



19th Sunday after Pentecost

October 8, 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.

Confession and Forgiveness

*Leader: Blessed be God, the one who forms us, + Jesus who bears the cross, the Spirit who makes our joy complete. **Congregation: Amen.***

L: Let us bow before God in humility, confessing our sin. (silence for reflection)

*L: Steadfast and faithful God, **C: you have revealed the ways of justice, yet we fail to follow you. We are overwhelmed by the world's violence and suffering. We are afraid to risk what we have for the sake of others. For the harm we have caused, known and unknown, forgive us. For the unjust demands we place on others and your creation, forgive us. For the ways we turn away from you and our neighbor, forgive us. Lead us back to you and set us on the right path; in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.***

*L: Beloved in Christ, God's justice stretches beyond all understanding. God's compassion is beyond compare. In Jesus, God is always making a new way for us. In + Christ, you are already and always forgiven. **C: Amen.***

*Sharing the Peace – **L: The love of God poured into our hearts, the saving grace of Jesus Christ, and the abundant life of the Holy Spirit be with you all. C: And also with you.***

Gathering Song [intro]– (Our God is an) Awesome God by Rich Mullins

1. When He rolls up His sleeves, He ain't just putting on the ritz
(Our God is an awesome God)
There's thunder in His footsteps and lightning in His fists
(Our God is an awesome God)
2. And the Lord wasn't joking when He kicked 'em out of Eden
It wasn't for no reason that He shed His blood
His return is very close and so you better be believing
that our God is an awesome God

*Refrain: Our God is an awesome God. He reigns from heaven above
with wisdom, power, and love. Our God is an awesome God (sing twice)*

3. And when the sky was starless in the void of the night
(Our God is an awesome God)
He spoke into the darkness and created the light
(Our God is an awesome God)

4. Judgment and wrath He poured out on the Sodom
Mercy and grace He gave us at the cross
I hope that you have not too quickly forgotten
that our God is an awesome God (*Refrain x4*)

Ending: Our God is an awesome God (Our God is an awesome God)
He reigns from heaven above (He reigns from heaven above)
With wisdom, power, and love (With wisdom, power, and love)
Our God is an awesome God

Our God is an awesome God
Our God is an awesome God

Prayer of the Day — **Lord of the feast, you have prepared a table before all peoples and poured out your life with abundance. Call us again to your banquet. Strengthen us by what is honorable, just, and pure, and transform us into a people of righteousness and peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

Scripture Readings

Isaiah 5:1-7 p. 552

Let me sing for my beloved my love-song concerning his vineyard: My beloved had a vineyard on a very fertile hill. ²He dug it and cleared it of stones, and planted it with choice vines; he built a watchtower in the midst of it, and hewed out a wine vat in it; he expected it to yield grapes, but it yielded wild grapes. ³And now, inhabitants of Jerusalem and people of Judah, judge between me and my vineyard. ⁴What more was there to do for my vineyard that I have not done in it? When I expected it to yield grapes, why did it yield wild grapes? ⁵And now I will tell you what I will do to my vineyard. I will remove its hedge, and it shall be devoured; I will break down its wall, and it shall be trampled down. ⁶I will make it a waste; it shall not be pruned or hoed, and it shall be overgrown with briars and thorns; I will also command the clouds that they rain no rain upon it. ⁷For the vineyard of the Lord of hosts is the house of Israel, and the people of Judah are his pleasant planting; he expected justice, but saw bloodshed; righteousness, but heard a cry!

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

Psalms 80:7-15 p. 471

⁷Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved.

⁸You brought a vine out of Egypt; you drove out the nations and planted it.

⁹You cleared the ground for it; it took deep root and filled the land.

¹⁰The mountains were covered with its shade, the mighty cedars with its branches; ¹¹it sent out its branches to the sea, and its shoots to the river.

¹²Why then have you broken down its walls, so that all who pass along the way pluck its fruit?

¹³The boar from the forest ravages it, and all that move in the field feed on it.

