



God shows no partiality (Acts 10:34)

NEW LIFE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Pearland, TX

Worship at 10:30 AM

Baptism of Our Lord

Holy Communion

January 8, 2023

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

GATHERING SONGS - New Life House Band

WELCOME – Pastor Clayton Faulkner

GATHERING SONG *Wade in the Water* [A leader sings the words in parentheses]

Refrain

Wade in the water,
wade in the water, children,
wade in the water,
God's a-goin'-a trouble the water.

1 (See that host all dressed in white,)
God's a-goin'-a trouble the water.
(the leader looks like the Israelite.)
God's a-goin'-a trouble the water. *Refrain*

2 (See that band all dressed in red,)
God's a-goin'-a trouble the water.
(looks like the band that Moses led.)
God's a-goin'-a trouble the water. *Refrain*

3 (Look over yonder, what do I see?)
God's a-goin'-a trouble the water.
(the Holy Ghost a-coming on me.)
God's a-goin'-a trouble the water. *Refrain*

4 (If you don't believe I've been redeemed,)
God's a-goin'-a trouble the water.
(just follow me down to Jordan's stream.)
God's a-goin'-a trouble the water. *Refrain*

Text and Music: African American spiritual, Public Domain

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

P: Blessed are you, O God, maker and ruler of all things. Your voice thundered over the waters at creation. You water the mountains and send springs into the valleys to refresh and satisfy all living things.

Through the waters of the flood you carried those in the ark to safety. Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery to freedom. In the wilderness you nourished them with water from the rock, and you brought them across the river Jordan to the promised land.

By the baptism of his death and resurrection, your Son Jesus has carried us to safety and freedom. The floods shall not overwhelm us, and the deep shall not swallow us up, for Christ has brought us over to the land of promise. He sends us to make disciples, baptizing in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Pour out your Holy Spirit; wash away sin in this cleansing water; clothe the baptized with Christ; and claim your daughters and sons, no longer slave and free, no longer male and female, but one with all the baptized in Christ Jesus, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

All: Amen.

GATHERING SONG

Baptized in Water



1 Bap - tized in wa - ter, sealed by the Spir - it, cleansed by the
 2 Bap - tized in wa - ter, sealed by the Spir - it, dead in the
 3 Bap - tized in wa - ter, sealed by the Spir - it, marked with the



blood of Christ our king: heirs of sal - va - tion, trust - ing his
 tomb with Christ our king: one with his ris - ing, freed and for -
 sign of Christ our king: born of the Spir - it, we are God's



prom - ise, faith - ful - ly now God's praise we sing.
 giv - en, thank - ful - ly now God's praise we sing.
 chil - dren; joy - ful - ly now God's praise we sing.

Text: Michael Saward, b. 1932

Music: BUNESSAN, Gaelic tune

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PRAYER – Pastor Clayton Faulkner

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 42:1-9

A: ¹Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights, upon whom I have put my spirit, to bring forth justice to the nations. ²Not crying out, not lifting up his voice, not making it heard in the street, ³a bruised reed my servant will not break, nor quench a dimly burning wick, but will faithfully bring forth justice. ⁴My chosen one will not grow faint or be crushed until he has established justice in the earth; and the coastlands wait for his teaching. ⁵Thus says God, the LORD, who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread out the earth and what comes from it, who gives breath to the people upon it and spirit to those who walk in it: ⁶I am the LORD, I have called you in righteousness, I have taken you by the hand and kept you; I have given you as a covenant to the people, a light to the nations, ⁷to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness. ⁸I am the LORD, that is my name; my glory I give to no other, nor my praise to idols. ⁹See, the former things have come to pass, and new things I now declare; before they spring forth, I tell you of them.

A: The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

PSALM 29

Please read responsively

A: ¹Ascribe to the LORD, you gods,
ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.

**All: ²Ascribe to the LORD the glory due God's name;
worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.**

A: ³The voice of the LORD is upon the waters; the God of glory
thunders;
the LORD is upon the mighty waters.

