

Reformation Sunday
October 29, 2023



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

Rooted in the past and growing into the future, the church must always be reformed in order to live out the love of Christ in an ever-changing world. We celebrate the good news of God’s grace, that Jesus Christ sets us free every day to do this life-transforming work. Trusting in the freedom given to us in baptism, we pray for the church, that Christians will unite more fully in worship and mission.

Prelude “Built on the Rock”Lindeman/Marchand
“A Mighty Fortress” (Buxtehude)/Baldwin

Announcements

Ringling of the Bell

Call to Worship: Bell Choir - “This Little Light of Mine”arr. William Moats

***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: In the name of the + triune God,
who loves us into being,
calls us to community,
and inspires us to love.

Amen.

Confronted by the law and called to life in the gospel,
let us confess our sin before God and one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God of love and community,

we confess that we have not loved as God has loved us.

We look to ourselves to fulfill your law.

We seek to satisfy our own desires.

We turn away from our neighbors and live for ourselves alone.

Teach us again your statutes

and help us to love your will,

that in and through us

your beloved community is made known.

Beloved of God,

love is the fulfillment of the law,

and in † Jesus, God's love for you is made known.

Through Jesus your sins are forgiven,

and you are drawn into God's love and life.

Live fully, knowing that God loves you.

Amen.

***Kyrie**



Ky-ri - e e - lei - son, on our world and on our way.



Ky-ri - e e - lei - son, ev-'ry day.



- 1 For peace in the world, for the health of the church, for the
- 2 That we may live out your im - passioned re - sponse to the
- 3 For peace in our hearts, . . . for peace in our homes, . . for
- 4 For your Spir - it to guide; that you cen - ter our lives in the



u - ni - ty of all; for
hun - gry and the poor; that
friends and fam - i - ly; for
wa - ter and the word; that you



this ho - ly house, for all who wor-ship and praise,
we may live out truth and jus - tice and grace,
life and for love, for our work and our play,
nour-ish our souls . . . with your bod - y and blood,



let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.

****Prayer of the Day***

L: Let us pray.

Almighty God, gracious Lord, we thank you that your Holy Spirit renews the church in every age. Pour out your Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep them steadfast in your word, protect and comfort them in times of trial, defend them against all enemies of the gospel, and bestow on the church your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Please be seated.

Choir Anthem “*The Mighty Power of God*” Mark Hayes

First Reading: Jeremiah 31:31-34

L: The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, “Know the LORD,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more. Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Second Reading: Romans 3:19-38

L: Now we know that whatever the law says, it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced, and the whole world may be held accountable to God. For “no human being will be justified in his sight” by deeds prescribed by the law, for through the law comes the knowledge of sin.

But now, apart from law, the righteousness of God has been disclosed, and is attested by the law and the prophets, the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction, since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as a sacrifice of atonement by his blood, effective through faith. He did this to show his righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over the sins previously committed; it was to prove at the present time that he himself is righteous and that he justifies the one who has faith in Jesus.

Then what becomes of boasting? It is excluded. By what law? By that of works? No, but by the law of faith. For we hold that a person is justified by faith apart from works prescribed by the law.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

***Gospel: John 8:31-36**

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 8th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, "If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free." They answered him, "We are descendants of Abraham and have never been slaves to anyone. What do you mean by saying, 'You will be made free'?"

Jesus answered them, "Very truly, I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. The slave does not have a permanent place in the household; the son has a place there forever. So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Children's Sermon Rev. Becky Sells

Sermon Rev. Becky Sells



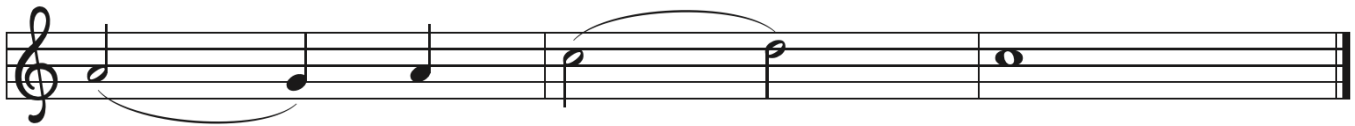
1 Found - ed on faith, the church— a - live by grace—
2 Your cross, O Christ, re - news our life each day.
3 E - quipped by prayer, we live the Spir - it's call.
4 Grow - ing in grace for God's cre - at - ed earth,
5 Found - ed on faith, called forth, em - pow' red to serve,



pro - claims the gos - pel here and ev - 'ry place.
Bap - tized in you, we learn and teach and pray.
Em - pow' red to serve with gifts, both great and small,
we yearn for jus - tice, peace, and hu - man worth;
we share God's end - less love with - out re - serve.



