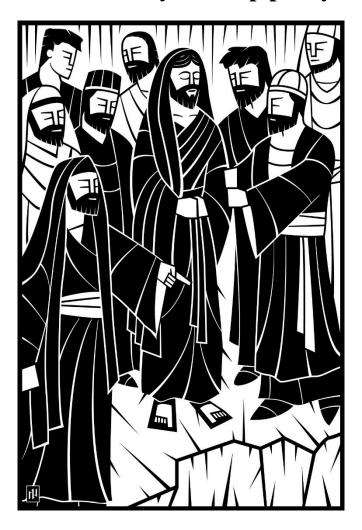


Third Sunday after Epiphany



Rejection is Not Proof of Failure

Lord of Love Lutheran Church

Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod

Welcome! We are so happy you have come to worship today! Someone has described worship as "a joyful dialogue with God." God speaks to us in his Word, and we speak to him in praise and prayer. May God richly bless you through this "joyful dialogue" today!

Restrooms – The restrooms are located straight ahead as you enter the building. You will also find restrooms in the lower level gathering space at the end of the classrooms on the right side before the exit doors.

Parent's Room – The sound of children in the house of the Lord is music to our ears! However there is also a parent room to the right just before you enter the sanctuary if your little one needs a moment. It is accessed as you exit the sanctuary, on the left, next to the seats reserved for families with small children.

Assistance Getting Around – There is a walker and a wheelchair available in the fellowship hall. Anyone who needs them is welcome to use them. Please speak to an usher if you need help accessing them.

Offering Message – An offering will be gathered in the service today. These offerings support the Gospel ministry of Lord of Love locally, and also the global mission of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod. Visitors need not feel obligated to give, but may if you wish.

Holy Communion is celebrated today. Mindful of the Scriptural teaching concerning church fellowship, we practice close (or closed) communion. Communicant members of this congregation, or another congregation of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (or the Evangelical Lutheran Synod), are encouraged to commune this morning. Guests are asked to speak with our pastor, before the service, if they wish to commune.

Explanation of the theme of the day: When you are trying to share some important information with someone, but they refuse to listen or perhaps totally reject what you are saying, it feels like you have failed. This is especially true when someone rejects the gospel! We proclaim the good news because want others to know the love of Christ. When people are disinterested in God's Word, we feel like we've failed.

So, here is this week's epiphany. Rejection is not proof of failure. Precisely because the gospel is divine revelation, it is guaranteed to be rejected by many. God's Word offends like an unwelcome diagnosis from the doctor. When someone rejects God's Word (including us), that rejection is proof that God's Word powerfully cuts straight to the heart of mankind's biggest problem—sin. Yet, what causes Jesus' words to hurt is what gives them power to heal. That reality encourages us to receive God's Word with joy and to proclaim it boldly to others.

Lord of Love Lutheran Church

January 26, 2025

SERVICE OF WORD AND SACRAMENT

OPENING HYMN (CW 353)

Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness



Text: Rusty Edwards, b. 1955, alt. © 1987 Hope Publishing Co., Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Tune: BEACH SPRING (87 87 D) attr. Benjamin F. White, 1800-79.

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 OF SINS

- **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.
- 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 (+) and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

PRAYER AND PRAISE

LORD, HAVE MERCY

Kyrie

M: For all that we need in life and for the wisdom to use all your gifts with gratitude and joy, hear our prayer, O Lord.



M: For the steadfast assurance that nothing can separate us from your love and for the courage to stand firm against the assaults of Satan and every evil, hear our prayer, O Christ.



M: For the well-being of your holy Church in all the world and for those who offer here their worship and praise, hear our prayer, O Lord.

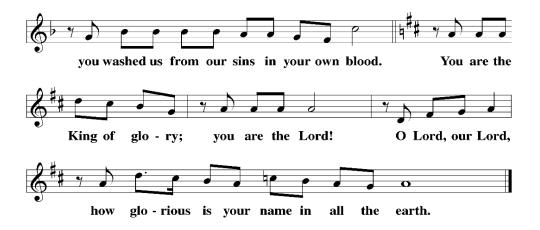


M: Merciful God, maker and preserver of life, uphold us by your power and keep us in your tender care:



M: The works of the Lord are great and glorious; his name is worthy of praise.





PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: Almighty God, you sent your Son to proclaim your kingdom and teach with authority. Anoint us with the power of your Spirit that we too may bring good news to the afflicted, bind up the brokenhearted, and proclaim liberty to the captive; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



THE WORD

FIRST LESSON Isaiah 61:1-6

The Spirit of the LORD God is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me to preach good news to the afflicted. He sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release for those who are bound, to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor and the day of vengeance for our God, to comfort all who mourn, to provide for those who mourn in Zion, to give them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of joy instead of mourning, a cloak of praise instead of a faint spirit, so that they will be called oaks of righteousness, a planting of the LORD to display his beauty. Then they will rebuild ancient ruins. They will raise up what was formerly devastated, and they will renew

ruined cities, which have been devastated for generations. Strangers will stand and shepherd your flock, and foreigners will be your farmers and vinedressers. You will be called the LORD's priests. You will be named ministers of our God. You will eat the wealth of nations, and you will boast about their riches.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

M: Alleluia. The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. Alleluia.

GOSPEL LESSON Luke 4:16-30

¹⁶ He went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up. As was his custom, he went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day and stood up to read. ¹⁷ The scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written: ¹⁸ "The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set free those who are oppressed, ¹⁹ and to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor." ²⁰ He rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him. ²¹ He began to tell them, "Today, this Scripture is fulfilled in your hearing." ²² They all spoke well of him and were impressed by the words of grace that came from his mouth. And they kept saying, "Isn't this Joseph's son?"

²³ He told them, "Certainly you will quote this proverb to me, 'Physician, heal yourself!' Do here in your hometown everything we heard you did in Capernaum." ²⁴ And he said, "Amen I tell you: No prophet is accepted in his hometown. ²⁵ But truly I tell you: There were many widows in Israel in the days of Elijah, when the sky was shut for three years and six months, while a great famine came over all the land. ²⁶ Elijah was not sent to any of them, but to a widow of Zarephath, in Sidon. ²⁷ And there were many lepers in Israel in the time of Elisha the prophet, yet not one of them was healed except Naaman the Syrian."

²⁸ All those who were in the synagogue were filled with rage when they heard these things. ²⁹ They got up and drove him out of the town. They led him to the brow of the hill on which their town was built, in order to throw him off the cliff. ³⁰ But he passed through the middle of them and went on his way.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

HYMN (CW 577)

Rise, O Light of Gentile Nations



Text: Herman Fick, 1822–85, abr.; tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, St. Louis, 1941, alt. Tune: O DU LIEBE MEINER LIEBE (87 87 D) Erbaulicher Musicalischer Christen-Schatz, Basel, 1745, alt.

SERMON Acts 4:23-30

²³ After Peter and John were released, they went to their own friends and reported everything the high priests and the elders had said. ²⁴ When they heard this, with one mind they raised their voices to God and said, "Master, you are the God who made the heaven, the earth, the sea, and everything in them. ²⁵ By the Holy Spirit, through the mouth of our father David, your servant, you said: 'Why do the nations rage and the peoples plot in vain? ²⁶ The kings of the earth take their stand, and the rulers are gathered together against the Lord and against his Anointed One.' ²⁷ For certainly, in this city both Herod and Pontius Pilate, along with the Gentiles and people of Israel, were gathered together against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed. ²⁸ They did whatever your hand and your plan had decided beforehand should happen. ²⁹ Now Lord, look at their threats and give to your servants the ability to keep on speaking your word with all boldness ³⁰ as you stretch out your hand to heal and as signs and wonders take place through the name of your holy servant Jesus." ³¹ After they prayed, the place where they were gathered was shaken. Also, everyone was filled with the Holy Spirit, and they continued to speak the word of God with boldness.

"Lord, Make Us Bold!"

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,

who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,

was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended into hell.

The third day he rose again from the dead.

He ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.

