

17th Sunday after Pentecost

September 27, 2020



Lord of Love Lutheran Church (ELCA)

10405 Fort St., Omaha, NE 68134

“Celebrating and sharing God’s Love in a welcoming community of faith, while serving others”

(Please note that by being here, you consent and realize you might be captured on the livestream of the service.)

***Bold type** indicates Congregational responses*

**Congregation please stand as you are able*

Introduction

Jesus’ parable about two sons who don’t do what they say reveals surprises in the reign of God. In the reading from Ezekiel the people claim the ways of the Lord are unfair, while God offers repentance and new life. Paul urges us to look to Christ as a model of humility, putting the interests of others above our own. Nourished by the broken bread and shared cup, we offer our lives for the sake of our needy world.

Prelude

"Fairest Lord Jesus"

Arranged by Anne Marie David

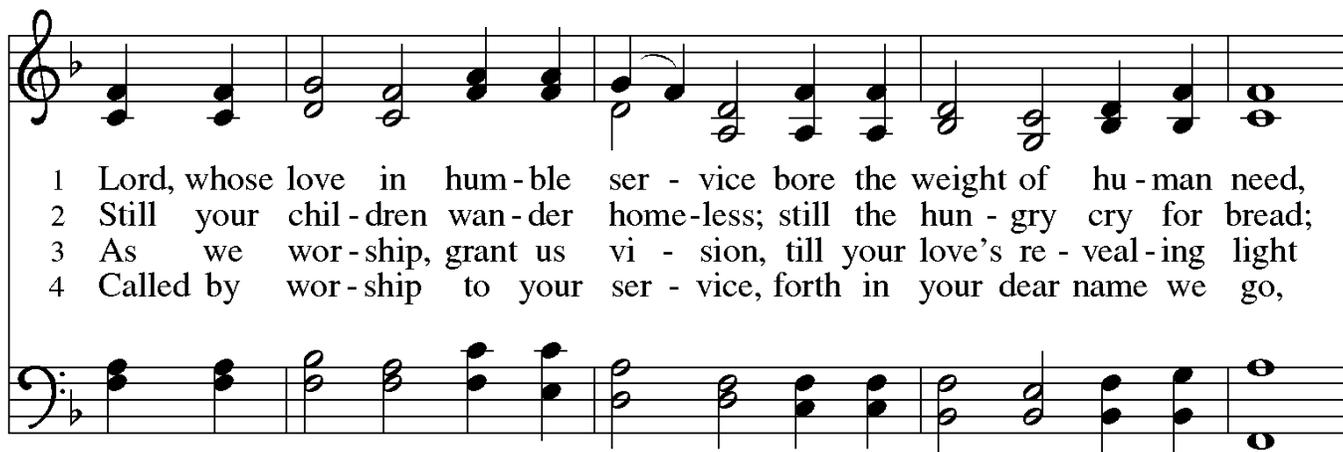
From "Keys of the Kingdom" © 1997 Abingdon Press

Announcements

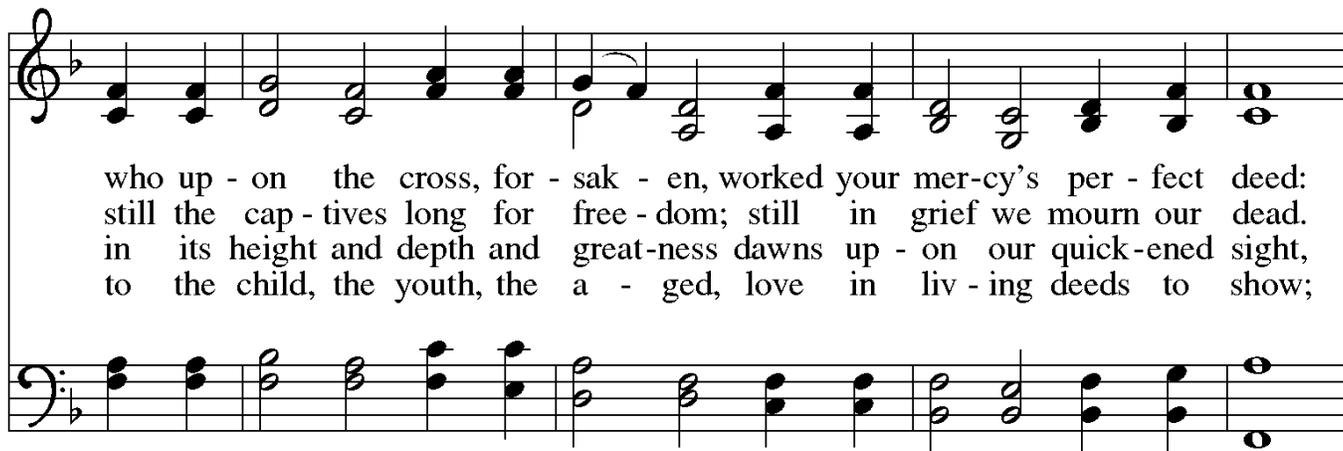
Call to Worship (Ringing of the bell)

