

9th Sunday after Pentecost
July 26, 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

As Solomon prays for wisdom, we seek to more deeply know the treasures of faith. In today's gospel Jesus offers everyday images that reveal to us the reign of God: a tree that becomes a sheltering home, yeast that penetrates and expands, a treasured pearl, a net that gains a great catch. Even as we seek the riches of God's reign, the great surprise is that God's grace finds us first!

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: *“Immortal, Invisible”*arr. Keveren

Announcements

Ringling of the Bell

***Gathering Song:** *“Gather Us In”* ELW 532

***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 Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Most merciful God,

we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name.

Amen.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

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. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below each staff. The first staff begins with a '1' indicating the first line of the hymn. The music concludes with a double bar line on the sixth staff.

****Prayer of the Day***

L: Let us pray.

Beloved and sovereign God, through the death and resurrection of your Son you bring us into your kingdom of justice and mercy. By your Spirit, give us your wisdom, that we may treasure the life that comes from Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Please be seated.

First Reading: 1 Kings 3:5-12

L: At Gibeon the Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream by night, and God said, "Ask what I should give you." And Solomon said, "You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant my father David because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you, and you have kept for him this

great and steadfast love and have given him a son to sit on his throne today. And now, O Lord my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David, although I am only a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. And your servant is in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a great people so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted. Give your servant, therefore, an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil, for who can govern this great people of yours?"

It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. God said to him, "Because you have asked this and have not asked for yourself long life or riches or for the life of your enemies but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, I now do according to your word. Indeed, I give you a wise and discerning mind; no one like you has been before you, and no one like you shall arise after you."

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Second Reading: Romans 8:26-39

L: The Spirit helps us in our weakness, for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with groanings too deep for words. And God, who searches hearts, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not withhold his own Son but gave him up for all of us, how will he not with him also give us everything else? Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? It is Christ who died, or rather, who was raised, who is also at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will affliction or distress or persecution or famine or nakedness or peril or sword? As it is written,

"For your sake we are being killed all day long;
we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered."

No, in all these things we are more than victorious through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

***Gospel Acclamation**



***Gospel: Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52**

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

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus] put before [the crowds] another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.”

He told them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened.”

“The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and reburied; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

“Have you understood all this?” They answered, “Yes.” And he said to them, “Therefore every scribe who has become a disciple in the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Children’s Sermon Rev. Becky Sells

Sermon Rev. Becky Sells

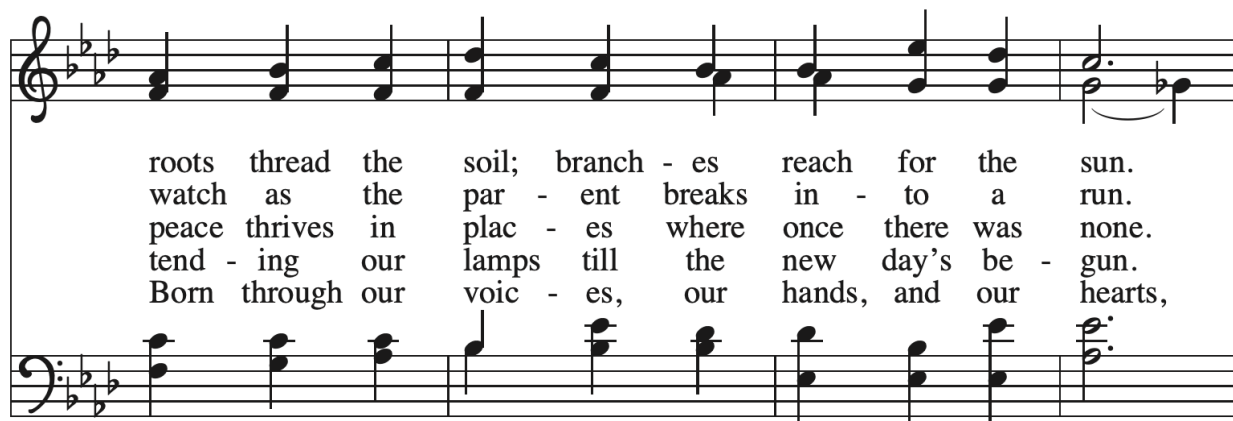
Hymn of the Day: "What is the World Like".....ACS 1047



