

# *14<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost*

## *September 14, 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 comfortable*

### ***Introduction***

The grumbling of the religious leaders in today's gospel is actually our holy hope: This Jesus welcomes sinners and eats with them. That our God seeks and saves the lost is not only a holy hope, it is our only hope. As the writer of 1 Timothy reminds us, "The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners." Thanks be to God.

***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 402493-2946 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** “*This Little Light of Mine*” ..... Loes/Hayes

**Announcements**

**Ringling of the Bell**

**\*Gathering Song:** “*Lord of All Hopefulness*” ..... ELW 765

**\*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, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

**Amen.**

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Faithful God,

**you have shown us the ways of your heart,**

**yet we stray from your paths.**

**We are stuck in sinful systems of oppression**

**and do not embrace the freedom of your faithful promises.**

**We ignore our neighbors.**

**We exploit the earth.**

**We reject your abundance,**

**trusting our impulses instead of your steadfast love.**

**Repair our relationships,**

**restore what we have broken,**

**renew our hearts,**

**and bring us to new life.**

**Amen.**

Hear the good news:

God the Faithful One loves you, ☩ in Christ Jesus your sins are forgiven, and by the power of the Holy Spirit you are set free.

**Amen.**

# **\*Hymn of Praise**



**☐** Glo- ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;



glo- ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo- ple on earth.



**①** Lord God, heav- en - ly king, al- might- y God and Fa- ther, we



wor- ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.



**☐** Glo- ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;



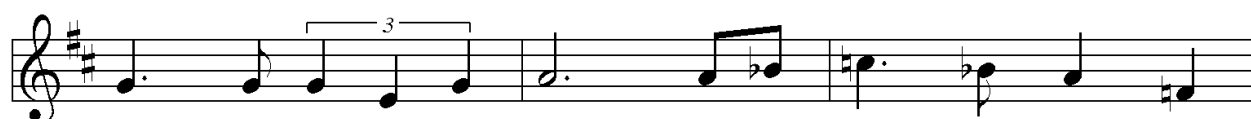
glo- ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo- ple on earth.



**②** Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther,



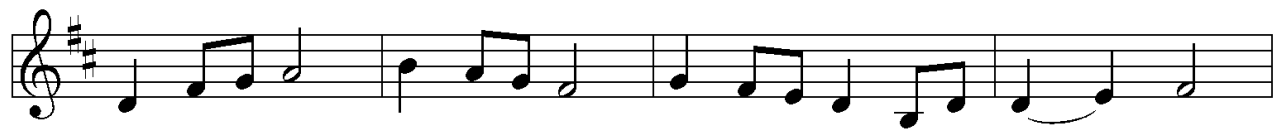
Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



world: have mer - cy on us; you are seat - ed at the



right hand of the Fa - ther: re- ceive our prayer.



☐ Glo-ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;



glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.



I For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,



you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly



Spir - it, in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther, A - men.



☐ Glo-ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;



glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth,



and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

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

L: Let us pray.

**O God, overflowing with mercy and compassion, you lead back to yourself all those who go astray. Preserve your people in your loving care, that we may reject whatever is contrary to you and may follow all things that sustain our life in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.**

**Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

**Choir Anthem:** “Lord Have Mercy”.....Pepper Choplin

**First Reading:** Exodus 32:7-14

L: The LORD said to Moses, “Go down at once! Your people, whom you brought up out of the land of Egypt, have acted perversely; they have been quick to turn aside from the way that I commanded them; they have cast for themselves an image of a calf and have worshiped it and sacrificed to it and said, ‘These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!’ ” The LORD said to Moses, “I have seen this people, how stiff-necked they are. Now let me alone so that my wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them, and of you I will make a great nation.”

