

Lord of Love's 50th Anniversary

June 12, 2022



“Rooted and Grounded in Love”
1972 – 2022

Lord of Love Lutheran Church (ELCA)

10405 Fort Street, Omaha, NE 68134

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

Celebratory Worship 9:00 a.m.

Bold type indicates Congregational responses.

Special Music Prelude

Announcements

Ringling of the Bell

****Greeting***

P: Alleluia! The Spirit is here!

The Spirit is here indeed. Alleluia!

****Thanksgiving for Baptism***

P: Praise and thanksgiving be to you, O God of plenteous grace,
for the waters you provide for the earth:
for snow and dew, for oceans and wells,
for the rain that nourishes plants and trees,
for the streams that enliven the animals, great and small,
We praise you, O God, for water.

We praise you, O God, for water.

Blessing and glory be to you, O God of abundant mercy,
for your word that flows with life-giving waters:
for the story of the fountain that gushed from the rock,
for the memory of the Jordan that immersed your Son in our sorrows,
for the living rivers that flow from the cross,
for the reconciling waters of baptism around which we gather.
We bless you, O God, for water and the word.

We bless you, O God, for water and the word.

At this font we pray:

Pour upon us yet again the Spirit of our baptism.

Our roots are dry: shower us with divine blessing.

Our fruits need moisture: renew us for vibrant growth.

Wash away the sin within us,

and drown the evil around us.

We beg you, O God, for water and the Spirit.

We beg you, O God, for water and the Spirit.

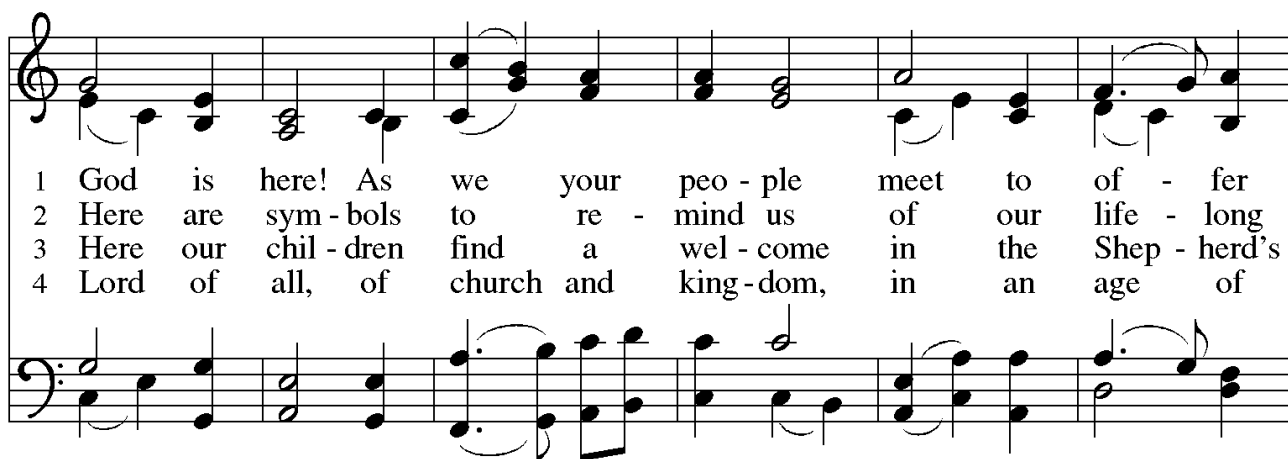
You, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,

you are the Water we crave;


you, O God, are Rain and River and Fountain,

life for us all, now and forever.

Amen.



1 God is here! As we your peo - ple meet to of - fer
 2 Here are sym - bols to re - mind us of our life - long
 3 Here our chil - dren find a wel - come in the Shep - herd's
 4 Lord of all, of church and king - dom, in an age of



praise and prayer, may we find in full - er mea - sure
 need of grace; here are ta - ble, font, and pul - pit;
 flock and fold; here as bread and wine are tak - en,
 change and doubt, keep us faith - ful to the gos - pel;



what it is in Christ we share. Here, as in the
 here the cross has cen - tral place. Here in hon - es -
 Christ sus - tains us as of old. Here the ser - vants
 help us work your pur - pose out. Here, in this day's



world a - round us, all our var - ied skills and arts
 ty of preach - ing, here in si - lence, as in speech,
 of the Ser - vant seek in wor - ship to ex - plore
 ded - i - ca - tion, all we have to give, re - ceive;



