

SERVICE OF WORD AND SACRAMENT

September 27 and 30, 2023



*"If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which I prefer." -
Philippians 1:22*



Lomas Garza's folk-styled works document the lives of Mexican Americans and often portray memories of her own family in South Texas. In *Camas para Sueños* (Beds for Dreams) the artist and her sister sit on their roof dreaming of becoming artists, while their mother below maintains a traditional home. Lomas Garza's deceptively straightforward images offer uncommon glimpses of American daily life as it unfolds in many Chicano communities.

Gathering as the Body of Christ.

CENTERING SONG

LIVE IN CHARITY

URW #394

GREETING

PRESIDER

*CALL TO WORSHIP

STUDENT MINISTER

ALABAD a Jehova, invoquen su nombre. Hagan notorias sus obras en los pueblos.

O give thanks to the Lord, call on his name, make known his deeds among the peoples.

Cantenle, cantenle salmos: Hablen de todas sus maravillas.

Sing to him, sing praises to him; tell of all his wonderful works.

Gloriense en su santo nombre: Alégrese el corazón de los que buscan a Jehova.

Glory in his holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice.

Busquen a Jehova, y su fortaleza: Busquen siempre su rostro.

Seek the Lord and his strength; seek his presence continually.

Acuérdense de sus maravillas, De sus prodigios y de los juicios de su boca,

Remember the wonderful works He has done, His miracles, and the judgments He has uttered,

Oh ustedes, simiente de Abraham su siervo, Hijos de Jacob, sus escogidos.

O offspring of his servant Abraham, children of Jacob, his chosen ones.

El es Jehova nuestro Dios;

He is the Lord our God;

En toda la tierra son sus juicios.

His judgments are in all the earth.

*OPENING HYMN

BROTHER, SISTER, LET ME SERVE YOU

URW 117 (v.1-3)

*CONFESSION & WORDS OF ASSURANCE

[All are invited to turn toward the Baptismal Font.]

O God, We live in the midst of great and abiding love, but also in the midst of deceit and lies. May we be found faithful in all we do.

May we speak the truth in love and live lives of love each day. Too often we seek you in the spectacular and otherworldly.

May we see the many inbreakings of your kingdom in the everyday, ordinary things of life: in mustard seeds, yeast, treasures in fields, and fish gathered in nets.

May we be able to answer with a full-throated yes when asked if we have understood your teachings and your call.

(Silent Confession)

In all that we do, we are assured in this: that the Spirit intercedes for us with sighs too deep for words and that no matter what, nothing, absolutely nothing can ever separate us from God's presence and God's love. Amen.

*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

STUDENT MINISTER

You are invited to pass the peace to each other in a way comfortable to you and your neighbor. Be mindful that some of our siblings may prefer non-contact ways of passing the peace, so kindly ask before hugging or shaking hands.

Peace be with you! **And also with you!**

Let us share this peace with one another.

Service of the Word

POEM [SAT. ONLY]

Now, I Love You, Now I Witness

THERESA SOTO

The poem tends to our souls and emboldens us to become our truest selves.

I know sometimes you get cranky,
And sometimes your tea gets cold
Before you can drink it. Sometimes
The news is too much. The resistance
Seems too little. That's real. But we are
Here. Imperfect and together and reaching.
You can hold my hand if you want. I washed
It with soap. It's OK. In this kind of time,
Now is better than later. Now, I love you.

Now, I am sorry it hurts. Now, I witness
Your struggle, and mine. Sometimes
One answer is to be a yes in the face of
Every no. I am a yes for you. Now and again
Later, if you need me.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

STUDENT MINISTER

Creator of all things great and small, open our ears, our hearts, and minds, to understand your message, **Amen.**

(Spanish) Por favor, únase a mí en oración. Creador de todas las cosas grandes y pequeñas, abre nuestros oídos, nuestros corazones y mentes, para entender tu mensaje, **Amén.**

SCRIPTURE READING

PHILIPPIANS 1:21-30

NRSV

A reading from the Book of Philippians, chapter 1, verses 21 through 30.

For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which I prefer. I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you.

Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again. Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel, and are in no way intimidated by your opponents. For them this is evidence of their destruction, but of your salvation. And this is God's doing.

For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well— since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

[Pause for 1 deep breath.]

Holy wisdom, holy Word. **Thanks be to God!**

PRAYERS OF THE COMMUNITY

STUDENT MINISTER

Heavenly God, you gather us together in our faith journey trusting in you, we join one another as a community; a community of faith on a journey.

We grow ever deeper in our faith, in our love, in our desire to long for you.

Along the way, remind us of your Love, of your sacrifice for us, of your ever mindful presence. Let us never lose hope along the way.

