



15th Sunday after Pentecost

September 1, 2024

Lord of Life Lutheran Church, North Pole, AK
(907) 488-6720 www.lordoflifeak.com

Assistant Minister = Blue

Welcome! Words in **bold** are said together.

Confession and Forgiveness

*Leader: Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever. **Congregation: Amen.***

L: Let us confess our sin and come to God for healing. (silence for reflection)

*L: Gracious God, **C: have mercy on us. We confess that we have honored you with our lips, but have harmed our neighbors with our tongues. The cravings at war within us cause conflicts and disputes. In our desire to be first we make distinctions among ourselves. We place the needs of the poor and the suffering last. In your great mercy, forgives us our sins. Draw near to us with grace in time of need, and turn us to follow I the way of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.***

*L: God promises to forgive our iniquity and to remember our sin no more. By grace you have been saved. In the name of + Jesus Christ, the source of eternal healing, your sins are forgiven. **C: Amen.***

Gathering Hymn [intro] – For the Beauty of the Earth #879

1. For the beauty of the earth, for the beauty of the skies,
for the love which from our birth over and around us lies:
Christ our God, to thee we raise this our sacrifice of praise.
2. For the wonder of each hour of the day and of the night,
hill and vale and tree and flow'r, sun and moon and stars of light:
Christ our God, to thee we raise this our sacrifice of praise.
3. For the joy of ear and eye, for the heart and mind's delight,
for the mystic harmony linking sense to sound and sight:
Christ our God, to thee we raise this our sacrifice of praise.
4. For the joy of human love, brother, sister, parent, child,
friends on earth and friends above; for all gentle thoughts and mild:
Christ our God, to thee we raise this our sacrifice of praise.
5. For each perfect gift of thine, peace on earth and joy in heav'n;
for thyself, best gift divine, to our world so freely giv'n:
Christ our God, to thee we raise this our sacrifice of praise.

Prayer of the Day

Ever-loving God, your Son gives himself as living bread for the life of the world. Fill us with knowledge of his presence that we may be strengthened by his risen life to serve you continually, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Scripture Readings

Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9 p. 140

"So now, Israel, give heed to the statutes and ordinances that I am teaching you to observe, so that you may live to enter and occupy the land that the Lord, the God of your ancestors, is giving you. 2 You must neither add anything to what I command you nor take away anything from it, but keep the commandments of the Lord your God with which I am charging you. 6 You must observe them and perform them, for this will show your wisdom and discernment to the peoples, who, when they hear all these statutes, will say, 'Surely this great nation is a wise and discerning people!' 7 For what other great nation has a god so near to it as the Lord our God is whenever we call to him? 8 And what other great nation has statutes and ordinances as just as this entire law that I am setting before you today? 9 "But take care and watch yourselves closely, so as neither to forget the things that your eyes have seen nor to let them slip from your mind all the days of your life; make them known to your children and your children's children— Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalms 15 p. 430

O LORD, who may abide in your tent? Who may dwell on your holy hill?

² Those who walk blamelessly and do what is right and speak the truth from their heart;

³ who do not slander with their tongue and do no evil to their friends nor heap shame upon their neighbors;

⁴ in whose eyes the wicked are despised but who honor those who fear the LORD; who stand by their oath even to their hurt;

⁵ who do not lend money at interest and do not take a bribe against the innocent. Those who do these things shall never be moved.

James 1:17-27 p. 980

17Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. 18In fulfillment of his own purpose he gave us birth by the word of truth, so that we would become a kind of first fruits of his creatures. 19You must understand this, my beloved: let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger; 20for your anger does not produce God's righteousness. 21Therefore rid yourselves of all sordidness and rank growth of wickedness, and welcome with meekness the implanted word that has the power to save your souls. 22But be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves. 23For if any are hearers of the word and not doers, they are like those who look at themselves in a mirror; 24for they look at themselves and, on going away, immediately forget what they were like. 25But those who look into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and persevere, being not hearers who forget but doers who act—they will be blessed in their doing. 26If any think they are religious, and do not bridle their tongues but deceive their hearts, their religion is worthless. 27Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to care for orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world. Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