From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,

the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

GATHERING OF THANK OFFERING

During the gathering of the offering, please sign the Friendship Register.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

In thanksgiving to the Lord, who has arisen and shown pity to our fallen world and set us free from sin and death; and in thanksgiving for Christ, in whom the appointed time of favor has come for all people, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For the gift of Spirit-given boldness, that Christ's name would be declared among all peoples, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For eagerness to hear the Word of God, that with attentive ears we may receive it, our days be sanctified by it and his commandments be put into practice among us, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For those who govern our communities and country, that they would be given wisdom and courage to lead; that they would follow God's will rather than man's whims; let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For the comfort of those who mourn and the care of those who need healing, *[especially _____,]* that the Great Physician would mend the bodies and uplift the spirits of all who need his compassion, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For faith, that we would not despise the Lord who has come with favor to us, and who gives cleansing in his blessed Sacrament; and that he would not pass through us and go away as at Nazareth, but remain among us, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

Graciously receive our prayers, deliver and preserve us, for to you alone we give all glory, honor and worship, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

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.



THE SACRAMENT

M: The Lord be with you.



M: Lift up your hearts.

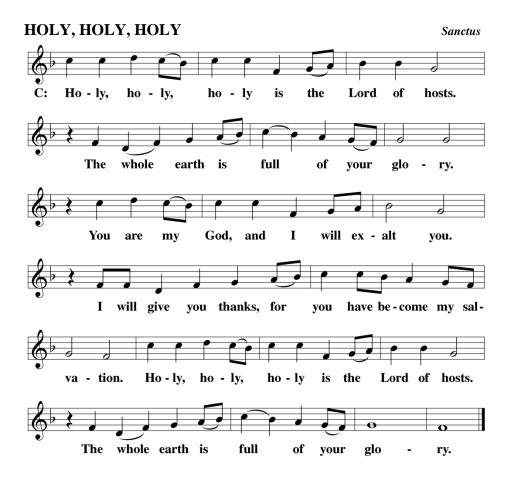


M: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



M: Praise to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In love he has blessed us with every spiritual blessing. In the past he spoke to us through the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, who is the radiance of his glory.

Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ. To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and thanks and honor and glory for ever and ever:



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."

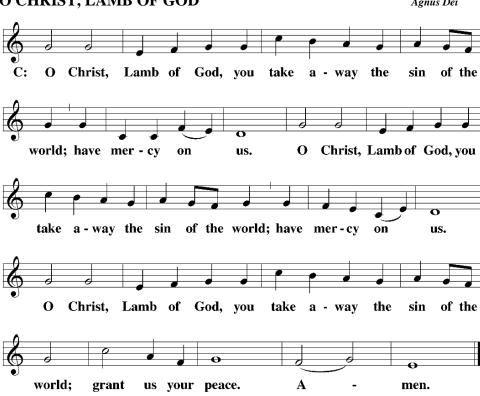
Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

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

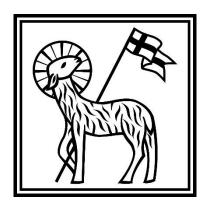




Agnus Dei

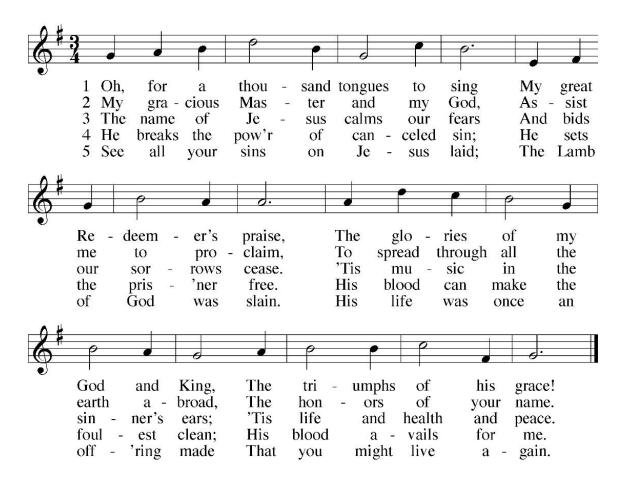


BE SEATED



DISTRIBUTION HYMN (CW 340)

Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing



6 Glory to God and praise and love Be ever, ever giv'n By saints below and saints above, The Church in earth and heav'n.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-88, abr., alt.

Tune: BEATITUDO (CM) John B. Dykes, 1823-76.



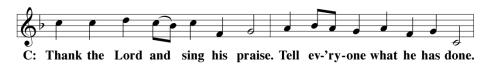
6 Help me speak what's right and good
And keep silence on occasion.
Help me pray, Lord, as I should;
Help me bear my tribulation.
Help me die and let my spirit
Everlasting life inherit.