Help us to be strong, strong in faith, strong in love.

Help us to be strong in our desire to be ever mindful of your presence. For it is in your strength and love and the graces you bestow upon us, that we can go out and share in your love and faith with all those in our community.

We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever, AMEN.

Service of the Table

OFFERTORY SONG

INSTRUMENTAL

***THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION**

Presider: God is with you.

People: And also with you.

Presider: Let us open our hearts.

People: We open our hearts to God and one another.

Presider: Let us give thanks.

People: We thank God with joy.

O God, Ancient of Days, Your love brought galaxies into being, summoned water and sky, earth and all creatures, and made us in your image.

Through the ages You have cared for all You created. When we wandered, you called us to return to You. In the fullness of time, Jesus came to teach the Law of Love. He lived what He taught and loved His enemies and everyone he encountered. In wonder, we remember the life Jesus lived, laid down, and took up again for us.

Send your Holy Spirit upon us and upon this meal of bread and wine, so that we may be the communion of the body of Christ. Send your Holy Spirit upon us, so that we can live, conformed anew to Christ, who teaches us daily that loving God and neighbors is the fulfillment of the law.

El Señor Jesus, la noche que fue entregado, tomó pan y habiendo dado gracias, lo partió, y dijo, “Tomen, coman; esto es mi cuerpo que por ustedes es partido; hagan esto en memoria de mi.”

Asimismo, tomó También la copa, después de haber cenado, diciendo: “Esta copa es el nuevo pacto en mi sangre; hagan esto todas las veces que la beban, en memoria de mi.”

Come with your faith and your doubts, with your hopes and your questions, with your joy and your sadness. You belong here. This is the table of Jesus who welcomes all in great love to this feast. Whoever you are, wherever you come from, come, for you belong here together with the saints present and past as we receive nourishment for our souls!

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

PRESIDER

We have a few COVID related options for those who wish to partake. If you wish to receive from the ministers, take an empty cup from the stack on the aisle table and approach the minister, who will place a piece of bread in your open hand. All bread is gluten free.

Or you may take one of the sealed celebration cups with the wafer on top and juice beneath; hold them out to the minister for a blessing. A minister will pour grape juice into your cup. Eat, drink, and dispose of the cup in the waste baskets at the side aisles as you return to your seat.

If you are unable to come forward, please signal the ministers and we will come to you at your seat. Those who prefer not to partake in Communion are invited to a different kind of divine encounter through an interfaith prayer of blessing. If this is your preference, we invite you to meet the minister at the baptismal font.

Whoever you are and wherever you are on life’s journey, you are welcome here at this table where Christ is the host.

COMMUNION SONG

ESTE ES MI CUERPO

URW 421

Going Forth as the Body of Christ

*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

PRESIDER

God of all love, we lift our hearts to you. God of all comfort, we thank you for your blessing. In this holy meal we have tasted your goodness and affection. **Through your Holy Spirit, renew us in your likeness and hold us with your love. When all things are made new, gather us with all your children at that heavenly banquet where we shall see you face to face. Amen.**

*CLOSING SONG

SIYAHAMBA (EN ESPAÑOL)

NCH #526

CAMINAMOS EN LA LUZ DE DIOS, CAMINAMOS EN LA LUZ DE DIOS

*BENEDICTION

SENDING & POSTLUDE

*May our prayers be never ceasing.
May our hope lead to us new beginnings.*

Cover Art: Carmen Lomas Garza, Camas para Sueños <https://americanart.si.edu/artwork/camas-para-suenos-34978>, 1985 (Accessed June 20, 2023)

Call to Worship: Nancy C. Townley. <https://www.ministrymatters.com/all/entry/1590/worship-connection-september-13-2020>

Confession/Words of Assurance: Confession & Words of Assurance:

<https://www.ministrymatters.com/all/entry/5164/worship-elements-july-26-2020>

Prayers of the Community: Prayers of the Community: Anonymous. <https://www.praywithme.com/prayer-for-the-community.html>

Poem: <https://www.uua.org/people/theresa-soto>

Communion Liturgy: Sarah Kathleen Johnson, ed., Voices Together: Worship Leader Edition, First edition (Harrisonburg, Virginia: MennoMedia, 2020), 229,248,252

Prayer After Communion: Sarah Kathleen Johnson, ed., Voices Together: Worship Leader Edition, First edition (Harrisonburg, Virginia: MennoMedia, 2020), 238

**The worship planning team creates all other parts of the liturgy except where noted.*

LANCASTER THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY WORSHIP TEAM

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THE WORSHIP TEAM SEEKS:

To serve the universal church of our Creator.

To minister to the unique and diverse needs of the seminary community.

To foster an expansive culture of worship that values difference and challenges the normative.