



8th Sunday after Pentecost

July 26, 2020

Lord of Life Lutheran Church, North Pole, AK

488-6720 www.lordoflifeak.com

Welcome to Worship! We gather on the lawn (6 feet between families and wear masks until worship starts) **OR** in vehicles tuned to radio station 89.5 FM. Words in **bold** are said together.

GATHER (Welcome!)

Confession and Forgiveness

Invitation to confession and time for private confession.

L: Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, whose steadfast love is everlasting, whose faithfulness endures from generation to generation. **C: Amen.**

L: Trusting in the mercy of God, let us confess our sin. (pause for silent confession) Reconciling God, **C: we confess that we do not trust your abundance, and we deny your presence in our lives. We place our hope in ourselves and rely on our own efforts. We fail to believe that you provide enough for all. We abuse your good creation for our own benefit. We fear difference and do not welcome others as you have welcomed us. We sin in thought, word, and deed. By your grace, forgive us; through your love, renew us; and in your Spirit, lead us; so that we may live and serve you in newness of life. Amen.**

L: Beloved of God, by the radical abundance of divine mercy we have peace with God through + Christ Jesus, through whom we have obtained grace upon grace. Our sins are forgiven. Let us live now in hope. For hope does not disappoint, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit. **C: Amen.**

Gathering Hymn - Great God, Your Love Has Called Us (v. 1-3)

1. Great God, your love has called us here, as we by love, for love were made.
Your living likeness still we bear, though marred, dishonored, disobeyed.
We come with all our heart and mind your call to hear, your love to find.
2. We come with self-inflicted pains of broken trust and chosen wrong,
half-free, half-bound by inner chains, by social forces swept along,
by pow'rs and systems close confined, yet seeking hope for humankind.
3. Great God in Christ in Christ you call our name and then receive us as your own,
not through some merit, right or claim, but by your gracious love alone.
We strain to glimpse your mercy seat and find you kneeling at our feet.

Prayer of the Day

Beloved and sovereign God, through the death and resurrection of your Son you bring us into your kingdom of justice and mercy. By your Spirit, give us your wisdom, that we may treasure the life that comes from Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

WORD

1 Kings 3:5-12

⁵At Gibeon the Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream by night; and God said, "Ask what I should give you." ⁶And Solomon said, "You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant my father David, because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you; and you have kept for him this great and steadfast love, and have given him a son to sit on his throne today. ⁷And now, O Lord my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David, although I am only a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. ⁸And your servant is in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a great people, so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted. ⁹Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil; for who can govern this your great people?" ¹⁰It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. ¹¹God said to him, "Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches, or for the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, ¹²I now do according to your word. Indeed I give you a wise and discerning mind; no one like you has been before you and no one like you shall arise after you.

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

Psalms 119:129-136

¹²⁹Your decrees are wonderful; therefore my soul keeps them.
¹³⁰The unfolding of your words gives light; it imparts understanding to the simple.
¹³¹With open mouth I pant, because I long for your commandments.
¹³²Turn to me and be gracious to me, as is your custom toward those who love your name.
¹³³Keep my steps steady according to your promise, and never let iniquity have dominion over me.
¹³⁴Redeem me from human oppression, that I may keep your precepts.
¹³⁵Make your face shine upon your servant, and teach me your statutes.
¹³⁶My eyes shed streams of tears because your law is not kept.

Romans 8:26-39

²⁶Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. ²⁷And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. ²⁸We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. ²⁹For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. ³⁰And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified. ³¹What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? ³²He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? ³³Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. ³⁵Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? ³⁶As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered." ³⁷No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

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

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

Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

³¹He put before them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; ³²it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches." ³³He told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened." ⁴⁴"The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. ⁴⁵"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; ⁴⁶on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it. ⁴⁷"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; ⁴⁸when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. ⁴⁹So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous ⁵⁰and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. ⁵¹"Have you understood all this?" They answered, "Yes." ⁵²And he said to them, "Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old."

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

Children's Message

Sermon

Pastor Amanda Kempthorne

Hymn of the Day – Jesus Shall Reign

1. Jesus shall reign where'er the sun does its successive journeys run;
his kingdom stretch from shore to shore, till moons shall wax and wane no more.
2. To him shall endless prayer be made, and praises throng to crown his head;
his name like sweet perfume shall rise with every morning sacrifice.
3. People and realms of every tongue dwell on his love with sweetest song;
and infant voices shall proclaim their early blessings on his name.
4. Blessings abound where'er he reigns; the pris'ners leap to lose their chains,
the weary find eternal rest, and all who suffer want are blest.
5. Let ev'ry creature rise and bring peculiar honors to our king;
angels descend with songs again, and earth repeat the loud 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.

MEAL

Prayers of God's People--Each petition ends "Lord in your mercy," please respond: **hear our prayer.**

Offering

- ◇ By mail: Lord of Life Lutheran, 1005 St. Nicholas Drive, North Pole, AK 99705
- ◇ "Giving" Tab on our website: lordoflifeak.com or the QR Code →
- ◇ Phone app: download "Give Plus Church" search by zip 99705, choose Lord of Life, and follow the easy instructions.



Offering Hymn - Children of the Heavenly Father

1. Children of the heav'nly Father safely in his bosom gather;
nestling bird nor star in heaven such a refuge e'er was given.
2. God his own doth tend and nourish, in his holy courts they flourish.
From all evil things he spares them, in his mighty arms he bears them.
3. Neither life nor death shall ever from the Lord his children sever;
unto them his grace he showeth, and their sorrows all he knoweth.
4. Though he giveth or he taketh, God his children ne'er forsaketh;
his the loving purpose solely to preserve them pure and holy.

Offering Prayer: God of all goodness and growth, all creation is yours, and your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens. Water and word, wine and bread; these are the signs of your abundant grace. Nourish us through these gifts, that we might proclaim your steadfast love in our communities and in the world, through Jesus Christ, our strength and our song. Amen.

Communion: We will take communion during the Words of Institution, please listen for those instructions.

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. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

SEND

Announcements

We have donations coming in for our wood ministry; contact Pastor Amanda or Jo in the office if you can help! We have a truck—need chainsaws and people!

Bible study Monday morning at 10am, kitchen level at the church, with masks (as we enter) and then physical distance to ensure everyone's safety.

Sending Hymn - Sent Forth by God's Blessing

1. Sent forth by God's blessing, our true faith confessing, the people of God from this dwelling take leave,
The supper is ended. Oh, now be extended the fruits of this service to all who believe.
The seed of Christ's teaching, receptive souls reaching, shall blossom in action for God and for all.
Your grace shall incite us, your love shall unite us to work for your kingdom and answer your call.
2. With praise and thanksgiving to God ever-living, the tasks of our ev'ryday life we will face—
our faith ever sharing, in love ever caring, embracing God's children, the whole human race.
With your feast you feed us, with your light now lead us; unite us as one in this life that we share.
Then may all the living with praise and thanksgiving give honor to Christ and his name that we bear.

Blessing (from Romans 8:38-39) and Dismissal

L: Go in peace, Christ is with you. **C: Thanks be to God.**

Special Thanks to...

Worship Leaders:

Carol Hughes, our gracious and giving pianist

Scripture reader: Need one each Sunday!

Usher volunteers: We need 2 every Sunday: 1 for the lawn, 1 for cars

Everyone who sets up and puts away for worship—you are appreciated!

The people behind the scenes:

Jason Kempthorne for mixing the sound

Camera operator so people can worship with us online!

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