

15th Sunday after Pentecost
September 1, 2024



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

Jesus protests against human customs being given the weight of divine law, while the essence of God’s law is ignored. True uncleanness comes not from external things, but from the intentions of the human heart. Last week Jesus told us “the words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life” (John 6:63). Now James says God has given us birth by the word of truth. We who were washed in the word when we were born in the font return to it every Sunday to ask God to create in us clean hearts.

Announcements

Ringling of the Bell

***Gathering Song:** “*For the Beauty of the Earth*”..... ELW 879

***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 God of manna,
the God of miracles,
the God of mercy.

Amen.

Drawn to Christ and seeking God’s abundance, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God, our provider,

help us.

It is hard to believe there is enough to share.

**We question your ways when they differ from the ways
of the world in which we live.**

**We turn to our own understanding
rather than trusting in you.**

We take offense at your teachings and your ways.

Turn us again to you.

Where else can we turn?

**Share with us the words of eternal life
and feed us for life in the world.**

Amen.

Beloved people of God:
in Jesus, the manna from heaven, you are fed and nourished.
By Jesus, the worker of miracles, there is always more than enough.
Through Jesus, † the bread of life, you are shown God's mercy:
you are forgiven and loved into abundant life.
Amen.

****Kyrie***

P: Let us pray to God with peace in our hearts:

God of love, have mercy.

For the peace from above, let us pray to our God:

God of love, have mercy.

For the peace of the world, for the health of the church, and for the unity of all people,
let us pray to our God:

God of love, have mercy.

For the people of God and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to
our God:

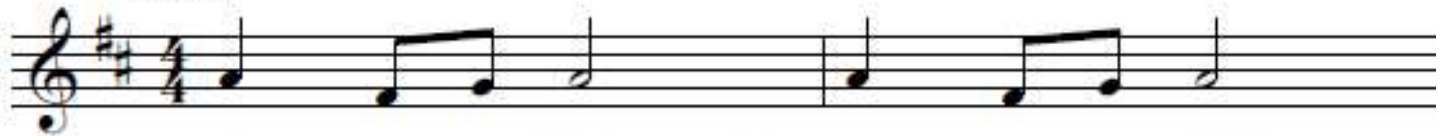
God of love, have mercy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious God.

Amen.

***Hymn of Praise**

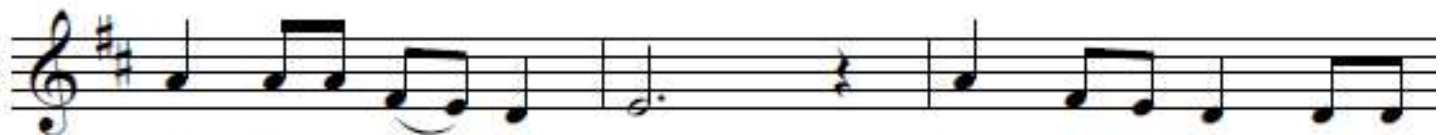
Refrain



(Women) Glo - ry to God! (Men) Glo - ry to God!



(All) Glo - ry to God in the high - est: Glo - ry, glo - ry,



Glo - ry to God a - bove. Glo - ry to God in the



high - est: Glo - ry, glo - ry, glo - ry to the God of Love.

Fine

Verse



1. Wor - thy is Christ the Lamb who was slain whose
 2. Pow - er rich - es wis - dom and strength and
 3. Sing with all the peo - ple of God and
 4. Bless - ing and hon - or glo - ry and praise be to



blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.
 ho - nor and bless - ing and glo - ry are God's.
 join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion.
 God and the Lamb for - ev - er and ev - er.

D.C.

****Prayer of the Day***

L: Let us pray.

O God our strength, without you we are weak and wayward creatures. Protect us from all dangers that attack us from the outside, and cleanse us from all evil that arises from within ourselves, that we may be preserved through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Please be seated.

