

# UNDIVIDED ATTENTION

**ON HEAVENLY TREASURE**



# Lamb of God Lutheran Church

Reaching Out. Reaching Up. Reaching Across.

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## WELCOME

Thank you for joining us for worship this morning. In our service we gather before our almighty God to offer him our worship and praise. We also gather to strengthen ourselves through the study of God's holy and powerful Word.

## COMMUNION



The Lord's Supper will be offered to our members during the service this morning. Lamb of God follows the historic Christian practice of close communion. We ask that only members of Lamb of God partake of the sacrament. Our pastor is eager to speak with anyone who would like to commune with us in the future.

## PASTOR'S OFFICE HOURS

If you would like to meet with Pastor Koepke, please contact him to make an appointment. Our pastor is here to serve both Lamb of God members and our community.

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WEBSITE: MyLambofGod.org  
CALENDAR: MyLambofGod.org/calendar  
FACEBOOK: facebook.com/MyLambofGod  
INSTAGRAM: @LambofGodLutheran

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## Undivided Attention: On Heavenly Treasure

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### OPENING HYMN: *Be Thou My Vision*

1. Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart  
Naught be all else to me, save that thou art  
Thou my best thought, by day or by night  
Waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.
2. Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true word  
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord  
Thou my great Father, and I thy true son  
Thou in me dwelling and I with thee one.
3. Be thou my battle shield, sword for the fight  
Be thou my dignity, thou my delight  
Thou my soul's shelter and thou my high tow'r  
Raise thou me heavenward, O pow'r of my pow'r.
4. Riches I heed not, nor vain, empty praise  
Thou mine inheritance, now and always  
Thou and thou only first in my heart  
High King of heaven, my treasure thou art.
5. High King of heaven, my victory won  
May I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's sun  
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall  
Still be my vision, O ruler of all.

### INVOCATION

M: The grace of our Lord ☩ Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

### CONFESSION

M: God invites us to come into his presence and worship him with humble and penitent hearts. Therefore, let us acknowledge our sinfulness and ask him to forgive us.

**C: Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful, and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.**

## **ABSOLUTION**

M: God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son  $\text{✝}$  and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

## **SONG: Give Thanks**

Give thanks with a grateful heart  
Give thanks to the Holy One  
Give thanks, because he's given Jesus Christ his Son.  
Give thanks with a grateful heart  
Give thanks to the Holy One  
Give thanks, because he's given Jesus Christ his Son.

And now, let the weak say, "I am strong!"  
Let the poor say, "I am rich!"  
Because of what the Lord has done for us.  
And now, let the weak say, "I am strong!"  
Let the poor say, "I am rich!"  
Because of what the Lord has done for us, give thanks!

*(Musical Interlude)*

Give thanks with a grateful heart  
Give thanks to the Holy One  
Give thanks, because he's given Jesus Christ his Son.  
And now, let the weak say, "I am strong!"  
Let the poor say, "I am rich!"  
Because of what the Lord has done for us.

And now, let the weak say, "I am strong!"  
Let the poor say, "I am rich!"  
Because of what the Lord has done for us, give thanks!

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: Almighty and everlasting God, you are always more ready to hear than we to pray and willing to give far more than we either desire or deserve. Pour upon us the abundance of your mercy, forgiving us those things of which our conscience is afraid, and giving us those good things for which we are not worthy to ask except through the merits and mediation of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

## ✠ The Word ✠

### FIRST READING: *Genesis 15:1-6*

*In faith, Abram treasured all the LORD's gracious promises.*

<sup>1</sup>After this, the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision:

“Do not be afraid, Abram.

I am your shield, your very great reward.”

<sup>2</sup> But Abram said, “Sovereign LORD, what can you give me since I remain childless and the one who will inherit my estate is Eliezer of Damascus?” <sup>3</sup> And Abram said, “You have given me no children; so a servant in my household will be my heir.”

<sup>4</sup> Then the word of the LORD came to him: “This man will not be your heir, but a son who is your own flesh and blood will be your heir.” <sup>5</sup> He took him outside and said, “Look up at the sky and count the stars—if indeed you can count them.” Then he said to him, “So shall your offspring be.”

<sup>6</sup> Abram believed the LORD, and he credited it to him as righteousness.