Text: Caspar Neumann, 1648–1715, abr.; tr. August Crull, 1845–1923, alt. Tune: Liebster Jesu, wir sind hier (78 78 88) Johann R. Ahle, 1625–73, alt.

THANKSGIVING

STAND

THANK THE LORD





Let all who seek the Lord re-joice and proud-ly bear his name.



He re-news his prom-is - es and leads his peo-ple forth in joy with



M: Hear the prayer of your people, O Lord, that the lips which have praised you here may glorify you in the world, that the eyes which have seen the coming of your Son may long for his coming again, and that all who have received in his true body and blood the pledge of your forgiveness may be restored to live a new and holy life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



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.

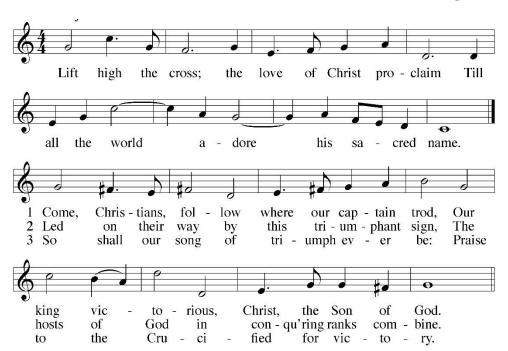
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and (+) give you peace.



CLOSING HYMN (CW 579)

Lift High the Cross



Text: George W. Kitchin, 1827–1912, abr., altered by Michael R. Newbolt, 1874–1956, alt. © 1974 Hope Publishing Co., Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Tune: CRUCIFER (10 10 10 10) Sydney H. Nicholson, 1875–1947. © 1974 Hope Publishing Co., Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

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Personal Prayers for Worship

Before Communion:

Lord, I am not worthy to be a guest at your holy table. But you are the friend of sinners, and you will not cast me out. This bread is your body, which bore my sins upon the tree. This wine is your blood, which purifies me from all guilt. At your invitation, I come rejoicing. Receive me, my Savior.

After Communion:

Thank you, Lord Jesus Christ, for nourishing me in this sacrament with your body and blood. You have given me forgiveness, life, and salvation. Let me always remain in you as a branch remains in the vine. Send me out in the power of your Spirit to live and work to your praise and glory.

O living Bread from heaven, how richly you have fed your guest! The gifts you now have given have filled my heart with joy and rest. Lord, grant me that thus strengthened with heavenly food, while here my course on earth is lengthened, I serve with holy fear. And when you call my spirit to leave this world below, I enter through your merit where joys unmingled flow.

Gluten Free communion wafers: Gluten free communion wafers are available each Sunday during the Lord's Supper. They are placed on the baptismal font at the start of communion. If you require this wafer, please pick it up as you approach the altar

Weekly Bible Studies

Sunday 9:15 am: Exodus, *sanctuary*

Tuesday 9:00 am: The Gospel of John, lower level

Wednesday 6:30 pm: Gospel Motivation, lower level

Thursday 6:30 pm: Christian Doctrine, lower level

Friday 6:00 am: Breakfast 6:00, Bible study 6:45 | The Book of Hebrews

DeForest Family Restaurant (505 W. North Street, DeForest)

Sunday January 26: Third Sunday after Epiphany

Worship Service: 8:00 & 10:30 am with Holy Communion 9:15 am: Adult Bible Study, Sunday School and Teen Class

- Pastor Joel Jenswold
- Pianist: Kristin Huebner
- Councilman: 8:00: Dave Olson, 10:30: Mitch Myhre
- Ushers 8:00: Roger and Lucas LaGrange
- Ushers 10:30: The Heath Family
- Counters: Donna Cotter and
- Altar Guild: Sandy Heath and Sally Kaalberg
- A/V & Recording: Julie Doyle
- Refreshments: The Nitz Family

Sunday February 2: Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

Worship Service: 8:00 & 10:30 am with Holy Communion 9:15 am: Adult Bible Study, Sunday School and Teen Class

