

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!
Guest preacher today, Pastor Dave Brauer-Rieke. He is a consultant with
Lutheran Disaster Response for the ELCA's Region 1 states.

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. 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, Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!
O my soul, praise him, for he is your health and salvation!
Let all who hear now to his temple draw near, joining in glad adoration!
Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things is wondrously reigning
and, as on wings of an eagle, uplifting, sustaining.
Have you not seen all that is needful has been sent by his gracious ordaining?
Praise to the Lord, who will prosper your work and defend you;
surely his goodness and mercy shall daily attend you.
Ponder anew what the Almighty can do since with his love he befriended you.

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Prayer of the Day

God of all peoples, your arms reach out to embrace all those who call upon you. Teach us as disciples of your Son to love the world with compassion and constancy, that your name may be known throughout the earth, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, amen.

Scripture Readings, read by Evie Freeman

Isaiah 56:1, 6-8

Thus says the Lord: Maintain justice, and do what is right, for soon my salvation will come, and my deliverance be revealed. ⁶And the foreigners who join themselves to the Lord, to minister to him, to love the name of the Lord, and to be his servants, all who keep the sabbath, and do not profane it, and hold fast my covenant— ⁷these I will bring to my holy mountain, and make them joyful in my house of prayer; their burnt offerings and their sacrifices will be accepted on my altar; for my house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples. ⁸Thus says the Lord God, who gathers the outcasts of Israel, I will gather others to them besides those already gathered.

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

Psalms 67

¹May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face to shine upon us,
²that your way may be known upon earth, your saving power among all nations.
³Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.
⁴Let the nations be glad and sing for joy, for you judge the peoples with equity and guide the nations upon earth.
⁵Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.
⁶The earth has yielded its increase; God, our God, has blessed us.
⁷May God continue to bless us; let all the ends of the earth revere him.

Gospel reading and Sermon by Pastor Dave Brauer-Rieke

Matthew 15:10-28

¹⁰Then he called the crowd to him and said to them, "Listen and understand: ¹¹it is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but it is what comes out of the mouth that defiles." ¹²Then the disciples approached and said to him, "Do you know that the Pharisees took offense when they heard what you said?" ¹³He answered, "Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted. ¹⁴Let them alone; they are blind guides of the blind. And if one blind person guides another, both will fall into a pit." ¹⁵But Peter said to him, "Explain this parable to us." ¹⁶Then he said, "Are you also still without understanding? ¹⁷Do you not see that whatever goes into the mouth enters

the stomach, and goes out into the sewer? ¹⁸But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this is what defiles. ¹⁹For out of the heart come evil intentions, murder, adultery, fornication, theft, false witness, slander. ²⁰These are what defile a person, but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile."

²¹Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. ²²Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, "Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon." ²³But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, "Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us." ²⁴He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." ²⁵But she came and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, help me." ²⁶He answered, "It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." ²⁷She said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table." ²⁸Then Jesus answered her, "Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish." And her daughter was healed instantly.

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

Sermon

We gratefully receive God's Word from Pastor Dave Brauer-Rieke

Join in our hymn of the day, When pain of the world surrounds us 704

When pain of the world surrounds us with darkness and despair,
when searching just confounds us with false hopes ev'rywhere,
when lives are starved for meaning and destiny is bare,
we are called to follow Jesus and let God's healing flow through us.

We see with fear and trembling our aching world in need,
confessing to each other our wastefulness and greed.
May we with steadfast caring the hungry children feed.
We are called to follow Jesus and let God's justice flow through us.

The church is a holy vessel the living waters fill
to nourish all the people, God's purpose to fulfill.
May we with humble courage be open to God's will.
We are called to follow Jesus and let God's Spirit flow through us.

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Prayers of God's People

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

Offering

In response to God's goodness, we are called to give. Giving helps keep our priorities straight – it reminds us to trust more in God than the money in our bank account.

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

Website: lordoflifeak.com/giving – online 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. Bless the gifts you have given to us, that using them, we might proclaim your steadfast love in our community and in the world, through Jesus Christ, our strength and our song, amen.**

Announcements

Back on our lawn next Sunday – coming up Aug 30, 5th Sunday!

Collecting food for the Food Bank through the month of August – bring to worship on the lawn, drop off during the week (inside or on red bench).

[Fairbanks Food Bank wish list Amazon link!](#)

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

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.**