****Prayer of the Day***

L: Let us pray,

Most High God, whom the heavens cannot contain, we give you thanks for the gifts of those who have built this house of prayer to your glory; we praise you for the fellowship of those who have made it holy; and we pray that all who seek you here may find you and be filled with joy and peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Chancel Choir: "Cathedral of Praise"

by Joseph M. Martin

First Reading: Isaiah 42:5-12

L: Thus says God, the LORD,
who created the heavens and stretched them out,
who spread out the earth and what comes from it,
who gives breath to the people upon it
and spirit to those who walk in it:

I am the LORD, I have called you in righteousness,
I have taken you by the hand and kept you;
I have given you as a covenant to the people,
a light to the nations,
to open the eyes that are blind,
to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon,
from the prison those who sit in darkness.

I am the LORD, that is my name;
my glory I give to no other,
nor my praise to idols.
See, the former things have come to pass,
and new things I now declare;
before they spring forth,
I tell you of them.

Sing to the LORD a new song,
 his praise from the end of the earth!
 Let the sea roar and all that fills it,
 the coastlands and their inhabitants.
 Let the desert and its towns lift up their voice,
 the villages that Kedar inhabits;
 let the inhabitants of Sela sing for joy,
 let them shout from the tops of the mountains.
 Let them give glory to the LORD,
 and declare his praise in the coastlands.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Second Reading: Ephesians 3:14-21

L: For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth takes its name. I pray that, according to the riches of his glory, he may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit, and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

****Gospel Acclamation***

Congregation:

Al-le-lu - ia, al-le-lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we

go? You have the words of e - ter - nal

life. Al - le - lu - ia! *Optional Repeat*

***Gospel: John 15:1-17**

P: The holy gospel according to John, the 15th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples. As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.

The Gospel of the Lord.

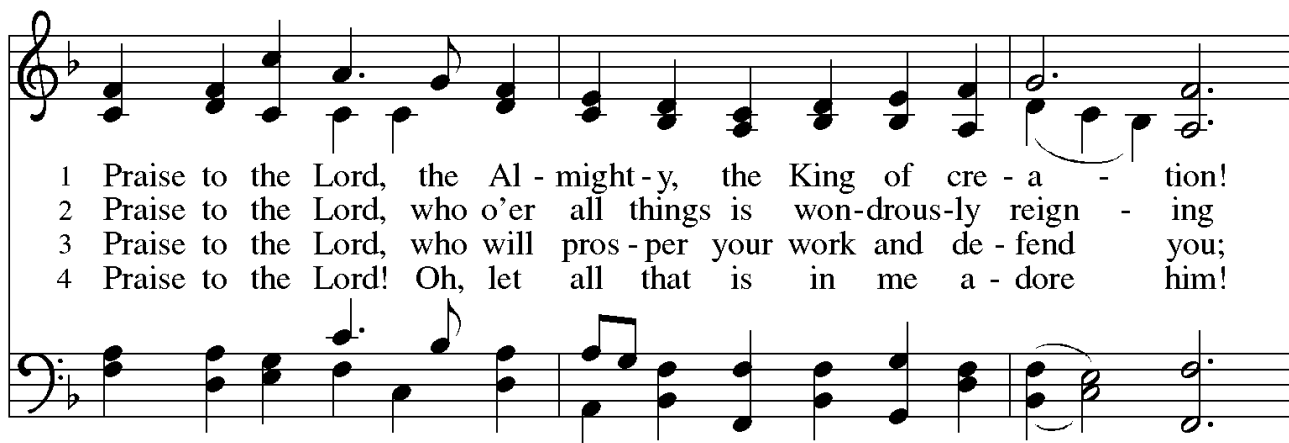
Praise to you, O Christ.