**All: ⁴The voice of the LORD is a powerful voice;
the voice of the LORD is a voice of splendor.**

A: ⁵The voice of the LORD breaks the cedar trees;
the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon;

**All: ⁶the LORD makes Lebanon skip like a calf,
and Mount Hermon like a young wild ox.**

A: ⁷The voice of the LORD
bursts forth in lightning flashes.

**All: ⁸The voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness;
the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.**

A: ⁹The voice of the LORD makes the oak trees writhe and strips
the forests bare. And in the temple of the LORD all are crying,
"Glory!"

**All: ¹⁰The LORD sits enthroned above the flood;
the LORD sits enthroned as king forevermore.**

A: ¹¹O LORD, give strength to your people;

All: give them, O LORD, the blessings of peace.

SECOND READING: Acts 10:34-43

A: ³⁴Peter began to speak to [Cornelius and his household]: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, ³⁵but in every nation anyone who is God-fearing and does what is right is acceptable to God. ³⁶"You know the message God sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all. ³⁷That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: ³⁸how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how Jesus went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. ³⁹We are witness to all that Jesus did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; ⁴⁰but God raised Jesus on the third day and allowed him to appear, ⁴¹not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. ⁴²Jesus commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. ⁴³All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

A: The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Wade in the water,
wade in the water, children,
wade in the water,
God's a-goin'-a trouble the water.

GOSPEL READING: Matthew 3:13-17

P: The holy gospel according to Matthew.

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

P: ¹³Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. ¹⁴John would have prevented him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" ¹⁵but Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now; for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness." Then John consented. ¹⁶And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. ¹⁷And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased."

P: The gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S SERMON - Pastor Clayton Faulkner

SERMON – Pastor Clayton Faulkner

SONG OF THE DAY *Open Up the Heavens*

Leader 1 We've waited for this day
 We're gathered in your name, calling out to you
 Your glory like a fire awakening desire
 Will burn our hearts with truth.
 You're the reason we're here.
 You're the reason we're singing! Refrain

Refrain (All Sing)

Open up the Heavens; we want to see You.

Open up the flood gates: a mighty river

Flowing from Your heart, filling ev'ry part of our praise.

Leader 2 Your presence in this place.
Your glory on our face, we're looking to the sky.
Descending like a cloud, You're standing with us now;
Lord, unveil our eyes.
You're the reason we're here.
You're the reason we're singing! *Refrain X2*

Houseband Show us, show us your glory.
Show us, show us your power.
Show us, show us your glory, Lord. X2

Refrain x2

Words and music by: Kames MacDonald, Jason Ingram, Meredith Andrews, Stuart Garrard and Andi Rozier
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NICENE CREED

P: Joining together let us confess our faith using the words of the Nicene Creed.

**All: We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;**

he ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,

who proceeds from the Father and the Son,

who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,

who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead,

and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

A: Called together to follow Jesus, we pray for the church, the world,
and all in need.

A brief silence.

A: Calling God, you speak with power to your church. Open our
hearts and minds to the new things you are declaring. Strengthen
bishops, pastors, deacons, lay leaders, and teachers of the faith.
Equip the baptized for your reconciling and redeeming work.
Merciful God,

All: receive our prayer.

A: Renewing God, you provide the waters of the earth and in Jesus'
baptism you reveal the waters of life. Cleanse and protect oceans,
rivers, and watersheds. Bring relief to parched lands and to
communities without access to safe water. Merciful God,

All: receive our prayer.

A: Righteous God, you never weary of establishing justice. Increase
cooperation and constructive dialogue between nations. Guide
local, national, and international authorities to govern with equity,
vision, and integrity. We pray for those in military service, for
peacemakers, and for our enemies. Merciful God,

All: receive our prayer.

A: Abiding God, your mercy is steadfast. Give sanctuary to people who flee from oppression, war, poverty, and famine. Sustain health care workers, caregivers, first responders, counselors, and all who help and heal. Comfort those who are grieving or experiencing crisis. Merciful God,

All: receive our prayer.

A: Blessing God, in Christ you gather the beloved community. Kindle the gifts of your Spirit in your people. Accompany the newly baptized, those recently ordained, and any beginning a new ministry. Inspire our pastor and council to serve with imagination and wisdom. Merciful God,

All: receive our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

A: Promising God, your faithfulness endures throughout all generations. We give thanks for those who have died in Christ, trusting that we will be united with them and all the saints in Christ's resurrection life. Merciful God,

All: receive our prayer.

