



16th Sunday after Pentecost

Sept. 17, 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 God, the one who forms us, + Jesus who bears the cross, the Spirit who makes our joy complete. Congregation: Amen.

L: Let us bow before God in humility, confessing our sin. (silence for reflection)

L: Steadfast and faithful God, C: you have revealed the ways of justice, yet we fail to follow you. We are overwhelmed by the world's violence and suffering. We are afraid to risk what we have for the sake of others. For the harm we have caused, known and unknown, forgive us. For the unjust demands we place on others and your creation, forgive us. For the ways we turn away from you and our neighbor, forgive us. Lead us back to you and set us on the right path; in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

L: Beloved in Christ, God's justice stretches beyond all understanding. God's compassion is beyond compare. In Jesus, God is always making a new way for us. In + Christ, you are already and always forgiven. 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 Hymn [intro] – The King of Love My Shepherd Is #502

1. The King of Love my shepherd is, whose goodness faileth never;
I nothing lack if I am his and he is mine forever.
2. Where streams of living water flow, my ransomed soul he leadeth
and where the verdant pastures grow, with food celestial feedeth.
3. Perverse and foolish oft I strayed, but yet in love he sought me,
and on his shoulder gently laid, and home, rejoicing, brought me.
4. In death's dark vale I fear no ill, with thee, dear Lord, beside me,
thy rod and staff my comfort still, thy cross before to guide me.
5. Thou spreadst a table in my sight; thine unction grace bestoweth;
and, oh, what transport of delight from thy pure chalice floweth!
6. And so, through all the length of days, thy goodness faileth never.
Good shepherd, may I sing thy praise within thy house forever.

Prayer of the Day — **O Lord God, merciful judge, you are the inexhaustible fountain of forgiveness. Replace our hearts of stone with hearts that love and adore you, that we may delight in doing your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

Scripture Readings

Genesis 50:15-21 p. 42

¹⁵Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?" ¹⁶So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, ¹⁷Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.' Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. ¹⁸Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves." ¹⁹But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? ²⁰Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. ²¹So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones." In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them. Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalms 103:8-13 p. 482

⁸The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. ⁹He will not always accuse, nor will he keep his anger forever. ¹⁰He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities. ¹¹For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him; ¹²as far as the east is from the west, so far he removes our transgressions from us. ¹³As a father has compassion for his children, so the Lord has compassion for those who fear him.

Romans 14:1-12 p. 923

Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. ²Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. ³Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. ⁴Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand. ⁵Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. ⁶Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God. ⁷We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. ⁸If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. ⁹For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living. ¹⁰Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. ¹¹For it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God." ¹²So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

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

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

Matthew 18:21-35 p. 800

²¹Then Peter came and said to him, "Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" ²²Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times. ²³"For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. ²⁴When he began the reckoning, one who owed him

ten thousand talents was brought to him; ²⁵and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. ²⁶So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' ²⁷And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, 'Pay what you owe.' ²⁹Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' ³⁰But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. ³¹When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. ³²Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?' ³⁴And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. ³⁵So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

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

Children's Message and Sermon

David Ingram

Hymn of the Day – O God, Our Help in Ages Past #632 (v. 1-4)

1. O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come,
our shelter from the stormy blast, and our eternal home:
2. Before the hills in order stood or earth received its frame,
from everlasting you are God, to endless years the same.
3. A thousand ages in your sight are like an evening gone,
short as the watch that ends the night before the rising sun.
4. Time, like an ever-rolling stream, bears all our years away;
they fly forgotten, as a dream dies at the opening day.

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 Hymn – Children of the Heavenly Father #781

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 power, God of plenty, all things belong to you. We bring your gifts to the table that all might be fed. Form us into the body of your Beloved, Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

Christ's Words of Institution and Communion

L: Jesus invites you to this table. Come, eat and live.

Post Communion Prayer

L: Blessed be your name, O God, for we have feasted on your Word, the joy and delight of our hearts. Strengthened by this food, send us to gather the world to your banquet, where none are left out and all are satisfied. In Jesus' name we pray. 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

- After worship today: hymn selection – all are welcome to participate!
- Got pictures from God's Work, Our Hands Sunday? Send them to office@lordoflifeak.com so we can include them in next month's newsletter
- Don't forget to sign an attendance book 😊
- Coming up: Sept. 21-24 WELCA Triennial Gathering in Phoenix; Oct. 19 Reports due to office for Annual Report; Nov. 12 Annual Congregational Meeting

Closing Hymn – Lord of All Hopefulness #765

1. Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy,
whose trust, ever child-like, no cares could destroy;
Be there at our waking, and give us, we pray,
your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.

2. Lord of all eagerness, Lord of all faith,
whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe;
Be there at our labors, and give us, we pray,
your strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the day.
3. Lord of all kindness, Lord of all grace,
your hands swift to welcome, your arms to embrace:
Be there at our homing, and give us, we pray,
Your love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.
4. Lord of all gentleness, Lord of all calm,
whose voice is contentment, whose presence is balm:
Be there at our sleeping, and give us, we pray,
Your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.

Blessing

L: The God of glory, + Jesus Christ, name above all names, and the Spirit who lives in you, bless you now and forever. C: Amen.

Dismissal

L: Go in peace. God is at work in you. C: Thanks be to God.

Special Thanks to...

Assistant Minister, ?	Reader, ?
Sound Booth, Eileen Dubowski (PP) & Becky Peterson (V)	
Usher(s)/Acolyte, Dart Family	Greeter(s), ?
Communion Prep, Margi Ungrodt	Fellowship, ?

Birthdays & Anniversaries...

9-18 Ramouna Sandbo
9-20 Jim Woolace
9-21 Dixie Keil

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