



Blessing of Animals

October 1, 2023

Lord of Life Lutheran Church, North Pole, AK
(907) 488-6720 www.lordoflifeak.com

Assistant Minister = Blue

Welcome! Words in **bold** are said together.

Children are always welcome - they worship God too! Cloth bags with quiet activities are by the stairs to keep them engaged during worship. Our nursery is at the bottom of the stairs, to the left.

Litany of Repentance and Longing

*Leader: In the beginning, the Spirit over the deep; new life daily unfolding at God's call. Darkness and light: Good. Skies, lands, and seas: Good. The earth and all that fills it – plants and rocks, the finned, the feathered, the furry: Good. At the last, humankind in God's image: Very good. Yet we have failed to draw from that goodness in care for God's creation. **Congregation: Forgive us, God, for the ways we have exploited earth and its creatures.***

*L: We have misunderstood our calling to be protectors of God's creation. **C: Forgive us, God, for the ways we have exploited earth and its creatures.***

*L: We long for new relationships with God's creation that has been entrusted to us. **C: Help us, God, to make a new community with all that lives alongside us.***

*L: May the merciful God who calls us to tend earth and all its creatures, deepen our knowledge of creation's interweaving, so that our lives are shaped in wholeness and peace with all living things; in Jesus' name. **C: Amen.***

*Sharing the Peace – L: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **C: And also with you.***

Gathering Hymn [intro] – Jesus, Name Above All Names RP 47

Jesus, name above all names,
Beautiful Savior, glorious Lord.
Emmanuel, God is with us!
Blessed Redeemer, Living Word. *(repeat 3x)*

Prayer of the Day — Holy God, we thank you for the gift of life. Recalling Francis who celebrated your love for all creation, today we embrace our connectedness to all: to wind, sea, and sky; to moose, wolf, and salmon. Deepen our care for all that lives, in the name of Jesus, our teacher, savior, and friend. Amen.

Scripture Readings

Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32

p. 685

The word of the Lord came to me: ²What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, "The parents have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge"? ³As I live, says the Lord God, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. ⁴Know that all lives are mine; the life of the parent as well as the life of the child is mine: it is only the person who sins that shall die. ²⁵Yet you say, "The way of the Lord is unfair." Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? ²⁶When the righteous turn away from their righteousness and commit iniquity, they shall die for it; for the iniquity that they have committed

they shall die. ²⁷Again, when the wicked turn away from the wickedness they have committed and do what is lawful and right, they shall save their life. ²⁸Because they considered and turned away from all the transgressions that they had committed, they shall surely live; they shall not die. ²⁹Yet the house of Israel says, "The way of the Lord is unfair." O house of Israel, are my ways unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? ³⁰Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, all of you according to your ways, says the Lord God. Repent and turn from all your transgressions; otherwise iniquity will be your ruin. ³¹Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed against me, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? ³²For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, says the Lord God. Turn, then, and live. Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 25:1-9 p. 436

¹To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.

²O my God, in you I trust; do not let me be put to shame; do not let my enemies exult over me.

³Do not let those who wait for you be put to shame; let them be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.

⁴Make me to know your ways, O Lord; teach me your paths.

⁵Lead me in your truth, and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; for you I wait all day long.

⁶Be mindful of your mercy, O Lord, and of your steadfast love, for they have been from of old.

⁷Do not remember the sins of my youth or my transgressions; according to your steadfast love remember me, for your goodness' sake, O Lord!

⁸Good and upright is the Lord; therefore he instructs sinners in the way.

All: ⁹He leads the humble in what is right and teaches the humble his way.

Philippians 2:1-13 p. 954

If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, ²make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. ⁴Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. ⁵Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, ⁶who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, ⁷but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, ⁸he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death— even death on a cross. ⁹Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. ¹²Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; ¹³for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

The holy Gospel according to Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Matthew 21:23-32 p. 802

²³When he entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?" ²⁴Jesus said to them, "I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. ²⁵Did the baptism of John come from

heaven, or was it of human origin?" And they argued with one another, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why then did you not believe him?' ²⁶But if we say, 'Of human origin,' we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet." ²⁷So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things. ²⁸"What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' ²⁹He answered, 'I will not'; but later he changed his mind and went. ³⁰The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, 'I go, sir'; but he did not go. ³¹Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. ³²For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him. The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Children's Message