Children's Sermon

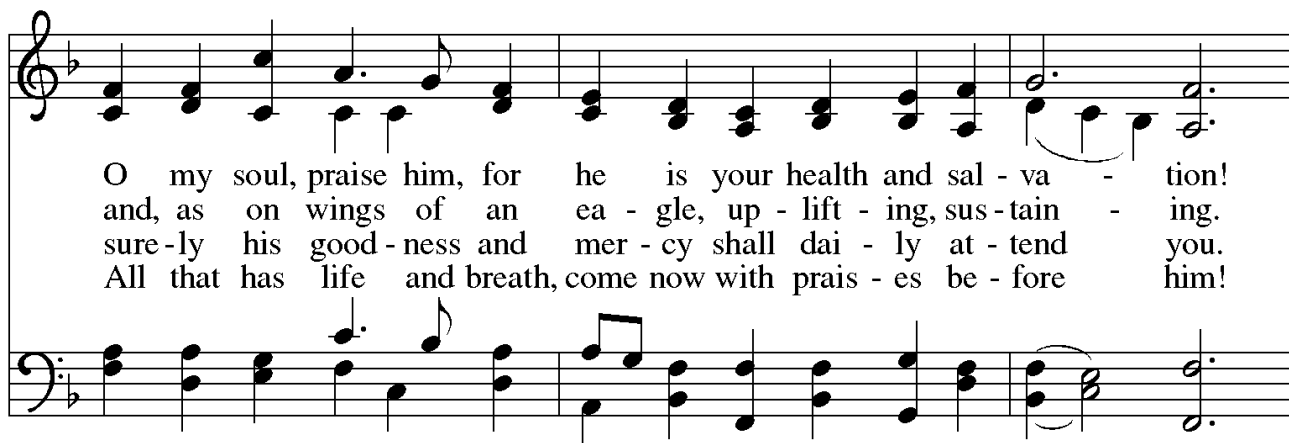
Pastor Jon Benson

Sermon

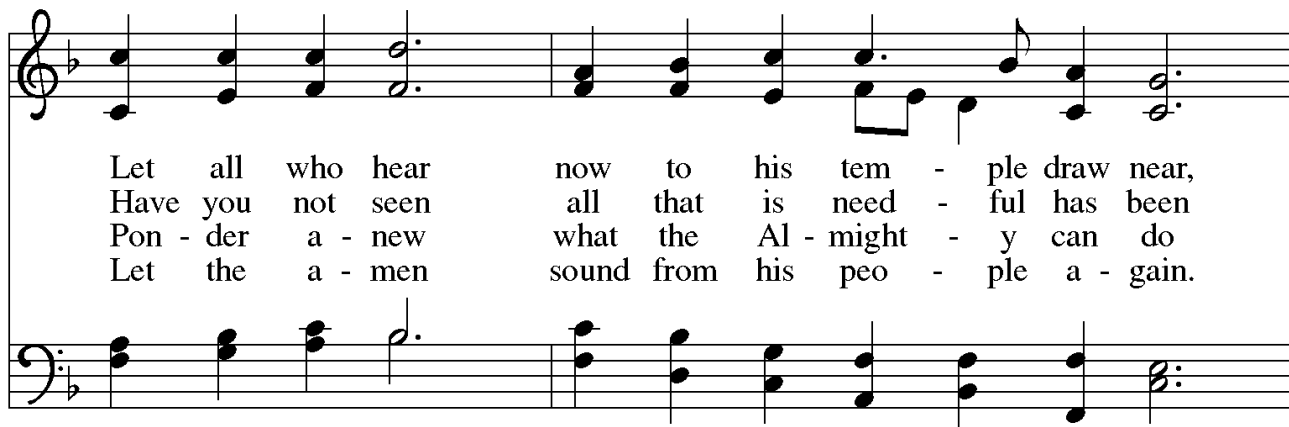
Pastor Jon Benson



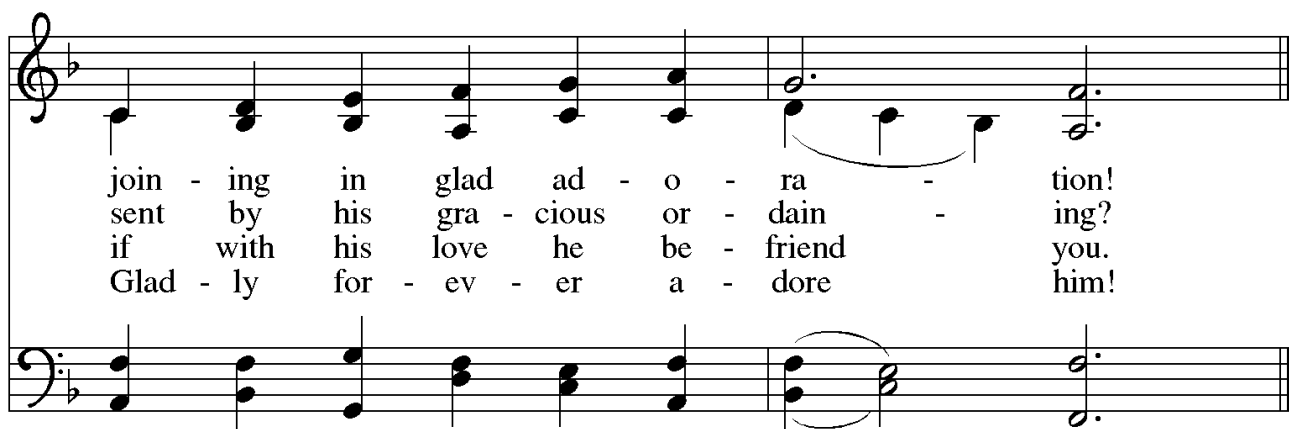
1 Praise to the Lord, the Al - might - y, the King of cre - a - tion!
 2 Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things is won-drous-ly reign - ing
 3 Praise to the Lord, who will pros - per your work and de - fend you;
 4 Praise to the Lord! Oh, let all that is in me a - dore him!



O my soul, praise him, for he is your health and sal - va - tion!
 and, as on wings of an ea - gle, up - lift - ing, sus - tain - ing.
 sure-ly his good - ness and mer - cy shall dai - ly at - tend you.
 All that has life and breath, come now with prais - es be - fore him!



Let all who hear now to his tem - ple draw near,
 Have you not seen all that is need - ful has been
 Pon - der a - new what the Al - might - y can do
 Let the a - men sound from his peo - ple a - gain.



join - ing in glad ad - o - ra - tion!
 sent by his gra - cious or - dain - ing?
 if with his love he be - friend you.
 Glad - ly for - ev - er a - dore him!

****Affirmation of Baptism by the Assembly***

P: Dear friends, we give thanks for the gift of baptism as we come before God to make public affirmation of baptism into Christ together.

Let us pray.

Merciful God, we thank you that you have made us your own by water and the Word in baptism. You have called us to yourself, enlightened us with the gifts of your Spirit, and nourished us in the community of faith. Uphold us and all your servants in the gifts and promises of baptism, and unite the hearts of all whom you have brought to new birth.

We ask this in the name of Christ.

Amen.

****Profession of Faith***

P: Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God,
the powers of this world that rebel against God,
and the ways of sin that draw you from God?

I renounce them.

Do you believe in God the Father?

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

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

He descended into hell.

On the third day he rose again.

**He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

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.

You have made public profession of your faith. Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in holy baptism:

to live among God's faithful people,

to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper,