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

**Please stand for the Gospel reading*

Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23 p. 819

7Now when the Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered around him, ²they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with defiled hands, that is, without washing them. ³(For the Pharisees, and all the Jews, do not eat unless they thoroughly wash their hands, thus observing the tradition of the elders; ⁴and they do not eat

anything from the market unless they wash it; and there are also many other traditions that they observe, the washing of cups, pots, and bronze kettles.) ⁵So the Pharisees and the scribes asked him, "Why do your disciples not live according to the tradition of the elders, but eat with defiled hands?" ⁶He said to them, "Isaiah prophesied rightly about you hypocrites, as it is written, 'This people honors me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me; ⁷in vain do they worship me, teaching human precepts as doctrines.' ⁸You abandon the commandment of God and hold to human tradition." ¹⁴Then he called the crowd again and said to them, "Listen to me, all of you, and understand: ¹⁵there is nothing outside a person that by going in can defile, but the things that come out are what defile." ²¹For it is from within, from the human heart, that evil intentions come: fornication, theft, murder, ²²adultery, avarice, wickedness, deceit, licentiousness, envy, slander, pride, folly. ²³All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person." The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Children's Message

Sermon

Pastor Curt Matz

Hymn of the Day – O God, My Faithful God #806

1. O God, my faithful God, fountain ever flowing,
without whom nothing is, all perfect gifts bestowing;
Give me a healthy frame, and may I have within
a conscience free from blame, a soul unstained by sin.
2. Give me the strength to do with ready heart and willing
whatever you command, my calling here fulfilling.
To do it when I ought, with all my might – and bless
whatever I have wrought, for you must give success.
3. Keep me from saying words that later need recalling;
guard me, lest idle speech may from my lips be falling.
But when, within my place, I must and ought to speak,
then to my words give grace, lest I offend the weak.
4. When dangers gather round, oh, keep me calm and fearless;
help me to bear the cross when life seems dark and cheerless;
help me, as you have taught, to love both great and small,
and, by your Spirit's might, to live at peace with all.

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.**

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.

Offering

Offering Hymn – Change My Heart, O God #801 (sing twice)

Change my heart, O God; make it ever true,
change my heart, O God; may I be like you.

Refrain: You are the potter; I am the clay.
Mold me and make me; this is what I pray.

Offering Prayer

Blessed are you, O God, source of every gift of your creation. By these gifts and with our lives, help us to serve one another and all in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Great Thanksgiving ELW p. 152

Holy, Holy, Holy ELW p. 108

Christ's Words of Institution and Communion

L: Christ has set the table with more than enough for all. Come!

Post Communion Prayer

L: Holy God, you have welcomed us to this meal and fed us with dignity at your table. Send us now to welcome others and to be at peace with one another, through Jesus Christ our Lord. C: Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

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; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

Announcements

- We hope to bring back the choir/band – talk to Margi Ungrodt (no experience needed)
- Are you called to serve? Church council still needs a VP
- Bible Study is Mondays at 10am- all are welcome 😊
- Coming up: Rally Sunday; 9-8 Back to School/Farewell Snowbirds Party & God's Work Our Hands Sunday

Closing Hymn – O Beautiful for Spacious Skies #888

1. O beautiful, for spacious skies, for amber waves of grain,
for purple mountain majesties above the fruited plain:
America! America! God shed his grace on thee,
and crown thy good with brotherhood from sea to shining sea.

2. O beautiful for heroes proved in liberating strife,
who more than self their country loved, and mercy more than life:
America! America! May God thy gold refine,
till all success be nobleness and ev'ry gain divine.
3. O beautiful for patriot dream that sees beyond the years
thine alabaster cities gleam, undimmed by human tears:
America! America! God mend thine ev'ry flaw,
confirm thy soul in self-control, thy liberty in law.

Blessing

L: God all mighty, God most Merciful + bless you, keep you, and give you peace. C: Amen.

Dismissal

L: Go in peace. Follow Jesus. C: Thanks be to God!

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9-2 Holly & Ian Neske
9-4 Brenda Sadler
9-5 Amy & David Ingram

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