First Reading: Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9

L: So now, Israel, give heed to the statutes and ordinances that I am teaching you to observe, so that you may live to enter and occupy the land that the LORD, the God of your ancestors, is giving you. You must neither add anything to what I command you nor take away anything from it, but keep the commandments of the LORD your God with which I am charging you.

You must observe them diligently, for this will show your wisdom and discernment to the peoples, who, when they hear all these statutes, will say, "Surely this great nation is a wise and discerning people!" For what other great nation has a god so near to it as the LORD our God is whenever we call to him? And what other great nation has statutes and ordinances as just as this entire law that I am setting before you today?

But take care and watch yourselves closely, so as neither to forget the things that your eyes have seen nor to let them slip from your mind all the days of your life; make them known to your children and your children's children.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Second Reading: James 1:17-27

L: Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. In fulfillment of his own purpose he gave us birth by the word of truth, so that we would become a kind of first fruits of his creatures.

You must understand this, my beloved: let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger; for your anger does not produce God's righteousness. Therefore rid yourselves of all sordidness and rank growth of wickedness, and welcome with meekness the implanted word that has the power to save your souls.

But be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves. For if any are hearers of the word and not doers, they are like those who look at themselves in a mirror; for they look at themselves and, on going away, immediately forget what they were like. But those who look into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and persevere, being not hearers who forget but doers who act—they will be blessed in their doing.

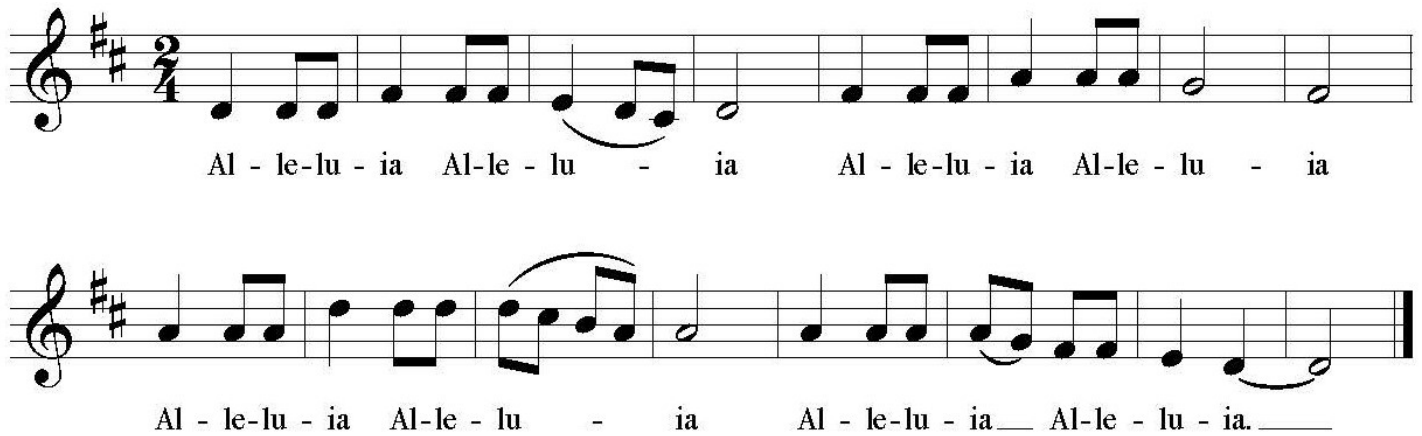
If any think they are religious, and do not bridle their tongues but deceive their hearts, their religion is worthless. Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the

Father, is this: to care for orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

***Gospel Acclamation**



Al - le-lu - ia Al-le - lu - ia 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: Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23**

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the 7th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Now when the Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered around [Jesus], they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with defiled hands, that is, without washing them. (For the Pharisees, and all the Jews, do not eat unless they thoroughly wash their hands, thus observing the tradition of the elders; and they do not eat anything from the market unless they wash it; and there are also many other traditions that they observe, the washing of cups, pots, and bronze kettles.) So the Pharisees and the scribes asked him, “Why do your disciples not live according to the tradition of the elders, but eat with defiled hands?” He said to them, “Isaiah prophesied rightly about you hypocrites, as it is written,

‘This people honors me with their lips,
but their hearts are far from me;
in vain do they worship me,
teaching human precepts as doctrines.’