Gathering Song: "Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service"

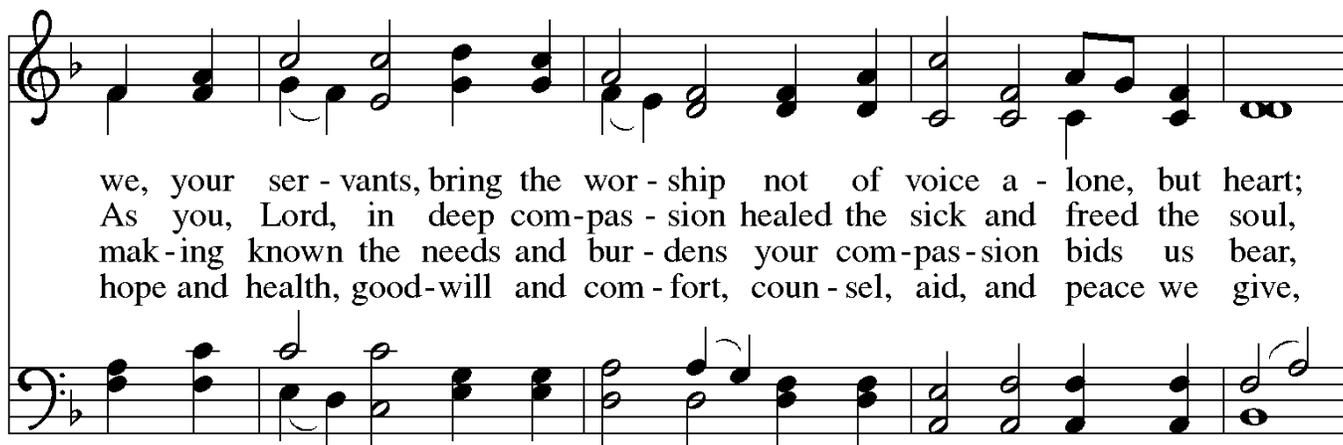
ELW 712



1 Lord, whose love in hum-ble ser - vice bore the weight of hu - man need,
2 Still your chil - dren wan - der home-less; still the hun - gry cry for bread;
3 As we wor - ship, grant us vi - sion, till your love's re - veal - ing light
4 Called by wor - ship to your ser - vice, forth in your dear name we go,



who up - on the cross, for - sak - en, worked your mer - cy's per - fect deed:
still the cap - tives long for free - dom; still in grief we mourn our dead.
in its height and depth and great - ness dawns up - on our quick - ened sight,
to the child, the youth, the a - ged, love in liv - ing deeds to show;



we, your ser - vants, bring the wor - ship not of voice a - lone, but heart;
As you, Lord, in deep com - pas - sion healed the sick and freed the soul,
mak - ing known the needs and bur - dens your com - pas - sion bids us bear,
hope and health, good - will and com - fort, coun - sel, aid, and peace we give,

con - se - crat - ing to your pur - pose ev - 'ry gift which you im - part.
 by your Spir - it send your pow - er to our world to make it whole.
 stir - ring us to ar - dent ser - vice, your a - bun - dant life to share.
 that your ser - vants, Lord, in free - dom may your mer - cy know and live.

Text: Albert F. Bayly, 1901–1984
 Music: BEACH SPRING, *The Sacred Harp*, Philadelphia, 1844; arr. *Selected Hymns*, 1985
 Text © 1961 Oxford University Press.
 Arr. © 1985 Augsburg Fortress.

Confession and Forgiveness

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
 who creates, redeems, and sustains us and all of creation.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.
Silence is kept for self-reflection.

