



# 15<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

September 5, 2021

Lord of Life Lutheran Church, North Pole, AK

Pastor Amanda Kempthorne

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Welcome to Worship! Our warm summer mornings have begun to fade – we are likely indoors until spring... Words in **bold** are said together.

*Welcome!*

*Confession and Absolution*

*Leader: Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, whose teaching is life, whose presence is sure, and whose love is endless.*

**Congregation: Amen**

*L: Let us confess our sins to the one who welcomes us with an open heart. God our comforter,*

**C: like lost sheep, we have gone astray. We gaze upon abundance but only see scarcity. We turn our faces away from injustice and oppression. We exploit the earth with our apathy and greed. Free us from our sin, gracious God. Listen when we call out to you for help. Lead us by your love to love our neighbors as ourselves. Amen.**

*L: All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. By the gift of grace through faith in Christ Jesus, God makes you righteous. Receive the forgiveness of all your sins with glad hearts and changed lives.*

**C: Amen.**

*Gathering Hymn – I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say #611*

1. I heard the voice of Jesus say, "Come unto me and rest;  
lay down, O weary one, lay down your head upon my breast."  
I came to Jesus as I was, so weary, worn, and sad;  
I found in him a resting place; and he has made me glad.
2. I heard the voice of Jesus say, "Behold, I freely give  
the living water, thirsty one; stoop down and drink and live.  
I came to Jesus, and I drank of that life-giving stream;  
my thirst was quenched, my soul revived And now I live in him.
3. I heard the voice of Jesus say, "I am this dark world's light;  
look unto me, your morn shall rise; and all your day be bright."  
I looked to Jesus, and I found in him my star, my sun;  
and in that light of life I'll walk 'til trav'ling days are done."

*Prayer of the Day—***Gracious God, throughout the ages you transform sickness into health and death into life. Open us to the power of your presence, and make us a people ready to proclaim your promises to the whole world, through Jesus Christ, our healer and Lord. Amen.**

## *Scripture Readings*

### Isaiah 35:4-7

<sup>4</sup>Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you." <sup>5</sup>Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; <sup>6</sup>then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; <sup>7</sup>the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

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

### Psalm 146

<sup>1</sup>Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord, O my soul!

**<sup>2</sup>I will praise the Lord as long as I live; I will sing praises to my God all my life long.**

<sup>3</sup>Do not put your trust in princes, in mortals, in whom there is no help.

**<sup>4</sup>When their breath departs, they return to the earth; on that very day their plans perish.**

<sup>5</sup>Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the Lord their God,

<sup>6</sup>who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them; who keeps faith forever;

<sup>7</sup>who executes justice for the oppressed; who gives food to the hungry.

**The Lord sets the prisoners free;**

**<sup>8</sup>the Lord opens the eyes of the blind. The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down; the Lord loves the righteous.**

<sup>9</sup>The Lord watches over the strangers; he upholds the orphan and the widow, but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.

**<sup>10</sup>The Lord will reign forever, your God, O Zion, for all generations. Praise the Lord!**

### James 2:1-17

My brothers and sisters, do you with your acts of favoritism really believe in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ? <sup>2</sup>For if a person with gold rings and in fine clothes comes into your assembly, and if a poor person in dirty clothes also comes in, <sup>3</sup>and if you take notice of the one wearing the fine clothes and say, "Have a seat here, please," while to the one who is poor you say, "Stand there," or, "Sit at my feet," <sup>4</sup>have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts? <sup>5</sup>Listen, my beloved brothers and sisters. Has not God chosen the poor in the world to be rich in faith and to be heirs of the kingdom that he has promised to those who love him?

<sup>6</sup>But you have dishonored the poor. Is it not the rich who oppress you? Is it not they who drag you into court? <sup>7</sup>Is it not they who blaspheme the excellent name that was invoked over you? <sup>8</sup>You do well if you really fulfill the royal law according to the scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." <sup>9</sup>But if you show partiality, you commit sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. <sup>10</sup>For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it. <sup>11</sup>For the one who said, "You shall not commit adultery," also said, "You shall not murder." Now if you do not commit adultery but if you murder, you have become a transgressor of the law. <sup>12</sup>So speak and so act as those who are to be judged by the law of liberty. <sup>13</sup>For judgment will be without mercy to anyone who has shown no mercy; mercy triumphs over judgment.

<sup>14</sup>What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? <sup>15</sup>If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, <sup>16</sup>and one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill," and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? <sup>17</sup>So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.

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

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

Mark 7:24-37

<sup>24</sup>From there he set out and went away to the region of Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know he was there. Yet he could not escape notice, <sup>25</sup>but a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit immediately heard about him, and she came and bowed down at his feet. <sup>26</sup>Now the woman was a Gentile, of Syrophenician origin. She begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter. <sup>27</sup>He said to her, "Let the children be fed first, for it is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." <sup>28</sup>But she answered him, "Sir, even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs." <sup>29</sup>Then he said to her, "For saying that, you may go—the demon has left your daughter." <sup>30</sup>So she went home, found the child lying on the bed, and the demon gone. <sup>31</sup>Then he returned from the region of Tyre, and went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis. <sup>32</sup>They brought to him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they begged him to lay his hand on him. <sup>33</sup>He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spat and touched his tongue. <sup>34</sup>Then looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, "Ephphatha," that is, "Be opened." <sup>35</sup>And immediately his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. <sup>36</sup>Then Jesus ordered them to tell no one; but the more he ordered them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. <sup>37</sup>They were astounded beyond measure, saying, "He has done everything well; he even makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak."

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

*Children's Message and Sermon*

Pastor Amanda Kempthorne

*Hymn of the Day – Healer of Our Every Ill #612*

*Refrain:* Healer of our ev'ry ill, light of each tomorrow,  
give us peace beyond our fear, and hope beyond our sorrow.

1. You who know our fears and sadness, grace us with your peace and gladness;  
Spirit of all comfort, fill our hearts. *Refrain.*
2. In the pain and joy beholding how your grace is still unfolding,  
give us all your vision, God of love. *Refrain.*
3. Give us strength to love each other, ev'ry sister, ev'ry brother;  
Spirit of all kindness, be our guide. *Refrain.*
4. You who know each thought and feeling, teach us all your way of healing;  
Spirit of compassion, fill each heart. *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, 1005 St. Nicholas Drive, North Pole, AK 99705
- ◇ Online: "giving" tab at [www.lordoflifeak.com/giving](http://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 – As the Grains of Wheat #465*

*Refrain:* As the grains of wheat once scattered on the hill  
were gathered into one to become our bread;  
so may all your people from all the ends of earth be gathered into one in you.

1. As this cup of blessing is shared within our midst,  
may we share the presence of your love. *Refrain.*
2. Let this be a foretaste of all that is to come  
when all creation shares this feast with you. *Refrain.*

***Offering Prayer – God of abundance, accept the gifts you have first given us. Unite them with the offering of our lives to nourish the world you love so dearly; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.***

### *Christ's Words of Institution and Communion*

We eat and drink together at the end of the Eucharistic Prayer.

### *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*

- Grab a newsletter! We've got lots going on in September!
- Fellowship treats downstairs – Labor Day appetizers! Next Sunday: National Grandparents Day: bring your grandkids' favorite treats (or a favorite your grandparent made for you!)
- Rally Sunday is coming up September 12; plan to join in worship that day!

### *Blessing and Dismissal*

**L:** Go in peace. The living Word dwells in you.

**C:** Thanks be to God.

### ***Special Thanks to...***

Pianist, Carol Hughes  
Reader, Al Griswold

Video, Jason Kempthorne  
PowerPoint, Becky Peterson

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