



Do not
let your
hearts be
troubled.
John 14:1

NEW LIFE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Pearland, TX

Worship at 10:30 AM

Fifth Sunday of Easter

Holy Communion

May 7, 2023

GATHERING

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

GATHERING SONGS *All the Earth Will Sing Your Praises*

Chorus

You lived, You died, You said in three days You would rise
You did, You're alive
You rule, You reign, You said You're coming back again
I know You will and all the earth will sing Your praises

You took, You take our sins away oh God
You give and gave Your life away for us
You came down, You saved us through the cross
Our hearts are changed because of Your great love

Repeat Chorus

No one, no name can rise above You Lord
One hope, One life will shine forever more
Your kingdom in heaven and on earth
Your children stand to sing of Your great worth

Repeat Chorus

All the earth will sing Your praises
All the earth will sing Your praises

Paul Baloche
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EASTER GREETING

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

All: Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

WELCOME – Pastor Clayton Faulkner

GATHERING SONG *Those Who Trust*

Those who trust in the Lord are a strong mountain
They will not, not be moved (*Repeat*)

Chorus

Though the world moves like mad
You, O Lord, are faithful Jesus you, you will not, not be changed

Those who trust in the Lord are as Mount Zion
They will not, not be moved (*Repeat, Repeat Chorus*)

Christ the King sets my feet on a firm foundation
They will not, not be moved (*Repeat, Repeat Chorus*)

Don Chaffer
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THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, by whose hand we are
given new birth, by whose speaking we are given new life.

All: Amen.

P: Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are welcomed,
restored, and supported as citizens of the new creation. Let us
give thanks for the gift of baptism.

Holy God, holy and merciful, holy and mighty, you are the river of
life, you are the everlasting wellspring.

In mercy and might you have freed us from death and raised us
with Jesus, the firstborn of the dead. In baptismal waters our old
life is washed away, and in them we are born anew.

Water may be poured into the font as the presiding minister continues.

Glory to you for oceans and lakes, for rivers and streams. Honor to
you for waters that wash us clean, quench our thirst, and nurture
both crops and creatures. Praise to you for the life-giving water of
baptism, the outpouring of the Spirit of the new creation.

**All: Wash away our sin and all that separates us from you.
Empower our witness to your resurrection. Strengthen our
resolve in seeking justice for all.**

P: Satisfy the world's need through this living water. Where drought dries the earth, bring refreshment. Where despair prevails, grant hope. Where chaos reigns, bring peace. We ask this through Christ, who with you and the Spirit reigns forever.

All: Amen.

GATHERING SONG *God of Wonders*

Lord of all creation
Of water earth and sky
The heavens are Your tabernacle
Glory to the Lord on high

Chorus

God of wonders beyond our galaxy
You are holy, holy
The universe declares Your majesty
You are holy, holy
Lord of heaven and earth
Lord of heaven and earth

Early in the morning
I will celebrate the light
When I stumble in the darkness
I will call Your name by night

Repeat Chorus

Precious Lord, reveal Your heart to me
Father hold me, hold me
The universe declares Your majesty
You are holy, holy, holy, holy

Repeat Chorus

Marc Byrd | Steve Hindalong
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PRAYER – Pastor Clayton Faulkner

WORD

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

FIRST READING: Acts 7:55-60

A: ⁵⁵Filled with the Holy Spirit, Stephen gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. ⁵⁶"Look," he said, "I see the heavens opened and the Son-of-Man standing at the right hand of God!" ⁵⁷But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. ⁵⁸Then they dragged Stephen out of the city and began to stone him; and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. ⁵⁹While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." ⁶⁰Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." When he had said this, he died.

A: The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

PSALM 31:1-15, 15-16

Please read responsively.

A: ¹In you, O Lord, have I taken refuge; let me never be put to shame; deliver me in your righteousness.

**All: ²Incline your ear to me;
make haste to deliver me.**

A: ³Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe, for you are my crag and my stronghold; for the sake of your name, lead me and guide me.

**All: ⁴Take me out of the net that they have secretly set for me,
for you are my tower of strength.**

A: ⁵Into your hands I commend my spirit,
for you have redeemed me, O Lord, God of truth.

**All: ¹⁵My times are in your hand; rescue me from the hand of my
enemies, and from those who persecute me.**

A: ¹⁶Let your face shine upon your servant;

All: save me in your steadfast love."

