

21st Sunday after Pentecost
October 18, 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

In today's first reading God uses the Gentile ruler Cyrus to accomplish divine purposes. When the Pharisees try to trap Jesus, he tells them to give the emperor what belongs to him and to God what belongs to God. To gather for worship reminds us that our ultimate allegiance is to God rather than to any earthly authority. Created in the image of God, we offer our entire selves in the service of God and for the sake of the world.

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: “Our Great Savior” arr. Carly Rawlings

Announcements

Ministry Minute Lord of Love Quilters..... Marilyn Mattheis

Bell Choir “Pass It On” arr. Sandra Eithun

Ringling of the Bell

***Gathering Song:** “You Servants of God” ELW 825

***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.

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

Gracious God,

have mercy on us.

We confess that we have turned from you

and given ourselves into the power of sin.

We are truly sorry and humbly repent.

**In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown,
things we have done and things we have failed to do.**

**Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit,
so that we may live and serve you in newness of life
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.**

Amen.

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

Amen.

***Hymn of Praise**



1 Glo - ry to you, God, for yours is the earth;
 2 Glo - ry to you, God, for yours is the earth;
 3 Glo - ry to you, God, for yours is the earth;

yours is the prom - ise, the bless - ing, the birth.
 yours the ho - san - nas, the dy - ing, re - birth.
 yours the a - noint - ing, the ra - di - ant worth.

Ours the re - joic - ing for Word giv - en frame;
 Ours the re - joic - ing for na - ture re - claimed;
 Ours the re - joic - ing for spir - its a - flame;

ours the thanks - giv - ing to your ho - ly name.

Ours be the tell - ing of deeds great - ly done;

yours be the glo - ry, O God, yours a - lone.

****Prayer of the Day***

L: Let us pray.

Sovereign God, raise your throne in our hearts. Created by you, let us live in your image; created for you, let us act for your glory; redeemed by you, let us give you what is yours, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Please be seated.

Choir Anthem: "Great Is the Lord" arr. Bruce Greer

First Reading: Isaiah 45:1-7

L: Thus says the Lord to his anointed, to Cyrus,
 whose right hand I have grasped
to subdue nations before him
 and to strip kings of their robes,
to open doors before him—
 and the gates shall not be closed:
I will go before you
 and level the mountains;
I will break in pieces the doors of bronze
 and cut through the bars of iron;
I will give you the treasures of darkness
 and riches hidden in secret places,
so that you may know that it is I, the Lord,
 the God of Israel, who call you by your name.
For the sake of my servant Jacob
 and Israel my chosen,
I call you by your name;
 I give you a title, though you do not know me.
I am the Lord, and there is no other;
 besides me there is no god.
 I arm you, though you do not know me,
so that they may know, from the rising of the sun
 and from the west, that there is no one besides me;
 I am the Lord, and there is no other.
I form light and create darkness,
 I make weal and create woe;
 I the Lord do all these things.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

L: Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy,

To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:
Grace to you and peace.

We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. For we know, brothers and sisters beloved by God, that he has chosen you, because our message of the gospel came to you not in word only but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction; just as you know what kind of persons we proved to be among you for your sake. And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for in spite of persecution you received the word with joy from the Holy Spirit, so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. For the word of the Lord has sounded forth from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia but in every place your faith in God has become known, so that we have no need to speak about it. For they report about us what kind of welcome we had among you and how you turned to God from idols to serve a living and true God and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead—Jesus, who rescues us from the coming wrath.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

***Gospel Acclamation**



Al-le-lu - ia, al - le-lu - ia, al-le-lu - ia.



Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

***Gospel: Matthew 22:15-22**

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 22nd chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

The Pharisees went and plotted to entrap [Jesus] in what he said. So they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, "Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one, for you do not regard people with partiality. Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar or not?" But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, "Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? Show me the coin used for the tax." And they brought him a denarius. Then he said to them, "Whose head is this and whose title?" They answered, "Caesar's." Then he said to them, "Give therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar's and to God the things that are God's." When they heard this, they were amazed, and they left him and went away.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Children's Sermon Rev. Becky Sells

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Hymn of the Day: "We Give Thee but Thine Own" ELW 686

***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: Seeking the Spirit of God who makes all things new, we pray for the church and the world.

A brief silence.

Living and true God, you inspire us to share the message of the gospel. Give your spirit of love to seminarians and those beginning their lives in ordained. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We give you thanks for the majesty of our oceans. Protect the abundant life within them and sustain all those who work to preserve them. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We seek your wisdom in all things. Direct all who hold positions of authority around the world, that they act with compassion, seeking the good of all. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We pray for all people who work in dangerous or degrading environments. Grant them safety and courage, and heal all those who are injured, sick, or suffering, especially those on our prayer list and those whose names and needs we lift up now.... Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We ask your blessing on those who do the quiet, unseen work of the church. Encourage them in their work of faith and labor of love. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We thank you for our ancestors who have been called home to you. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Trusting in your boundless grace, O God, we lift up these spoken prayers and those in our hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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.



Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right
spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your
pres - ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me.
Re - store to me the joy of your sal - va - tion, and up - hold me
with your free Spir - it. Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God,
and re - new a right spir - it with - in me.

*Offertory Prayer

P: Let us pray. Eternal God,
our time, talents, and treasures are gifts from you. Receive what we offer, and all that you entrust to us, until hungry no more, all the world is fed, through 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***

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: In bread and cup, the reign of Christ is breaking in. Come, receive what Christ has prepared.

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: “Praise Him! Praise Him!”..... arr. Lorie Line

***Post-Communion Prayer**

P: Holy God,
we have received your never-ending mercy in this meal. You continuously seek the
lost, bind the injured, and feed your people abundantly. Now send us out, awake to
your presence, now and forever.

Amen.

***Benediction**

P: The holy Trinity, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you with wisdom to welcome
the reign of God, today and always.

Amen.

***Sending Song:** “God of Grace and God of Glory”..... ELW 705

****Dismissal***

L: Go in peace. Encourage one another.

Thanks be to God.

Ring of the Bell

Postlude: "Jubilation" by James Denton

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