to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed,

to serve all people, following the example of Jesus,

and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?

I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.

People of God, do you promise to support and pray for one another in your life in Christ?

We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.

Let us pray.

We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give us new birth, cleanse us from sin, and raise us to eternal life. Stir up in your people the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence both now and forever.

Amen.

****Prayer of Intercession***

L: Rooted and grounded in your love, we pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

A brief silence.

Rooted in the powerful witness of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection, and fed and nourished by your Spirit, we pray that the church grows, blossoms, and bears fruit of your steadfast love in every generation. Lord in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Giver of all life, we praise you for the beauty of all that you have made. Help us to see, care for, and enjoy it, and discern our part in being good stewards of your creation for generations to come. Lord in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

God of all mercy, fill us with your love and deliver us from the evil we are capable of inflicting on one another in war and violence. Plant your compassion and wisdom in all the world's leaders, that they may care for their people and work peaceably with other nations for the common good of humanity. Lord in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

God of all comfort, be present with all who suffer this day in mind, body, or spirit. Especially we pray for those listed on our prayer list and for the names of those we lift up to you now... May your abiding and healing presence be in our midst and may our lives tend to your love and care for our neighbors. Lord in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Ever-living God, we give you thanks for the members and ministry of Lord of Love: for those who had the vision to begin this congregation, those who sustain its present ministry, and those who will carry its mission forward into the future to proclaim the breadth and length, height, and depth of your love. Lord in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