The word of God re - sounds through time and space:
Fed by your love, with thank - ful hearts, we say:
we bring the liv - ing hope of God to all.
a world re - stored; a faith - ful, car - ing church.
Then let us shout a - loud the liv - ing Word!



Al - le - lu - ia!

Welcoming of New Members

Dear friends, we give thanks for the gift of baptism and for these people, one with us in the body of Christ, whom we welcome as new members into the life and ministry of this congregation. Today in our midst we officially welcome... to our congregation.

***Apostles' Creed**

With the whole church, let us 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.**

The presiding minister addresses those being welcomed.

In baptism, we are welcomed into the body of Christ and sent to share in the mission of God. We are called 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.

Siblings in Christ, do you intend to continue in the covenant of your baptism among God's people here at Lord of Love?

*Those being welcomed respond: **I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.***

The minister addresses the assembly.

People of God, do you promise to support and pray for these new members in their life in Christ amongst us?

Congregation Response: **We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.**

Those being welcomed face the assembly.

Let us then welcome these siblings in Christ to Lord of Love:

**We rejoice with you in the life of baptism.
Together we will give thanks and praise to God
and proclaim the good news to all the world.
Welcome!**

P: Let us now show them a sign of joy and approval with our applause.

***Peace**

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Please share signs of peace with one another.

***Prayers of Intercession**

L: Trusting in the transformative power of God's loving Spirit, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

God our parent, you call us your children and have made us siblings through your son Jesus. Heal the church's many divisions, bring understanding and peace where there has been contention and strife, and unite us in one body through the love of Christ.

God of grace,
hear our prayer.

God our creator, your hands have made the heights of the mountains, the depths of the sea, and the life that animates all creation. Bring relief to areas harmed by wildfires, floods, storms, and human carelessness. Renew the face of the earth. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

God our ruler, the nations rage and the kingdoms shake, but your word stands fast forever. Let your justice and peace roll down like waters wherever there is strife, injustice, war, or religious conflict. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

God our champion, you are our refuge and strength, a very present help in times of trouble. Draw near to all who suffer. Be their rest and comfort. We especially pray for those on our prayer list and the names of those we lift up to you in our hearts now.... God of grace,
hear our prayer.

God our reformer, you make all things new. Free us from complacency, open us to unexpected ways, and kindle zeal in us for the future. We pray with joy for the new gifts of those joining with us in mission to you this day. By the power of your Spirit, stir in our hearts together the desire and ability to share your love and grace with the world. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

God our savior, you made yourself known in the lives of all who have died in the hope of your grace. We give thanks for the witness of reformers like Martin Luther and for all whose example has brought us closer to you. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Gracious God, into your hands we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your unending love and amazing grace; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.
Amen.

Please be seated.

Lutheran World Relief Mission Quilts Video

Blessing of the Quilts Written by Shirley Splittgerber

Pastor: Please place your hands on a quilt around you. Now let us pray together...

Quilters: *O Lord our God, maker of all things, you have blessed us with so many Gifts- a good eye for color, the ability to make fine stitches, the skills to develop ever-new and exciting patterns. Now we offer the fruits of our labors, the quilts we have made, to you.*

Everyone: We dedicate these quilts to your service, trusting that your love will go wherever each quilt is sent, making it more than just a piece of material—making each quilt that has been created an expression of love.

There is no way for us to imagine the power and effect an act of love can have on a person's life—how you can use something as small as a quilt to radiate your love from us to the world. May these be used in your service and become blessings for all those who receive them. Amen.

Thankofferings/Offering Time

Pastor will give an introduction...

If you wish to give to the church, you may place your offering in the plate located in the back of the sanctuary or give electronically at www.lord-of-love.org.



Give thanks with a grate - ful heart, give thanks to the Ho - ly One,



give thanks be - cause he's giv - en Je - sus Christ, his Son.



Give thanks with a grate - ful heart, give thanks to the Ho - ly One,



give thanks be - cause he's giv - en Je - sus Christ, his Son.



And now let the weak say, "I am strong," let the poor say, "I am



rich," be - cause of what the Lord has done for us. And



now let the weak say, "I am strong," let the poor say, "I am



rich," be - cause of what the Lord has done for us. Give thanks!

****Offertory Prayer***

P: Let us pray.

