

# 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.*

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December 20, 2020

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**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 use a side aisle, 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 Communion** will 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](mailto:kberni@aol.com)

## + The Fourth 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 *“O Come, All Ye Faithful”*

- 1            O come, all ye faithful, Joyful and triumphant!  
               O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;  
               Come and behold Him Born the king of angels:  
               O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,  
               O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!
  
- 2            Highest, most holy, Light of Light eternal,  
               Born of a virgin, a mortal He comes;  
               Son of the Father Now in flesh appearing!  
               O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,  
               O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!
  
- 3            Sing, choirs of angels, Sing in exultation,  
               Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!  
               Glory to God In the highest:  
               O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,  
               O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!

## 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: *Second Samuel 7:1-11, 16 ESV*

Now when the king lived in his house and the Lord had given him rest from all his surrounding enemies, the king said to Nathan the prophet, "See now, I dwell in a house of cedar, but the ark of God dwells in a tent." And Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that is in your heart, for the Lord is with you." But that same night the word of the Lord came to Nathan, "Go and tell my servant David, 'Thus says the Lord: Would you build me a house to dwell in? I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent for my dwelling. In all places where I have moved with all the people of Israel, did I speak a word with any of the judges of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?"' Now, therefore, thus you shall say to my servant David, 'Thus

says the Lord of hosts, I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, that you should be prince over my people Israel. And I have been with you wherever you went and have cut off all your enemies from before you. And I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may dwell in their own place and be disturbed no more. And violent men shall afflict them no more, as formerly, from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel. And I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover, the Lord declares to you that the Lord will make you a house.... And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me. Your throne shall be established forever." *This is the Word of the Lord.*  
**Thanks be to God!**

### **The Psalmody:** From Psalm 89

*I will proclaim your faithfulness forever!*

**We will always sing of your love, O Lord!**

*How blessed are those who live in your kindness!*

**We will always sing of your love, O Lord!**

*How wonderful are all the things you do!*

**We will always sing of your love, O Lord!**

### **The Second Lesson:** *Titus 3:4-7 ESV*

When the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior

appeared, he saved us, not because of works done by us in

righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our

Savior, so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life. *This is the Word of the Lord.*  
**Thanks be to God!**

**The Gospel Lesson:** *St. Luke 1:26:38* ESV Please Stand

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over

the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?" And the angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God. And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." And Mary said, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her. *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:** *“Gentle Mary Laid Her Child”*

- 1            Gentle Mary laid her child    Lowly in a manger;  
              There He lay, the Undefined,    To the world a stranger.  
              Such a babe in such a place,    Can He be the Savior?  
              Ask the saved of all the race    Who have found His favor.
  
- 2            Angels sang about His birth,    Wise Men sought and found Him;  
              Heaven’s star shone brightly forth    Glory all around Him.  
              Shepherds saw the wondrous sight,    Heard the angels singing;  
              All the plains were lit that night,    All the hills were ringing.
  
- 3            Gentle Mary laid her child    Lowly in a manger;  
              He is still the Undefined    But no more a stranger.  
              Son of God of humble birth,    Beautiful the story;  
              Praise His name in all the earth;    Hail the King of glory!

**The Message:** *“Christmas for the Naughty and Not So Nice”    Text: second 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:** *"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"*

- 1           O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
          And ransom captive Israel,  
          That mourns in lonely exile here  
          Until the Son of God appear.  
          Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
          Shall come to thee, O Israel!
  
- 4           O come, Thou Branch of Jesse's tree,  
          Free them from Satan's tyranny  
          That trust Thy mighty pow'r to save,  
          And give them vict'ry o'er the grave.  
          Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
          Shall come to thee, O Israel!
  
- 5           O come, Thou Key of David, come,  
          And open wide our heav'nly home;  
          Make safe the way that leads on high,  
          And close the path to misery.  
          Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
          Shall come to thee, O Israel!
  
- 6           O come, Thou Dayspring from on high,  
          And cheer us by Thy drawing nigh;

Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,  
 And death's dark shadows put to flight.  
 Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
 Shall come to thee, O Israel!

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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](mailto:KolkmanAllen@gmail.com) and we’ll include it.



