

5th Sunday of Easter
May 18, 2025



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.

** Congregation please stand as you are able*

Introduction

Easter initiates a new day. It anticipates a new heaven and a new earth. The risen Christ is making all things new. In the mystery of holy baptism God has made new people of us. Today Jesus invites us to see everyone in a new light—through the lens of love.

Welcome to Lord of Love! We are the body of Christ, and we are not whole without you.

Visitors: We're so glad you're here, and we'd love the opportunity to connect with you! Text WELCOME to 402-493-2946 so we can follow up with you.

Nursery: The nursery (just off the Narthex) is open during worship. Please know that children are always welcome in the Sanctuary for worship. Quiet toy bags are available from the ushers.

Offering: An offering plate is at the back of the Sanctuary, and gifts may be placed there. Children may put their offering in the noise jar during the offering song.

Communion: Everyone is welcome at communion. Gluten-free wafers are available by asking a communion server. In the communion trays, the wine is red and grape juice is white.

Prayer Requests: If you have a prayer request, you can text PRAY to 402-493-2946.

Fellowship: Donuts and coffee are available in the Narthex after worship. Please join us!

Prelude: "There is a Redeemer".....William Himes

Announcements

Ring of the Bell

***Gathering Song:** "God, We Gather as Your People".....ACS1038



1 God, we gath - er as your peo - ple to raise our song a -
2 Oh, we sing for all the chil - dren, that one day they be
3 Oh, we pray for all the young lives cut short by fear and
4 God, we're work - ing for the fu - ture when chil - dren far and



bove, and we dare to claim the prom - ise of your love.
free; and we sing for gen - er - a - tions yet to be,
shame, so a - fraid of who they are and whom they love.
wide can . . . live their lives with dig - ni - ty and pride.



Though the day may not yet be here, we
that they nev - er have a rea - son to
May the mes - sage now be ban - ished that your
As they grow in strength and stat - ure, may they



trust it soon will be, when your chil - dren will be free.
doubt that they are blest. May they, in your love, find rest.
love is for the few; may their faith in you re - new.
join us hand in hand, as a - gainst all hate we stand.

Refrain



Oh, may our hearts and minds be o - pened, fling the church doors o - pen
wide. May there be room e - nough for ev - 'ry - one in - side.
For in God there is a wel - come, in God we all be -
long. May that wel - come be our song.

Text: David Lohman, b. 1961
Music: WELCOME BE OUR SONG, David Lohman
Text and music © 2007 Welcome Song Music, admin. Augsburg Fortress

***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.

***Thanksgiving for Baptism**

P: Christ is risen.

He is risen, indeed. Alleluia!

In the name of ☩ the One who was, who is, and who is to come.

Amen.

Baptized into Christ's death and resurrection, and called to live the baptized life, let us give thanks for the gifts of baptism.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Holy God, we give you thanks for the waters of baptism, waters that make a people your own, that restore to wholeness, and empower us to be witnesses in your name. Baptized into you, O Living One,
make us one as you are one.

We give you thanks for the waters of baptism, waters that strengthen believers and give new life to beloved servants of your church; waters that extend your boundless love and cross barriers of our own making.

Baptized into you, O Living One,
make us one as you are one.

We give you thanks for the waters of baptism, waters that open the hearts of believers and give a voice in the night to those in captivity; waters that set your people on a new path, rejoicing in the Spirit's power.

Baptized into you, O Living One,
make us one as you are one.

Grant us grace, love, and life, O Living One, that our every day is shaped by these waters that give us our very lives in you.

We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Crucified and Risen One. **Amen.**

****Hymn of Praise***

1 O God be-yond all prais - ing, we wor-ship you to - day
and sing the love a - maz - ing that songs can-not re - pay;
for we can on - ly won - der at ev - 'ry gift you send,
at bless-ings with - out num - ber and mer-cies with - out end:
we lift our hearts be - fore you and wait up - on your word,
we hon - or and a - dore you, our great and might - y Lord.

The musical score is written on six staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It features a melody with various note values including quarter, eighth, and half notes, as well as rests. The lyrics are aligned with the notes, with some words spanning across bar lines. The final note of the sixth staff is a whole note, indicating the end of the piece.

