



13th Sunday after Pentecost

August 23, 2026

Lord of Life Lutheran Church, North Pole, AK

(907) 488-6720

www.lordoflifeak.com

Assistant Minister = Blue

Words in **bold** are said together.

Welcome

Welcome Music – Open the Eyes of My Heart

Refrain: Open the eyes of my heart, Lord, open the eyes of my heart
I want to see You, I want to see You (2x)

Verse: To see You high and lifted up shinin' in the light of Your glory.
Pour out Your power and love as we sing holy, holy, holy.

Repeat Refrain (2x) and Verse (2x)

Ending: Holy, holy, holy... holy, holy, holy... holy, holy, holy, I want to see you. *(repeat)*

Confession and Forgiveness

Leader: Blessed be the Holy Trinity, + one God, whose compassion endures forever. **C: Amen.**

L: Let us confess our sin to God. (*pour water into font/silence for reflection*)

L: Compassionate God, **C: we confess to you all our sins. Our burden is heavy, and we cannot free ourselves. In your mercy, call us back to you. Your yoke is easy and your burden is light. Restore us to dwell in your peace. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.**

L: Jesus says, "Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest." In the name of God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, your sins are forgiven. Rest in God's love. **C: Amen.**

Prayer of the Day

O God, with all your faithful followers, we praise you, the rock of our life. Be our strong foundation and form us into the body of your Son, that we may gladly minister to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Gathering Music – In Christ Alone

1. In Christ alone my hope is found; He is my light, my strength, my song.
This cornerstone, this solid ground firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace when fears are stilled, when strivings cease.
My comforter, my all in all, here in the love of Christ I stand.
2. In Christ alone who took on flesh, fullness of God in helpless babe.
This gift of love and righteousness scorned by the ones He came to save.
'Til on that cross as Jesus died the wrath of God was satisfied.
For every sin on Him was laid here in the death of Christ I live.

3. There in the ground His body lay, light of the world by darkness slain.
Then bursting forth in glorious day, up from the grave He rose again.
And as He stands in victory, sin's curse has lost its grip on me
For I am His and He is mine, bought with the precious blood of Christ.

4. No guilt in life, no fear in death, this is the power of Christ in me.
From life's first cry to final breath, Jesus commands my destiny.
No power of hell, no scheme of man can ever pluck me from His hand
'Til He returns or calls me home here in the power of Christ I'll stand.

Ending: No power of hell, no scheme of man can ever pluck me from His hand
'Til He returns or calls me home here in the power of Christ I'll stand.

Scripture Readings

Isaiah 51:1-6 p. 594

Listen to me, you who pursue righteousness, you who seek the LORD. Look to the rock from which you were hewn and to the quarry from which you were dug. ² Look to Abraham your father and to Sarah, who bore you, for he was but one when I called him, but I blessed him and made him many. ³ For the LORD will comfort Zion; he will comfort all her waste places and will make her wilderness like Eden, her desert like the garden of the LORD; joy and gladness will be found in her, thanksgiving and the voice of song. ⁴ Listen to me, my people, and give heed to me, my nation, for a teaching will go out from me and my justice for a light to the peoples. ⁵ I will bring near my deliverance swiftly; my salvation has gone out, and my arms will rule the peoples; the coastlands wait for me, and for my arm they hope. ⁶ Lift up your eyes to the heavens and look at the earth beneath, for the heavens will vanish like smoke, the earth will wear out like a garment, and those who live on it will die like gnats, but my salvation will be forever, and my deliverance will never be ended.

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

Psalms 138 p. 503

¹ I give you thanks, O LORD, with my whole heart; before the gods I sing your praise; ² I bow down toward your holy temple and give thanks to your name for your steadfast love and your faithfulness, for you have exalted your name and your word above everything.

³ On the day I called, you answered me; you increased my strength of soul.

⁴ All the kings of the earth shall praise you, O LORD, for they have heard the words of your mouth.

⁵ They shall sing of the ways of the LORD, for great is the glory of the LORD.

⁶ For though the LORD is high, he regards the lowly, but the haughty he perceives from far away.

⁷ Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you preserve me against the wrath of my enemies; you stretch out your hand, and your right hand delivers me.