SECOND READING: 1 Peter 2:2-10

A: ²Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation—³if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.⁴Come to the Lord, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and ⁵like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. ⁶For it stands in scripture: "See, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious; and whoever believes in it will not be put to shame." ⁷To you then who believe, it is precious; but for those who do not believe, "The stone that the builders rejected has become the very head of the corner,"⁸and "A stone that makes them stumble, and a rock that makes them fall." They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do. ⁹But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of the one who called you out of darkness into the marvelous light of God. ¹⁰Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

A: The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

God of wonders beyond our galaxy
You are holy, holy
The universe declares Your majesty
You are holy, holy
Lord of heaven and earth
Lord of heaven and earth

GOSPEL READING: John 14:1-14

P: The holy gospel according to John.

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

P: [Jesus said:] ¹"Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. ²In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? ³And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. ⁴And you know the way to the place where I am going." ⁵Thomas said to Jesus, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" ⁶ Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. ⁷ If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know and have seen my Father." ⁸Philip said to him, "Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied." ⁹ Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? ¹⁰ Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but it is the Father who dwells in me who does these works. ¹¹Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. ¹²Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. ¹³I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.

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

God with Us

Who are we
That You would be mindful of us
What do You see
That's worth looking our way

We are free
In ways that we never should be
Sweet release
From the grip of these chains

Like hinges straining from the weight
My heart no longer can keep from singing

Chorus

All that is within me cries
For You alone be glorified
Emmanuel, God with us
My heart sings a brand new song
The debt is paid these chains are gone
Emmanuel, God with us

Lord You know
Our hearts don't deserve Your glory
Still You show
A love we cannot afford

Like hinges straining from the weight
My heart no longer can keep from singing (*Repeat Chorus*)

Such a tiny offering compared to Calvary
Nevertheless we lay it at Your feet (*repeat*)

*Repeat Chorus (with "**my** debt is paid")*

Barry Graul | Bart Millard | Jim Bryson | Mike Scheuchzer | Nathan Cochran | Robby Shaffer
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AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM

P: Dear friends, we give thanks for the gift of baptism and for these confirmands and new members, one with us in the body of Christ, who are making public affirmation of *their* baptism.

I present *Austin Tatuaca and Ryan Strickland*, who *desire* to make public affirmation of *their* baptism.

P: Let us pray. Merciful God, we thank you for *these siblings in Christ*, whom you have made your own by water and the Word in baptism. You have called *them* to yourself, enlightened *them* with the gifts of your Spirit, and nourished *them* in the community of faith. Uphold your *servants* in the gifts and promises of baptism, and unite the hearts of all whom you have brought to new birth. We ask this in the name of Christ.

All: Amen.

P: I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church. Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?

All: I renounce them.

P: Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?

All: I renounce them.

P: Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?

All: I renounce them.

P: Do you believe in God the Father?

**All: I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

P: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**All: 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.**

P: Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**All: 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.**

P: You have made public profession of your faith. Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in holy baptism:
to live among God's faithful people,
to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper,
to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed,
to serve all people, following the example of Jesus,
and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?
Confirmands: I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.

P: People of God, do you promise to support *these siblings* and pray for *them* in their life in Christ?

All: We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.

Those making affirmation may kneel. The presiding minister prays for God's blessing.

P: Let us pray. We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give us new birth, cleanse us from sin, and raise us to eternal life.

The minister may lay both hands on the head of the person and say:

P: Stir up in (*name*) the gift of your Holy Spirit:
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of counsel and might,
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord,
the spirit of joy in your presence,
both now and forever.

All: Amen.

Those making public affirmation stand and face the assembly. A representative of the congregation addresses the assembly.

A: Let us rejoice with these siblings in Christ.

All: We rejoice with you in the life of baptism.

**Together we will give thanks and praise to God
and proclaim the good news to all the world.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

A: United in the hope and joy of the resurrection, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

A: God of life, strengthen your church to proclaim your gospel even in times of trouble. As we remember Stephen, we give thanks for diaconal ministry. Bless all deacons and strengthen them for their bridge-building ministry between church and world. Hear us, O God.

All: Your mercy is great.

A: Creating God, you show your steadfast love through mighty waters, towering mountains, verdant fields, and arid deserts. Protect the earth's diverse habitats from the forces of pollution, erosion, extinction, and global warming. Hear us, O God.

All: Your mercy is great.

A: Mighty God, your Spirit guides us into all truth. Give wisdom to world and local leaders and organizations as they begin, build, or renew relationships. Strengthen leaders and aid organizations in areas needing to be rebuilt following conflict, unrest, or natural disaster. Hear us, O God.