****Prayer of the Day***

L: Let us pray.

O Lord God, you teach us that without love, our actions gain nothing. Pour into our hearts your most excellent gift of love, that, made alive by your Spirit, we may know goodness and peace, through your Son, 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: *"Higher Ground"* Mark Hayes

First Reading: Acts 11:1-18

L: Now the apostles and the believers who were in Judea heard that the Gentiles had also accepted the word of God. So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him, saying, "Why did you go to uncircumcised men and eat with them?" Then Peter began to explain it to them, step by step, saying, "I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision. There was something like a large sheet coming down from heaven, being lowered by its four corners; and it came close to me. As I looked at it closely I saw four-footed animals, beasts of prey, reptiles, and birds of the air. I also heard a voice saying to me, 'Get up, Peter; kill and eat.' But I replied, 'By no means, Lord; for nothing profane or unclean has ever entered my mouth.' But a second time the voice answered from heaven, 'What God has made clean, you must not call profane.' This happened three times; then everything was pulled up again to heaven. At that very moment three men, sent to me from Caesarea, arrived at the house where we were. The Spirit told me to go with them and not to make a distinction between them and us. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered the man's house. He told us how he had seen the angel standing in his house and saying, 'Send to Joppa and bring Simon, who is called Peter; he will give you a message by which you and your entire household will be saved.' And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as it had upon us at the beginning. And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said, 'John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.' If then God gave them the same gift that he gave us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could hinder God?" When they heard this, they were silenced. And they praised God, saying, "Then God has given even to the Gentiles the repentance that leads to life."

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Second Reading: Revelation 21:1-6

L: I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,

“See, the home of God is among mortals.

He will dwell with them;

they will be his peoples,

and God himself will be with them;

he will wipe every tear from their eyes.

Death will be no more;

mourning and crying and pain will be no more,

for the first things have passed away.”

And the one who was seated on the throne said, “See, I am making all things new.” Also he said, “Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true.” Then he said to me, “It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life.”

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

***Gospel Acclamation**



***Gospel: John 13:31-35**

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 13th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

When he had gone out, Jesus said, “Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, ‘Where I am going, you

cannot come.' I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Children's Sermon Rev. Becky Sells

Sermon Rev. Becky Sells

Hymn of the Day: "Where Charity and Love Prevail" ELW 780

****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: God of resurrection and new life, we come before you in prayer for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

Fill the church with the spirit of your redeeming love. Make us steadfast in our proclamation of your grace for all people without exceptions, especially those often overlooked in our communities. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Awaken joy in the beauty and abundance of your creation. Show us the wonder of your presence from the smallest flower to the tallest tree. Recommit us to preservation of wild places. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Instruct all world leaders to protect the most vulnerable among us. Guide those in power toward equitable and just economic policies, so that all might have sufficient resources to live safely and with dignity. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Pour out your love on all in need of care: those mourning losses, enduring trauma, experiencing broken relationships, yearning for companionship, or facing illness. Wipe away every tear. We especially pray for those on our prayer list and the names of those we lift up to you in our hearts now...Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Abide with all who are victims of racism, especially people who are doubly marginalized because of gender, sexuality, or ability. Destroy all forms of systemic oppression, and renew our commitment to healing the wounds of our collective body in this community and beyond. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We give thanks for all the saints whose lives bear witness to your redeeming love. Guide us by their example, until we join them in your eternal home. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We commend these and all our prayers to you, O God, trusting that you are always with us; in the name of Jesus Christ, our risen Savior.

Amen.

****Peace***

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

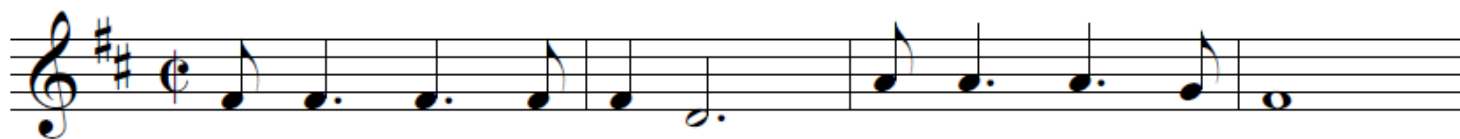
Please share signs of peace with one another.