Faithful God,
 have mercy on us.
 We confess that we are captive to sin
 and cannot free ourselves.

Forgive us, Lord.

We turn from your loving embrace
 and go our own ways.
 We pass judgment on one another
 before examining ourselves.

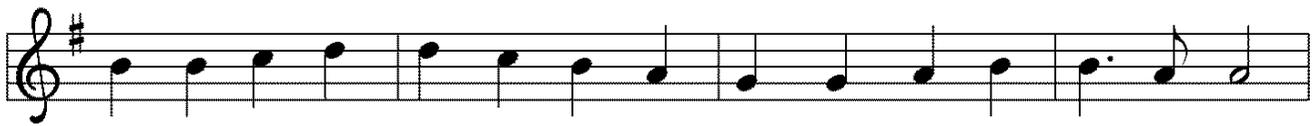
Forgive us, Lord.

We place our own needs before those of our neighbors.
 We keep your gift of salvation to ourselves.
 Make us humble, cast away our transgressions,
 and turn us again to life in you
 through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

God hears the cries of all who call out in need,
 and through his death and resurrection,
 Christ has made us his own.
 Hear the truth that God proclaims:
 Your sins are forgiven in the name of † Jesus Christ.
 Led by the Holy Spirit, live in freedom and newness
 to do God's work in the world.
Amen.

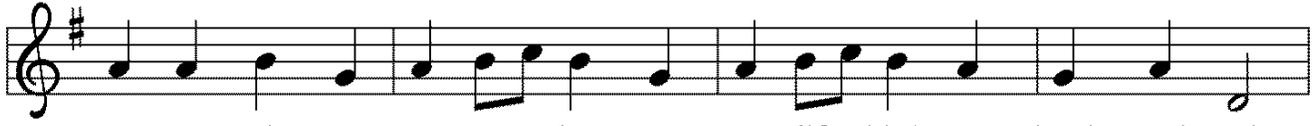
Glory to God



1 Glo-ry be to God in heav-en; peace, good-will to all the earth.
 2 Glo-ry be to Christ for - ev - er, Lamb of God and Lord of love.
 3 Ho - ly One we now ac-claim you; Lord a - lone, to you we call;



Might-y God of all cre - a - tion, Fa - ther of sur - pass - ing worth:
 Son of God and gra-cious Sav - ior, you have come from heav'n a - bove;
 Ho - ly One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to all:



we ex - alt you, we a - dore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.
 on the cross you died to save us; now you reign at God's right hand.
 Je - sus Christ, with God the Spir - it, in the Fa - ther's splen - dor bright.



Saints and an - gels bow be - fore you; here on earth our songs we raise.
 Hear our prayer; re - store, for-give us; in your prom-ise firm we stand.
 For the peace that we in - her - it, glo - ry be to God on high!

Prayer of the Day

L: Let us pray.
God of love, giver of life, you know our frailties and failings. Give us your grace to overcome them, keep us from those things that harm us, and guide us in the way of salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

First Reading: Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32

The word of the Lord came to me: What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, “The parents have eaten sour grapes, and the children’s teeth are set on edge”? As I live, says the Lord God, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. Know that all lives are mine; the life of the parent as well as the life of the child is mine: it is only the person who sins that shall die.

Yet you say, “The way of the Lord is unfair.” Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? When the righteous turn away from their righteousness and commit iniquity, they shall die for it; for the iniquity that they have committed they shall die. Again, when the wicked turn away from the wickedness they have committed and do what is lawful and right, they shall save their life. Because they considered and turned away from all the transgressions that they had committed, they shall surely live; they shall not die. Yet the house of Israel says, “The way of the Lord is unfair.” O house of Israel, are my ways unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair?

Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, all of you according to your ways, says the Lord God. Repent and turn from all your transgressions; otherwise iniquity will be your ruin. Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed against me, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, says the Lord God. Turn, then, and live.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 25:1-9

To you, O Lord,
I lift up my soul.

**My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be put to shame,
nor let my enemies triumph over me.**

Let none who look to you be put to shame;
rather let those be put to shame who are treacherous.

**Show me your ways, O Lord,
and teach me your paths.**

Lead me in your truth and teach me,
for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all the day long.

**Remember, O Lord, your compassion and love,
for they are from everlasting.**

Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions;
remember me according to your steadfast love and for the sake of your goodness,
O Lord.

