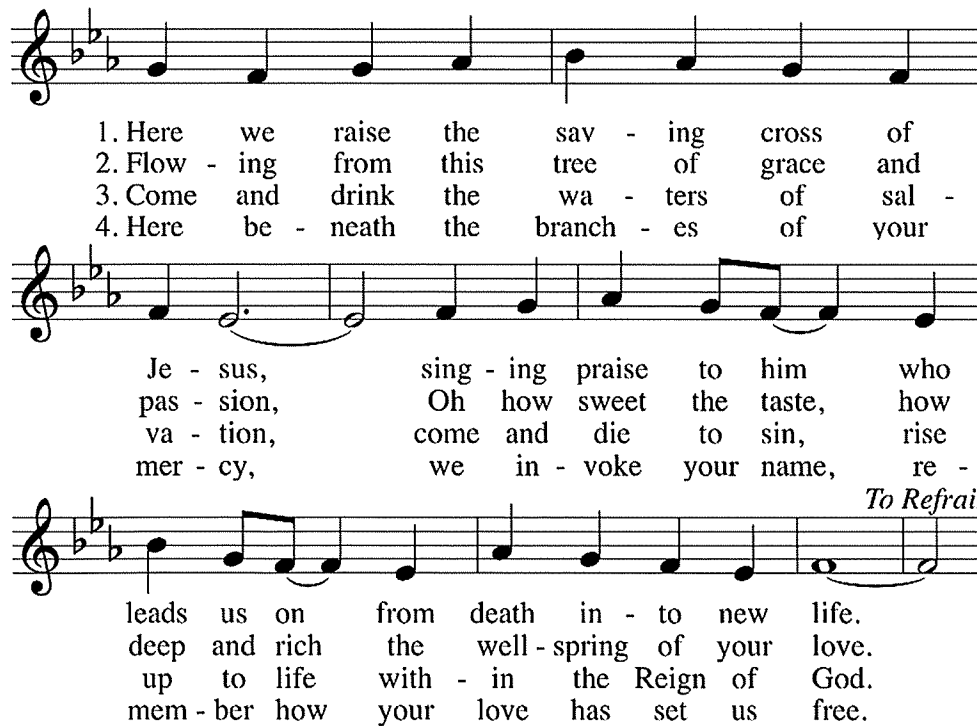
Gathering Song "Come and Gather Beneath the Tree of Life"

## 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.

## Epiphany Litany (based on Isaiah 60:1-6)

A: Arise! Shine! The light you have been waiting for is here!

C: **Darkness has been banished!**

A: God's light of hope floods the earth.

C: **God's light comes to us all.**

A: O, God, make us ready to journey in this Light.

C: **In this time of worship, prepare our hearts to live in your marvelous Light. Amen.**

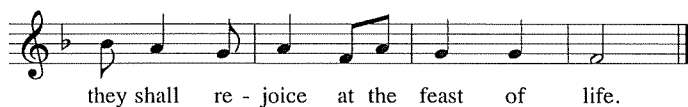
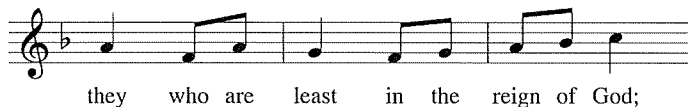
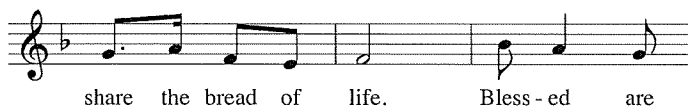
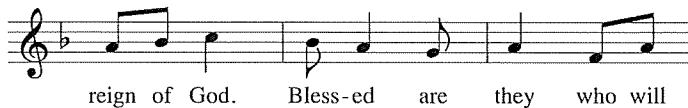
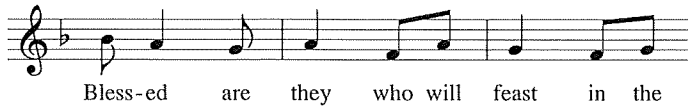
## Song of Praise "Within the Reign of God"

(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

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Let us pray,

**C: O Lord Jesus, make us instruments of your peace, that where there is hatred, we may sow love, where there is injury, pardon, and where there is despair, hope. Grant, O divine master, that we may seek to console, to understand, and to love in your name, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

## Bible Readings

### **Genesis 45: 3-11, 15**

Joseph said to his brothers, 'I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?' But his brothers could not answer him, so dismayed were they at his presence.

Then Joseph said to his brothers, 'Come closer to me.' And they came closer. He said, 'I am your brother Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. And now do not be distressed, or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. For the famine has been in the land these two years; and there are five more years in which there will be neither ploughing nor harvest. God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. So it was not you who sent me here, but God; he has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, "Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me, do not delay. You shall settle in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children's children, as well as your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. I will provide for you there—since there are five more years of famine to come—so that you and your household, and all that you have, will not come to poverty." And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them; and after that his brothers talked with him.

### **1 Corinthians 15: 35-38, 42-50**

But someone will ask, 'How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?' Fool! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. And as for what you sow, you do not sow the body that is to be, but a bare seed, perhaps of wheat or of some other grain. But God gives it a body as he has chosen, and to each kind of seed its own body.

