

# *6<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Epiphany*

*February 12, 2023*

This season is the "Time after Epiphany" and uses the color green for its symbolism of our growth in Christ. Green is used as a neutral color when more festive or more somber colors are not appointed.



*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"*

*Worship 9:00 a.m.*

*Bold type indicates Congregational responses*

## ***Introduction***

In today's reading from Deuteronomy we are called to choose life by loving and obeying God. Much of today's gospel reading echoes portions of the Ten Commandments. Jesus' instructions to the crowd reveal a pattern of behavior that honors both God and the neighbor, resulting in life and health for the whole community. We too are invited to embrace these commandments, not out of fear of retribution, but because God has promised that to do so means life for us.

## ***Prelude***

## ***Announcements***

## ***Ringin of the Bell***

***\*Gathering Song: "Rise, Shine, You People!"..... ELW 665***

**\*Greeting**

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

**And also with you.**

**\*Confession and Forgiveness**

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God,  
the Word made flesh,  
our life and our salvation.

**Amen.**

Trusting the goodness and lovingkindness of God our Savior, let us confess our sin.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

God of life,

**you promise good news of great joy for all people,  
and call us to be messengers of your peace.**

**We confess that too often we hoard our joy,  
our resources, and our security.**

**We nurture conflict and build barriers.**

**We neglect the needs of our neighbors  
and ignore the groaning of creation.**

**Have mercy on us.**

**Where we are self-centered, open our hearts.**

**Where we are reluctant, give us courage.**

**Where we are cynical, restore our trust.**

**Renew us with your grace**

**and give us again the hope of eternal life in you.**

**Amen.**

Hear the good news:

We are children of God and heirs of God's promises  
through the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

In ✠ Jesus we are forgiven and redeemed.

Sing with joy, for all the ends of the earth  
shall know the salvation of God.

**Amen.**

# \*Hymn of Praise

All



1. Your can - o - py of vig - il lights, each  
2. (You) walk with us a - long the way, your  
3. (Re) - freshed by sab - bath rest this day, a -



star your hand has set in place, be - stows a bless - ing  
Word, a lamp to pil - grim feet; stay with us now for  
wak - en us to your sha - lom: the reign of Christ's un -



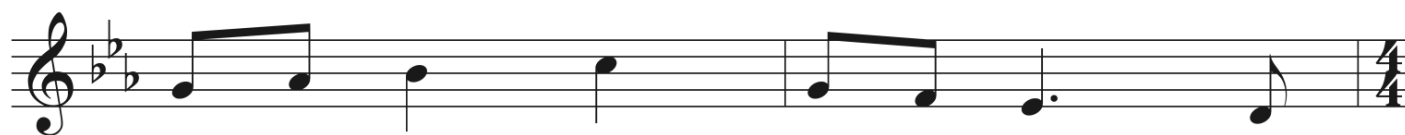
on our life, and all cre - a - tion sings your  
each new day, our un - known guest, our host and  
fail - ing way, where peace and jus - tice are at



praise. You formed the moon and fired the sun, you  
feast. Grant those who share and this ho - ly meal the  
home and saints need nei - ther moon nor sun to



quick - ened dust with ho - ly breath, and  
faith and vi - sion to be - lieve that  
sing your praise e - ter - nal - ly, O



bind - ing us to what your dear Son, re -  
hearts might see what eyes con - ceal: by  
mer - ci - ful, im - mor - tal One, O



newed our life, de - stroyed our death.  
grace your pres - ence we re - ceive.  
bless - ed, ho - ly Trin - i - ty.

***\*Prayer of the Day***

L: Let us pray.

**O God, the strength of all who hope in you, because we are weak mortals we accomplish nothing good without you. Help us to see and understand the things we ought to do, and give us grace and power to do them, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

***Choir Anthem "If You Love Me"..... arr. Jon Novak***

***First Reading: Deuteronomy 30:15-20***

L: [Moses said to the people:] See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, death and adversity. If you obey the commandments of the Lord your God that I am commanding you today, by loving the Lord your God, walking in his ways, and observing his commandments, decrees, and ordinances, then you shall live and become numerous, and the Lord your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to possess. But if your heart turns away and you do not hear, but are led astray to bow down to other gods and serve them, I declare to you today that you shall perish; you shall not live long in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess. I call heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live, loving the Lord your God, obeying him, and holding fast to him; for that means life to you and length of days, so that you may live in the land that the Lord swore to give to your ancestors, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.  
Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

***Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 3:1-9***

L: Brothers and sisters, I could not speak to you as spiritual people, but rather as people of the flesh, as infants in Christ. I fed you with milk, not solid food, for you were not ready for solid food. Even now you are still not ready, for you are still of the flesh. For as long as there is jealousy and quarreling among you, are you not of the flesh, and behaving according to human inclinations? For when one says, "I belong to Paul," and another, "I belong to Apollos," are you not merely human?