We thank you for all the saints who have gone before us. May we lean on your Holy Spirit to guide us here on earth until you call us to unite with them and you in our heavenly home forever. Lord in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

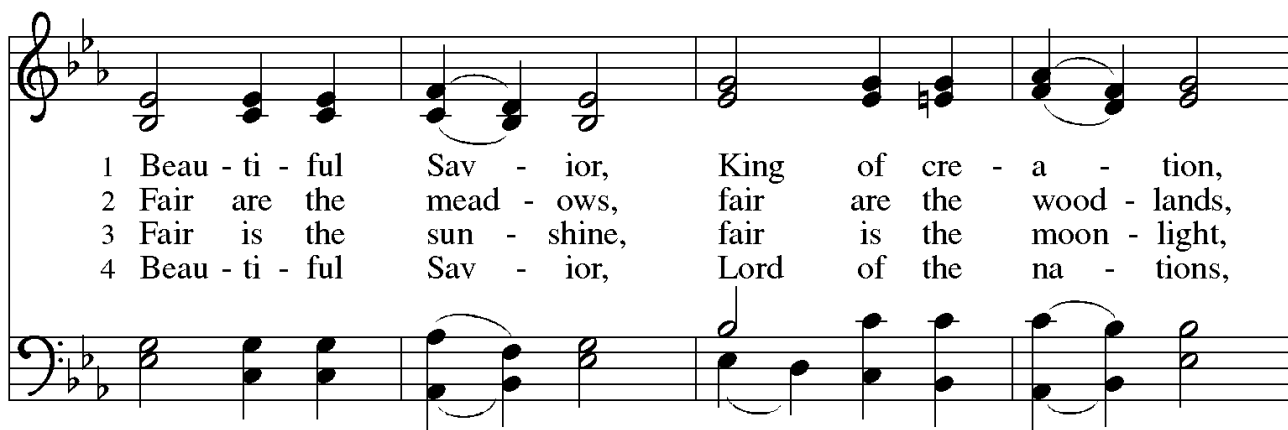
Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy, through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

Please be seated.

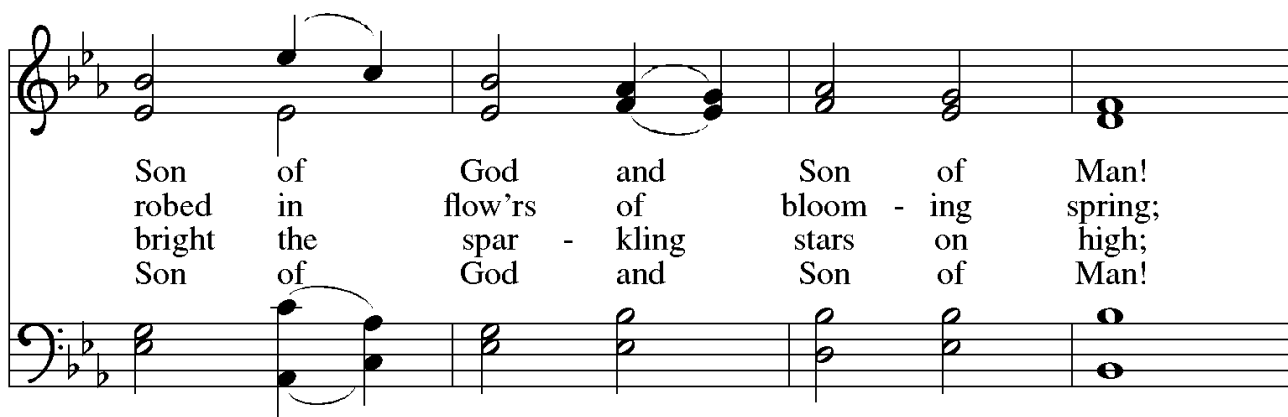
Offering

L: We are called to reflect on how we are giving back to God for all the blessings God has given us. Today's gifts, unless otherwise designated, will support the 50th Anniversary offering. This offering will be split in four ways: 25% to the Food Bank of the Heartland; 25% to the ELCA Fund for Leaders; 25% to Nebraska ELCA for Mission Field Nebraska Ministries; and 25% designated to a Lord of Love project of new flooring in the Fellowship Hall.