All: Your mercy is great.

A: Loving God, you make your home among us. Abide with refugees, those experiencing homelessness, those fleeing war and poverty, and all who question if there is a home in your heart. We pray for all who are sick, including our homebound members. Hear us, O God.

All: Your mercy is great.

A: Assuring God, you accompany your people amid uncertainty and change. Uphold people in this community who have recently moved, changed jobs or schools, retired, or are going through transitions of any kind. Lead us in your ways. Hear us, O God.

All: Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

A: Renewing God, you gather the saints at your heavenly banquet. We give you thanks for the care shown us by those who have gone before us. Grant confidence and comfort for all awaiting the place you have prepared. Hear us, O God.

All: Your mercy is great.

P: Rejoicing in the victory of Christ's resurrection, we lift our prayers and praise to you, almighty and eternal God; through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord.

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 – House Band

OFFERING PRAYER

A: Let us pray. Generous God, in this meal you offer your very self. We give thanks for these gifts of the earth. In the breaking of this bread reveal to us the Risen One. In the pouring of this wine pour us out in service to the world; through Christ our Lord.

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.

P: 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 know Christ, broken and poured out for you.

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 *I Can Only Imagine*

I can only imagine
What it will be like
When I walk by Your side
I can only imagine
What my eyes will see
When Your face is before me
I can only imagine

Chorus

Surrounded by Your glory
What will my heart feel?
Will I dance for You Jesus
Or in awe of You be still?
Will I stand in Your presence
Or to my knees will I fall?
Will I sing hallelujah
Will I be able to speak at all?
I can only imagine
I can only imagine

I can only imagine
When that day comes
And I find myself standing in the Son
I can only imagine
When all I will do
Is forever, forever worship You
I can only imagine
I can only imagine (*Repeat Chorus*)

I can only imagine when all I will do
Is forever, forever worship You
I can only imagine

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. Gracious God, in you we live and move and have our being. With your word and this meal of grace, you have nourished our life together. Strengthen us to show your love and serve the world in Jesus' name.

All: Amen.

SENDING

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS – Pastor Clayton Faulkner

BLESSING

P: The God of all, who raised † Jesus from the dead, bless you by the power of the Holy Spirit to live in the new creation.

All: Amen.

SENDING SONG *I Am Free*

Through You the blind will see
Through You the mute will sing
Through You the dead will rise
Through You all hearts will praise
Through You the darkness flees
Through You my heart screams I am free

Chorus

I am free to run (I am free to run)
I am free to dance (I am free to dance)
I am free to live for You (I am free to live for You)
I am free (I am free)
Yes I am free (I am free) (*Repeat All, Repeat Chorus again*)

DISMISSAL

A: Go in peace. Serve the Risen One.

All: Thanks be to God.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Today is the Fifth Sunday of Easter: May 7

Traditional Worship: 8:00 AM

Confirmation Essays: 9:15 AM

Contemporary Worship: 10:30 AM

Confirmation Sunday: Today, May 7 our confirmation students will share their formation essays at 9:15 AM in the sanctuary. Two students will be participating in the rite of affirmation of baptism at 10:30 AM: Ryan Strickland and Austin Tatuaca.

New Members: Today, we have three new members joining our church: Mark Ritchey, Laura and Ryan Strickland. Welcome!

WELCA Lunch Out: All Women of the church are welcome to join us for lunch at Emma's Mexican Grill (5906 Broadway) on Wednesday, May 10 at 11:30am.

Mother's Day: On Sunday, May 14 every woman will receive a carnation flower in celebration of all who provide motherly care. Additional carnation arrangements will be available for a free will offering supporting our students attending summer camps. Carnations can be placed on the living cross in memory or honor of a mother before or after worship services. If you have any bud vases to donate back to the church, please bring them.

Graduate Recognition Sunday: On Sunday, May 21 join us for worship as we celebrate all those who are graduating from High School, College, Graduate School, Trade School, Boot Camp or any other accomplishment. In preparation of this special recognition, please let the church office know if you or a loved one are graduating soon. Please send the following details: name, date of graduation, school or accomplishment, and any future plans or endeavors to pastor@newlifelutheran.com.

Today's Worship Leaders (10:30 AM)

Assisting Minister

Peter Weber

Communion Assistants

Merideth Oliver, Barbara Flowers

Usher

Jenaro and Max Castillo

Technology

Stephen Castillo

*Altar flowers are given by the confirmation families
in honor of our confirmands.*