**You are gracious and upright, O Lord;
therefore you teach sinners in your way.**

You lead the lowly in justice
and teach the lowly your way.

Second Reading: Philippians 2:1-13

If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,

who, though he was in the form of God,

did not regard equality with God

as something to be exploited,

but emptied himself,

taking the form of a slave,

being born in human likeness.

And being found in human form,

he humbled himself

and became obedient to the point of death—

even death on a cross.

Therefore God also highly exalted him

and gave him the name

that is above every name,

so that at the name of Jesus

every knee should bend,

in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

and every tongue should confess

that Jesus Christ is Lord,

to the glory of God the Father.

Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

**Gospel Acclamation*



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav - ing word.



Let it burn like fire with - in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

**Gospel: Matthew 21:23-32*

When [Jesus] entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?" Jesus said to them, "I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?" And they argued with one another, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why then did you not believe him?' But if we say, 'Of human origin,' we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet." So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

"What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' He answered, 'I will not'; but later he changed his mind and went. The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, 'I go, sir'; but he did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him."

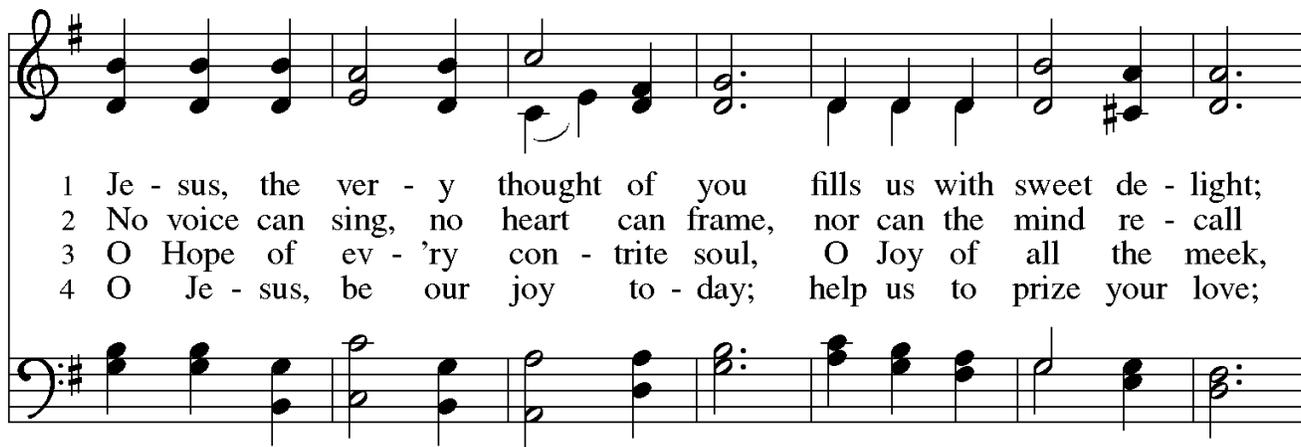
The gospel of our Lord.