P: We bring to you our needs and hopes, O God, trusting your wisdom and power revealed in Christ crucified.

All: Amen.

PEACE

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

All: And also with you.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERING

The ministry of New Life Lutheran Church is made possible through the tithes, gifts, and offerings of the people. We encourage you to give as an act of worship today. You can offer a gift by texting to 281.864.3278, adding a dollar amount to the message box, and send. A link will appear for a one time set up. Once it is set up, it takes seconds to give again. You can also give through our website by scanning the QR code on the pew.

OFFERTORY – New Life Houseband

OFFERING PRAYER

A: Let us pray. Liberating God, you break the bonds of injustice and let the oppressed go free. Receive these offerings in thanksgiving for all your works of merciful power, and shape us as people of your justice and freedom. You we magnify and adore, through Jesus our Savior,

All: Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

All: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

P: In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

All: 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.

P: Come and taste the joy of God!

All: Amen. Thanks be to God.

SHARING THE MEAL

Everyone is welcome to receive Jesus in bread and wine. This is Jesus' table and he welcomes all. Pre-filled communion packets are available in the Narthex if you would prefer to receive communion that way. Everyone else is invited to come down the center aisle maintaining two continuous lines. You will receive a piece of bread with the words, "The body of Christ given for you," and you can respond with, "Amen." Remain on the side of the section of pews you are sitting in. You will receive an individual cup of either wine (red) or grape juice (clear) with the words, "The blood of Christ shed for you," and you can respond with, "Amen." There is a basket available for your empty cup. You will then return to your pew from the side aisle.

COMMUNION SONG *Breathe*

This is the air I breathe, this is the air I breathe
Your holy presence living in me

This is my daily bread, this is my daily bread
Your very word spoken to me

And I, I'm desperate for you
And I, I'm lost without you (X2)

(Repeat all)

This is the air I breathe
This is the air I breathe

Marie Barnett
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BLESSING AFTER COMMUNION

P: Now may the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ bless you,
strengthen you, and keep you in God's grace.

All: Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A: Let us pray. Holy One, we thank you for the healing that springs
forth abundantly from this table. Renew our strength to do justice,
love kindness, and journey humbly with you.

All: Amen.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

ANNOUNCEMENTS – Pastor Clayton Faulkner

BLESSING

P: The God who faithfully brings forth justice and breaks the oppressor's rod ✠ bless, strengthen, and uphold you, today and always.

All: Amen.

SENDING SONG 10,000 Reasons

Refrain

Bless the Lord oh my soul, Oh my soul
Worship His Holy name.
Sing like never before, Oh my soul
I'll worship Your Holy name

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*

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*

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 forevermore.
Forevermore! *Refrain*

Words and music: Jonas Myrin, Matt Redman
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DISMISSAL

A: Go in peace. Follow the way of Jesus.

All: Thanks be to God.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Today is Baptism of Our Lord Sunday: January 8

Traditional Worship: 8:00 AM

(Sunday School restarts next Sunday, January 15 at 9:15 AM.)

Contemporary Worship: 10:30 AM

Leader Huddle: Rescheduled to Friday, January 13 at 6:00 PM.

Annual Congregational Meeting: Sunday, January 22 at 11:30 AM.

New Member Class: Sunday, January 29 at 11:30 AM.

GriefShare Support Group: Monday, January 30 at 6:00 PM. This 13-week support group will take place on Mondays at 6:00 PM, beginning on January 30. It will be co-led by Aimee Castillo and Pastor Clayton. Cost for registration and workbook is \$20.

2023 Flower Chart: A new flower calendar is available on the Narthex door. If you'd like to sponsor flowers for a special occasion or in honor of someone, please add your name to the chart.

Today's Worship Leaders (10:30 AM)

Assisting Minister

Bryan Bradford

Communion Assistants

Merideth Oliver, Barbara Flowers

Usher

Jenaro and Max Castillo

Technology

Korie Williams

*Altar flowers are given by Cheryl Robinson
to wish everyone a happy and blessed New Year.*