

Welcome – The Lord be with you, **and also with you.**

Thank you for the spirit in which you've participated in worship these last weeks!

You're invited to prepare for worship, by taking a moment to breathe.

Confession and Forgiveness

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

Trusting in the mercy of God, let us confess our sin.

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, renews 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.**

We join together in our Opening Hymn, "This Is My Song" 887

This is my song, O God of all the nations,
a song of peace for lands afar and mine.
This is my home, the country where my heart is,
here are my hopes, my dreams, my holy shrine;
but other hearts in other lands are beating
with hopes and dreams as true and high as mine.

My country's skies are bluer than the ocean,
and sunlight beams on cloverleaf and pine.
But other lands have sunlight too, and clover,
and skies are ev'rywhere as blue as mine.
So hear my song, O god of all the nations,
a song of peace for their land and for mine.

This is my prayer, O God of all earth's kingdoms,
your kingdom come; on earth your will be done.
O God, be lifted up till all shall serve you,
an hearts united learn to live as one.
So hear my prayer, O God of all the nations;
myself I give you; let your will be done.

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Prayer of the Day

You are great, O God, and greatly to be praised. You have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you. Grant that we may believe in you, call upon you, know you, and serve you, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, amen.

Scripture Readings

Romans 7:15-25a

¹⁵I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. ¹⁶Now if I do what I do not want, I agree that the law is good. ¹⁷But in fact it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me. ¹⁸For I know that nothing good dwells within me, that is, in my flesh. I can will what is right, but I cannot do it. ¹⁹For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do. ²⁰Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me. ²¹So I find it to be a law that when I want to do what is good, evil lies close at hand. ²²For I delight in the law of God in my inmost self, ²³but I see in my members another law at war with the law of my mind, making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. ²⁴Wretched man that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? ²⁵Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, with my mind I am a slave to the law of God, but with my flesh I am a slave to the law of sin.

Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalms 145:8-14

⁸The Lord is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.
⁹The Lord is good to all, and his compassion is over all that he has made.
¹⁰All your works shall give thanks to you, O Lord, and all your faithful shall bless you.
¹¹They shall speak of the glory of your kingdom, and tell of your power,
¹²to make known to all people your mighty deeds, and the glorious splendor of your kingdom.
¹³Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and your dominion endures throughout all generations. The Lord is faithful in all his words, and gracious in all his deeds.
¹⁴The Lord upholds all who are falling, and raises up all who are bowed down.

Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

¹⁶But to what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another, ¹⁷'We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we wailed, and you did not mourn.'¹⁸For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, 'He has a demon'; ¹⁹the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, 'Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!' Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds."

²⁵At that time Jesus said, "I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; ²⁶yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. ²⁷All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him. ²⁸'Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. ²⁹Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

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

Sermon by Pastor Lisa Smith-Fiegel,

Director of Evangelical Mission for the Alaska Synod congregations

We join in our hymn of the day, "Just As I Am" 592

Just as I am, without one plea, but that thy blood was shed for me,
and that thou bidd'st me come to thee, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am, though tossed about with many-a conflict, many-a doubt,
fightings and fears within, without, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am, thou wilt receive, wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;
because thy promise I believe, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am; thy love unknown has broken ev'ry barrier down;
now to be thine, yea, thine alone, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

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As one body, we confess our one belief in the Triune God using the words of the 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

I invite you to offer yourself to God's work in the world. Give to places like the Food Bank, the Rescue Mission, and Love INC, that are lifting up the poor and needy. Support places like the church that align with living God's kingdom. Find ways to bless others with what you have, and others in our nation will be blessed.

Mail: 1005 St. Nicholas Drive North Pole, AK 99705

Website: lordoflifeak.com/giving – form to fill out

App: Give Plus Church, search 99705 and select Lord of Life

We join our hearts in 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.

Announcements

Next Sunday we will be back on the front lawn at 10:30am with physical distance. You're welcome to bring your own chair or sit on our benches and tables. And if you're healthier in your vehicle, we broadcast our worship into car radios – please come join us!

Newsletter is available on our website: lordoflifeak.com/the-latest

Monday Bible Study at 10am! Wear masks as you enter, will be removed when we're all settled.

If you need an ear, you can always come talk to me. Call or text 322-2065, or come by the church to sit and chat about what's going on.

Sending Blessing and Dismissal

Our blessing is from Romans 8: "Neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ."

God, the creator, + Jesus, the anointed one, and the Holy Spirit, the comforter, bless you and keep you in eternal love. Amen.

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