- Pastor Joel Jenswold
- Pianist: Kristin Huebner
- Councilman: 8:00: Jim Miller, 10:30: Mitch Myhre
- Ushers 8:00: Steven and Sef Fox
- Ushers 10:30: The Heath Family
- Counters: Bob Degnan and Gene Freund
- Altar Guild: Donna Cotter
- A/V & Recording: Julie Doyle
- Refreshments: TBD

<u>Happy Birthday</u> We wish God's blessings to Dieter Bradley (1/27), Steven Fox (1/28), Reagan Oughton (1/28), Joleen LaReau (1/30), Merida Sullivan (1/30), Sue Vernig (1/30), Harold Olson (1/31), and Grady Schoeneberg (2/1) as they celebrate their birthdays this week.

Anniversary There are no anniversaries to celebrate this week.

<u>In Our Prayers</u> Roger LaGrange, Peter Leege, Peg Schroeder, John Schueman, and Steve Tobison, who are experiencing difficulties.

A special prayer for all our men & women who are serving in the Armed Forces. Among them are Carter Chavez (grandson of John & Sherry Hill), and Shannon Garrett.

COMING UP AT LORD OF LOVE

February 6: Fellowship Committee Meeting | 6:30 pm – fellowship hall

February 10: Council Meeting | 6:30 pm – fellowship hall

February 20: Ladies Friendship Circle | 6:30 pm – fellowship hall

January Food Pantry Collection Continues

We are continuing to collect food and non-perishable items throughout the month of January to help stock the shelves at our local food pantry. There are collection bins located at both the main and fellowship entrances. You may drop any donations off Tuesday – Friday from 8:30-3:30 pm. All donations go to the DeForest Area Needs Network. (DANN)

January Blood Drive Thank you!

Thank you to our community and volunteers for making our blood drive on January 12 such a success. The Red Cross set a goal of collecting 32 blood products, but instead we collected 41! Thank you to the Ladies Friendship Circle for making delicious homemade soup and for serving meals all afternoon. The soup was perfect on a cold day. Thank you to the DeForest Handy Helpers 4-H club for donating lots of cookies and to the DeForest Culver's for donating coupons for free pints of custard. Thank you to our church members who ran the registration table and kept everyone on track. Thanks to Bob Degnan who found a way to get our signs displayed outside - despite the frozen ground. Our next blood drive at Lord of Love is scheduled for Thursday July 17 from noon - 5:00 pm. We hope you can join us.

Living Hope Lutheran Church | 4:00 – 6:00 p.m. Today

Living Hope Lutheran Church, a new mission outreach generously supported by you, is hosting a "Chill and Chat" event at the Wil-Mar Center in downtown Madison on January 26 from 4:00-6:00 PM. Please join us as we invite the community to hear the Gospel, enjoy a cookie decorating activity, and finish the evening with a chili supper. We hope to see many of you there to help make this initial event successful.

Opportunities to Serve or Volunteer:

It's hard to believe we are in the middle of January already, and with a New Year brings new opportunities. If you have ever thought of serving the Lord through offering your talents through joining a committee or volunteering? If so, there are many opportunities please consider attending or volunteering at one of the many committees offered at Lord of Love. We would love to have you!

Current offerings include:

- AV & Technology
- Choir
- Church Council
- Ladies Fellowship Committee
- Ladies Friendship Circle
- Lawn & Building Maintenance
- Refreshments Coordinator
- Ride Assistance
- Sunday School Coordinator
- Teen Group Coordinator
- Usher & Greeters
- Youth Group Coordinator
- 20-30 Something's Coordinator

For more information on areas you would be interested to serve, please contact the church office at looker:100; by 346-9036.



105 Paradise Circle, DeForest, WI 53532
608-846-9036 | lolchurchoffice@gmail.com | www.lordoflovelutheran.org

Pastor Joel Jenswold pr.jenswold@gmail.com Cell phone: 608-572-1654

Chairman: Mitch Myhre, mitchmyhre@hotmail.com
Office Assistant: Kristin Vomhof, Office hours Tuesday – Friday.
Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod - *Christ's Love, Our Calling*.

"I rejoiced with those who said to me, 'Let us go to the house of the LORD.'" Psalm 122:1



Today's 8:00 service will be recorded including the Service of the Sacrament. Individuals taking communion will not be visible in the recording.