

Christ the King

November 26, 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 the holy Trinity, + one God, in whose image we are made, who claims us and calls us beloved. Congregation: Amen. (silence for reflection)

L: Holy One, C: we confess that we are not awake for you. We are not faithful in using your gifts. We forget the least of our siblings. We do not see your beautiful image in one another. We are infected by sin that divides your beloved community. Open our hearts to your coming, open our eyes to see you in our neighbor, open our hands to serve your creation. Amen.

L: Beloved, we are God's children, and Jesus, our Beloved, opens the door to us. Through + Jesus you are forgiven, by Jesus you are welcome, in Jesus you are called to rejoice! Let us live in the promises prepared for us from the foundation of the world. 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 – Everlasting God

Strength will rise as we wait upon the Lord,
We will wait upon the Lord, we will wait upon the Lord.
Our God, You reign forever; our Hope, our strong Deliv'rer.

You are the everlasting God, the everlasting God.
You do not faint, You won't grow weary.

You're the defender of the weak.

You comfort those in need.

You lift us up on wings like eagles.

Strength will rise as we wait upon the Lord,
We will wait upon the Lord, we will wait upon the Lord.

Strength will rise as we wait upon the Lord,
We will wait upon the Lord, we will wait upon the Lord.
Our God, You reign forever; our Hope, our strong Deliv'rer.

You are the everlasting God, the everlasting God.
You do not faint, You won't grow weary.

You're the defender of the weak.

You comfort those in need.

You lift us up on wings like eagles.

You are the everlasting God, the everlasting God.

You do not faint, You won't grow weary.

You're the defender of the weak.

You comfort those in need.

You lift us up on wings like eagles.

Prayer of the Day — **O God of power and might, your Son shows us the way of service, and in him we inherit the riches of your grace. Give us the wisdom to know what is right and the strength to serve the world you have made, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

Scripture Readings

Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24

p. 702

¹¹For thus says the Lord God: I myself will search for my sheep, and will seek them out. ¹²As shepherds seek out their flocks when they are among their scattered sheep, so I will seek out my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places to which they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. ¹³I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them into their own land; and I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the watercourses, and in all the inhabited parts of the land. ¹⁴I will feed them with good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel shall be their pasture; there they shall lie down in good grazing land, and they shall feed on rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. ¹⁵I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord God. ¹⁶I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, but the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them with justice. ²⁰Therefore, thus says the Lord God to them: I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. ²¹Because you pushed with flank and shoulder, and butted at all the weak animals with your horns until you scattered them far and wide, ²²I will save my flock, and they shall no longer be ravaged; and I will judge between sheep and sheep. ²³I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them: he shall feed them and be their shepherd. ²⁴And I, the Lord, will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them; I, the Lord, have spoken.

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

Psalms 95:1-7a

p. 479

¹O come, let us sing to the Lord; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!

²Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!

³For the Lord is a great God, and a great King above all gods.

⁴In his hand are the depths of the earth; the heights of the mountains are his also.

⁵The sea is his, for he made it, and the dry land, which his hands have formed.

⁶O come, let us worship and bow down, let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker!

ALL: ⁷For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand. O that today you would listen to his voice!

Ephesians 1:15-23

p. 949

¹⁵I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason ¹⁶I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. ¹⁷I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, ¹⁸so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what

is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, ¹⁹and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. ²⁰God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, ²¹far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. ²²And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, ²³which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

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

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

Matthew 25:31-46 p. 807

³¹When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. ³²All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, ³³and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. ³⁴Then the king will say to those at his right hand, 'Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; ³⁵for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, ³⁶I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.' ³⁷Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? ³⁸And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? ³⁹And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?' ⁴⁰And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.' ⁴¹Then he will say to those at his left hand, 'You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; ⁴²for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, ⁴³I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.' ⁴⁴Then they also will answer, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?' ⁴⁵Then he will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.' ⁴⁶And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

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

Children's Message

Eileen Dubowski

Sermon

David Ingram

Song of the Day – Lord, I Lift Your Name on High

Verse: Lord, I lift your name on high, Lord, I love to sing your praises.
I'm so glad You're in my life, I'm so glad You came to save us.

Refrain: You came from heaven to earth to show the way,
from the earth to the cross, my debt to pay;
from the cross to the grave, from the grave to the sky;
Lord, I lift your name on high. (*Sing twice*)

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 – Thank You (lyrics on screen)

Offering Prayer

God of all goodness, generations have turned to you, gathered around your table, and shared your abundant blessings. Number us among them that, as we gather these gifts, and give thanks for your rich blessings, we may feast upon your very self and care for all that you have made, through Jesus Christ, our Sovereign and Servant. Amen.

Great Thanksgiving

Christ's Words of Institution and Communion

L: There is a place for you at the banquet. Come and feast at Jesus' table.

Post Communion Prayer

L: Lord Jesus, in this simple meal you have set a banquet. Sustain us on the journey, strengthen us to care for the least of your beloved children, and give us glad and generous hearts as we meet you on the way. C: Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

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

- Thanks to all who helped with Thanksgiving food boxes!
- Today – hymn selection and Christmas decorating after worship
- Beef shares available (thank you, Missy & Dan Rees) – proceeds to Lord of Life's heat bill
- Adopt a Family wishlists are near the coatracks
- Want to buy LoL a Christmas poinsettia? Donate \$15 marked "Poinsettia" 😊

Sending Song – Give Thanks

Refrain: 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 (*Repeat verse*) (*Refrain*)

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 (*Repeat verse*)

Give thanks (give thanks)
Give thanks

Blessing

L: May the God of all creation, in whose image we are made, who claims us and calls us beloved, who strengthens us for service, give you reason to rejoice and be glad! The blessing of God, Sovereign, + Savior, and Spirit, be with you today and always. C: Amen.

Dismissal

L: Beloved of God, go in peace to love and serve the Lord. C: Thanks be to God.

Special Thanks to...

Assistant Minister, Eileen Dubowski
Usher(s)/,
Video,
Communion Prep, Chris Blais
Greeter,

Reader, Becky Peterson
Acolyte,
PowerPoint,
Fellowship,

Birthdays & Anniversaries...

11-27 Chris Blais
11-28 Jeremiah Castor
11-28 Dennis Musgraves