Lord, we know that all we possess comes from your loving hand. We give you thanks for the ways you have blessed us. Use these gifts of gratitude and honor, and the whole of our lives to be a witness and a sign of your presence at work in the world with great joy and hope this day. And as we come to be fed ourselves with your good gifts from Christ's table, help to transform us to embody the mission of Christ at work in the world all around us. In the name of Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.

****The Great Thanksgiving***

P: The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

****Words of Institution***

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.

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

P: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

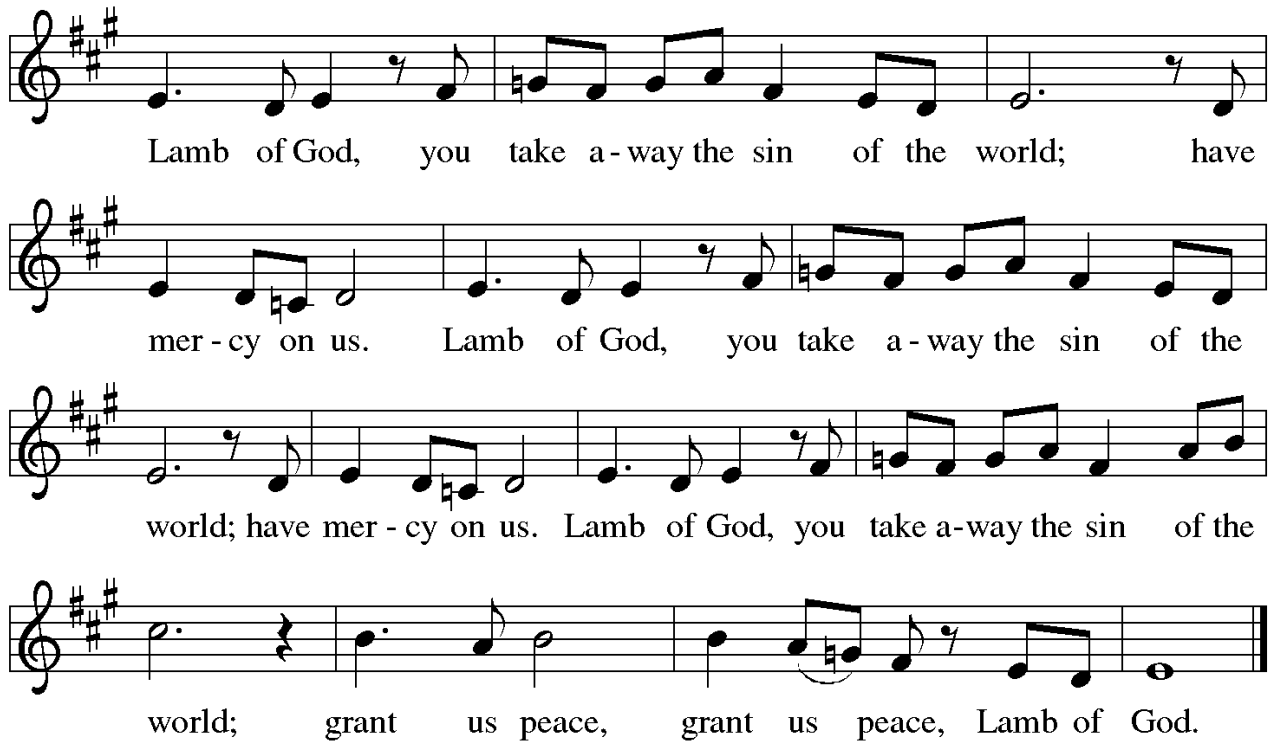
Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,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

Please be seated.

Communion Invitation

P: Jesus invites you to the table. The gifts of God for the people of God. Come.

Lamb of God



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
world; grant us peace, grant us peace, Lamb of God.

Communion

Distribution “Let Us Break Bread Together” /Weitekamp

*Post-Communion Prayer

P: Blessed be your name, O God, for we have feasted on your Word, Christ Jesus, the joy and delight of our hearts. Strengthened by this food, send us to gather the world to your banquet, where none are left out and all are satisfied. In Jesus’ name we pray.

Amen.

*Benediction

P: The God of glory, † Jesus Christ, name above all names, and the Spirit who lives in you, bless you now and forever.

Amen.

***Sending Song:** “Praise to the Lord, the Almighty” ELW 858

*Dismissal

L: Go in peace. God is at work in you.

Thanks be to God!

Ringing of the Bell

Postlude “A Mighty Fortress” Luther/Sundberg

Founded on Faith

Text: Paul D. Weber, b. 1949

Music: FOUNDED ON FAITH, Paul D. Weber

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Give Thanks

Text: Henry Smith

Music: GIVE THANKS, Henry Smith

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