ALL: ⁸ The LORD will fulfill his purpose for me; your steadfast love, O LORD, endures forever. Do not forsake the work of your hands.

Romans 12:1-8 p. 922

I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, on the basis of God's mercy, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your reasonable act of worship.

² Do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of the mind, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect. ³ For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you

ought to think but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. ⁴ For as in one body we have many members and not all the members have the same function, ⁵ so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. ⁶ We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ⁷ ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; ⁸ the encourager, in encouragement; the giver, in sincerity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

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

Gospel Acclamation (sung) p. 102, setting 1

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

Matthew 16:13-20 p. 798

¹³ Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" ¹⁴ And they said, "Some say John the Baptist but others Elijah and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." ¹⁵ He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" ¹⁶ Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." ¹⁷ And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you but my Father in heaven. ¹⁸ And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. ¹⁹ I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." ²⁰ Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

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

Sermon

David Ingram

Music of the Day – 10,000 Reasons

Refrain: Bless the Lord, O my soul, O my soul; worship His holy name.
Sing like never before, O my soul; I'll worship Your holy name.

Verse 1: The sun comes up, it's a new day dawning
it's time to sing Your song again.

Whatever may pass, and whatever lies before me,
let me be singing when the evening comes. *Refrain*

Verse 2: You're rich in love and You're slow to anger.
Your name is great and Your heart is kind.
For all Your goodness. I will keep on singing;
ten thousand reasons for my heart to find. *Refrain*

Verse 3: And on that day, when my strength is failing,
the end draws near, and my time has come;
still, my soul will sing Your praise unending
ten thousand years, and then forever more! *Refrain*

Ending: Bless the Lord, O my soul, O my soul; worship His holy name.
Sing like never before, O my soul; I'll worship Your holy name.
Worship Your holy name, Lord, I'll worship Your holy name.

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

◇ 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 Song – Your Grace is Enough

1. Great is Your faithfulness, oh God. You wrestle with the sinner's heart.
You lead us by still waters into mercy and nothing can keep us apart.

Refrain: So remember Your people, remember Your children

Remember Your promise, oh God.

Your grace is enough, your grace is enough, your grace is enough for me.

2. Great is Your love and justice God; You use the weak to lead the strong.
You lead us in the song of Your salvation, and all Your people sing along. *Refrain x2*

Final: Your grace is enough, I'm covered in Your love, Your grace is enough for me.

Offering Prayer

Loving God, we offer at your table the gifts of our hearts. Help us take heart in you and share freely of your love, so that all creation can taste your abundance. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit abiding with us now and forever. Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving p. 107

Holy, Holy, Holy p. 108

Christ's Words of Institution

Invitation to Communion (and Communion)

L: Heaven has come near. Come, share in the feast!

The Lord's Prayer

We pray together with confidence the prayer our Lord Jesus taught us to pray,

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

Announcements [intro by asst min]

Coming up: Sept 13 Rally Sunday/GWOH Sunday; ELCA Fall Retreat Sept 18/19 @ Christ Our Savior Lutheran in Anchorage; June 2027 Youth Gathering in Minneapolis

Closing Music – You Never Let Go

Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
Your perfect love is casting out fear.
And even when I'm caught in the middle of the storms of this life,
I won't turn back I know You are near.
And I will fear no evil, for my God is with me,
and if my God is with me, whom then shall I fear? Whom then shall I fear?

Refrain: Oh no, You never let go, through the calm and through the storm.
Oh no, You never let go, in every high and every low.
Oh no, You never let go, Lord, You never let go of me.

And I can see a light that is coming for the heart that holds on,
A glorious light beyond all compare.
And there will be an end to these troubles but until that day comes,
We'll live to know You here on the earth.
And I will fear no evil, for my God is with me,
and if my God is with me, whom then shall I fear? Whom then shall I fear?
Refrain.

Yes, I can see a light that is coming for the heart that holds on.
And there will be an end to these troubles,
but until that day comes, still I will praise You, still I will praise You! *Refrain.*

Final: Lord, You never let go of me.

Blessing

L: Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer, + one God, bless, heal, and hold you today and always. C: Amen.

Dismissal

L: Heaven has come near. Go, share the good news! C: Thanks be to God.

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8-23 Bob Thoma

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