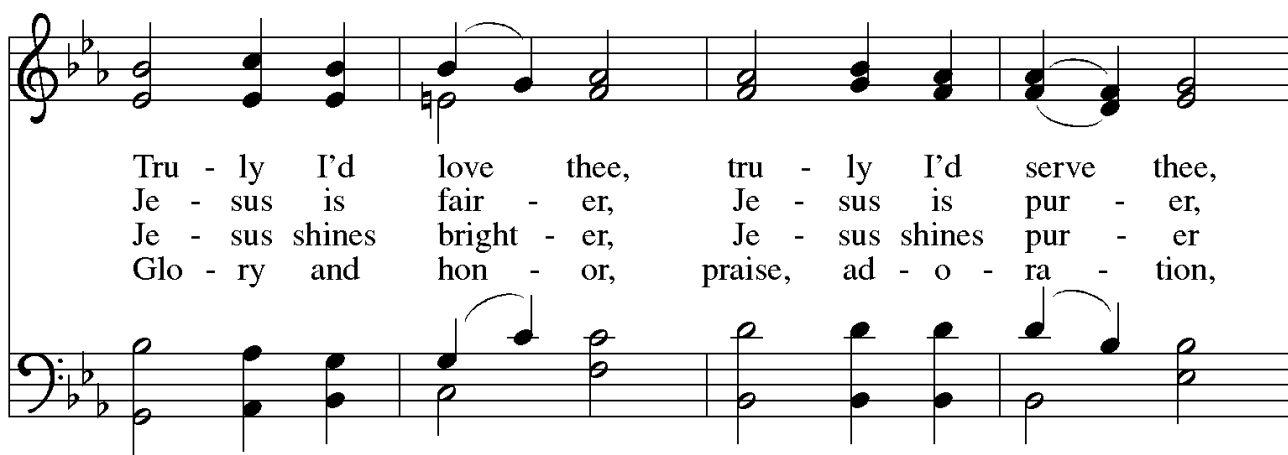
Gifts may be placed in the offering plate located in the back of the sanctuary or may be given electronically at www.lord-of-love.org. Children may come forward to put their offering in the noise jar.



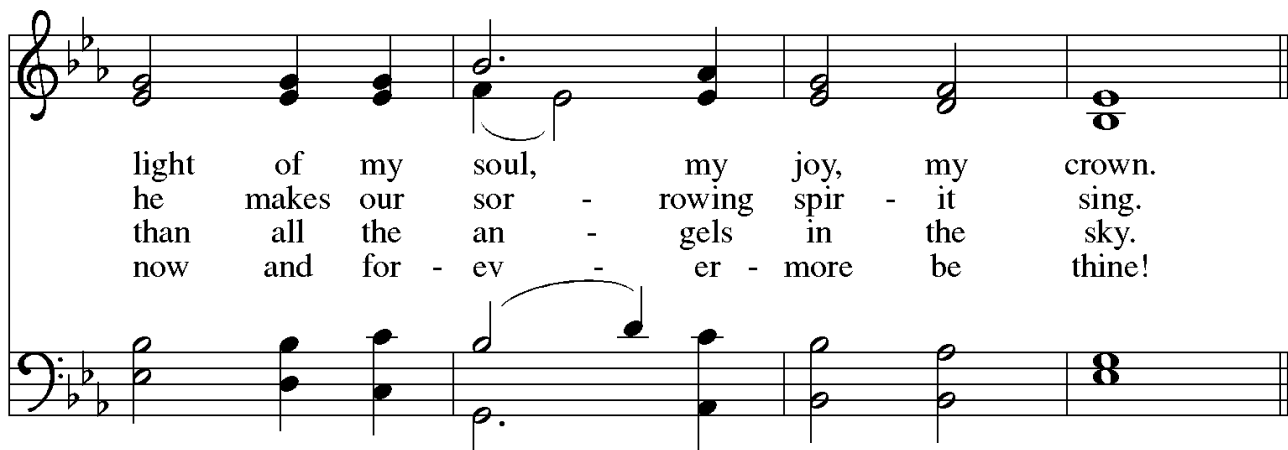
1 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, King of cre - a - tion,
 2 Fair are the mead - ows, fair are the wood - lands,
 3 Fair is the sun - shine, fair is the moon - light,
 4 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, Lord of the na - tions,



Son of God and Son of Man!
 robed in the flow'rs of spring;
 bright in the spar - kling on high;
 Son of God and Son of Man!