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

### SECOND READING: *Hebrews 11:1-3,8-16*

*The gift of faith allows us to see the treasure that is found in the city whose architect and builder is God.*

Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see. <sup>2</sup> This is what the ancients were commended for.

<sup>3</sup> By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God's command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible.

<sup>8</sup> By faith Abraham, when called to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going. <sup>9</sup> By faith he made his home in the promised land like a stranger in a foreign country; he lived in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. <sup>10</sup> For he was looking forward to the city with foundations, whose architect and builder is God. <sup>11</sup> And by faith even Sarah, who was past childbearing age, was enabled to bear children because she considered him faithful who had made the promise. <sup>12</sup> And so from this one man, and he as good as dead, came descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as countless as the sand on the seashore.

<sup>13</sup> All these people were still living by faith when they died. They did not receive the things promised; they only saw them and welcomed them from a distance, admitting that they were foreigners and strangers on earth. <sup>14</sup> People who say such things show that they are looking for a country of their own. <sup>15</sup> If they had been thinking of the country they had left, they would have had opportunity to return. <sup>16</sup> Instead, they were longing for a better country—a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared a city for them.

**HYMN OF THE DAY:** *How Firm A Foundation (CWS 768:1, 2, 5)*

How firm a foundation, O saints of the Lord,  
Is laid for your faith in his excellent Word!  
What more can he say than to you he has said  
Who unto the Savior for refuge have fled?

“Fear not! I am with you. Oh, be not dismayed;  
For I am your God and will still give you aid;  
I’ll strengthen you, help you, and cause you to stand,  
Upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand.

“Throughout all their lifetime my people shall prove  
My sov’reign, eternal, unchangeable love,  
And then, when gray hair shall their temples adorn,  
Like lambs they shall still on my shoulders be borne.”

**SERMON:** *Luke 12:22-34*

<sup>22</sup> Then Jesus said to his disciples: “Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat; or about your body, what you will wear. <sup>23</sup> For life is more than food, and the body more than clothes. <sup>24</sup> Consider the ravens: They do not sow or reap, they have no storeroom or barn; yet God feeds them. And how much more valuable you are than birds! <sup>25</sup> Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to your life? <sup>26</sup> Since you cannot do this very little thing, why do you worry about the rest?

<sup>27</sup> “Consider how the wild flowers grow. They do not labor or spin. Yet I tell you, not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. <sup>28</sup> If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today, and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, how much more will he clothe you—you of little faith! <sup>29</sup> And do not set your heart on what you will eat or drink; do not worry about it. <sup>30</sup> For the pagan world runs after all such things, and your Father knows that you need them. <sup>31</sup> But seek his kingdom, and these things will be given to you as well.

<sup>32</sup> “Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father has been pleased to give you the kingdom. <sup>33</sup> Sell your possessions and give to the poor. Provide purses for yourselves that will not wear out, a treasure in heaven that will never fail, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. <sup>34</sup> For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

## **CONFESSION OF FAITH: Nicene Creed**

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and became fully human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate. He suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

## **✠ The Prayers ✠**

### **PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

**M:** Gracious Father, you call us to trust in your promises, even when the world urges us to rely on ourselves. Through your Word, teach us to treasure what is eternal and not be consumed by what is passing.

**C:** Help us seek first your kingdom, O Lord.

M: You comforted Abram with your word: “Do not be afraid. I am your shield.” Give us the faith to believe your promises even when we cannot see the outcome, and to walk by faith, not by sight.

**C: Let your promises be our peace and strength.**

M: You have prepared a better country for your people—a heavenly home. Through your Spirit, keep our eyes fixed on that lasting city, that we may live as pilgrims and strangers here below.

**C: Set our hearts on things above, not on earthly things.**

M: Lord Jesus, you gently command us not to worry about our lives, our food, or our clothing. When fear and anxiety arise, remind us that we are worth more to you than all other creatures, and that our Father knows what we need.

**C: Calm our fears, and deepen our trust in you.**

M: When we are tempted to chase earthly treasures or hoard what we have, teach us generosity and contentment. Make us rich toward God and ready to give, knowing that our treasure is secure in heaven.

**C: Make us faithful stewards of all you provide.**

M: Bless those who are weighed down by need or fear—those struggling with health, grief, loneliness, or poverty. Point them to your loving care, and provide all they need for body and soul.