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.



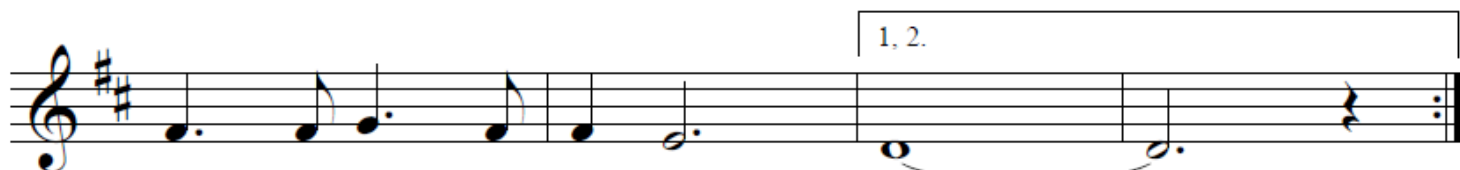
1. What have we to of - fer?	What have we to share?
2. What have we to of - fer?	What have we to bring?
3. What have we to of - fer?	What have we to give?



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. _____
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****Offertory Prayer***

P: Let us pray.

Risen One, you have gathered us around your table of grace along with these gifts we bring. Come among us again, breathe your life into us, and enliven us with this meal, that we may live as your risen body in the world. Amen.

****The Great Thanksgiving***

P: The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

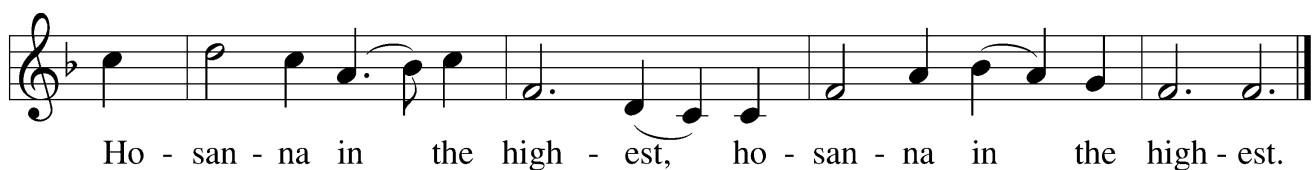
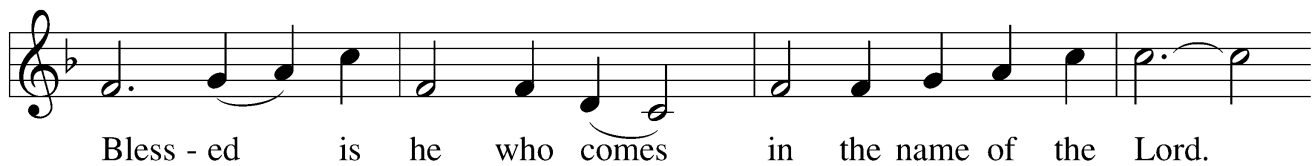
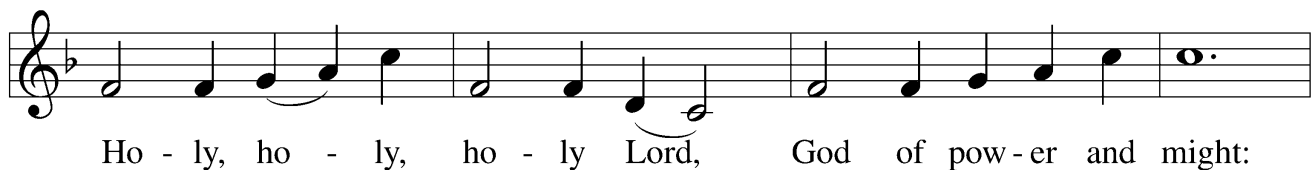
We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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, for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ, the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin; who in dying has destroyed death, and in rising has brought us to eternal life. And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

****Holy, Holy, Holy***



****Words of Institution***

P: 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.