Tru - ly I'd love thee, tru - ly I'd serve thee,
 Je - sus is fair - er, Je - sus is pur - er,
 Je - sus shines bright - er, Je - sus shines pur - er,
 Glo - ry and hon - or, praise, ad - o - ra - tion,



light of my soul, my joy, my crown.
 he makes our sor - rowing spir - it sing.
 than all the an - gels in the sky.
 now and for - ev - er - more be thine!

****Offertory Prayer***

P: Merciful God, 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.

****Thanksgiving at the Table***

P: O God before time, O God at the end,
we delight in the splendor of your universe.
Daily we laud your continuing creation,
and we give thanks for creation that surrounds us.
We glorify you, now and forever.

We glorify you, now and forever.

O God of the covenant, O God of the never-ending promise,
we hear you speaking to your people throughout all time.
We come as your children to this table,
and we give thanks for your faithfulness in every generation.
We praise you, now and forever.

We praise you, now and forever.

You gave us Mary Magdalene, Peter, and Paul,
pastors and teachers, musicians, and friends,
who are rooted in you and nourish our growth in you.
We bless you, now and forever.

We bless you, now and forever.

You came in Jesus, our wisdom, our guide,
our Savior, our food, our wellspring of grace,
dying for sin, and alive for the life of the world.
We worship you, now and forever.

We worship you, now and forever.

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 for 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.

Remembering his death, we cry out Amen.

Amen.

Celebrating his resurrection, we shout Amen.

Amen.

Trusting his presence in every time and place, we plead Amen.

Amen.

Come, Holy Spirit, and make here the body of Christ.

Breathe new life into us through this food.

Nourish this congregation, that we meet the challenges around us.

Preserve what is faithful; reform what we treasure; create in us what is vital and new.

We honor you, now and forever.

We honor you, now and forever.

O God before time, O God at the end,

Father, Son and Holy Spirit:

you are the source of all life.

Glory and praise, blessing and worship,

honor and power be to you, our God, forever and ever.

Amen.

Invitation to the Lord's Table

P: The gifts of God for the people of God. Come. All are welcome at the Table of our Lord.

Lamb of God



1. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;
2. Lamb of God, you break the chains of ha - tred and fear;
3. Lamb of God, you are the way of jus - tice and peace:
4. Lamb of God, you are the way of mer - cy and love:



have mer - cy on us, mer - cy on us, mer - cy on us.



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world:



grant us peace, grant us peace, grant us peace.

Distribution Music

Lord of Love Brass: “Let Us Break Bread Together”

arr. Weitekamp

****Post-Communion Prayer***

P: We give you thanks, O God,
Living Water, Breath of Life,
for nourishing our roots
and creating us anew in this meal.
In your grace and by your Spirit, help us to be what we celebrate,
the body of Christ in the world.
Send us out, renewed by this sacramental meal,
to do the work you have given us to do: to witness for Christ,
to love you with singleness of heart,
and to serve you with clarity of purpose;
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

****Benediction***

P: Go forth in peace and with the courage of faith. Love God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind, and love your neighbor as yourself.

Amen.

Whatever you do in word or deed,
do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus,
giving thanks to God through him.

Amen.