You abandon the commandment of God and hold to human tradition.”

Then he called the crowd again and said to them, “Listen to me, all of you, and understand: There is nothing outside a person that by going in can defile, but the things that come out are what defile.

“For it is from within, from the human heart, that evil intentions come: fornication, theft, murder, adultery, avarice, wickedness, deceit, licentiousness, envy, slander, pride, folly. All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Children's Sermon Rev. Becky Sells

Sermon Rev. Becky Sells

Hymn of the Day: "Change My Heart, O God" ELW 801

****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: Drawn together in the power of the Holy Spirit, we pray with confidence for the church, God's good creation, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

God of every generation, give the church a sense of purpose and belonging. Sustain and build up leaders and lay people as we accompany one another in our life with Christ. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

God of creation, you named humans as co-creators with you. Where the earth cries out in pain, bring wholeness. Guide governments and industry, that environmental laws and practices seek to heal and not harm. Bring relief and justice to people and places suffering from climate catastrophe. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Sovereign God, we pray for local communities of every kind: rural and urban; established and new. Lead those in authority to seek the good of all through their words and actions and to mentor others in honest and generous ways. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Healing God, you draw near to all who are hurting. Be with all who desire relief from chronic and acute illness, cancer, and post-traumatic stress disorder. Strengthen health care workers, therapists, and caregivers. Tend to those who are close to our hearts. We especially pray for those on our prayer list and the names of those we lift up to you in our heart now...Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

On this Labor Day weekend we remember and give thanks for all who have fought for workers' rights around the world. Continue to improve working conditions and establish fair wages so that all people may thrive. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Comforting God, console us as we mourn our departed. We hold fast to the promise that death has been defeated by our Savior Jesus Christ. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

We entrust these and all our prayers to you, holy God, in the name of your beloved child, Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Amen.

***Peace**

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Please share signs of peace with one another.

Please be seated.

Offering

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

Communion servers, please come forward during the offertory song.



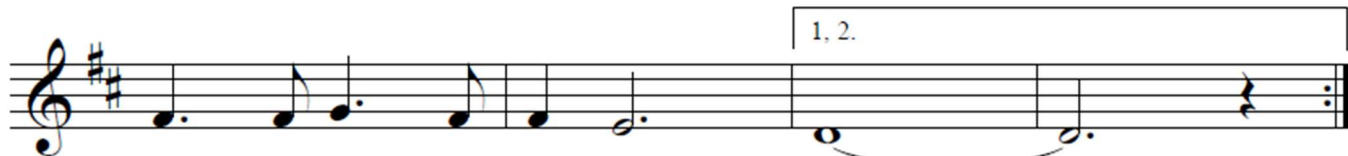
1. What have we to of - fer? What have we to share?
2. What have we to of - fer? What have we to bring?
3. What have we to of - fer? What have we to give?



Coins _____ from the cof - fer Hearts _____ filled with care.
Love, _____ ripe with laugh - ter, Hope that we can sing.
Eyes that are wide o - pen, Lies that we won't live.



God _____ will not fal - ter If _____ we will dare
Dreams of what we're af - ter, Pro - mis - es of when
Truth that must be spo - ken, Just - tice some - how



Lay it at the al - tar there. _____
Lay it at the al - tar then. _____
Lay it at the al - tar



now. _____ What have we to of - fer? What have we to



give? Lives _____ we will live. _____

***Offertory Prayer**

P: Let us pray. Jesus, bread of life,
**you have set this table with your very self, and called us to the feast of plenty.
Gather what has been sown among us, and strengthen us in this meal. Make us
to be what we receive here, your body for the life of the world. Amen.**

