

4th Sunday after Epiphany

February 1, 2026



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

Who are the blessed ones of God? For Micah, they are those who do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God. For Paul, they are the ones who find wisdom in the weakness of the cross. For Jesus, they are the poor, the meek, the merciful, the pure in heart, the peacemakers, those who mourn, and those who hunger for righteousness. In baptism we find our blessed identity and calling in this countercultural way of living and serving.

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 "Hymns of Praise".....arr. Keveren

Announcements

Ringing of the Bell

***Gathering Song: "Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart"..... ELW 873**

***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 this season of light, let us go before God and confess how our words and actions contribute to the darkness instead of adding to the light.

Amen.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God of Love and Light,

We confess that we are not always the light-bearers you desire us to be.

We shine a spotlight on the transgressions of others

while trying to keep our own sins hidden in the dark.

We burn bridges by being impatient, opinionated and judgmental.

We inflame others by lashing out in anger.

We go through our days enveloped in the gloom of fear and doubt.

We let our witness become a smoldering ember until it dies out completely.

Forgive us Jesus, the Everlasting Light.

Come to us, abide with us, our Lord, Emmanuel.

Teach us to walk as children of light,

surrounded by your love, forgiveness and healing.

We ask this in the name of Christ.

Amen.

God is light, and in God there is no darkness at all. If we walk in the light as God is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus cleanses us from all sin. **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 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 and
 each new day, our un - known guest, our host are
 fail - ing way, where peace and jus - tice at

praise. You formed the moon and fired the sun, you
 feast. Grant those who share 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 your dear Son, re -
 hearts might see what eyes con - seal:
 mer - ci - ful, im - mor - tal One, by O

1, 2. 3.

newed our life, de - stroyed our - death. 2. You
 grace your pres - ence we re - ceive. 3. Re
 bless - ed, ho - ly Trin - i - ty.

***Prayer of the Day**

L: Let us pray.

Holy God, you confound the world's wisdom in giving your kingdom to the lowly and the pure in heart. Give us such a hunger and thirst for justice, and perseverance in striving for peace, that in our words and deeds the world may see the life of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Please be seated.

Choir Anthem: "O Nata Lux"..... Victor C. Johnson

O nata lux de lumine	(O light born of light)
Jesu redemptor saeculi	(Jesus, redeemer of the world)
Dignare clemens supplicum	(Mercifully deem worthy and accept)
laudes precesque sumere	(our praises and prayers)

First Reading: Micah 6:1-8

L: Hear what the LORD says:

Rise, plead your case before the mountains,
and let the hills hear your voice.

Hear, you mountains, the case of the LORD,
and you enduring foundations of the earth,
for the LORD has a case against his people,
and he will contend with Israel.

"O my people, what have I done to you?
In what have I wearied you? Answer me!
For I brought you up from the land of Egypt
and redeemed you from the house of slavery,
and I sent before you Moses,
Aaron, and Miriam.

O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab devised,
what Balaam son of Beor answered him,
and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal,
that you may know the saving acts of the LORD."
"With what shall I come before the LORD
and bow myself before God on high?

Shall I come before him with burnt offerings,
with calves a year old?
Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams,
with ten thousands of rivers of oil?
Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression,
the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?"
He has told you, O mortal, what is good,
and what does the LORD require of you
but to do justice and to love kindness
and to walk humbly with your God?
Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:18-31

L: The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written,

"I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,
and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart."

Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scholar? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of the proclamation, to save those who believe. For Jews ask for signs and Greeks desire wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to gentiles, but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to abolish things that are, so that no one might boast in the presence of God. In contrast, God is why you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, in order that, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord."

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.