Eileen Dubowski

Sermon

David Ingram

Hymn of the Day – All Creatures Worship God Most High ELW #835 (v. 1-4)

1. All creatures, worship God most high!
Sound ev'ry voice in earth and sky: Alleluia! Alleluia!
Sing, brother sun, in splendor bright; sing; sister moon and stars of night:
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
2. Sing, brother wind; with clouds and rain
you grow the gifts of fruit and grain: Alleluia! Alleluia!
Dear sister water, useful, clear, make music for your Lord to hear:
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
3. Sing, brother fire, so mirthful, strong;
drive far the shadows, join the throng: Alleluia! Alleluia!
Dear mother earth, so rich in care, praise God in colors bright and rare:
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
4. All who for love of God forgive,
all who in pain or sorrow grieve: Alleluia! Alleluia!
Christ bears your burdens and your fears; still make your song amid the tears:
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Blessing of Animals

L: Holy God, we thank you for the gift of animals in our lives. Through them you have brought many blessings. Today we pause to voice our gratitude and to pray a blessing in their names. For the companionship of our beloved pets, we offer our thanks. May the animals in our care know love through all their days. C: Amen.

Apostle's Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come 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 God's People

Each petition ends "Lord, in your mercy," please respond: **hear our prayer.**

Offering

- ◇ Mail: Lord of Life Lutheran Church, 1005 St. Nicholas Drive, North Pole, AK 99705
- ◇ Online: "giving" tab at www.lordoflifeak.com/giving or the QR Code →
- ◇ Phone app: download "Give Plus Church" search by zip 99705, choose Lord of Life, and follow the instructions. Giving is secure.



Offering Hymn – Oh, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways ELW #772

1. Oh, that the Lord would guide my ways to keep his statutes still!
Oh, that my God would grant me grace to know and do his will!
2. Order my footsteps by your word and make my heart sincere;
let sin have no dominion, Lord, but keep my conscience clear.
3. Assist my soul, too apt to stray, a stricter watch to keep;
and should I e'er forget your way, restore your wand'ring sheep.
4. Make me to walk in your commands, 'tis a delightful road;
nor let my head or heart or hands offend against my God.

Offering Prayer

God of power, God of plenty, all things belong to you. We bring your gifts to the table that all might be fed. Form us into the body of your Beloved, Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

Christ's Words of Institution and Communion

L: Jesus invites you to this table. Come, eat and live.

Post Communion Prayer

L: Blessed be your name, O God, for we have feasted on your Word, the joy and delight of our hearts. Strengthened by this food, send us to gather the world to your banquet, where none are left out and all are satisfied. In Jesus' name we pray. C: Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

We pray together with confidence the prayer our Lord Jesus taught us to pray,

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

Announcements

- Thrivent workshop 6pm tonight
- Adopt a Family coming soon – bring holiday joy to a local family 😊
- Coming up: Oct. 19 Annual Reports due to office; Nov. 1 Early Bird deadline for Youth Gathering; Nov. 12 Annual Congregational Meeting

Closing Hymn –Lead Me, Guide Me ELW #768

Refrain: Lead me, guide me, along the way; for if you lead me, I cannot stray.
Lord, let me walk each day with thee. Lead me, O Lord, lead me.

1. I am weak and I need thy strength and pow'r to help me over my weakest hour.
Help me through the darkness thy face to see. Lead me, O Lord, lead me. *Refrain.*
2. Help me tread in the paths of righteousness, be my aid when Satan and sin oppress.
I am putting all my trust in thee. Lead me, O Lord, lead me. *Refrain.*
3. I am lost if you take your hand from me, I am blind without thy light to see.
Lord, just always let me thy servant be. Lead me, O Lord, lead me. *Refrain.*

Blessing

L: The God of glory, + Jesus Christ, name above all names, and the Spirit who lives in you, bless you now and forever. C: Amen.

Dismissal

L: Go in peace. God is at work in you. C: Thanks be to God.

Special Thanks to...

Assistant Minister, Becky Peterson
PowerPoint, Eileen Dubowski
Usher(s), ?
Greeter(s), Jo Small
Fellowship, Lynne Skjefte

Reader, ?
Video, ?
Acolyte, Cohen Neske
Communion Prep, Margi Ungrodt

Birthdays & Anniversaries...

10-1 Kristi & Morgan Boatman
10-3 John Kowalski
10-4 Tony Fazio
10-6 Denise Hradecky
10-6 Mark Uptgraft