But Moses implored the LORD his God and said, “O LORD, why does your wrath burn hot against your people, whom you brought out of the land of Egypt with great power and with a mighty hand? Why should the Egyptians say, ‘It was with evil intent that he brought them out to kill them in the mountains and to consume them from the face of the earth’? Turn from your fierce wrath; change your mind and do not bring disaster on your people. Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, your servants, how you swore to them by your own self, saying to them, ‘I will multiply your descendants like the stars of heaven, and all this land that I have promised I will give to your descendants, and they shall inherit it forever.’” And the LORD changed his mind about the disaster that he planned to bring on his people.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Second Reading:** 1 Timothy 1:12-17

L: I am grateful to Christ Jesus our Lord, who has strengthened me, because he considered me faithful and appointed me to his service, even though I was formerly a blasphemer, a persecutor, and a man of violence. But I received mercy because I had acted ignorantly in unbelief, and the grace of our Lord overflowed for me with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance: that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the foremost. But for that very reason I received mercy, so that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display the utmost patience as an example to those who would come to believe in him for eternal life. To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

**\*Gospel Acclamation**



**\*Gospel: Luke 15:1-10**

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 15<sup>th</sup> chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to [Jesus.] And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, “This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.”

So he told them this parable: “Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it? And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices. And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found my lost sheep.’ Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.

“Or what woman having ten silver coins, if she loses one of them, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it? And when she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.’ Just so, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

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

**Sermon** ..... Rev. Becky Sells

**Hymn of the Day: “You Have Come Down to the Lakeshore”** ..... ELW 817

## ***Rite of Affirmation of Baptism***

P: Dear friends, we give thanks for the gift of baptism, and we come before God with Levi Gust and Lorelei Rich as they make affirmation of their baptism into Christ.

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***

Assembly, and especially Levi and Lorelei, I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church.

Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?

**Response: I renounce them.**

Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?

**Response: I renounce them.**

Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?

**Response: 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,  
who 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 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.**

*Affirmation*

P: You have made 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?

*Each Candidate Responds: I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.*

People of God, do you promise to support Levi and Lorelei and pray for them in their life in Christ?

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

*Laying on of hands*

P: Let us pray.

We give you thanks of God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give us new birth, cleanse us from sin, and raise us to eternal life.

*(Repeated for each, with special people in each one's life, coming up to lay hands on them as well)*

Stir up in name 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.

*Confirmand: Amen.*

Let us rejoice with our newly confirmed adult members of Lord of Love *(applause)*

**Levi and Lorelei, 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.**

***\*Prayers of Intercession***

L: Gracious God, we come to you in prayer for the church, the world, and all in need.

*A brief silence.*



Merciful God, pour out your grace upon your church. Forgive us for the times when we have been unfaithful, and renew our commitment to your gospel of love. Empower us to live as a community of mercy. God of grace,  
**receive our prayer.**

Merciful God, we ask forgiveness for the ways we have neglected and harmed this earth and its creatures. Confirm our commitment to care for all you have made, and grant us wisdom and strength to take action toward restoring your creation to its fullness. God of grace,  
**receive our prayer.**

Merciful God, govern all who hold positions of power and authority. Instruct them to make just decisions that serve the common good. Make them instruments of your mercy in the world, working to heal divisions and promote peace. God of grace,  
**receive our prayer.**

Merciful God, we lift up all who suffer. Bring healing, comfort, and peace to those who are sick, grieving, or in pain, we especially pray for those on our prayer list and those whose names we lift up to you in our hearts now.... Stir us to respond with your love and care. God of grace,  
**receive our prayer.**

Give us compassionate hearts to accompany those who are hurting and courage to work for justice and mercy. God of grace,  
**receive our prayer.**

Merciful God, bind us together as a community of forgiveness and love. Supply us with humility to seek forgiveness when we have wronged one another and generosity to extend mercy when we have been wronged. God of grace,  
**receive our prayer.**

Merciful God, we remember in love those who have departed this life. Console those who mourn, and give them the hope of resurrection. God of grace,  
**receive our prayer.**

We entrust these prayers to you, O God, in the name of Jesus Christ, our redeemer and friend.  
**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.*

**Offertory Hymn “Let My Prayer Rise Up”..... ELW 232**

*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](http://www.lord-of-love.org). Children may come forward to put their offering in the noise jar.*

**\*Offertory Prayer**

**P:** Let us pray.

Lord of the harvest, we return to you a portion of what you have given to us. Turn us to set our hope not on the uncertainty of riches, but on you, who richly provides for us. Multiply what we have gathered to bless all who are suffering and in need, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **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**

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory. In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

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, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension we await his coming in glory. Pour out your Holy Spirit, that by this Holy Communion we may know the unity we share with all your people in the body of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father, now and forever. **Amen.**

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

P: Let us pray with confidence in the words our Savior gave us.

