Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church

A congregation of the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod (LCMS)

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Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church is a Christ-centered family dedicated to reaching out to

our community, teaching God’s Word, caring for one another and sharing God’s genuine love.

December 13, 2020

Health Request As we seek to protect the health of others and ourselves, please seat yourself and your family at least six feet away from others; also please wear a mask at all times. If you must get up during the service, please us a side isle, not the center one. Thanks!

To Our Guests: Welcome to Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church! We are so glad to have you with us this morning, celebrating His great love and dedicating ourselves anew to Him! We hope you’ll be blessed and that you’ll return and worship among us again. Please take a moment to complete the welcome card in the packet you received and give it to the Greeter or Pastor after the service. Thank you!

The Sacrament of Holy Communionwill not be celebrated today during our worship service but in special outdoor services at 11:00, 11:20 and 11:40.

Sunday Study Time! 9:00 in person and also streamed online at https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86292069694 for those practicing in-home isolation or away from Oceanside. We are studying “Christianity 101” Please join us!

Did You Know? We have a church library. It’s at the back of the chapel. Lots of great books that are biblically and theologically sound, books that are informational, inspirational and helpful. It’s on “the honor system.” K Berni is the librarian. Questions? Email her at kberni@aol.com

**Serving Today**

Pastor: Dr. Allen Kolkman Ministers: You

Music: Nylene Naegele Flowers: The Neemia family

Technician: I. Andrews, J Cerny, B. Woodward Altar Care: Margaret Paton

Greeter: Child Center: -

Lector: Kathy Andrews Ushers:

Acolyte: Fellowship: -

**Family Celebrations**

Wednesday: Gunti & Barbara Galleisky

**Family Prayer Request**

+ Wayne Finley

+ Gloria Moroski

**This Week**

Today: 09:00 AM Study

10:00 AM Worship

Wednesday: 05:30 AM Study

Sunday: 09:00 AM Study

10:00 AM Worship

**+** **The Third Sunday in Advent +**

**Before the Service**

**The Welcome**

**The Announcements** *See page 1*

**The Service of the Word**

**The Prelude and Silent Personal Prayer**

The Opening Song “Savior of the Nations, Come”

1 Savior of the nations, come,  
Virgin’s Son, make here Your home!  
Marvel now, O heav’n and earth,  
That the Lord chose such a birth.

2 Not by human flesh and blood,  
By the Spirit of our God,  
Was the Word of God made flesh—  
Woman’s offspring, pure and fresh.

3 Here a maid was found with child,  
Yet remained a virgin mild.  
In her womb this truth was shown:  
God was there upon His throne.

**The Opening Responses**:

In the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit +

Gathered as His sons and daughters, redeemed by Christ!

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, our God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins in Christ and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

We confess to You that we are sinful and unclean and that we have sinned against You in thought, word and deed. We have not loved You with our whole heart and we have not loved others as You have loved us. We deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, 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 name.

Our heavenly Father has had mercy on us and has given us His only Son to die for us. In Christ, He forgives us all our sins.

Thanks be to God!

Let us speak of the glory of our God! Let us tell of His wonderful grace!

Let us rejoice in the victory of Christ, let us celebrate the victory of salvation!

**The Praise Song:** *“Come, Thou Fount”*

Come, Thou Fount of ev’ry blessing,  
Tune my heart to sing Thy grace;  
Streams of mercy, never ceasing,  
Call for songs of loudest praise.  
While the hope of endless glory  
Fills my heart with joy and love,  
Teach me ever to adore Thee;  
May I still Thy goodness prove.

**The First Lesson:** *Isaiah 61:1-3, 10-11 ESV*

There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit. And the Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. And his delight shall be in the fear of the Lord. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide disputes by what his ears hear…. In that day the root of Jesse, who shall stand as a signal for the peoples—of him shall the nations inquire, and his resting place shall be glorious. In that day the Lord will extend his hand yet a second time to recover the remnant that remains of his people, from Assyria, from Egypt, from Pathros, from Cush, from Elam, from Shinar, from Hamath, and from the coastlands of the sea. *This is the Word of the Lord.* **Thanks be to God!**

**The Psalmody:** From Psalm

*O Lord, you are my protection!*

**Come and rescue us!**

# *O Lord, you are my secure shelter and strong fortress!*

**Come and rescue us!**

# *O Lord, you are my refuge and defense.*

**Come and rescue us!**

# The Second Lesson: *1 Thessalonians 5:16-24 ESV*

Rejoice always,pray without ceasing,give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise prophecies,but test everything; hold fast what is good. Abstain from every form of evil. Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it. *This is the Word of the Lord.* **Thanks be to God!**

# The Gospel Lesson: *St. John 1:1-6, 19-28 ESV* Please Stand

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light…. And this is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, “Who are you?” He confessed, and did not deny, but confessed, “I am not the Christ.” And they asked him, “What then? Are you Elijah?”