1 What is the world like when God's will is done?
 2 What is the world like when God's will is done?
 3 What is the world like when God's will is done?
 4 What is the world like when God's will is done?
 5 These are the sto - ries that Je - sus im - parts,



Mus - tard seeds grow more than we can con - ceive:
 Wit - ness the wan - der - ing child com - ing home;
 No more is neigh - bor just al - ly or friend;
 Read - y for feast - ing, we watch through the night,
 filled with the Spir - it who joins us as one.



roots thread the soil; branch - es reach for the sun.
 watch as the par - ent breaks in - to a run.
 peace thrives in plac - es where once there was none.
 tend - ing our lamps till the new day's be - gun.
 Born through our voic - es, our hands, and our hearts,



This is how God moves us each to be - lieve.
 This is how God longs for us when we roam.
 This is how God works when ri - val - ries end.
 This is how God read - ies us for the light.
 this is a new world where God's will is done.

****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: Trusting in God's steadfast love for all God has made, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

God our wisdom and our song, we pray for bishops, candidacy committees, those preparing for seminary, those awaiting call as deacons or pastors, and all who seek to lead and for all those growing in their calling to trust and follow you faithfully. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

God our breath and our heartbeat, help us to recognize signs of your presence among us. Protect and support diverse ecosystems, from national parks to family farms, from ranches to wild places. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

God our peace and our guide, help civic leaders hear all their peoples' stories with compassion and curiosity, and remind us of your love from which we can never be separated. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

God our intercessor and our lawgiver, dismantle the barriers to care and recognition of all who live with chronic illness, mobility struggles, pain, and uncertainty. We pray especially for those on our prayer list and those whose names and needs we lift up now.... God of grace,
hear our prayer.

God our redeemer, may we trust your love above and beyond all else that distracts, annoys, frightens, exhausts, or divides us. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

God who seeks, finds, and saves, for our community's part in the ongoing gift of creation, and for the riches of faith and hope which came before, we give you thanks. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Grateful for your abundant provision and trusting in your goodness, we cast all our cares upon you, through the abundant grace of Christ Jesus.
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.



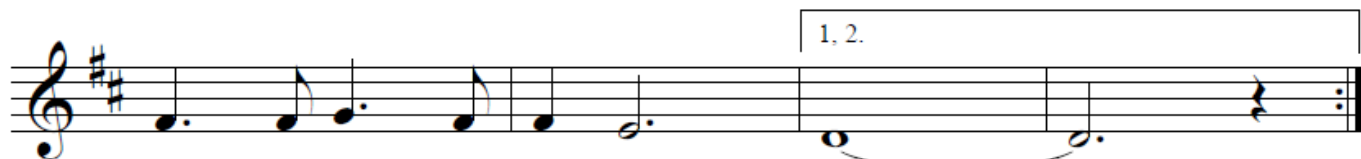
1. What have we to of - fer? What have we to share?
2. What have we to of - fer? What have we to bring?
3. What have we to of - fer? What have we to give?



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. Blessed are you,

O Lord our God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts. With them we offer ourselves to your service and dedicate our lives to the care and redemption of all that you have made, for the sake of him who gave himself for us, 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***

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, Holy***



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might:



heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.



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



Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

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.