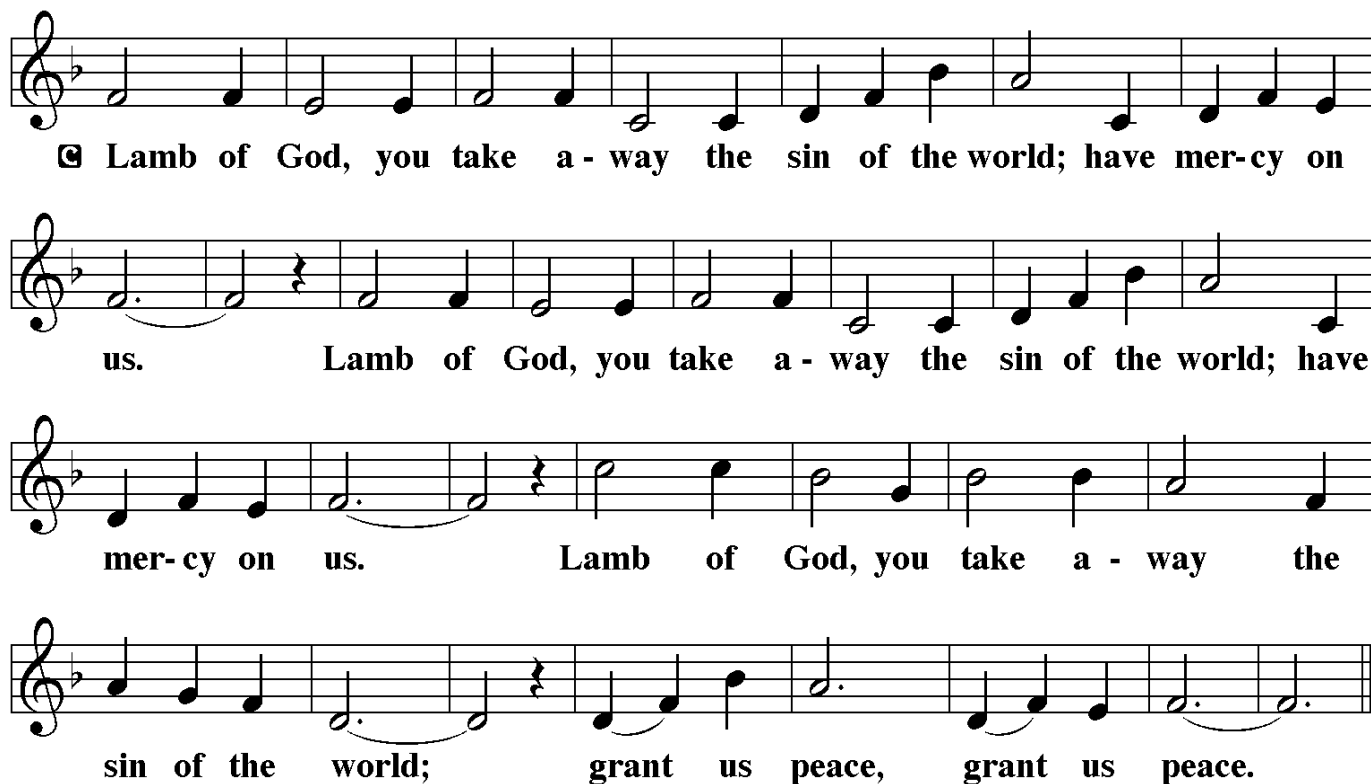
**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are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

*Please be seated.*

## ***Communion Invitation***

P: There is a place for you at the table of God. Come, receive the food that does not perish, a taste of life eternal.

## ***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.**

***Communion Music "As the Deer with Fairest Lord Jesus" .....Nostrom/Hayes***

## ***Communion***

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

P: O God, through this meal you have strengthened us and appointed us to be your servants. Send us to do good and to share our possessions with all in need. We ask this in Jesus' name.

**Amen.**

***\*Benediction***

P: The love of God the Sovereign strengthen you, God the Son save you, and God the Holy Spirit anoint you for the work ahead. The holy Trinity bless you ☩ and grant you a faithful and courageous heart now and forever.

**Amen.**

***\*Sending Song: "We are Marching in the Light of God" .....*** ELW 866

***\*Dismissal***

L: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God!**

***Ring of the Bell***

***Postlude "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God" .....*** arr. Anne Krentz Organ

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