What then is Apollos? What is Paul? Servants through whom you came to believe, as the Lord assigned to each. I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God who gives

the growth. The one who plants and the one who waters have a common purpose, and each will receive wages according to the labor of each. For we are God's servants, working together; you are God's field, God's building.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

**\*Gospel Acclamation**



**\*Gospel: Matthew 5:21-37**

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 5<sup>th</sup> chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said to the disciples:] "You have heard that it was said to those of ancient times, 'You shall not murder'; and 'whoever murders shall be liable to judgment.' But I say to you that if you are angry with a brother or sister, you will be liable to judgment; and if you insult a brother or sister, you will be liable to the council; and if you say, 'You fool,' you will be liable to the hell of fire. So when you are offering your gift at the altar, if you remember that your brother or sister has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother or sister, and then come and offer your gift. Come to terms quickly with your accuser while you are on the way to court with him, or your accuser may hand you over to the judge, and the judge to the guard, and you will be thrown into prison. Truly I tell you, you will never get out until you have paid the last penny.

"You have heard that it was said, 'You shall not commit adultery.' But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lust has already committed adultery with her in his heart. If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away; it is better for you to lose one of your members than for your whole body to be thrown into hell. And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away; it is better for you to lose one of your members than for your whole body to go into hell.

"It was also said, 'Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of

divorce.’ But I say to you that anyone who divorces his wife, except on the ground of unchastity, causes her to commit adultery; and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery.

“Again, you have heard that it was said to those of ancient times, ‘You shall not swear falsely, but carry out the vows you have made to the Lord.’ But I say to you, Do not swear at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God, or by the earth, for it is his footstool, or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. And do not swear by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black. Let your word be ‘Yes, Yes’ or ‘No, No’; anything more than this comes from the evil one.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

***Children’s Sermon*** ..... Rev. Becky Sells

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***Hymn of the Day: “God, When Human Bonds Are Broken”*** ..... ELW 603

***\*The Apostles’ Creed***

L: God has made us his people through our Baptism into Christ. Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

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

**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.**

**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.**

### ***\*Prayers of Intercession***

L: Called together to follow Jesus, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

*A brief silence.*

Inspire your church that it may be a sign of life throughout the world. From the exploration of faith with children and new believers to missionaries and bishops, shape lives of faithfulness, so that all find abundant life in your ways. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

Nourish your creation. Accompany all who plant and water. Bless the work of farmers; provide for subsistence farmers facing drought and climate change. Guide the work of agricultural scientists toward sustainable ways to feed the world. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

Give growth where there seems to be no hope for life. In nations and regions where reconciliation seems impossible, empower peacemakers with your Spirit. Where death holds sway through violence, disease, and hunger, equip relief workers to bring hope. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

Nurture all in need. Bring healing to all who experience trauma caused by systems of injustice and destructive relationships. Give courage to those struggling to repent and those seeking reconciliation. Sustain all who work for restoration. We especially pray for those on our prayer lists and the names of those we lift up to you in our hearts now...Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

Encourage this congregation. Call us to a common purpose and keep us from quarrelling. Turn our hearts toward you and guide our leaders, so that our choices may be lifegiving for all. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

Thanks be to you for the lives of all who have died in Christ. Teach us to follow them in your ways and gather us with them into the promise of eternal life with you. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

We bring to you our needs and hopes, O God, trusting your wisdom and power revealed in Christ crucified.

**Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

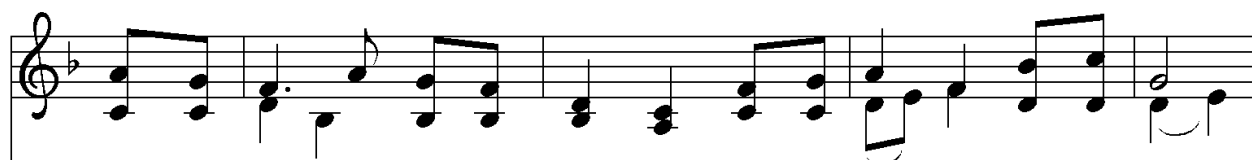
## ***Offering***

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

*Gifts may placed in the offering plate located in the back of the sanctuary or may be given electronically at [www.lord-of-love.org](http://www.lord-of-love.org). Children may come forward to put their offering in the noise jar.*



## Offertory

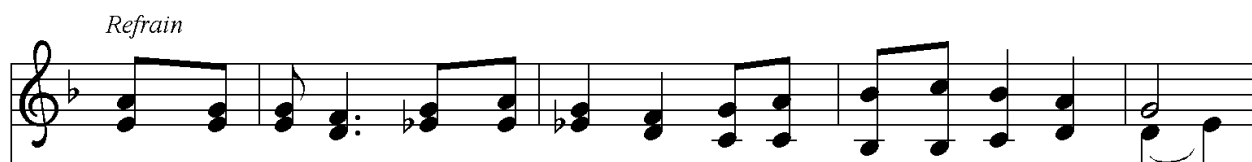


1 By your hand you feed your peo - ple, food of an - gels, heav-en's bread.  
2 In this meal we taste your sweet-ness, bread for hun - ger, wine of peace.  
3 Send us now with faith and cour - age to the hun - gry, lost, be - reaved.