***Gospel: Matthew 5:1-12**

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 5th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. And he began to speak and taught them, saying:

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

“Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

“Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

“Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

“Blessed are those who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

“Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. ¹² Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Children's Sermon Rev. Bob Oleson

Sermon Rev. Bob Oleson

1 "Come now, you bless - ed, eat at my ta - ble,"
 2 When did we see you hun - gry or thirst - y?
 3 "When you gave bread to earth's hun - gry chil - dren,
 4 Christ, when we meet you out on life's road - ways,

said Je - sus Christ to the righ - teous a - bove.
 When were you home - less, a strang - er a - lone?
 when you gave wel - come to war's ref - u - gees,
 look - ing to us in the fac - es of need,

"When I was hun - gry, thirst - y, and home-less,
 When did we see you sick or in pris - on?
 when you re - mem - bered those most for - got - ten,
 then may we know you, wel - come and show you

sick and in pris - on, you showed me your love."
 What have we done that you call us your own?
 you cared for me in the small - est of these."
 love that is faith - ful in word and in deed.

***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: As God's beloved children united in Christ, let us pray for the church, the whole human community, and the well-being of the earth, our home.

A brief silence.

God our wisdom, renew the church in the power of the Spirit, that it may do justice, love kindness, live humbly, and boldly proclaim Christ crucified. We pray for social justice and humanitarian aid ministries. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

God our source, we honor you by caring wisely for your creation. We pray for the health of old growth forests, ice caps, and ocean currents. Preserve the diversity of life on earth. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

God our righteousness, raise up visionary leaders who serve with integrity and respect human rights. Increase freedom in every nation. Protect educators, journalists, artists, and religious activists who are reviled for speaking truth. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

God our advocate, you give hope to all who suffer because of persecution, poverty, or war. Reunite separated families and bring orphaned children to safety. Comfort any who grieve or suffer in any way. We especially pray for those on our prayer list and those whose names and needs we lift up now... Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

God our blessing, we pray for the children and youth of this congregation, and for parents, grandparents, mentors, teachers, and youth ministers who model love for their neighbor and care for others. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

God our joy, we give thanks for the lives of those before us who journeyed humbly with you. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Confident that the Holy Spirit receives our prayers and answers us, we commend all for whom we pray to God's loving-kindness made known to us in Christ Jesus 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.

All

1. By your hand you feed your people, food of
2. In this meal we taste your sweet-ness, bread for
3. Send us now with faith and cour - age to the
an - gels, heav-en's bread; for these gifts we did not
hun - ger, wine of peace; ho - ly Word and ho - ly
hun - gry, lost, be - reaved. In our liv - ing and our
la - bor, by your grace have we been fed:
wis - dom sat - is - fy our deep - est needs.
dy - ing, we be - come what we re - ceive:
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.

God of majesty, no eye has seen, no ear has heard what you have prepared for those who love you, yet in this meal you reveal the wideness of your mercy. Use what we have gathered to feed us with the reign of God come near, Jesus Christ, our Savior and 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**

P: 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: Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! Come to the table; taste and see.

Lamb of God

The musical score consists of four staves of music in G clef, 3/4 time, and a key signature of one flat. The first staff begins with a dotted half note. The second staff begins with a dotted half note and includes the lyrics "All". The third staff begins with a dotted half note and includes the lyrics "Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us, have mer-cy on us." The fourth staff begins with a dotted half note and includes the lyrics "world; grant us peace, grant us peace." Measure numbers 1., 2., and 3. are indicated above the second, third, and fourth staves respectively.

Communion Music

"Prelude and Interlude on "The King of Love My Shepherd Is".....arr. Callahan

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, \pm and give you peace this day and always.

Amen.

***Sending Song:** "Amazing Grace" ELW 779

***Dismissal**

L: Go in peace. Do justice. Love mercy.

Thanks be to God!

Ringing of the Bell

Postlude "Come, Thou Font of Every Blessing" arr. A.M. David

Come Now, You Blessed

Text: Ruth Duck, b. 1947

Music: MATTHEW 25, Emily R. Brink, b. 1940

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Unfailing Light Liturgy

By Marty Haugen & Susan Briehl

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By Your Hand You Feed Your People

By Marty Haugen & Susan Briehl

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