



14th Sunday after Pentecost

Sept. 3, 2023

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

Blue: Assistant Minister

Welcome! Words in **bold** are said together. *Today we are using the blue With One Voice hymnal.*

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 the holy Trinity, + one God, who greets us in this and every season, whose word never fails, whose promise is sure. Congregation: Amen.

*L: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of our neighbors. Righteous God, **C: we confess that we have sinned. We have failed to be honest. We have lacked the courage to speak. We have spoken falsely. In the name of Jesus, forgive us and grant us your mercy.** (silence for reflection)*

*L: God is a cup of cold water when we thirst. God offers boundless grace when we fail. Claim the gift of God's mercy: you are freed and forgiven in the name of + Jesus Christ. **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] – Bind Us Together #748 WOV

*Refrain: Bind us together, Lord, bind us together with cords that cannot be broken.
Bind us together, Lord, bind us together Lord; bind us together in love.*

- 1. There is only one God. There is only one King.
There is only one Body; that is why we can sing. Refrain.*
- 2. You are the family of God, you are the promise divine.
You are God's chosen desire, you are the glorious wine. Refrain.*

Prayer of the Day

O God, we thank you for your Son, who chose the path of suffering for the sake of the world. Humble us by his example, point us to the path of obedience, and give us strength to follow your commands, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Scripture Readings

Jeremiah 15:15-21 p. 626

¹⁵O Lord, you know; remember me and visit me, and bring down retribution for me on my persecutors. In your forbearance do not take me away; know that on your account I suffer insult.

¹⁶Your words were found, and I ate them, and your words became to me a joy and the delight of my heart; for I am called by your name, O Lord, God of hosts. ¹⁷I did not sit in the company of



merrymakers, nor did I rejoice; under the weight of your hand I sat alone, for you had filled me with indignation. ¹⁸Why is my pain unceasing, my wound incurable, refusing to be healed? Truly, you are to me like a deceitful brook, like waters that fail. ¹⁹Therefore thus says the Lord: If you turn back, I will take you back, and you shall stand before me. If you utter what is precious, and not what is worthless, you shall serve as my mouth. It is they who will turn to you, not you who will turn to them. ²⁰And I will make you to this people a fortified wall of bronze; they will fight against you, but they shall not prevail over you, for I am with you to save you and deliver you, says the Lord. ²¹I will deliver you out of the hand of the wicked, and redeem you from the grasp of the ruthless. Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 26:1-8 p. 437

¹Vindicate me, O Lord, for I have walked in my integrity, and I have trusted in the Lord without wavering.

²Prove me, O Lord, and try me; test my heart and mind.

³For your steadfast love is before my eyes, and I walk in faithfulness to you.

⁴I do not sit with the worthless, nor do I consort with hypocrites; ⁵I hate the company of evildoers, and will not sit with the wicked.

⁶I wash my hands in innocence, and go around your altar, O Lord, ⁷singing aloud a song of thanksgiving, and telling all your wondrous deeds.

⁸O Lord, I love the house in which you dwell, and the place where your glory abides.

Romans 12:9-21 p. 922

⁹Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; ¹⁰love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. ¹¹Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. ¹²Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. ¹³Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers. ¹⁴Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. ¹⁵Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. ¹⁶Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. ¹⁷Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. ¹⁸If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. ¹⁹Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God; for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." ²⁰No, "if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink; for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads." ²¹Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

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

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

Matthew 16:21-28 p. 798

²¹From that time on, Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. ²²And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you." ²³But he turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things." ²⁴Then Jesus told his disciples, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ²⁵For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. ²⁶For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life? ²⁷For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for

what has been done. ²⁸Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom."

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

Children's Message and Sermon

Pastor Curt Matz

Hymn of the Day – All Things Bright and Beautiful #767 WOV

Refrain: All things bright and beautiful, all creatures great and small,
All things wise and wonderful, the Lord God made them all.

1. Each little flower that opens, each little bird that sings,
God made their glowing colors, God made their tiny wings. *Refrain.*
2. The purple-headed mountains, the river running by,
the sunset, and the morning that brightens up the sky. *Refrain.*
3. The cold wind in the winter, the pleasant summer sun,
the ripe fruits in the garden, God made them ev'ry one. *Refrain.*
4. God gave us eyes to see them, and lips that we might tell
how great is God Almighty, who has made all things well. *Refrain.*

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 – Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ #754 WOV

1. Let us talents and tongues employ, reaching out with a shout of joy:
bread is broken, the wine is poured, Christ is spoken and seen and heard.

Refrain: Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again, pass the Word around: loaves abound!
Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again, pass the Word around: loaves abound!



2. Christ is able to make us one, at the table he sets the tone, teaching people to live to bless, love in word and in deed express. *Refrain.*
3. Jesus calls us in, sends us out bearing fruit in a world of doubt, gives us love to tell, bread to share: God (Immanuel) ev'rywhere! *Refrain.*

Offering Prayer – God of field and forest, sea and sky, you are the giver of all good things. Sustain us with these gifts of your creation and multiply your grace in us, that the world may be fed with your love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Christ's Words of Institution and Communion

L: All people are called to Christ's table. Come, eat what is good.

Post Communion Prayer

L: We thank you, generous God, for the refreshment we have received at your banquet table. Send us now to spread your generosity in the world, through the one who is our dearest treasure, Jesus Christ, our Savior and 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

- Visiting Lord of Life today? Please sign our guest book near the entry 😊
- This Week: Office CLOSED tomorrow! Thurs: 12:30pm School Lunch prep; Fri/Sat: WELCA Retreat @ Fairbanks Lutheran
- Next Sunday is God's Work Our Hands
- Fairbanks Rescue Mission needs volunteers for kitchen, closets; Perri @ (907) 331-6292 x2205
- Coming up: Sept. 21-24 WELCA Triennial Gathering in Phoenix

Sending Hymn – I, the Lord of Sea and Sky #752 WOV

1. I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my people cry.
All who dwell in dark and sin my hand will save.
I who made the stars of night, I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?

Refrain: Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if you lead me. I will hold your people in my heart.

2. I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my people's pain.
I have wept for love of them. They turn away.
I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love alone.
I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send? *Refrain.*

3. I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame.
I will set a feast for them. My hand will save.
Finest bread I will provide till their hearts be satisfied.
I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send? *Refrain.*

Blessing and Dismissal

L: The God who calls across the cosmos and speaks in the smallest seed + bless, keep, and sustain you now and to the end of the age. C: Amen.

L: Go in peace. Share the harvest. C: Thanks be to God.

Special Thanks to...

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Pianist, Kari Hughes
Sound Booth, Aleshire Family (V) & (PP)
Greeter(s),

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Usher(s)/Acolyte, Dart Family
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