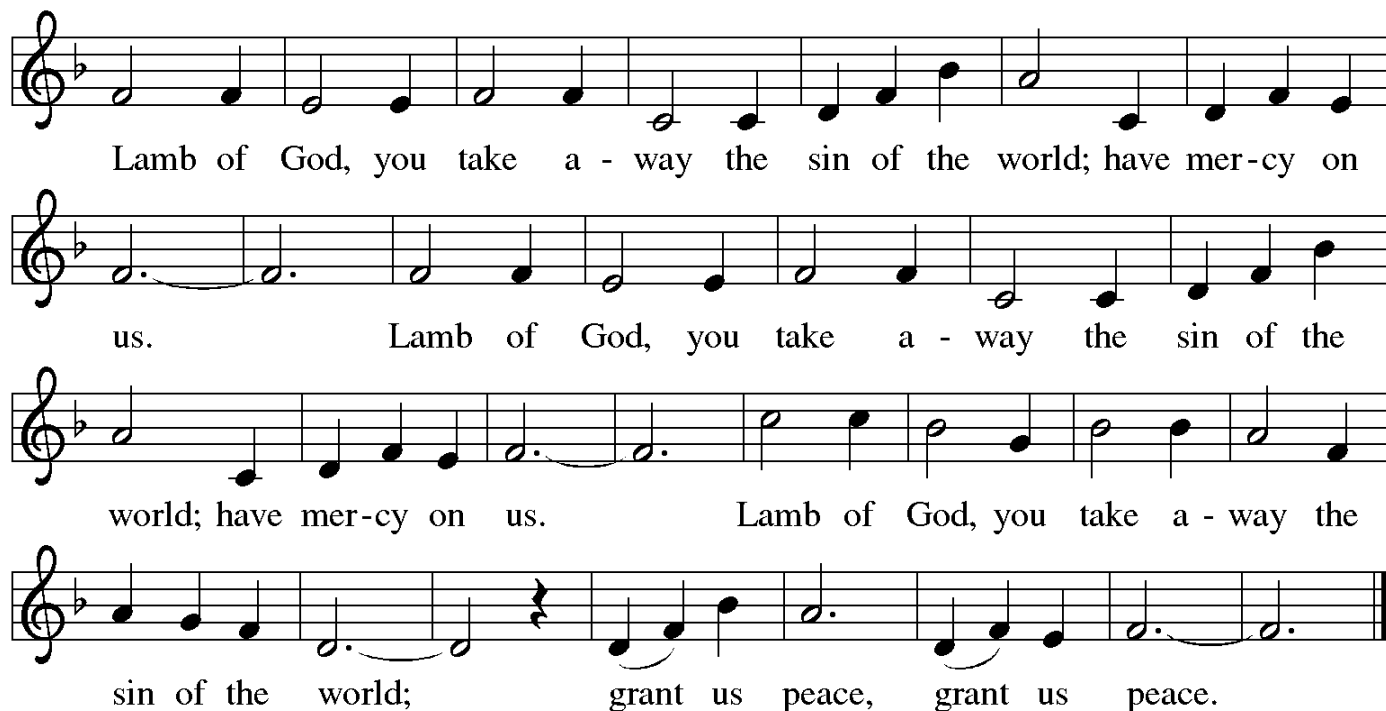
Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,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

Please be seated.

Communion Invitation

P: Come to the table of grace. Receive the gift of new life.

Lamb of God



The musical notation is written on four staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. The lyrics are: "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." The notation includes a key signature of one sharp (F#), a common time signature (C), and a final double bar line at the end of the fourth staff.

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.

Communion

Communion Music: “A Shepherd’s Love” Larry MacTaggart

This piece written in honor of Brian Lund’s 70th birthday

***Post-Communion Prayer**

P: Living One, in this feast you have made yourself known to us. Send us now to tell of your wonders, sing of your glory, and proclaim your risen life to a wounded and weary world.

Amen.

***Benediction**

P: Almighty God, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you and light your way with resurrection dawn, now and always.

Amen.

***Sending Song:** “Love Divine, All Loves Excelling” ELW 631

***Dismissal**

L: Christ is risen.

He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Go in peace. In Christ you are made new.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

Ringling of the Bell

Postlude: “Swing Low, Sweet Chariot” Slechta

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