ALL: ¹⁴Turn again, O God of hosts; look down from heaven, and see; have regard for this vine, ¹⁵the stock that your right hand planted.

Philippians 3:4-14 p. 954

⁴If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: ⁵circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; ⁶as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless. ⁷Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ.

⁸More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish,

in order that I may gain Christ ⁹and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. ¹⁰I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, ¹¹if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead. ¹²Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. ¹³Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus. Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

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

Matthew 21:33-46 p. 803

³³Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a wine press in it, and built a watchtower. Then he leased it to tenants and went to another country. ³⁴When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce. ³⁵But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. ³⁶Again he sent other slaves, more than the first; and they treated them in the same way. ³⁷Finally he sent his son to them, saying, 'They will respect my son.' ³⁸But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, 'This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance.' ³⁹So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. ⁴⁰Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?" ⁴¹They said to him, "He will put those wretches to a miserable death, and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the harvest time." ⁴²Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the scriptures: 'The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; this was the Lord's doing, and it is amazing in our eyes?' ⁴³Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces the fruits of the kingdom. ⁴⁴The one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and it will crush anyone on whom it falls." ⁴⁵When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they realized that he was speaking about them. ⁴⁶They wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowds, because they regarded him as a prophet.

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Children's Message and Sermon

David Ingram

Song of the Day – Days of Elijah

1. These are the days of Elijah declaring the word of the Lord
And these are the days of Your servant Moses, righteousness being restored
And though these are days of great trial, of famine and darkness and sword
Still, we are the voice in the desert crying, "Prepare ye the way of the Lord!"
Refrain: Behold, He comes riding on the clouds, shining like the sun at the trumpet call.
Lift your voice, the year of jubilee, And out of Zion's hill, salvation comes
2. And these are the days of Ezekiel, the dry bones becoming as flesh
And these are the days of Your servant David rebuilding a temple of praise
Oh, these are the days of the harvest, for the fields are as white in Your world
And we are the laborers in Your vineyard declaring the word of the Lord! *Refrainx2*

3. Oh, we give glory to You, Lord (we worship You, Lord) You're the Lion of Judah
The Lamb who was slain (we worship You, Jesus) You're the God of Jacob
You're the God of Elijah (Lamb of God) You're the Lord God of Israel (oh, I praise You, Lord)
You're the Lord God of the universe (You're the Lion of Judah)
You're God of Heaven and earth. Oh, Lord our King and our Redeemer, You are

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 Song – You are My All in All

1. You are my strength when I am weak, you are the treasure that I seek,
You are my all in all.
Seeking You as a precious jewel, Lord, to give up I'd be a fool,
You are my all in all.

Refrain: Jesus, Lamb of God, worthy is Your name, Jesus, Lamb of God, worthy is Your name.

2. Taking my sin, my cross, my shame, rising again, I bless Your name,
You are my all in all.
When I fall down, You pick me up, when I am dry, You fill my cup,
You are my all in all. (*Refrain x2*)

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 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.

Announcements

- Please contact Carol Dahl if you can take over recycling (approx. every 6 weeks) for the winter
- Thurs: 12:30pm School Lunch prep in kitchen area
- Oct-Dec devotional books in the book rack 😊
- The annual meeting is coming up – how could you use your gifts?
- Coming up: Nov. 1 NOLA Youth Gathering Early Registration deadline; Nov. 12 Annual Meeting

Closing Song – Humble Thyself in the Light of the Lord

Humble thyself in the sight of the Lord (echo)
Humble thyself in the sight of the Lord (echo)
And he (echo) shall lift (echo) you up — higher and higher
And he (echo) shall lift (echo) you up.

Sung 3 times

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, Eileen Dubowski
Sound Booth, Margi Ungrodt (PP) & ? (V)
Acolyte, Cohen Neske
Communion Prep, Margi Ungrodt

Reader, Becky Peterson
Usher(s), Keil Family
Greeter(s), Kevin Powers
Fellowship, Amy (?)

Birthdays & Anniversaries...

None!