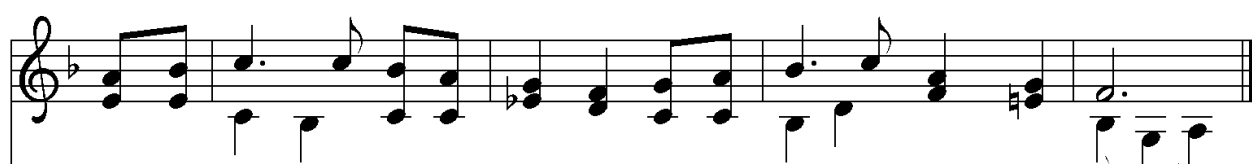


For these gifts we did not la - bor, by your grace have we been fed:  
Ho - ly word and ho - ly wis - dom sat - is - fy our deep - est needs.  
In our liv - ing and our dy - ing, we be - come what we re - ceive:

*Refrain*



Christ's own bod - y, blessed and bro - ken, cup o'er - flow - ing, life out - poured,



giv - en as a liv - ing to - ken of your world re - deemed, re - stored.

### **\*Offertory Prayer**

P: Let us pray.

**We bless you, O God, gracious and merciful; you bring forth food from the earth and nourish your whole creation. Turn our hearts toward those who hunger that all may know your care. Prepare us now to feast upon your mercy: Jesus Christ, the bread of life.**

**Amen.**

### **\*The Great Thanksgiving**

The musical notation consists of four staves, each with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff is divided into two parts: 'Presider' and 'All'. The second staff is also divided into 'Presider' and 'All'. The third and fourth staves are labeled 'Presider' and 'All' respectively.

*Presider* *All*  
The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

*Presider* *All*  
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

*Presider*  
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

*All*  
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

### ***\*Words of Institution***

Holy God, you alone are holy, you alone are God. The universe declares your praise: beyond the stars, beneath the sea, within each cell, with every breath. Generations bless your faithfulness: through the waters, across the wilderness, by night and day, out of exile, into the future. We give you thanks for your Son: at the heart of human life, near to those who suffer, beside the sinner, among the poor, with us now.

On the night 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 remembrance of me.

Remembering his love for us on the way, at the table, and to the end, we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.**

We pray for the gift of your Spirit: in our gathering, upon this bread, within this cup, among your people, throughout the world. Blessing, praise, and thanks to you, Holy God, for your mercy, through Christ Jesus, by your Spirit, in your Church, without end.  
**Amen.**

### ***\*The Lord's Prayer***

P: Gathered around the table by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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.**

*Please be seated.*

### ***Communion Invitation***

P: The gifts of God for the people of God. All are welcome.

## **Lamb of God**

*All*

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

1., 2.

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

3.

world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

## **Communion**

### **\*Post-Communion Prayer**

P: Creator of our days and nights, we give you thanks for this gift of life. Increase our faith and open our eyes that we might recognize Jesus in all whom you call us to love and serve. Abide with us when we struggle and doubt and be our hope and highest joy, until at last with all your saints we dwell in your unfailing Light.

**Amen.**

### **\*Benediction**

P: Holy God, Blessed Trinity, strengthen your faith, increase your hope, deepen your love, ✠ and give you peace this day and always.

**Amen.**

*Refrain*



Bless the Lord, O my soul, O my soul;



wor-ship his ho - ly name. Sing like nev - er be-fore,



O my soul; I'll wor-ship your ho - ly name.



1 The sun comes up, it's a new day dawn-ing;



2 You're rich in love, and you're slow to an - ger. Your



3 And on that day when my strength is fail - ing, the



... it's time to sing your song a - gain. What - ev - er may  
name . . is . . . great, and your heart is kind. For all . . your  
end . . draws near, and my time has come; . . . still, my



pass, and what - ev - er lies be - fore me, let me be  
good-ness, I will keep . . on . . sing-ing— ten thou-sand  
soul will sing your praise un - end-ing— ten thou-sand



sing - ing when the eve - ning comes.  
rea - sons for my heart to find.  
years and then for - ev - er - more!

*Refrain*

Text: Matt Redman, b. 1974, and Jonas Myrin, b. 1982

Music: Matt Redman and Jonas Myrin

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TEN THOUSAND REASONS

Irregular

***\*Dismissal***

L: Go in peace. Be the light of Christ.

**Thanks be to God!**

***Ring of the Bell***

***Postlude***

**Unfailing Light Liturgy**

By Marty Haugen & Susan Briehl

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**By Your Hand You Feed Your People**

Text: Susan R. Briehl

Music: CAMROSE, Marty Haugen

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