Children's Sermon

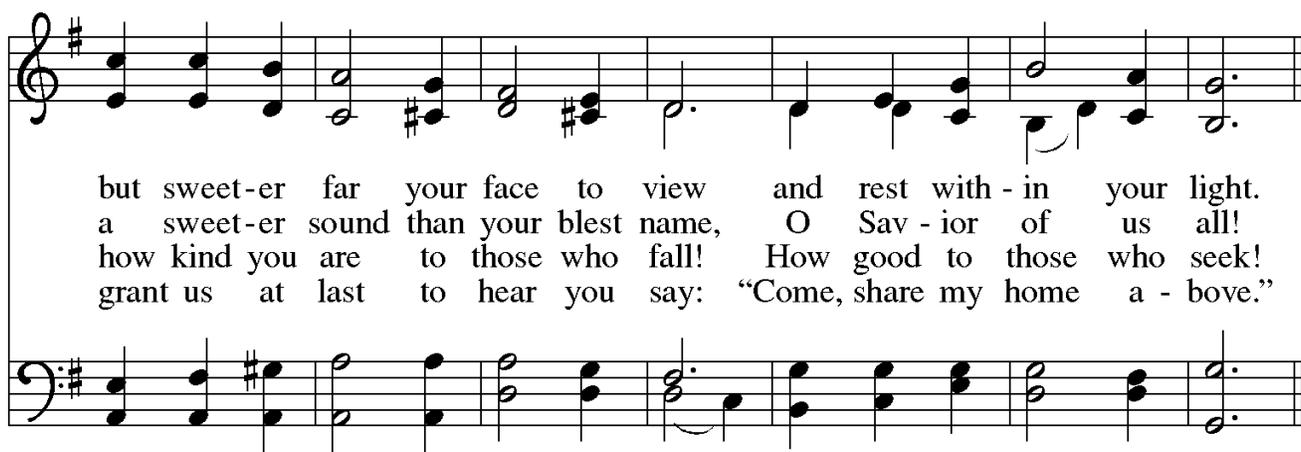
Rev. Becky Sells

Sermon

Rev. Becky Sells



1 Je - sus, the ver - y thought of you fills us with sweet de - light;
 2 No voice can sing, no heart can frame, nor can the mind re - call
 3 O Hope of ev - 'ry con - trite soul, O Joy of all the meek,
 4 O Je - sus, be our joy to - day; help us to prize your love;



but sweet-er far your face to view and rest with - in your light.
 a sweet-er sound than your blest name, O Sav - ior of us all!
 how kind you are to those who fall! How good to those who seek!
 grant us at last to hear you say: "Come, share my home a - bove."

Text: attr. Bernard of Clairvaux, 1091–1153; tr. Edward Caswall, 1814–1878
 Music: ST. AGNES, John B. Dykes, 1823–1876

Prayers of Intercession

L: Drawn together in the compassion of God, we pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.

Brief silence

In all the world, give your church unity. Inspire all the baptized with the mind of Christ. Where the church is powerful and where it struggles, shape us with humility and obedience so that your love may be at work in us. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Your Son took on all of bodily life in our world, even to death. Preserve and keep your creation, O God. Protect those gathering in the harvest and those in danger due to fires and other natural disasters. Mend and redeem places that are polluted and damaged, so that all of creation confesses you as Lord. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Turn the nations toward life. Where our ways are unfair, give us new hearts and new spirits. Where sin permeates our cultures and institutions, change our minds and teach us to trust your authority. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Our lives are yours, O God. Relieve the suffering of those who are ill in body, mind, or spirit, especially those on our prayer list and those names we lift up to you at this time. Defend the lives and welfare of children who are abused or neglected, hungry or exploited, bullied or lonely. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Turn this congregation away from our own interests toward the interests of others. Fill us with your compassion and sympathy. Bless ministries of care in our community especially our Loads of Love program happening next Saturday; make us into signs of your mercy and justice for our neighbors. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Thank you for those who have gone into the kingdom ahead of us—tax collectors and prostitutes, likely and unlikely, obedient and slow to learn. By their witness, teach us to confess Jesus Christ as Lord in life and in death. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

All these things and whatever else you see that we need, we entrust to your mercy; through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Offering

L: We are called to reflect on how we are giving back to God for all the blessings God has given us. This includes continuing to financially support the church and its mission, along with considering how we might be called to also give and use our time and talents to further God's kingdom here on earth.

Offertory Contemplation:

"Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"

Arranged by Phillip Keveren

From *"Treasured Hymns for Classical Piano"* © 2011 Hal Leonard Corp.

****Offertory Prayer***

P: God of all creation, all you have made is good, and your love endures forever. You bring forth bread from the earth and fruit from the vine. Nourish us with these gifts, that we might be for the world signs of your gracious presence in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

****The Peace***

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

*Please take a moment to share signs of peace with one another from a distance.
(and even text such a message to a friend who is not here with you this day)*

****The Lord's Prayer***

P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

****Benediction***

P: The God of steadfastness and encouragement
grant you to live in harmony with one another,
in accordance with Christ Jesus.

Amen.

The God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing,
so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

The God of all grace † bless you now and forever.

Amen.

****Dismissal***

P: Go in peace. Christ is with you.

Thanks be to God!

****Ringing of the bell***

Postlude "At the Name of Jesus"

Words by Caroline Noel and Music by Ralph Vaughan Williams

© Oxford University Press

Arranged by Jon Novak

Performed by the Lord of Love Chancel Choir on October 1, 2017

Please be seated and wait for an usher to dismiss you.

**It is okay, to socialize outside, as long as you remain 6 feet apart, and do not completely block the sidewalk for others to safely pass by.*

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