**C: Be their refuge, their portion, and their joy.**

M: Strengthen our congregation to live with undivided hearts—hearts devoted to you, shaped by your Word, and joyful under your care. Use our lives to reflect the hope of your kingdom to others.

**C: Let your kingdom come among us, and through us.**

M: Into your hands, O Father, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy through Jesus Christ our Lord, in whose name we join to pray the prayer he taught:



## **LORD'S PRAYER**

**C: 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. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.**

## **✠ Holy Communion ✠**

### **WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

**M: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."**

**M: Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."**

**M: The peace of the Lord be with you always.**

**C: Amen.**

### **DISTRIBUTION**

*Lamb of God follows the historic Christian practice of close communion. We ask that only members of Lamb of God partake of the sacrament. Our pastor is eager to talk with anyone who would like to commune with us in the future.*

### **CLOSING PRAYER**

**M: O God the Father, source of all goodness, in your loving kindness you sent your Son to share our humanity. We thank you that through him you have given us pardon and peace in this sacrament. We also pray that you will not forsake us but will rule our hearts and minds by your Holy Spirit so that we willingly serve you day after day, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.**

**C: Amen.**

## THE LORD'S BLESSING

M: Brothers and sisters, go in peace.  
Live in harmony with one another.  
Serve the Lord with gladness.

The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look on you with favor and give ☩ you peace.

C: **Amen.**

## CLOSING SONG: *Great Is Thy Faithfulness*

1. Great is thy faithfulness, O God, my Father;  
There is no shadow of turning with thee.  
Thou changest not, thy compassions, they fail not;  
As thou hast been, thou forever wilt be.

### ***Refrain:***

Great is thy faithfulness,  
Great is thy faithfulness,  
Morning by morning new mercies I see.  
All I have needed thy hand hast provided;  
Great is thy faithfulness, Lord unto me.

2. Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,  
Sun, moon, and stars in their courses above  
Join with all nature in manifold witness  
To thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love.

### ***Refrain***

3. Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,  
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;  
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,  
Blessings all mine and ten thousand beside.

### ***Refrain sung twice***

## BIBLE CLASSES

Sunday Bible Class and Sunday School will resume next Sunday, August 17.

### Sunday School

As we begin a new year of Sunday School, we'll adjust the format. Instead of separate classes for different age groups, children of all ages will now be invited to the front of church at the beginning of the adult Bible class time for a 5-7 minute Bible story and prayer. After this children's devotion, they may return to sit with their parents during Bible class, head out of the church with a parent for fellowship time at the playground or table area, or head home.

### Sunday Bible Class

The Sunday Bible class will continue afterwards as usual, and we welcome children to participate if they would like. Our study will be on the topic of idolatry, worship of false gods.



*A wood-carved animal figurine. A chiseled stone statue. A golden goddess.* Do you have an idol-worship area set up in your home? We would say "Definitely not! I don't bow down to idols!" But sometimes we *do* worship idols and make them our gods, not even realizing they are there. Our upcoming study will bring to light these idols that hide themselves so easily in our homes and hearts, and through God's guidance and power we'll get help to avoid worshiping these false gods.

### Foundations Class

Foundations Class is a great opportunity to study the basic teachings of God's Word. It is also the starting point for those who are interested in becoming communicant members of Lamb of God. A new round of this class will begin on September 16, 2025, and will continue on Tuesday evenings at 7:00pm at church. Speak with Pastor Koepke for more information.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### GIVING TO LAMB OF GOD

If you wish to give your offering to Lamb of God online, this QR code is provided for your convenience. Several types of payment are accepted on this secure site. Thank you for your financial gifts to assist with the ministry of Lamb of God.



### FALL LIFE GROUP PLANNING

If you plan to continue a group or start a new group, today is the deadline for submitting your plans. Forms are available on the Welcome Table or online in the weekly email. These groups will run from mid-September to mid-December. Watch for the new listing of Life Groups, available on the Welcome Table soon.

### REQUESTS FOR PRAYER AND CARE

Your prayer request will be treated with great discretion and shared with a limited group of prayer warriors who will consider it a gift to cover you in prayer. This is also a way to reach the Caring Committee if you need other assistance.



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