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

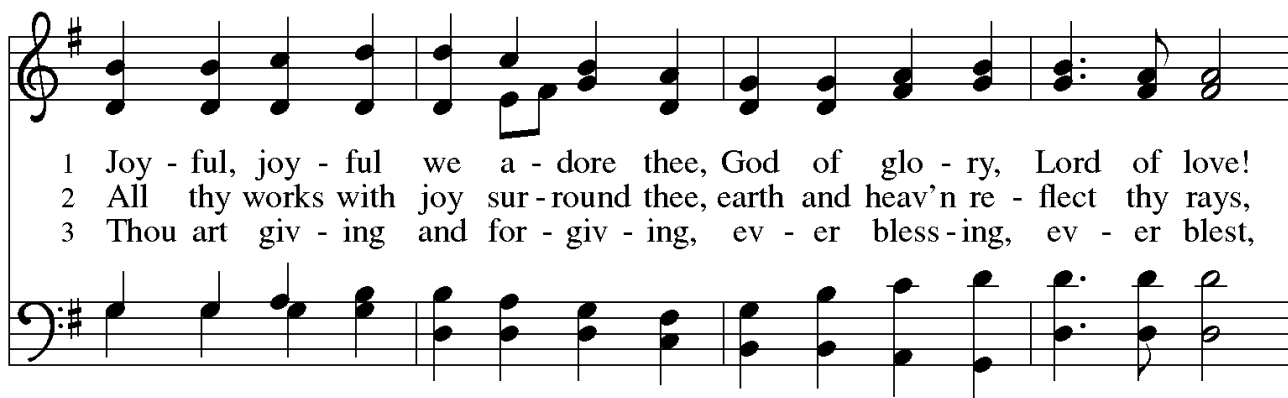
Amen.

Almighty God, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you now and forever.

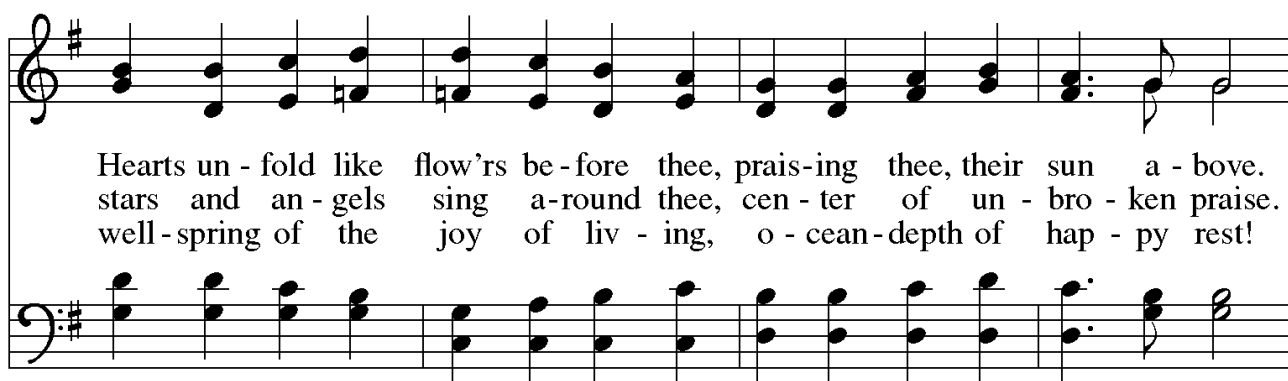
Amen.

***Sending Song: "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee"**


ELW 836



1 Joy - ful, joy - ful we a - dore thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love!
 2 All thy works with joy sur - round thee, earth and heav'n re - flect thy rays,
 3 Thou art giv - ing and for - giv - ing, ev - er bless - ing, ev - er blest,



Hearts un - fold like flow'rs be - fore thee, prais - ing thee, their sun a - bove.
 stars and an - gels sing a - round thee, cen - ter of un - bro - ken praise.
 well - spring of the joy of liv - ing, o - cean - depth of hap - py rest!



Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness, drive the gloom of doubt a - way.
 Field and for - est, vale and moun - tain, flow - 'ry mead - ow, flash - ing sea,
 Thou our Fa - ther, Christ our broth - er, all who live in love are thine;



Giv - er of im - mor - tal glad - ness, fill us with the light of day.
 chant - ing bird, and flow - ing foun - tain call us to re - joice in thee.
 teach us how to love each oth - er, lift us to the joy di - vine!

****Dismissal***

L: Rooted and grounded in God's love,
Let us go in peace to serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Ring of the Bell

Postlude

Lord of Love Brass: "May the Good Lord Bless and Keep You" arr. Slechta

Thank you for celebrating with us today.
Please join us in the Fellowship Hall for anniversary cake, punch, and coffee.

Now the Feast and Celebration Liturgy

Text and Music: Marty Haugen
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God Is Here!

Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903-2000
Music: ABBOT'S LEIGH, Cyril V. Taylor, 1907-1991
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