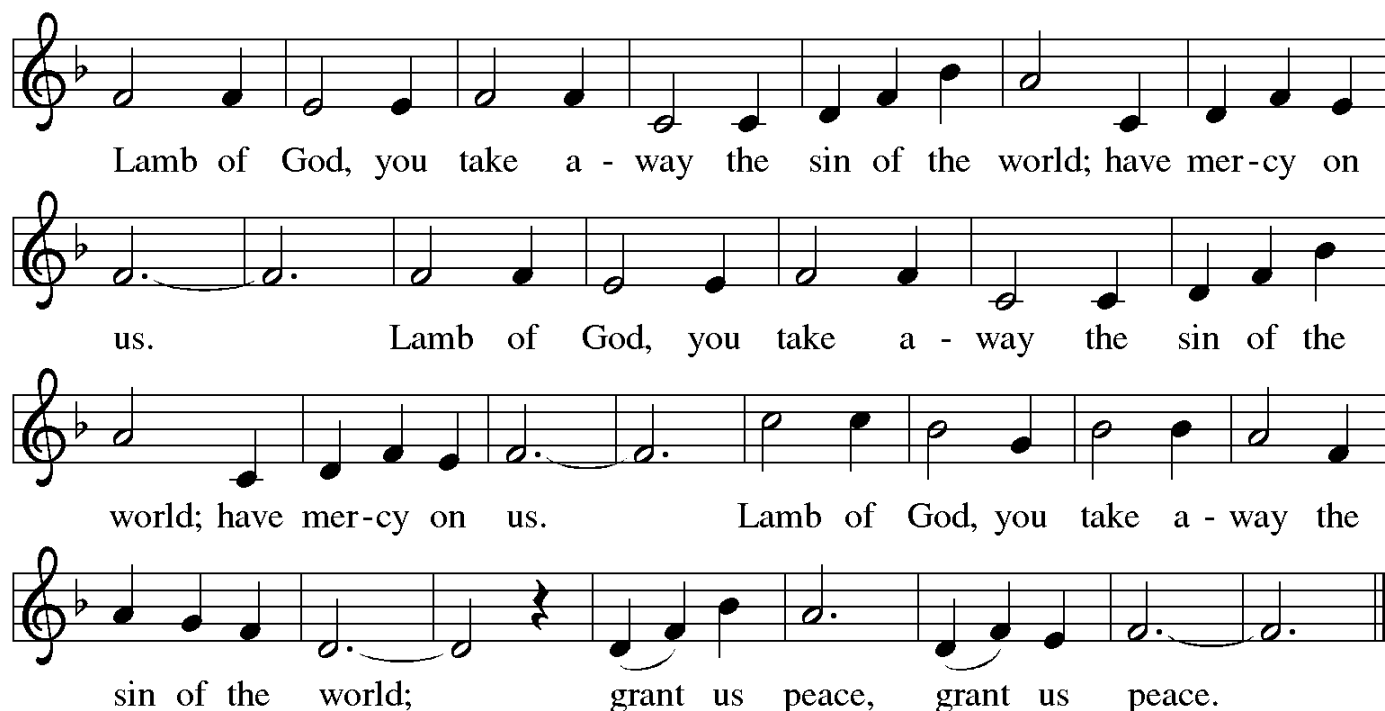
Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,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

Please be seated.

Communion Invitation

P: The gifts of God for the people of God. All are welcome at the table of the Lord.

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

Distribution Music: "Jesus, Priceless Treasure" Zachau/Trevor

***Post-Communion Prayer**

P: Almighty God, you provide the true bread from heaven, your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Grant that we who have received the Sacrament of his body and blood may abide in him and he in us; that we may be filled with the power of his endless life, now and forever.

Amen.

***Benediction**

P: Almighty God, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

Amen.

***Sending Song:** *“Open Your Ears, O Faithful People”* ELW 519

***Dismissal**

L: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Ring of the Bell

Postlude: *“God of Grace and God of Glory”* Hughes/Cherwin

What Is the World Like

Text: Adam M. L. Tice, b. 1979

Music: NEW WORLD, Sally Ann Morris, b. 1952

Text and music © 2009 GIA Publications, Inc., giamusic.com. All rights reserved.

Liturgical text from Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2007 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.

Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #24833.

New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Hymns reprinted by permission under CCLI License #3067941 and One License No. A-732551. All rights reserved.