He said, “I am not.” “Are you the Prophet?” And he answered,

“No.” So they said to him, “Who are you? We need to give an answer to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?” He said, “I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, ‘Make straightthe way of the Lord,’ as the prophet Isaiah said.” (Now they had been sent from the Pharisees.) They asked him, “Then why are you baptizing, if you are neither the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?” John answered them, “I baptize with water, but among you stands one you do not know,even he who comes after me, the strap of whose sandal I am not worthy to untie.” These things took place in Bethany across the Jordan, where John was baptizing. *Lord, have mercy on us.* **Thanks be to God!**

The Affirmation of Faith: The Apostle’s Creed (c. 212 AD)

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

And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell. The third day He rose from the dead, He ascended into Heaven and sits on the right hand of God the Father almighty, from there 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!**

**The Children’s Message:**

**The Song of the Day:** *“Once in Royal David’s City”*

Once in royal David’s city Stood a lowly cattle shed,

Where a mother laid her baby In a manger for His bed:

Mary was that mother mild, Jesus Christ her little child.

He came down to earth from heaven, Who is God and Lord of all,

And His shelter was a stable, And His cradle was a stall;

With the poor and mean and lowly Lived on earth our Savior holy.

And our eyes at last shall see Him, Through His own redeeming love;

For that child so dear and gentle Is our Lord in heav’n above;

And He leads His children on To the place where He is gone.

Not in that poor, lowly stable With the oxen standing by

Shall we see Him, but in heaven, Set at God’s right hand on high.

Then like stars His children, crowned, All in white, His praise will sound!

**The Message:** “Comfort”*Text: first reading*

**The Prayers:** *Please stand*

*Altar Prayer*

*Congregation Petitions*

*The Lord’s Prayer:*

**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!**

The Benediction: Please stand

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace +

Amen!

**The Closing Song:***“Savior of the Nations, Come”*

4 Then stepped forth the Lord of all  
From His pure and kingly hall;  
God of God, yet fully man,  
His heroic course began.

6 For You are the Father’s Son  
Who in flesh the vict’ry won.  
By Your mighty pow’r make whole  
All our ills of flesh and soul.

7 From the manger newborn light  
Shines in glory through the night.  
Darkness there no more resides;  
In this light faith now abides.

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**Guidelines for Congregational Prayer**

Litany prayer is very ancient form of public, corporate prayer.

The worship leader leads general prayers and then invites individual worshippers to add these petition(s) in the form of a litany. They are *SHORT* (one ***brief*** sentence; a ***dozen*** words or so max), *to-the-point*, requests or praise/thanksgivings which are ended with the petitioner saying: “Lord, in Your mercy.” To which the whole congregation replies: “Hear our prayer.” This continues for as long as the worship leader senses we’ve lifted up all desired petitions (*forgive him* if he cuts you off!).

*If you don’t want to do this publicly,* ***request the pastor to include your petition in his altar prayer****; just speak to him* BEFORE *the worship service and so request.*

**In offering such petitions, please keep the following in mind**:

+ Beware of revealing things about another which that person may feel is private (Sometimes, just leaving out the name helps a lot).

+ Please do not use last names.

+ Beware of information-giving; litany petitions are *not* information but requests or praise.

+ Beware of making them too long (they are short – one *brief* sentence, likely less than a dozen words).

+ You may offer more than one petition, but please keep them separate.

+ **Speak up** so all can hear.

**Good examples**:

+ “Strengthen and heal my neighbor; Lord, in Your mercy”

+ “Bless my search for employment; Lord, in Your mercy”

+ “Thank You for all Your blessings; Lord, in Your mercy”

+ “Give me focus and insight for my studies; Lord, in Your mercy”

+ “Grant healing to my foot; Lord, in Your mercy”

+ “Comfort my coworker in his grief; Lord, in Your mercy”

+ “Thank You, Lord, for healing; Lord in Your mercy”

+ “Strengthen my faith and commitment that I may do Your will; Lord, in Your mercy”

+ “Make my life more reflective of Your love and will; Lord, in Your mercy”

+ “Make me an effective teacher to a boy in my class; Lord, in Your mercy”

**NEED HELP?** Ask the pastor before the service; he’ll help you!

We’d love to include this prayer in our daily prayers, just email the pastor at KolkmanAllen@gmail.com and we’ll include it.