***The Great Thanksgiving**

P: The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

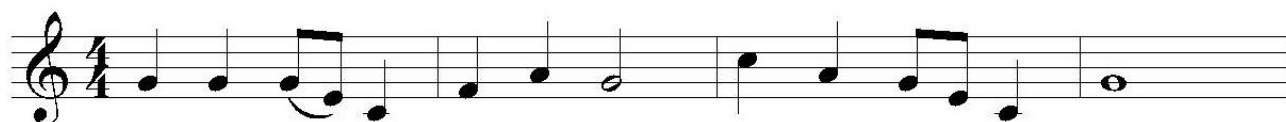
Lift up your hearts.
We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

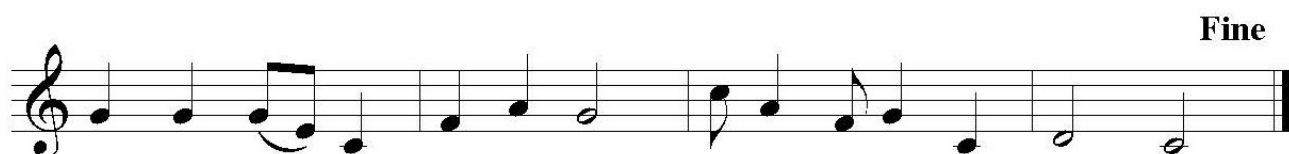
***Words of Institution**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

***Holy, Holy**



1, 3. Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly Lord God of pow-er and love,



Heav'n and earth are full of you. Ho-san - na in the high - est. **Fine**



2. Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

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

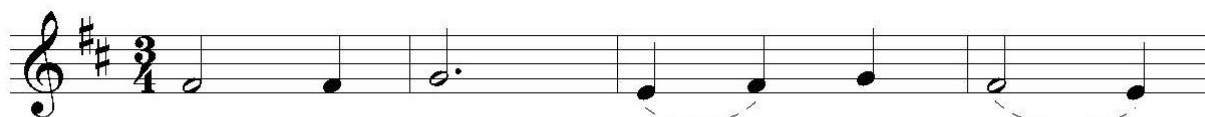
Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,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

Please be seated.

Communion Invitation

P: Christ has set the table with more than enough for all. Come!

Lamb of God



1. Lamb of God, who takes a way the
 2. Lamb of God, who'd give your soul to
 3. Lamb of God, ris - en Lord,
 4. Lamb of God, ho - ly Son,
 5. Lamb of God, who takes a way the

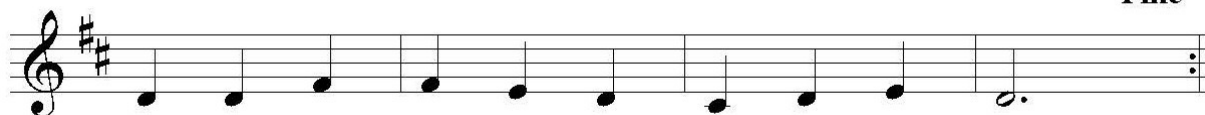


sin of all the world to - day,
 see a brok - en world made whole,
 heal us with your liv - ing word,
 bring us peace when day is done,
 sin of all the world to - day,



Have mer - cy up - on us, mer - cy up - on us,

Fine



mer - cy up - on us and give us your peace.

Communion

***Post-Communion Prayer**

P: Jesus, Bread of life, we have received from your table more than we could ever ask. As you have nourished us in this meal, now strengthen us to love the world with your own life. In your name we pray.

Amen.

***Benediction**

P: The blessing of God, who provides for us, feeds us, and journeys with us, † be upon you now and forever.

Amen.

***Sending Song:** *“O That the Lord Would Guide My Ways”* ELW 772

***Dismissal**

L: Go in peace. You are the body of Christ.

Thanks be to God!

Ringing of the Bell

Postlude *“Come, Christians, Join To Sing”*

Arr. Carly Rawlings

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