So it is with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable, what is raised is imperishable. It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power. It is sown a physical body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a physical body, there is also a spiritual body. Thus it is written, 'The first man, Adam, became a living being'; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit. But it is not the spiritual that is first, but the physical, and then the spiritual. The first man was from the earth, a man of dust; the second man is from heaven. As was the man of dust, so are those who are of the dust; and as is the man of heaven, so are those who are of heaven. Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we will also bear the image of the man of heaven.

What I am saying, brothers and sisters, is this: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.

## 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

### Luke 6: 27-38

'But I say to you that listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. Give to everyone who begs from you; and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again. Do to others as you would have them do to you.

'If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. If you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. But love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High; for he is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

'Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven; give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back.'

## Children's Message and Sunday School Dismissal

## Sermon

Hymn of the Day

"Gather Us In"



1 Here in this place the new light is stream-ing, now is the dark - ness  
 2 We are the young, our lives are a mys - t'ry, we are the old who  
 3 Here we will take the wine and the wa - ter, here we will take the  
 4 Not in the dark of build-ings con - fin - ing, not in some heav - en,



van - ished a - way; see in this space our fears and our dream-ings  
 yearn for your face; we have been sung through - out all of his - t'ry,  
 bread of new birth, here you shall call your sons and your daugh - ters,  
 light years a - way— here in this place the new light is shin - ing,



brought here to you in the light of this day.  
 called to be light to the whole hu - man race.  
 call us a - new to be salt for the earth.  
 now is the king - dom, and now is the day.



Gath - er us in, the lost and for - sak - en, gath - er us in, the  
 Gath - er us in, the rich and the haugh - ty, gath - er us in, the  
 Give us to drink the wine of com - pas - sion, give us to eat the  
 Gath - er us in and hold us for - ev - er, gath - er us in and



blind and the lame; call to us now, and we shall a - wak - en,  
 proud and the strong; give us a heart, so meek and so low - ly,  
 bread that is you; nour - ish us well, and teach us to fash - ion  
 make us your own; gath - er us in, all peo - ples to - geth - er,



we shall a - rise at the sound of our name.  
 give us the cour - age to en - ter the song.  
 lives that are ho - ly and hearts that are true.  
 fire . . . of love in our flesh and our bone.

Prayers of the People

A: God of grace,  
 C: hear our prayer.

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**

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

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

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

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

P: 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.

## Words of Institution

### Lord's Prayer

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

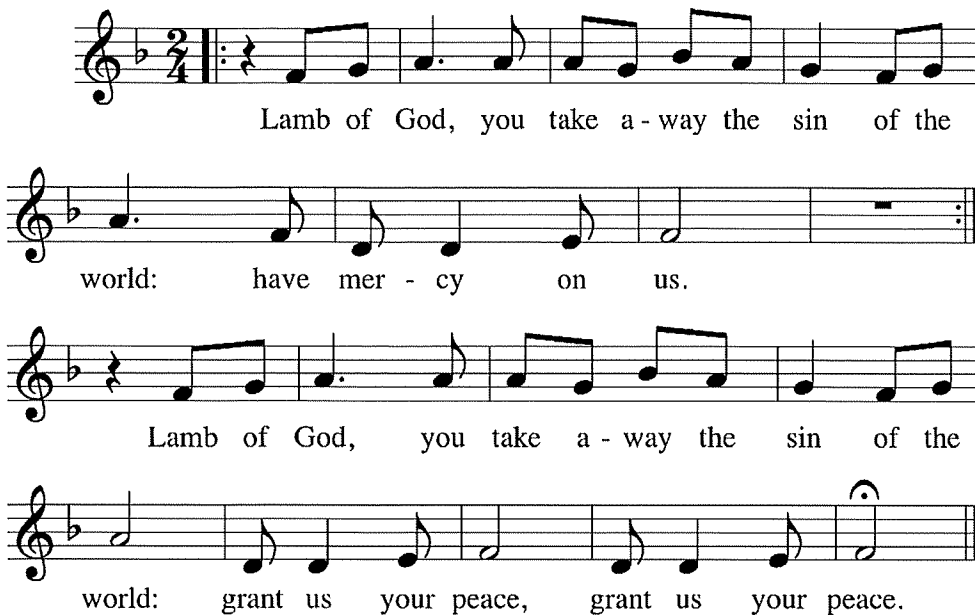
**ALL:** Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done; on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil; For thine 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.*



## Lamb of God



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the  
world: have mer - cy on us.

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the  
world: grant us your peace, grant us your peace.

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you always in his grace.

**C: Amen**

P: 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.

**C: Amen**

## Benediction

P: May the path that Christ walks:  
to bring justice upon the earth,  
to bring light to those who sit in darkness,  
to bring out those who live in bondage,  
to bring new things to all creation:  
May this path run through our lives, and  
May we be the road Christ takes.

# Sending Song

## "We Are Called"



1 Come! Live in the light! Shine with the joy and the love of the  
2 Come! O - pen your heart! Show your . . mer - cy to all those in  
3 Sing! Sing a new song! Sing of that great day when all will be



Lord! We are called to be light for the king - dom, to  
fear! We are called to be hope for the hope - less so  
one! God will reign, and we'll walk with each oth - er as



live in the free - dom of the cit - y of God.  
ha - tred and blind - ness . . . will be . . . no more.  
sis - ters and broth - ers . . . u - nit - ed in love.



We are called to act with jus - tice, we are called to



love ten - der - ly; we are called to serve one an -



oth - er, to walk hum - bly with God.

### Dismissal

A: Go in peace. Shine the light of Christ in the world.

C: Thanks be to God! And we will!